

HOME AND FASHIONS

Modes of Trimming.

A favorite trimming is a broad, double fold put on as a tuck, or, when neatly gathered, a flounce. From one to five of these, according to their width, frequently adorn skirts, where they are arranged in a zig-zag movement in preference to a straight line. Sometimes they are of the same color and material as the costume, at others contrasting both in color and texture, in which case either silk or velvet is employed.

Another effective trimming consists of a very heavy description of lace of extremely large design, through which black velvet of the very narrowest width is passed so as to follow the frame and contours of the design. The same idea is also carried out with colored velvet of two or three different colors, and is very decorative. This is more an adornment for cloaks and bodices than skirts, on account of the weight.

A Graceful Visiting Gown.

A particularly graceful visiting gown is of a soft shade of blue cloth. The yoke and the lower part of the sleeves are of buff embroidered chiffon, while the panel front of the skirt, the bertha and the extensions from the yoke to the belt are appliqued with graceful scrolls for which Corticelli silk is employed. The lower part of the skirt is ornamented with several wide tucks. This model fully emphasizes the fact that the tablier front is to be well represented among the new gowns, not alone those intended for afternoon but for evening wear as well. It will perhaps interest our readers to know of a recently imported skirt in which the tablier front was pre-eminent. It

A Serviceable Jacket.

A jaunty and serviceable garment is made of black broadcloth of an exquisitely fine texture stitched with white Corticelli silk. It is cut with a long turn-down collar and has white moire revers. Fancy stitching, in which the favorite diamond recurs again and again, as well as stitched straps are features of trimming for



which Corticelli stitching silk, size D, is almost always employed. Other modes of garniture are cording, perforated straps and straps of peau de soie or satin, as well as moire, followed by a varied assortment of braids. Perforations following some

BEAUTIFUL GOWNS FROM PARIS.



The skirt of the first gown is of white guipure over almond green taffeta. The Louis XV. coat is of almond green satin, the points in front appliqued with lace, of which the jabot, forming a sort of collar and revers, and the sleeve ruffles are also made. These ruffles are headed by a band of guipure, like the skirt. The

blouse is of white mousseline de soie, and the girdle is of the material, fastened with a handsome gold buckle.

The second gown is of veiling, trimmed with venise insertion and black velvet ribbon. The little plastron is of white linen, shirred and puffed. The sleeves are of a new and elaborate design.—Weiner Chic.

is cut in four divisions, each one bias and shaped to give the necessary flare. Each section is shirred to the other with tiny up-standing frills and the lower one spreads out into a very full flounce. The skirt joins the tablier at either side and the edges are finished with rosette bows of narrow

dainty pattern or design and showing the foundation of some special lining are very handsome, also the applied trimmings of cloth, taffeta or moire.

A Negligee Gown.

Every woman wants a negligee gown. There are many pretty ones in the shops, but here is a home-made one: Use flowered muslin over silk—pink or blue. Lay a deep yoke in moderate width tucks, set close together, running straight across the back, but diagonally in front. From the edge of the yoke let the muslin fall in accordion plaits. Finish the neck according to fancy.

A pretty yoke and stock for a light silk gown is of ruffled tulle, the ruffles being so tiny as to look almost like simple shirring. Over both are set small pearl beads, as close together as desired. A fold or twist of satin may be used at the top of the stock and at the lower edge of the yoke.

All White.

White gowns without a touch of color are immensely popular. They are gorgeously voluminous. Indeed, they appear to be a mass of feathery flutters in their lacy and transparent billows of fabric.

Some of these white gowns seem to be an artistic combination of entire doud of lace and embroidery. A conspicuous feature is the ribbon bow made of many loops, and ingeniously tied in the center.

A chic white gown of white mull is flounced three-quarters up the skirt, each flounce being finished with a lace edge. The waist is of lace and mull, very pouffant in front.



black velvet ribbon, three or four strands carried from one to the other all the way down.

ORTICULTURE



Past Profits in Strawberries.

It is interesting to go back in mind to the time when strawberry growing first became popular in this country. The real interest in strawberry raising began just before the Civil War. Strawberries of the cultivated varieties were then very uncommon. The wild ones sold for perhaps 10 cents a quart. When the improved varieties came into the market they commanded a very high price, especially just before or after the natural season for the wild ones. By the end of the war the profitable culture of strawberries was drawing a good deal of attention. Men made from \$800 to \$800 on single acres of ground. The phenomenal profits induced thousands to rush into the business. In time the prices dropped so that many cultivators that went in with high hopes of making great fortunes abandoned the business in disgust. Following that came a season when the industry of strawberry growing had settled down to a commercial enterprise on commercial lines, where it has remained ever since. Though the profits are not now phenomenal, yet they are sufficient to insure a continuance of the very large supplies of the most popular of all berries.

Biting and Sucking Insects.

Briefly stated, there are two classes of insects—biting and sucking. The latter group includes those insects which injure the plants by inserting their tube-like mouth parts into the plant tissue and draw up the sap of the plant. Common forms of these insects are the scale insects, red spiders, woolly aphids and other plant lice. The remedy must be one that kills by contact with the insect body such as kerosene, kerosene emulsion and the soap mixtures. The biting insects are those which chew and swallow some portion of the plant or fruit. The grass-hopper, many beetles and the codling moth larvae are good illustrations. The direct poison, such as Paris green or other arsenicals, which can be applied to the part of the plant that is eaten by the insect are the surest remedies.—New Mexico Experiment Station.

The catalpa tree is growing in favor as a tree for fence posts. It is a quick grower, as trees go, and the wood will last a long time when used for fence posts. Hardy varieties only should be grown.

The reason why more trees are not planted is that it takes too long to bring them to any size. The farmer wants quick returns.

Sweet Corn.

Sweet corn for family use should be planted at different times throughout the season, that the users may have it coming on at convenient periods. The same is true of green corn is to be sold in the market. There are several advantages in the raising of sweet corn. One of them is that sweet corn can be harvested much cheaper than can field corn, as the harvesting consists only in going through the fields and snapping off the ears that are ready to use. Another advantage is that the stalks may be fed green to the milk cows, and will produce a large revenue in that way, provided a farmer have several cows that are giving milk. The fact that it does not all reach marketable size at the same time makes it far easier to handle the crop than is the case with field corn. In addition, there is no fear of fall frosts, for the corn does not have to be ripened and thus makes the necessary growth in a much shorter season than does the field crop. In fact, sweet corn can be grown much farther north than can the corn for common uses.

Starting Cantaloupes.

Cantaloupes can be started in hot houses and afterward transferred to the fields. In some vineyards the practice is followed of sowing one seed in a box the size of a cigar box and allowing it to develop to good size before transplanting. The boxes are then taken to the field and the sides and ends torn off, the bottoms being left to hold the roots in place. When placed in the ground the plants go on growing as if nothing had happened, for the pieces of boards remaining do not prevent the spread of the roots laterally. The advantages of this method are several. One of them is that while the plants are under glass they are protected from their insect enemies and make a good growth. After they become strong and vigorous, insects do them little harm. Of course another advantage is that the melons are ripened several weeks earlier than they otherwise would be.

Setting Apple Trees.

From the Farmers' Review: In your issue of May 21 I read an article on orchard management, in which Mr. Aldrich advises setting trees leaning to the Southeast. This presents a new phase as to leaning trees. Neither southeast nor southwest is advisable. It is my experience that it should lean toward the sun at between half-past twelve and one o'clock.—Edson Gaylord, Iowa.

Whether potatoes are to be grown on the level or in ridges depends largely on the soil and to some extent on the season. It would be a mistake to attempt to raise potatoes by level culture in a clay soil badly drained.

AGRICULTURE



The Battle of Grass and Weeds.

The dominant vegetation existing in any section of country, if left to itself, usually repels invaders. The reason that certain kinds of plants only are found growing predominantly anywhere is because, for the time being, they are best fitted to survive under local conditions. Those less well fitted are crowded out, and perish. In an old plant region, as a forest or a prairie, vegetation of a particular sort has established itself as the result of centuries of competition with other plants contesting for the same space. Seeds of invading species, however, may lie dormant for some time in the soil, awaiting the clearing of the land to germinate and grow. Notice the new plants that appear where land is cleared of trees or sod and left to itself. So long as the conditions in nature surrounding the wild prairie grass remain the same, they will continue to grow in about the same proportions and to about the same extent. Man, however, changes natural conditions violently. By breaking sod and putting in crops he opens places which afford room for strange plants, weeds, the seeds of which are carried thence to neighboring grazing land. Even then they will not drive out the wild grasses if the latter are left to themselves. On the contrary, if a farm is abandoned, weeds may riot for a few years in the broken land, but the sod retakes the soil eventually in the prairie regions, and the weeds are crowded out.—H. F. Roberts.

Sweet Clover as a Soil Ameliorant.

Bulletin 233, Ohio Station: Those who have carefully observed the habits of the wild sweet clover (otherwise known as Bokhara clover or melilot) have noticed that its volunteer growth is practically confined to roadsides where the surface soil has been scraped away or where the ground has been puddled by tramping, and to similar locations elsewhere, such as the bottoms of abandoned brickyards or places in pasture fields where the soil has been trampled while wet, or hillsides from which the surface soil has been washed away. It is practically never found invading pastures or other lands which have been kept in good condition. At the Ohio Experiment Station the seeds of this plant have repeatedly been sown on soils which were merely thin, but not washed or puddled, but invariably without success. The only case in which it has been induced to grow was where it was sown on the bottom of an old brickyard at Columbus in 1888. Here a full stand and vigorous growth was obtained, and the crop was allowed to stand and re-seed itself until the fall of 1891, when it was plowed under and the land sown to wheat. The result was a yield of 26.9 bushels of wheat per acre on the land where melilot had grown, against a yield of 18.6 bushels on similar land alongside, which had been cropped with corn and oats the two seasons previously.

Developing the Rice Industry.

The work of introducing new plants into this country is proving exceedingly beneficial from a commercial standpoint. The introduction of rice from Japan a few years ago illustrates this. Secretary Wilson in a recent report said: In my last report attention was called to the fact that the introduction of Japanese rice resulted in an increased production, amounting to at least \$1,000,000, of this commodity in Louisiana, and furthermore, that the impetus given to the work in Louisiana and Texas led to the investment of not less than \$20,000,000 in the industry. In 1900 about 8,000,000 pounds more rice were produced than in 1899, and this year 65,000,000 pounds more were produced than in 1900. With the rapid increase in our own production the importation of rice from foreign countries is falling off, as shown by the fact that in three years the imports have decreased from 154,000,000 pounds to 73,000,000 pounds. All the increase in home production can not, of course, be ascribed to the department's introduction and distribution of Japanese rice, but the great impetus to its production in this country was given by the department's introduction three years ago. Evidently it will be but a few years until the United States will not only grow all the rice consumed here, but will export part of the product as well.

Improving the Land Through Feeding.

On many of the European farms the owners plan to feed their animals rich food for the purpose of indirectly benefiting the land on which the droppings are to go. Immense quantities of cotton seed meal and linseed cake are yearly fed to cattle and the high-priced land thus improved. What is a good thing for the European farmers should be a better thing for farmers on this side of the water, because we are at the base of supplies. The Europeans have to buy these rich feeds very largely from the United States. They pay the cost of transporting across the water and over railroads, and for handling several times, besides the toll to the various middlemen under whose charge it comes at various times. We should take into consideration the manurial value of the things we buy for our cattle and other stock, with the object of obtaining manure as rich as possible in fertility most needed on the land.

LITTLE FOLK

THE RETURN.

A little hand is knocking at my heart,
And I have closed the door.
I pray thee, for the love of God, depart;
Thou shalt come in no more."

"Open, for I am weary of the way;
The night is very black;
I have been wandering many a night and day.
Open, I have come back."

The little hand is knocking patiently:
I listen dumb with pain.
"What thou dost not open any more to me?
I have come back again."

"I will not open any more. Depart,
I, that once lived, am dead."
The hand that had been knocking at my heart,
Was still. "And I?" she said.

There is no sound save in the winter air
The sound of wind and rain.
All that I loved in all the world stands
There,
And will not knock again.
—Arthur Symons.

Chicago's Street Boys.

There are in Chicago about 6,000 newsboys, of whom 1,500 are employed in what is known as the downtown district, north of Fourteenth street, and extending a short distance west to the river. But this is not all of the rough-and-ready element. There is a vast army of messenger and telegraph boys, another army of boot-blacks, and still another of office boys. Then there are the "sleep-outs"—the waifs and strays. Of the newsboys 80 per cent are Italians, most of whom have homes; 10 per cent are Jews, most of whom have homes, and the other 10 per cent are chiefly Americans. There is a considerable number of homeless boys who sleep where they can find a place—in the Newsboys' Home or in some lodging house, or in some building or alley. The boys in the downtown district have considerable leisure time, which they employ in unprofitable ways, including gambling. John F. Atkinson, for three and a half years financial secretary of the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society, is endeavoring to organize a "Boys' Club and Pleasant Evenings" in the downtown district.

Blindfold Artists.

When the recess bell has sounded its welcome ding-a-dong let a dozen or so of you go into a room where there is a blackboard and take seats in a row facing it, for you are going to have a drawing contest, and the blackboard is the field where you are to display your skill. Someone must be selected as director of the contest, but not necessarily as the judge.

When the board has been cleaned off from one end to the other the contest begins by one director's calling on the player at the head of the row to come to the board. Then he blind-



folds the player with a handkerchief, places him in front of the left-hand end of the board, and giving him a piece of chalk, tells him to draw on the board a picture of a horse. This the player does to the best of his ability, but no matter how careful he may be, every line he draws will make the other players shout with laughter; and no one will laugh louder than the player himself when the handkerchief has been taken from his eyes and he sees the funny picture he has made.

A Puritan Conscience.

Here is a story the Youth's Companion tells of a little New England girl the workings of whose Puritan conscience involved her in difficulties on one occasion.

She was studying mental arithmetic at school, and took no pleasure in it. One day she told her mother with much depression of spirit that she had "failed again in mental arithmetic," and on being asked what problem had proved her undoing, she sorrowfully mentioned the request for the addition of "nine and four."

"And didn't you know the answer, dear?" asked her mother.
"Yes'm," said the little maid, "but you know we are to write the answers on our slates, and before I thought I made four marks and counted up, 'ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen;' and then of course I knew that wasn't mental, so I wrote twelve for the answer, to be fair."

Butterflies and Birds.

Of all the "children of the air" that gladden a June day, the monarch butterfly is one of the most noticeable. Its wings shimmer like gold alloyed with copper as it pursues its lazy flight in the sunshine. The male monarch is a true dandy and carries on each hind wing a black sashet bag containing a strong perfume, most attractive to the other sex. The monarch is immune from bird enemies; the callow birdling that takes a bite from it wipes his beak in disgust and forever after connects the noisome taste with orange wings. A too hasty conclusion, of which the viceroy butterfly takes advantage, and, by don-

ning the monarch's uniform, escapes scatheless, although any bird might find it a beaksome morsel.—Country Life in America.

An Electric Experiment.

Paste a strip of tinfoil around the middle of a lamp chimney, and another narrow strip of tinfoil lengthwise from one end to within one inch from the other strip. Wrap a silk handkerchief or piece of silk around the chimney cleaner (the little brush) and rub the inside of the chimney industriously, being careful not to touch the strips of tinfoil with your hands.

If this experiment is executed in the dark an electric spark can be seen jumping from the ring to the strip as often as the broom is pulled back. Fasten a piece of wire around the tinfoil ring and on its end a few strips



of tissue paper. By rubbing the inside of the chimney with the silk covered brush the ring is filled with electricity, which passing through the wire affects the strips of paper, causing them to fly apart.

This experiment should be tried in dry weather, as humidity is disadvantageous to electrical experiments. Broom, silk cloth, and lamp chimney should be absolutely dry.

A Novel Game.

Here's a game that is enjoyed by every one who plays it. Make two cornucopias of fairly stiff paper, leaving the small ends large enough to pass pieces of twine through. Take two pieces of string, and slip each through one cornucopia, stretching them two feet apart, as tight as you can across the room, fastening the ends to either wall.

The strings should be high enough from the ground to enable you to blow into the cornucopia. The object of the game is for two people to stand at the end of the strings and blow into the large openings of the cornucopias, and see which one can get it across the room first.

It takes a person with a good pair of lungs to send it the length of the string in one blow.

Paper for Invitations.

There is specially imported stationery for little maidens to use in sending out their party invitations. One style has the small sheets of heavy white paper decorated at the top in colors with a little girl and small boy fencing. On the other are two wee "new women" in bloomers exercising with dumb bells and Indian clubs. Other notepaper bears on the top a scene of tiny summer belle and her attendant cavalier on board a yacht. What is known as "harlequin paper" is decorated with an elephant in scarlet trousers playing a trombone, and below:

The elephant played the trombone
With his trunk so very long.
He played the airs so finely,
That never a note was wrong.

Coin Trick.

Place a little nuclage on the rim of a wine glass; turn the glass over on a sheet of white paper, and when the nuclage is dry cut away the paper close to the glass. Put the glass mouth downward on a sheet of paper like that which covers the mouth of the glass. Make a paper cone to fit over the glass. Now lay a penny on the large sheet of paper by the side of the wine glass. Cover the glass with the paper cone and place the whole over the coin. Command the coin to disappear, and on taking off the cone the coin will appear to have obeyed your command. To cause it to reappear, replace the cone and carry away the glass under it.

Two Names.

314436
306

Hold these figures before a looking-glass and you will see the names of a boy and a girl. Or hold the page up to the light and look at it through the back page and you will get the same effect.

Work of the Frost.

A frost problem is the cracking of the earth in severe cold, and the way in which rocks and clods are reduced to powder by frost. Water, when it freezes, expands with irresistible force. Consequently anything containing water is rent asunder when that water turns to ice. In this way rocks are rapidly worn down. Chalk holds more water than most other forms of soil, and that is why the roads in chalky counties are usually in such a shocking condition when a thaw follows frost.