

The opportunity occurred in connection with a visit which his majesty paid to the Berliner theater, now conducted by the actor Ferdinand Bonn. As a theatrical manager Herr Bonn has been unanimously condemned by the dramatic critics of every newspaper in the capital. Before he assumed managerial duties Herr Bonn was a popular actor, and he now keenly resents the press criticism, and proclaims open hostility to the newspapers and all connected with them. Just at present Herr Bonn's own adaptation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being given nightly, and he has worked into the text several veiled attacks on the newspapers.

After one performance the emperor summoned Herr Bonn to his box and said: "I admire in particular the courage wherewith you have dared to express certain truths in this play. I now understand what opposition you have been obliged to overcome here."

The "Tageblatt," referring to the imperial utterance writes: "In our opinion the emperor's allusion to certain courageous truths can only mean the veiled attacks which Herr Bonn directs against the newspaper press in his play. We, however, retain our opinion that the criticism to which Herr Bonn is obliged to submit is fully justified by the kind of dramatic art he cultivates at his theater."

It is clear that in this case the emperor adopted an attitude not only hostile to the newspaper press, but also diametrically opposed to prevailing public opinion in intellectual circles in Berlin.

When the kaiser traveled to Munich last November the newspapers mentioned that his majesty stopped his train for a quarter of an hour at a wayside station in order to get shaved. This important item of news was reproduced by the Nuremberg newspaper, the "Fraenkische Tagespost," which added that the associations of loyal military veterans in the neighborhood had stormed the barber for the lather which had been scraped off the kaiser's chin, and that this had been distributed among them, while a band played the national anthem.

As this was a socialist journal, the veteran associations considered themselves insulted, and brought an action against the editor. The trial was very amusing, the court joining in the laughter; but the editor, nevertheless, was fined for overstepping the bounds of fair comment.

The name of M. Cheron, under secretary of war, is a byword in the French army, on account of his surprise visits at night to different barracks to see if the soldiers are properly cared for. An ingenious thief has taken advantage of the fact for his own base purposes.

Two regiments at Chateau d'Eau were wrapped in slumber a few nights ago when, just after midnight, a silent figure entered the dormitories and leant over a snoring soldier. The soldier woke, but the stranger soothed him, saying, "Do they look after you properly? Is your bed comfortable and warm? Very well! Don't let me disturb you. Go to sleep again." The soldier watched the stranger examine his garments at the foot of the bed, and murmuring, "It must be Cheron," went to sleep again.

The performance was repeated whenever a soldier awoke, and the news quickly spread from one bed to the next that M. Cheron was paying a visit to the barracks. Soon a whole great room was awake, and the men sitting up in bed, ducked at the thoroughness of the stranger's inspection.

Then someone struck a match, and the stranger's face was revealed. It's not Cheron at all," a man shouted, and as he did so the stranger fled quickly from the room. The alarmist was derided, his comrades saying that none but M. Cheron could possibly have made an entrance.

But when they dressed in the morning, says the "Matin," every man found that his pockets had been emptied.

Many Uses for the Bison.

The Ouling Magazine: Preserving the bison on sentimental grounds is sufficient reason for the intelligent of our people, but sentimental ground is not at all sufficient to the average American mind. And it is, therefore, with wisdom that Mr. Baynes has sought to extend the appeal which the bison has for many different kinds of people. For example, last summer he took up the question of buffalo wool. A small quantity was obtained just as it is shed by the animals, was carded at a factory and later spun and knitted into gloves which proved very warm and so far as could be judged from a few months' wear, durable as well. Samples of this wool and yarn have been submitted to manufacturers, who all agree that the wool is of a very good quality, that for a while it would demand a high price as a novelty and later a very good price for general utility purposes where light colors are not required. Other men, Mr. Baynes has found, who are inter-

ested in the bison as a beef animal, and still others who are inclined to give ear to the voice of the society because they believe that by crossing the bison with certain breeds of domestic cattle, a valuable new breed may in time be evolved. Indeed some rather conservative scientific men have expressed the opinion that bison farms would prove profitable in any of the states included in the animal's former range.

* **FASHION** *

New York Post: The story of silk is, perhaps, the most universally interesting of all those with which Dame Mode is regaling us this spring. Silk costumes are in vogue for all occasions, even some simple tailored ones for morning wear, all of which is quite in accord with the note of luxuriousness that prevails throughout the realm of dress. It is all so different from what it was a few years back, say twenty, when the best black silk, was a phrase with which to conjure, and made its appearance only on state occasions, principally weddings and funerals.

It is a veritable treat to go into the exclusive shops and hear the history of the new weaves, of which there is a sufficient number to dazzle the eyes of even the connoisseur, and as for the names, well, here one may be excused for paraphrasing, for certainly if the word of the man behind the goods is of any worth a silk by any other name is just as good, will wear just as long, and is equally stylish. Also, a piece of silk, in this season of 1907, plays many parts. For example, a silk, glossy, roughly woven and of firm texture, is known at the importer's as Tuscan foulard, at one shop it goes by the name of "amaranth," while still another firm answers to the call of it, when it comes, as voile surah. Hence, it is well to seek further when one does not at once find the silk desired.

All of the silks show an unusually wide range of beautiful colors, both light and dark shades. This range includes almost every tint known heretofore, reinforced by scores of new ones, many of them novel. In the French models these odd shades, which are perhaps in themselves trying, are cleverly worked up into combinations which not only render them vastly becoming, but distinguished looking.

There has not been a season in many a year when we could so aptly say "the old things have passed away." We may still make use of old materials, old colors, old ideas, but they must enter into calculations rather as accessories to be combined with new suggestions than as a whole. The spirit of change is abroad in the land, and it makes itself felt nowhere more potentially than in dress. We may wear last season's clothes, but not as they were, and to the economically inclined this must be a season of pure delight, for the old things never lent themselves so adaptably to refurbishing as now, and here again silks are their salvation. It is the exception when a gown of silk itself is not trimmed with a silk of another weave, if not of a different color. Taffeta is used rather for ornamental purposes than as entire costumes, except in black, which is as popular as ever. A smart suit of black taffeta seen at one of the recent exhibitions is well worthy of mention and sounds a new note in the construction of this somewhat hackneyed toilet. The skirt was laid in half-inch knife plaits around the hips and stitched to a depth of ten inches, and pressed the rest of their length. Around the bottom were two four-inch folds of satin sparsely scattered with white pin dots and headed with just the narrowest possible piping of green silk. The bodice was of point Venise lace, with shoulder caps and strappings of black silk bordered, with the silk piped, satin bands of the skirt, and over this was a little coat, a short pony effect, with a French back, the seams outlined with the full width bands, and the front trimmed also with the bands extending from the shoulder and having two wide revers of satin notched, piped with green, and trimmed with tiny metal buttons of green and gold.

The Parisian dressmakers and certain modistes on this side are using the soft satin and silk linings in preference to taffeta. These are attractive shimmering through the thin, loosely woven materials which we are using, but the average American woman likes a lining with more body to it, and, incidentally, she likes the slight, almost imperceptible rustle of the new taffetas, although, like the sensible being she is, she has foregone the aggressive, crackling taffeta that she adopted with so much zest a few years ago.

The majority of silks are figured, yet plain weaves are, strictly speaking, just as good. Satin duchesse, which has been on the market for many moons, is heralded as a novelty for coat suits, and those of its construc-

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tion are indeed very smart. For this purpose, both colors and black are in order, but as satin duchesse is heavy and warm, it is only desirable for the earlier spring days, and, on the whole, seems much better adapted to fall wear. In lieu of this, there is faille francaise, which is more suitable, but best of all are the oriental silks and all silks of rough weaves. Tuscan, shantung, tus-sah, rajah and mirage, all are popular for day and evening costumes, for coat suits, for formal or informal occasions, for separate coats or for entire suits. They require but little trimming, drape gracefully, wear well, and altogether possess those qualities which go to make up a satisfactory lining fabric. Most of these silks come in monotone or fancy effects. One of the prettiest of Tuscan designs shows crescents of varying sizes, interspersed with solid dots. The little figures are shaded blue, on a darker blue ground, or brown or green, a goodly variety of colors. Another Tuscan design shows a hair-line check, each little square having a polka dot at its intersection, and still another shows shallow stripes crossed by invisible checks.

One of the new silks, without any special name, is a faille striped with satin. These stripes are of different widths, one pattern showing a broad band, then alternating eighth-inch stripes of black and white with a group of hair-line stripes next that. These seemingly conspicuous patterns are made up into whole costumes, as well as utilized for trimmings. A smart example of this was noticed in a dinner gown of dark blue and white striped faille; the skirt hung full from the waist, and was trimmed with a double row of chiffon ruching of dark blue, put on in serpentine fashion, the two rows intersecting each other. The waist was surplice style, folding over a guimpe of dotted net and edged around with a bias band of plain blue silk embroidered in blue and gold. The straight shoulder caps were also bordered with the bands and the girdle of blue silk was likewise decorated.

The introduction of new designs in foulards has given them new value, and they are seen in shirt-waist suits and more dressy creations. The large dots and disks were so largely duplicated last year in cotton materials that these patterns may not be called exclusive, but there are many new conventional designs, which are even prettier. To accord with the predilection for stripes, hair-line and other stripes have been introduced into foulards, and are charming when properly developed. The use of stripes is hazardous always, and requires the skill of the artist, but under those conditions there is nothing more effective or distingue.

For more elaborate dresses the sheer silk materials are most in evidence and here we find even a wider range, both in the way of colors and weaves. Silk voile promises to be the leading fabric. It is both practical and beautiful. Marquissettes, chiffon paquin, chiffon Bordeaux, ninon voile, surface point Persian, all are interesting, and each is to be had in numberless novelties. The plain weaves are very apt to be made over plaided, striped or figured linings, while the fancy ones have plain foundations and are equally popular. The shades of brown from old-fashioned seal to mauve and champagne, are far and away fashion's best liked colors, with the preponderance of favor with the golden browns. These shades, however, are difficult to find, as the output was pretty well exhausted last fall when the tide of popularity began to turn in this direction.

There is no color that lends itself

less attractively to trimming than brown; that is, the dark shades, and therefore a model constructed along simple lines is preferable. Silk of the same or darker shades, braids and flat trimmings in monotone are most effective. A new model shown in golden brown marquisette, and which is to form part of a wedding trousseau, has the skirt laid in a triple box plait the length of the front, forming a panel. Around the bottom are three wide tucks, and each is heavily braided with soutache of the gown shade. The braided pattern extends up over the front panel in pyramidal form. The bodice is a jumper with the neck cut in a scalloped point, the scallop buttonholed and embroidered in English eylet and braided and the front also is well covered with a braided design.

* **FARM TOPICS** *

The twenty-second annual report of the bureau of animal industry of the United States department of Agriculture has just been published. It is a cloth-bound volume of 364 pages, illustrated by 23 plates and 22 text figures, and contains special articles and information of interest and value alike to the stockman, the dairyman, the poultryman, the farmer, and the scientist.

This report is issued as a congressional publication, and a limited number of copies is assigned to each senator, representative, and delegate in the Fifty-ninth congress for distribution among his constituents. The bureau of animal industry has no copies for general distribution, its quota being required for its own employees and such outsiders as cooperate in its work. The book is on sale to the public by the superintendent of documents, government printing office, Washington, D. C., for 50 cents.

The volume contains the following articles: "Report of the chief of the bureau for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1905;" "Notes on the cattle tick and Texas fever," by E. C. Schroeder; "The persistence of the Texas fever organism in the blood of southern cattle," by E. C. Schroeder and W. E. Cotton; "Soft-cheese studies in Europe," by Charles Thom; "Records of dairy cows: Their value and importance in economic milk production," by Clarence B. Lane; "Government encouragement of imported breeds of horses," by George M. Rommel; "Welsh Black cattle," by John Roberts; "Baby beef," by Ernest G. Ritzman; "Poultry management," by G. Arthur Bell; "Capons and caponizing," by Rob R. Slocum; "Annual production of animals for food, and per capita consumption of meat in the United States," by John Roberts.

The average importation yearly of horses imported for breeding purposes is placed at 2,248, with an average value of \$492 a head. Horses brought in for breeding purposes are allowed to enter free of duty, subject to certain restrictions as to pure breeding; hence trade is regulated by the Government. Unfortunately there have become associated with the horse-importing trade certain evils which the Department of Agriculture is endeavoring to remedy. George M. Rommel, Animal Husbandman of the Bureau of Animal Industry, in an article on the subject, points out these un-