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WORN BY THE WOMEN

SOME OF THE VERY LATEST IDEAS IN DRESS.

Elaborate Garnitures of Many Kinds May Be Displayed on the Summer Bodice—Various Styles in Fancy Waists—Bloused, Capped and Pleated.

Fashion's Latest Fancies. New York Correspondence.

HOW that summer is near at hand the upper half of you may be dressed with the simple plainness that tailor cuts bring, or the other extreme may be safely reached and the bodice made the medium for displaying very elaborate garnitures of many kinds. It is always necessary to a good summer effect that such trimmings should be of the lightest sorts, so that although they cannot by the slightest possibility constitute a suggestion of added weight or warmth. By using care in their application it is easily possible to have as much of trimming as there is of the garment trimmed.

Of new bodices that are originally planned with sufficient ornamentation to set them off daintily, the picture beside the initial shows an especially dressy model. Made of white cloth and trimmed with dark silk, it has a vest of white chiffon, with collar to match, and each side is finished with three revers. The lowest one forms a sailor collar in back, is of white stuff piped with silk, and the others combine both fabrics. The belt first encircles the waist and then one end is carried up to the bust to finish in a four looped bow. Cuff and collar



BLoused, Capped and Pleated.

trimming is of the silk, and a pair of silk straps appears on the front breadth of the skirt, which is of the white goods and is otherwise plain. It does not hint at unfashionableness for this bodice to say that revers effects are not as plentiful as they were several months ago, for though they are correct enough, the craze for bag fronts has pushed them from their former conspicuous place. That stronghold of the rever, the eon jacket, remains in favor for simple outing suits, but the skirt this year is jauntily short, sets out in regular folds at sides and back, and the shirt waist is invariably bloused. Though the outing suit of today is about what it was last year, it is just these exceptions that make it imperative to have a new one.

On the bloused fronts already in high favor, a new trick is asserting itself fashionably and consists in fitting the shoulder tightly with a piece that is more cap than epaulette. In the earlier instances of the use of this device the cap was allowed to extend well below the shoulder and, as that necessitated pushing the sleeve puff downward, women who had not very fine shoulders objected to the shape. Both these features—the bag front and the shoulder



SERVICABLE PLEAT FOR MAKING OVER.

caps are shown in the artist's second offering, and the latter fashion is here expressed in a way that does not change the profile of the sleeve puffs. White accordion-pleated crepe is used in this model, which is made over a

fitted lining and hangs at the side. The draped crepe belt looks with a bow in back and the yoke epaulettes and cuffs are made of plain white silk richly embroidered with a net of large beads and fringe to match.

In the fancy waist that follows this in the illustrations, the looseness of front is attained by a central box-pleat, which is by all odds the most common method. The fact that it can be easily applied to last year's waists to make them over to current styles does not prevent its appearing on countless new garments, among which are many of costly stuffs, exquisitely made. This one is of apricot glace silk, its collar and belt of strawberry velours, and the epaulettes and straps over the shoulders are white Cluny lace. The sleeves here are without ornamentation, ex-



A CHANGE OF VESTS POSSIBLE.

cept for the epaulettes, but they end at the elbow, and this very rule of elbow length leads to sleeves that are little else than bits of lace, ribbon and fix-ins. Dainty examples of this sort are no more than deep frills of lace set high on the top of the shoulder and gathered into a great bow of ribbon. Such a sleeve gives grace and finish to the arm, and the contour of the shoulder is not interfered with.

It surely is a pity that such a pretty waist as the next pictured one must be hidden at any time by an outer garment. Soon the season will come when wraps may be discarded altogether except for outdoor evening uses, and at such times they will not act as concealers of the beautiful. In the light of day, or in the glare of artificial light, this waist can assert itself, and hiding it under a bushel when all about is darkness does no harm. It is sketched in red and green changeable taffeta, the back being fitted and of bias material, while the full fronts open over a baggy vest of coffee-colored linen embroidered in Turkish designs with var-colored silks. Plain silk may be substituted for this embroidered linen, or a variety of vests made available. The stock collar is of taffeta made separately.

The great popularity of the bag front is clearly due to the ease with which it is applied to any dress. A mere box-pleat of material to match, or of some-



A COMPROMISE.

thing that shall lend elaboration, can be put on the old dress and suffices to make it presentable. In these circumstances she is a wise woman who, having a handsome figure, does not succumb entirely to the bag front. There is much distinction now in a closely fitted garment, and though she may have the new gown cut full, she should not discard her close fitted rig too hastily. Then, as to the new waist, it is possible to accede to the demand for an overhanging front and still preserve to a large extent the lines of the figure. The concluding illustration portrays a model that does this nicely. Made here of blue striped silk, its front is laid in three box-pleats that are ornamented with several rows of tiny gold sequins. The plain standing collar fastens with one button and the inner seams of the cuffs show a row of spangles. The back remains plain and a belt of the silk comes around the waist. This waist will be very dressy when worn with a black serge or black satin godet skirt, and its front fullness is as slight as it can be made in this cut.

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Student—Several of my friends are coming to dine here, so I want a big table. Mine Host—Just look at this, one, sir. Fifteen persons could sleep quite comfortably under it.—Flegend-Blaetter.

TOPICS FOR FARMERS

A DEPARTMENT PREPARED FOR OUR RURAL FRIENDS.

Surface Cultivation for Corn Will Give More and Earlier Grain—No Profit in Home Mixing of Fertilizers—How to Prune Fruit Trees.

Corn Culture.

Surface cultivation for corn is in the air, and the manufacturers of corn-working tools are working along that line, and the company that will give us the best is the one we want to patronize. I am so fully satisfied that surface cultivation will give us more and earlier corn, says S. Favill in the Prairie Farmer, that I believe the time will soon be here when the intelligent farmer will no more allow the corn roots to be broken if he can help it, than he would allow the leg of his calf or pig to be broken. My plan for planting the corn is this: First fit the ground nicely, have it firm and free from lumps, the rows only one way. This will save all checking and marking. Would prefer it put in drills, kernels ten inches apart. In this way one can be plowing, fitting and planting at the same time (if he has teams enough); if it is a small farmer, with only one team, he can fit any part of the piece and plant it, and then fit the rest. In that way part of the corn will be growing and ready for the cultivator as soon as one can get to it. I am in favor of a free use of the common harrow on the field corn. Commence in a day or two after the planting is done and harrow till the corn is four to six inches high, but do not commence in the morning after the corn is up, till the dew is off, for the corn will break easily when it is wet. But, after the sun is on it awhile, it gets tougher and will stand a good deal of knocking around without breaking. Be sure and go over the whole field before the corn is up and level it down, and then the after harrowing will be less likely to cover any of the corn. Do not be scared if it does look a little bad when you first go over it—I mean when the corn is up; unless there is a lump or a sod on it, it will straighten up and take care of itself, and the harrow will break any crust that may be formed on the ground that you cannot break with any kind of cultivator, and, besides, you can kill weeds much faster than with any other tool, and kill them, too, before they start much. So keep the fine tooth harrow going as long as you can, and it will do you good.

Home Mixing of Fertilizers. Nothing can be gained by the purchase of mineral fertilizers and mixing them by hand. All the large establishments where fertilizers are made have facilities and machinery for grinding and mixing the fertilizers, so that the work can be done much more cheaply than it is possible to do it by hand. The competition among dealers insures a low price for all commercial fertilizers. Thirty years ago, when phosphate began to be used in the Northern States, the price by the ton was \$65, and in small amounts it sold at 5 cents per pound, or at the rate of \$100 per ton. We think that at this time Southern farmers got their phosphate somewhat cheaper than this. They bought by the carload for growing cotton, and paid as high as \$40 per ton. Competition has reduced the price. Owing to strict State inspection of fertilizers there is less cheating than there was then. All fertilizers have their guaranteed analysis marked in each package, and they are almost invariably what they are represented to be.

Pruning Fruit Trees. In pruning fruit trees attention has to be given to the manner in which the particular kind bears its fruit. The cherry and the pear both bear their fruit on short spurs, and in trimming, therefore, the effort should be to produce a large quantity of healthy fruit spurs. Summer pruning does this admirably. The branches that we want to remain as leading shoots should not be touched; but the weaker ones may be pinched back, about midsummer, about one foot or two-thirds of their growth. This will induce the swelling of a number of buds that will produce flowers instead of branches, and in this way, fruit spurs can be obtained on comparatively young trees; but with such kinds as the grape vine, the fruit is borne on the branches of last year's growth, so the effort should be to throw all the vigor possible into those growing branches that we want to bear fruit the next season. To do this we pinch back the shoots that we do not want to extend, or even pull these weak shoots out altogether. A little pruning is then necessary, in the winter, to shorten back these strong, bearing canes, or to prune out altogether the weaker ones that we check by pinching back during the growing season.

Cultivating the Small Grains. English farmers have learned that there is great advantage in spring cultivation of winter wheat. But the English method of hoeing the grain by hand labor is much too expensive to be afforded at present wheat prices. What is quite as good as hand hoeing, and much less expensive, is thoroughly harrowing the surface in spring before sowing grass and clover seeds. Rolling should follow the harrowing. With

spring grain the rolling ought to come first, and compact the soil around the young plant. It is a mistake to roll as soon as the seed is sown, as is often done. If rains follow after this compacting of the surface the young plants do not easily break through it, and are weakened. Rolling the surface after the grain is up operates differently. It breaks any crust that may have formed, and presses the soil closely about the roots. Then in a day or two run the smoothing harrow over the rolled surface, and it will be as good as running the cultivator through young corn to increase its growth. After the grain is up heavy rains will not compact the surface soil, for the force of the rain drops is broken by the leaves, and no crust over the surface will be formed. If clover or grass seed is sown with spring grain it should be after the rolling and cultivating, else the small seeds will be covered too deeply.

Irrigating the Garden. The subject of irrigation of the garden is one of present interest. The garden is the most productive part of the farm, but quite often the product is greatly reduced by a few dry days during which young plants are destroyed for the want of water, or the older ones are so weakened at the blossoming time that they fail to set fruit. That most important crop, the strawberry, especially suffers from the want of water, and it has been found that some simple method of irrigation has tripled the average yield, with an equivalent improvement in the quality of the fruit. It has been shown by scientific experiments that the yield of any crop is in proportion to the quantity of water passing through the plants. This is not only reasonable, but easily demonstrable, as the only food available to plants is that dissolved in water, and if the water is deficient in supply the plant is starved to the extent of the deficiency, while the contrary applies equally. So that a short supply of water in the soil is equivalent to a shortening of the supply of food, and the most fertile soil cannot yield more than a meager crop. It is the same as if the soil were deficient in fertility. It is equally proper to irrigate most garden truck at the blossoming period, especially if the soil is dry and the weather warm, and it is again essential to water when the fruit is set.—Denver Field and Farm.

Black Minorcas. This breed of poultry is rapidly gaining in favor in this progressive age of poultry culture, as their good qualities are better known. They are of Spanish origin, and have been bred for many years in England. They are the largest nonsitting breed in existence, and excel as egg producers, both in number and size of the eggs, says Ohio Farmer. They combine two points that render them especially desirable, viz: utility and beauty. They have large single combs, red face with pure white earlobes, lustrous black plumage, and are proud and majestic.

The American standard weight for Black Minorcas is eight pounds, and for hens six and a-half pounds. They are very hardy, mature early, pulllets begin to lay when five months old, and continue through the winter. Their ability to fill the egg basket is recognized not only by the fancier, but by the practical farmer.

Bruises and Wounds of Trees. Nothing is better for covering the bruises on trees than oil shale with, perhaps, a little flower of sulphur and a few drops of carbolic acid, which last ingredient should be used very sparingly. The mixture can be applied with a paint brush. For the exclusion of the air from wounds, it is suggested that a grafting wax, made of four parts of rosin, two parts of beeswax and one of tallow, melted together, poured into water and immediately worked and made up into half-pound rolls, is convenient to have ready for use. Held in the hands so that it is softened, a small lump of it may be spread over a wound, and it will remain for some time and keep out air and germs of disease. If the wound is large the application may need to be repeated.—Rural New-Yorker.

Feeding Whole Grain to Horses. As horses grow older and their teeth are poorer they bolt their grain more greedily and do not attempt to chew it as they should. Whole grain fed thus does little good. Grain for horses whose teeth are poor ought always to be ground and given with cut hay. Even when younger horses are fed whole grain some finely-chopped hay should be cut and wet to mix with it. This will make them eat more slowly and they will chew their food better. But for horses of any age feeding whole grain is wasteful however it may be given. A great deal will pass through them and give them very little nutriment.

Rose Growing. A rose grower says: "I would never mix stable manure with soil for roses. It may be used when thoroughly decomposed as a top dressing, but in the soil it is bad. I have seen beds in which it was used so full of white fungus they were fairly matted together. Sheep manure I consider one of the very best fertilizers we have, either in liquid form or mixed with soil at the time of planting. It should not be added to the compost heap, for too much of it in one place is sure death to all vegetable life."

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO PUPIL AND TEACHER.

What is to Be Done with the Graduate?—Munificent Gifts of Wealthy Men to Columbia College—Evils of Overcrowding in the Public Schools.

After Graduation, What?

Commencement day with its white gowns, its beribboned essay, and its touching sense of the high aspirations to be reached after in life, is a charming occasion. But after graduation, what then? Boast as much as you will of the progress of the girl, she is rather a helpless being still; and however pleasing helplessness in woman may be, in poetry, in actual life it loses its charms and assumes features which conspire to anything but the happiest lot in the world. In this world more than two-thirds of the women are wage-workers; and what does their need of dollars amount to? A majority of them average less than \$1 per day, and \$10 to \$15 per week marks the outside limit of the most favored—few in number, unsurpassed in ability. Women may be self-supporting, but very few, comparatively speaking, have reached the point where they look beyond subsistence to a comfortable competency, as men reckon such matters, or to getting rich.

True enough, the field of woman's industries are broadening. In business circles, in cities at least, there is very little distinction nowadays between what is properly woman's work and man's work, except in the all-important matter of pay. Go into any large manufactory, even where every product is distinctively connected with man's labor, somewhere about the building, with needle or brush, tending a machine, keeping books, or manipulating a typewriter, you will find a woman at work. On the other hand, start any new industry, no matter how specially adapted to woman's nimble fingers or keen eyesight or insight, if there is "money in it," man is in the field and comes into immediate competition with woman. The question of a living in this world, for man or woman either, involves a good deal of thought and study—more of each with every year that goes by.

With the higher class of industries to which woman aspires, relations are much the same as with the lower. Teaching is overcrowded. Journalism is uncertain, and not an easy profession to get started in. Literature, without the highest order of talent, is hopeless. Lecturing is past its prime, and public reading is going the same way. In music, vocal or instrumental, except for the one rarely gifted in a hundred thousand, there is an absolute glut in the market. To be a third-rate musician is to fall outright. In painting the same.

Taken collectively, the difference between men and women—and it is an infinite difference—is comprehended in one idea—organization. A nation, a State, a city, a church, the public school system, any modern institution whatever, is a corporation of men, in which women are disconnected units. Business firms and corporations are organizations of men with rarely a woman partner among them.

Women have done much, but it is as well not to applaud their successes too loudly till they have done more. Let them pay to a business education in business principles the same thorough attention they now pay to the requirements of society superfluities; the same careful thought and study they bestow upon their evening costumes and a thousand and one other fancies which prove but a passing pleasure to so many of themselves, and a vain delusion and a snare to as many men. Let them by systematic study and training fit themselves for the varied occupations they can enter upon without doing violence to their physical organization. This course will bring its immediate result; for men will be compelled then to seek a living in those occupations, abundant enough, from which women are debarred, but which they themselves avoid because of the manual labor, the heat of the sun, and various other discomforts to be encountered. Surely no injustice will be done, for woman must live; and if not favored by fortune with a plentiful provision of this world's goods, she must struggle for her bread in those fields open to all the human race—the ranks of the employes. But what she needs to complete success in the fields open to her, is faith in herself and a business courage.

At the same time the accomplishments of a perfect wife should be attained. For at marriage—and what girl does not calculate upon it—these will become her stock in trade, and furnish abundant claim for release from any cares in the transaction of business affairs.

The world owes no man a living. Nor does it any woman. As before intimated, poetic conceptions and actual life experiences, are two different things. And in the busy, bustling, and strife for the dollars to make life's path easier, the world sees no distinction in

Gifts to a College.

President Seth Low, of Columbia College, New York, recently made a regal gift to that institution. The trustees were in session, considering ways and means to push forward work of construction on the new college buildings, when President Low announced his munificent offer of \$1,000,000, to be used in the erection of the library building. The donor desired the building to be a memorial to his father, Abel Abbott Low, "a merchant who taught his son to value the things for which Columbia College stands."

The conditions attached to the gift are threefold. It is President Low's desire, in the first place, that the gift shall be the means of extending college privileges to some of the boys and girls of his native city, Brooklyn, thereby maintaining a high standard of efficiency in both the public and private schools of that city. Accordingly twelve Brooklyn scholarships for boys will be established in Columbia and twelve Brooklyn scholarships for girls in Barnard College. The scholarships are to be awarded by competition, three a year, beginning with the autumn of 1896, each scholarship to be held for the full college course of four years.

Following President Low's gift came one of \$300,000 from Chairman William C. Schermerhorn, of the Board of Trustees. He said that he made himself responsible for the national science building, or for any other building or part of a building to cost that amount. F. Augustus Schermerhorn, one of the trustees, presented to the college the Townsend Library of National, State and Biographical War Records.

Crowded Schools and Health. Henry Dwight Chapin, of New York, a specialist in diseases of children, has written an article on the subject "Crowded Schools as Promoters of Disease." Some of his recommendations regarding sanitary school construction are valuable and timely. He says: "No public school building should be constructed that will accommodate more than 800 or 1,000 children, several buildings being put up, if necessary, to house larger numbers. Experience shows that the health of children in our large schools can be best conserved by allowing fifteen square feet of floor space, 250 cubic feet of air space, and at least 1,800 cubic feet of fresh air to each pupil per hour. No better rough incubator of disease germs could be devised than a small, closed, unventilated wardrobe on a stormy day, packed with the wet and soiled outer garments of children coming from all sorts and kinds of homes. The life conditions of thousands of poor children in tenement houses are bad enough. It is at least the duty of our cities to see to it that their bad environment is not continued in the schools. What is needed is a more constant and regular sanitary oversight of the schools by experts in hygiene."

A Sensible School Board. The Stevens Point (Wis.) School Board at a regular meeting adopted a decided innovation in prescribing the dress of graduates of the high school. The commissioners passed a resolution to the effect that the girls who graduated shall appear on commencement day in dresses of "plain white muslin," and the young men in "plain neat suits." The board considered this action necessary in view of the fact that well-to-do parents constantly vie with one another to see which can array their daughters in the most attractive commencement day finery.

Educational Notes. Eight schools averaging \$40,000 each are under construction in Buffalo. The report of the Board of Education of Kansas City, Mo., shows an enrollment of 41,500 in the county during the past year. Actual expenses for the ensuing year are estimated at \$24,000. Prof. Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia College, chief editor of the Educational Review, has been chosen to preside over the meeting of the National Educational Association that is to meet in Denver.

W. C. Dohm, of Princeton, '90, recently deceased, was a noted athlete, and left numerous trophies, including twenty-five heavy gold medals, eight silver cups and a large number of smaller prizes. His widow has presented the entire collection to the college.

The school savings bank system introduced in a number of school districts of Pennsylvania as an experiment in education six years ago, has ceased in its functions as an experiment and become, according to the Philadelphia Times, an excellent feature of the common curriculum, not so much as a study, but as a training into methods of economy, self-denial, and as a provision for the future. The most notable example is in Chester and the contiguous districts of South Chester, Upland, Edlystone, and Marcus Hook. The April report shows that the pupils in the schools of Chester have the handsome sum of \$33,075 to their credit, and those of South Chester \$6,838. The aggregate amount for the five sections is \$42,251. As an object lesson in finance in which boys and girls have a practical, individual share this is a very attractive example.

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