

DECREES OF FASHION

COSTUMES SANCTIONED BY THE LEADERS OF SOCIETY.

Black Velvet Costume, With White Accessories—Silk Dress for an "At Home" Afternoon—Some Recipes for Appetizing Dishes.

Fichus Again in Vogue.

A most universally becoming fashion has been brought again into popular favor by the revival of the Marie Antoinette modes. The fichu returns in many varieties and is frequently used for the neck of the evening gown, although its grace and simplicity recommend it for any dress fashioned of soft, clinging materials after the fashion of the French custom during the time of Marie Antoinette.

Chiffon is the most successful material that can be found for the fichu, but net and lace may be used with effect. The fichu should be draped around the shoulders very loosely, that it may fall in graceful folds, and fastened in front in a soft knot.

It is interesting to find that the flat-iron turban still is to remain one of the leading styles in hats this spring, for its convenience in battling against the March winds is appreciated by its feminine admirers. A number are being shown of shirred taffeta, with the top crown of horsehair braid, and chiffon, shirred and tucked, is also used in covering the turban.

In spite of the acknowledged utility of the "trotteuse" skirt for practical purposes, English tailors are making the smart frocks with long skirts. They do not trail the ground, but are not allowed to show much boot. The plaited skirts, however, must always be short, close-fitting about the hips and very full at the bottom.

Sunderland Pudding.

Half cup sugar, ¼ cup of butter, ½ pint of milk, 1 cup of sifted flour and 3 eggs. Heat the milk hot; stir in the butter and let it cool before the other ingredients are added to it; then stir in the sugar, flour and beaten yolks of 3 and whites of 2 eggs. Flavor with a little grated lemon rind and beat the mixture well. Bake in well buttered cups half filled with the batter for about half an hour. Serve with any sweet sauce, and the white of 1 egg beaten with 1 spoonful of sugar dropped on each pudding in small drops.



Black velvet with embroidered white cloth vest.

Coming Styles.

Skirts are to be fuller than ever about the feet—every conceivable trick that will get a few more inches into the width will be employed; but about the hips they will fit smoothly. Lace will be everywhere, principal-

ly Irish crochet and Valenciennes; a daring use, which is as beautiful as it is daring, being the combining the two. And lace will be used in every possible way, from allover and strips and edgings to wonderful motifs which contain a host of suggestions in themselves for unusual, original uses.

Even embroideries will be used to trim these dresses, but embroideries this year have lifted themselves high above anything we've ever known before, and come in a new dignity that fits them for any use.

Smart Silk "At Home" Dress.

This is designed for afternoon wear, but would be suitable for a home dinner frock too. It is of light taffetas, trimmed with frills of narrow black



and white lace and medallions of the same lace; black velvet bows as a "ladder."

Spinach in Molds.

Boil the spinach, press out every drop of water and chop fine. Cook together in a saucepan a tablespoonful of butter and two of flour. Add the spinach with pepper and salt to taste; cook for five minutes. Butter the insides of muffin-tins or pate-pans and press the spinach hard into these. Set in the oven to keep hot while you make a white sauce. Carefully turn out the forms of spinach on a hot platter, lay a slice of hard-boiled egg on the top of each form and pour the white sauce around it.

Velvet Walking Costume.

An attractive short walking costume of black velvet has a skirt gored to fit the figure and in the back are two underlying plaits, and scunter ones in the center fronts are pressed in and secured invisibly, while down each side are rows of small old silver buttons. The blouse closes with double rows of buttons to match the skirt and the sleeves are plaited and held in place by the buttons. The blouse is collarless and trimmed with several rows of silk braid.

Jellied Oranges.

Cut off a small portion of the ends of oranges, scoop out the pulp and juice. Fill with orange jelly before it is thoroughly hard, and let the oranges stand on ice. When set, cut in quarters and serve on green leaves. To make orange jelly, put juice of oranges into agate saucepan, with 1 cup sugar, 1 pint of hot water and 1 teaspoon orange extract. When sugar is dissolved add ½ box powdered gelatine. When cool fill oranges.

Directoire Coats.

There is a decided liking shown for the well fitting directoire coat, with sleeves that set to the shape of the arm, though fancifully puckered and gathered and gauged very often, and with the outline of the figure carefully preserved.

SCIENCE and INVENTION

Electric Cigar Lighters.

Electricity is lighting houses not only, but cigars as well. An ingenious electric cigar lighter consists of a metal box, perforated and mounted upon a standard and supplied with 110-volt continuous current from the lighting mains. Inside the box are two carbon pencils which are brought in contact by the depression of a thumb piece or button on the outside, and then separated by a spring mechanism which holds the carbons just far enough apart for an arc to be formed. By inserting a cigar in an orifice in the front its unlighted end becomes ignited by contact with the arc, the whole operation taking scarcely five seconds and costing 10 cents per kilowatt hour. In other words, 500 cigars may be lighted for about one penny. Taking into account interest and depreciation, the new lighter will scarcely be a formidable rival of the safety match.

Not for Women Alone.

In a Broadway car a few days ago a metropolitan belle had no hesitation in pulling from one of the recesses of

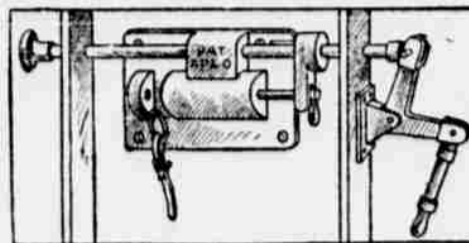


her dress and secured by a long gold chain around her neck, a locketlike device, and opening it, take therefrom a powder puff, with which she carefully went over her face before alighting from the car. An observer of the male persuasion took occasion to indulge in a dissertation on the frivolities of the females, but it was not long before he had attention called to the enlightening spectacle of a man engaged in vigorously grooming his mustache with the aid of a pocket mirror and a jointed comb.

The jointed comb is quite generously affected by the sterner sex, and it is for him as well as the ladies that the telescoping comb has been made by an ingenious inventor from London, Ohio. It will be readily seen how this implement, being made in four parts, one fitting in the other, will form a very compact article. The larger end piece is not supplied with teeth, but comprises a casing into which the other parts collapse.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Will Save Cattle and Horses.

The latest invention for installation in stables and cattle sheds, and having for its primary object the immediate rescuing of horses and cattle in case of danger, especially by fire, is called "The Lightning Release Lock." There is no device on the market today applicable for the purpose mentioned, which combines so perfectly, simplicity of construction, with efficiency of operation. It answers a requirement, the absence of which has been keenly felt by horsemen and cattle owners for many years, particularly in buildings where many horses and cattle are housed, and which are particularly susceptible to danger by



New Stall Stock.

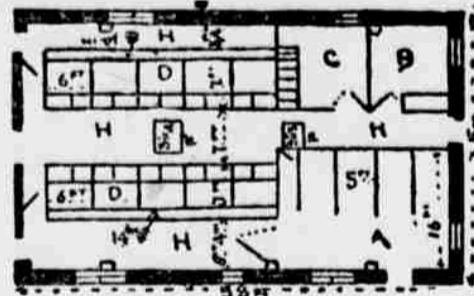
fire, in consequence of the confusion attending the release of the animals. The lock is worked by the pull of a lever. It can be placed in any part of the stable that will best answer its purpose. There is one lock in each stable, which is connected by piping running through the same, from one part of the stable to the other. The serviceable part of this lock is that it can be utilized independently, for daily use, leaving the main lock to be used only in case of emergency.

PLAN FOR BASEMENT BARN.

Quarters for Twenty Head of Cattle and Two Teams.

The accompanying plans are for a basement barn 35 by 58 feet, to accommodate twenty head of cattle and two teams of horses. The basement wall is 8 feet high, 1 foot thick, and composed of cement concrete. If stone is used for wall instead of cement, the building should be 2 feet larger each way to allow for the thicker walls that would be necessary. Unless gravel is scarce and stone plentiful, cement is much to be preferred to stone masonry and is cheaper.

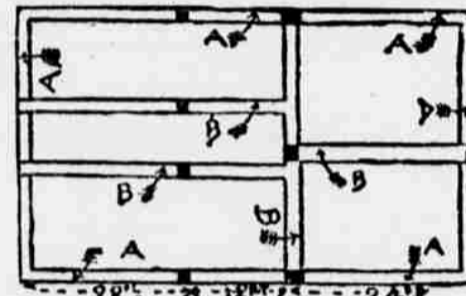
A is the horse stable; B, the box stall; C, root house; D, cow stables;



Ground Floor Plan.

H. passages. The small squares, three on one side and two on the other, shown in the ground floor plan, are ventilating shafts 10 inches square, which extend from the ceiling of the basement to the plate of the barn where they are open to the outside. Fresh air should be admitted through 2-inch tiles placed in the walls one foot above the level of the basement floor, and in such position that draughts will not strike the animals. Windows should be all hung at the top. Stable doors should all be cut in two horizontally, making the bottom part 3 feet 6 inches high. The barn posts are 18 feet high and the roof is hipped.

The cost of building varies in different localities, but a fair estimate would be about as follows: Excavating, \$10; cement wall, \$325; cement floor, \$125; timber, \$230; lumber and shingles, \$315; lumber for stable fittings, \$70; hardware, \$40; carpenter work, \$175; silo, \$140. This estimate is for first-class workmanship, and matched lumber. The foundation timbers may be made up of 2x10 inch planks. For the superstructure, square timber should be used.



Timber Framing of Upper Floor.

The outside timbers marked A are 2x10 in. planks lying on concrete wall. The cross timbers marked B are 10x10 in. The small black square represents the location of posts, which are placed so as not to interfere with passages in the basement.

How to Mend Table Linen.

A housewife whose table linen always does her good service mends it with embroidery cotton of a number to correspond with the quality of the cloth. Under the ragged edges of the tear she bastes a piece of stiff paper, and makes a network of fine stitches back and forth over its edges. Thin places and breaks in linen may run with the flax or embroidery floss, and towels should be mended in the same way.

Tea Growing Experiments.

Some of the farmers near Santa Rosa, Cal., are experimenting with tea growing, and their efforts seem to be meeting with success. It is said that there is no reason why tea should not be grown in some sections of this country, though the earlier South Carolina experiment is not known to be making great headway.

Lettuce for Insomnia.

Insomnia can be cured by eating lettuce.