

MR. PICKET'S HATS.



T might have remained there a long time, Picket's new hat, if Mrs. Picket did not repeat every time her eyes fell upon it: "What in the world possessed you to buy another new hat, when you leave it there for weeks without your opening the box it came in?"

"But," said Picket, "I have not worn it because you keep telling me that my old one looks all right."

"Yes, and you already have twenty-seven hats that you have quit wearing, and you leave them in the closet covered with dust. What in the world do you keep them for? Why don't you throw them away?"

"Throw them away! And yet you know very well that you never throw anything away. You would not throw away a match that had been already lighted. You're so fond of saying, 'It might come in handy.'"

"Well," said Mrs. Picket, "it is true that I never throw away things that might come in handy, but how can old hats ever come in handy? What sense is there in piling up old hats which are of no use to anyone, when there are so many poor creatures who walk the streets barefooted?"

"But," said Picket, "I have not worn my hats on their bare feet."

"I don't see anything funny in that," said Mrs. Picket, icily. "You know what I mean. You needn't pretend that you don't understand me. Why don't you send for an old clothes man, and sell him your old hats?"

two waiters came up to him, and grabbed him by the collar.

"Now we've got him," said one. "Yes," said the other, "we have got him now. This is the man who has been stealing hats."

Picket, paralyzed with astonishment, protested. "What! I steal hats!" he said. "What do you mean?"

"You will have an opportunity to explain this at the police station," was the reply, and the proprietor, who had whistled for a policeman at the door, turned him over to the hands of a blue-coated guardian of the peace.

The unfortunate Picket was yanked along the street, followed by a crowd of passers-by, who applauded his arrest, and a number of street boys, who signified their disapproval more forcibly by hurling mud at him.

"That's the man," said he. "For the last two weeks some scoundrel has been coming to my restaurant, and whenever he goes out somebody misses a hat. Now we've got him. There he is. This is the thief. We caught him in the very act."

"But I was simply mistaken in the hat," cried Picket. "If I were stealing a hat, I would have two here, but I haven't. This is not mine, but you will find mine hanging on the hook."

"Yes," said the restaurant man, "I know. Ordinarily you were in the habit of carrying a grip-sack, in which you put the other hat. This time you came without it."

"But I am an honest man," persisted the unfortunate Picket. "I am well known. Let the officer go to my house, and he will see." He gave his name and address, and the sergeant, wavering in the face of his protestations, sent an officer to accompany him to the address given.

In about half an hour the officer returned, bearing an enormous pile of hats.

"Here, sergeant," said the latter, "see what I found in the fellow's house. His wife had gone out, and it was the servant who let me in."

"Well," said the sergeant, severely, still deny that you are a hat thief?" gazing at the gigantic pile of hats.

"I deny it. I deny it in toto," said the unfortunate Picket. "I bought those hats. I don't wear them, but I bought them."

"You don't wear them? What in the world can you do with twenty-eight hats?"

"Well, you see, my wife has always told me to sell them to an old clothes man. I never think of it; I am so forgetful. Why, today, I even forgot my umbrella. I never had any head."

"You have no head? What do you want with twenty-eight hats then?"

But at this moment a weeping woman entered the police station. It was Mrs. Picket. She had heard from the servant of the plight in which her luckless husband was placed and came and told the police sergeant who he was, and that the hats were really his. But was Picket grateful to her? Hardly. He wished a thousand times that she had not heard about his misadventure, and that he had succeeded in going through all the pains and horrors of a police court rather than she should find him there with the twenty-eight hats—twenty-eight mute witnesses of her superior judgment staring him in the face.

IN WOMAN'S CORNER.

INTERESTING READING FOR DAMES AND DAMSELS.

Current Notes of the Modes—For a Clever Woman—Similarity in the Properties of New Dress Material—For Young Girls.



T takes a clever woman to draw forth the admiration of women by her perfect dressing, but a still cleverer woman it is who can command the simplicity in her toilet which all men so much admire. She realizes by this very acquirement that she becomes an object of ridicule among her feminine friends, yet there are women of sufficiently strong mind to do it.

They will eschew all elaborate toilets and confine themselves to dainty, simple things in which they appear years younger than they really are. It is always a girl's ambition to reach an age where she may wear all the finery restricted to the matron, but there comes a time when such gowning grows irksome and she has the common sense to see that utter simplicity in dress is what she needs to make her seem young again.

By this is not meant a childish mode, but simply-made garments that tend to bring out her good points. Too long a skirt adds years to one's appearance, just as an ill-fitting or unbecoming waist. There are so many lovely materials in the market this season that it would seem an easy matter to secure just what one wishes.

An effective model is shown made up in shiny black alpaca. The skirt is cut en Paquin, quite wide and sharply



lined throughout with rustling white taffeta, finished at the foot by a row of narrow frills.

The round bodice is in blouse effect, with a snugly fitted back and entirely covered with odd scrolls of white hosiery lace, surrounded by tiny jet beads.

There is a belt and broad stock of crushed black taffeta fastened at the back with jet ornaments. The bouffant sleeves drop to the elbow and have a loosely wrinkled lower arm, spreading over the hand in a deep point.

Chicago Chronicle.

New Dress Materials. "My dress will be lined with green taffeta," or "with pink silk," or "with white." It doesn't matter what feminine gathering you attend; you are al-



ways sure to hear some girl telling of her dress lining.

The fact of the matter is, to be thoroughly up to date this year of our Lord one must have a silken lining to the gown. And to make the silken lining effective it must be placed behind some material sheer enough to let the glint of the silken sheen creep through the weave of the dress material.

teen will fill the place of the silken lining. One may as well not attempt to wear a modish gown as to try to get one up cheap.

A gown made by a certain well-known dressmaker of New York is of green canvas. The skirt and jacket are lined throughout with pongee, the same material being used to form revers for the jacket, while the pleasing effect is heightened by the changeable green taffeta bodice worn with the costume.

Another costume is of biscuit-colored canvas, lined with rose taffeta. The bodice is tight-fitting in the back and opens in front to reveal a vest of gold-thread embroidery. Above this vest a yoke of biscuit-colored chiffon is softly laid, flanked each side by a rever of t-embroidery.

The collar, of deep, butter-colored lace, has a fan adornment under each ear.

In the sleeve is shown the mousquetaire model, which is slowly but surely undermining the big sleeve. It is made of chiffon matching the box-plaited uche which finishes the bodice at the bottom.

Chicago Chronicle.

Variety in Shoulder Coverings. The short cape of silk, taffeta or satin is the legitimate sort of fancy this season. It is of a brevity that allows the slenderness of the waist to be visible and it widens the shoulders in spite of drooping sleeves.

When it is made in black it glitters with jet and is adorned with black gauze platings or ruffles and knots of satin or ribbon. When the domain of color is entered there is no limit to the elaboration.

There are openwork arrangements over bright silk linings, applications of lace, beads and embroidery and innumerable constructions more or less complicated, in plaited or ruffled gauze or chiffon. The collars of capes match them in extravagance. The larger number of

Improved Elastic Stocking. The ordinary elastic stocking which is used as a preventive in the frequent cases of varicose veins, has been wonderfully improved upon by a recent invention termed the "Lattice" elastic stocking and legging, where an open-work, lattice-like arrangement is followed with the best possible results, not only where the immediate comfort is concerned, but in the subsequent action upon the vein.

Trans-Mississippi Inventors. Amongst the Trans-Mississippi inventors who received patents during past week were Joseph J. Burke, Wilbur, Nebraska, lawn-mower knife-sharpeners; Emil R. Drayer, Alliance, Nebraska, sifting apparatus; Richard Evans, Mitchell, South Dakota, cutter bar for harvesting machinery; James D. Wiltfong, Glenwood, Iowa, bedstead brace and mattress support; Frederick G. Weeks, Lyons, Iowa, railway time and station indicator; William H. Scott, What Cheer, Iowa, pick; and Joseph A. Reckenthaler, Cushing, Iowa, shield for corn cultivators.

How to Keep Pies. When pies are to be kept over until the second day after baking, it is a wise plan to brush the under crust with a beaten egg, then to put the tin or dish on the ice for half an hour. After that put in the filling of the pie and bake quickly. This will keep the crust from getting soaked.

Travel With a Friend. Who will protect you from those enemies—nausea, indigestion, malaria and the sickness produced by rocking on the waves, and sometimes by inland traveling over the rough beds of ill-laid roads. Such a friend is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. Ocean mariners, yachtsmen, commercial and theatrical agents and tourists testify to the protective potency of this effective safeguard, which conquers also rheumatism, nervousness and biliousness.

Keep Him at Home. Mrs. Yeast: "I wish I could think of something to keep my husband home at nights." Mrs. Crimmonbeak: "Get him a bicycle." Mrs. Yeast: "That would take him out more than ever." Mrs. Crimmonbeak: "Oh, no, it wouldn't. My husband got one day before yesterday and the doctor says he won't be out for a month."

A Child Enjoys. The pleasant flavor, gentle action, and soothing effect of Syrup of Figs, when in need of a laxative, and if the father or mother be costive or bilious, the most gratifying results follow its use; so that it is the best family remedy known and every family should have a bottle.

No Trouble to Explain. "Little boy," said the meditative old gentleman who had just bought a paper, "why is it you always say, 'Horrible murder on the North Side,' or 'on the South Side,' or 'on the West Side,' but when somebody kills himself you never say what 'side' it happened on?"

"Cause everybody knows its suicide," answered the dirty-faced newsboy. "Mornin' paper! All 'bout the hor'ie murder on the North Side!"

My doctor said I would die, but Piso's Cure for Consumption cured me.—Amos Keeler, Cherry Valley, Ill., Nov. 23, '05.

One of His Worst Attacks. "When a man becomes a parent for the first time," said Asbury Peppers, without the slightest excuse, "as I said, when a man becomes a parent the fact at once becomes apparent by his undignified actions, which I may venture to say do not become a parent. Pass the butter, please."

Hall's Catarrh Cure. Is taken internally. Price, 75c.

It Moves Them On. A teacher giving lessons on physical force, when he had finished, asked, "Now, boys, can any of you tell me what force it is that moves people along the streets?" He was greatly surprised, and the class highly amused, at receiving from one of the boys the unexpected answer, "Please, sir, the police force."

How to Grow 40c Wheat. Salzer's Fall Seed Catalogue tells you. It's worth thousands to the wide-awake farmer. Send 4-cent stamp for catalogue and free samples of grains and grasses for fall sowing. John A. Salzer Seed Co., LaCrosse, Wis.

The process of crystallizing flowers is simple and can be satisfactorily accomplished by anyone who has artistic skill. Arrange some basket forms of any desired pattern with pliable copper wire and wrap them with gauze. Into the bottom of these the violets, ferns, geranium leaves—in fact, any flowers except full-blown roses—and sink them in a solution of alum of one pound to a gallon of water. Wait until the solution has cooled, as the colors will then be preserved in their original beauty, and the crystallized alum will hold them faster than when formed in a hot solution. When you have a light covering of crystals that completely envelop the articles, remove and allow to drip for twelve hours. These baskets make a unique ornament and long preserve their freshness.

Madrid schools are so bad that German residents of the city have united to establish a school where their children may obtain as good an education as in more civilized parts of Europe for a reasonable outlay of money.

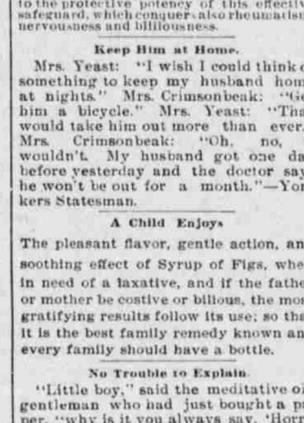
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It is very easy for an unucky man to drift into neglect to pay his bills.

THE SOCIETY BUD TAKES HER MORNING DIP.



gored to give the desired whirl. It is lined throughout with rustling white taffeta, finished at the foot by a row of narrow frills.

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Canvas, either wool or silk; etamine, gauze and net are the newest materials for afternoon gowns. As a rule colors are selected, leaving to the lining the task of supplying that brilliancy of color so essential to an 1896 gown.

Unfortunately for the lean of purse, these gowns are expensive. The materials cost heavily and no cheap se-

A Story of Colorado Gold. The most unique and instructive book yet published about the gold and other features of Cripple Creek District has just been issued by O. W. Crawford, publisher, Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill. Every page is illustrated with original pictures in three colors, made for this work by Mr. E. S. Rice, the sketch genius of the Rockies. It is a complete exposition of Cripple Creek Gold, telling where it is found, how it is treated, how it is mined, how it is treated, how it is paid for all about mines, titles, camping in the mountains and Cripple Creek's wonderful Apollinaris Springs, which the Indians called Queleka and of which they said, "If you drink the waters always, you will live always." In printing and illustration it is a work of high art. We are not surprised to learn that the second edition is in press, for it is a book from which the oldest miner may get information and entertainment as well. Price, 50c, but if you will send five names and addresses of friends and 25c. stamps or silver, to the publisher, it will be sent postage paid.

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