

WOMAN'S DOMAIN.

SKATING SUITS.

Smart Costumes in Which to Skim Over the Ice. NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—When the skating season comes round it is interesting to see how many stunning and suitable rigs have apparently evolved themselves out of space.

Naturally each modiste or tailor has her own opinions and models. One declares that an ordinary walking dress, made in warm textures, cut snugly and trimmed with fur, is all that is necessary for skating. The skirt should perhaps be a little shorter and narrower than for walking, and a brilliant touch of color in the hat or at the throat, is in keeping.

If liked, indeed, the entire costume may be of a bright cloth, a rich red or a zouave blue and with three gilt or black braid in a handsome addition to the fur.

Black fox, sable or Persian lamb are furs that will combine with either cloth, though chinchilla and silver braided velvet perhaps be the more charming trimming for the zouave blue. In this case a muff and cap of the chinchilla will be handsome additions, and a scarf quilt across the front at the sides would be a safe note in the cap.

A skating suit shown by one of our smartest dressmakers would be a splendid model, where price is not considered. This consisted of an ankle-length skirt and tight-fitting jacket, with basques that fell below the hip, of cardinal-red cloth. The trimmings were a skirt panel, collar, cuffs and pocket flaps of Oriental embroidery in black and gilt and black Persian lamb fur. This edged the jacket all round in a narrow roll and fringed the front in cords that looped over small heads, used as buttons.

There was also a roll of the lamb at the

width of the material, of magenta chiffon, to be worn at times instead of the boa. A bonnet, quarter of the yard down, reaches the ends of the scarf, and when adjusted it wrapped twice around the throat, the long ends being allowed to float over the shoulders. With all due respect to their majesties, the dressmakers, it is really at the shops where sporting goods are sold that one gets the best hints on skating regalia.

At these places the skating costumes shown are all much on the order of wheel gowns, both in cut and material. Only a few are made of the more decorative fabrics, the main, strapped seams, leather bands or black braid.

The models comprise almost invariably three pieces, a skirt, jacket and knickerbocker, being generally agreed that knickerbockers are distinctly out of place on the ice. The constant clipping with the post-hole knife, and with those straining round the line, it is easy to see how hard colds and any other calamity might follow.

A device for keeping the skirt hem dry is to face it with a light-colored leather or a bias band of mackintosh rubber. To keep warm and dry. The skirts of the suits are longer than those for the wheel, coming to the ankle and often below. The jacket is commonly short, but may be loose or tight fitting, or a Norfolk shape.

Where much warmth is required the coat is interlined with chamolite, and in every instance this is profierated, as physicians demand for heat.

The knickerbockers are also sometimes lined with the perforated chamolite, and where the coat is without a collar, a chamolite vest with long sleeves can be had. Materials most in favor are English whipcord, Scotch chevrons and homespun, corduroys, serge and toboggan blankets. This is made with the easy border of the blanket running around the bottom of the skirt and at the tail of the long blouse, which is commonly belted with a cord and tassels.

Such a suit, topped by one of the warm toboggan caps, could get up at home at eight or nine o'clock, and be taken, wherever, to choose a blanket of very light weight, as they are commonly so heavy as to hamper movement. Under the blouse of a scarf quilt across the front at the sides and a sweater will be found to give both ease and warmth.

Some of the new sweaters provided for ladies of sporting tendencies are very stunning. A stylish and becoming one is in two shades of wool, honey-combed, and with stripes across the bust and hips. These fasten on the left shoulder and have big puffed sleeves, and sometimes a small brocade or floral pattern on the cuffs.

A minkskin jacket is said to be a warm and dapper garment for skating. A minkskin jacket shown was made much on the same plan as the one just mentioned, but with sleeves, of course, but with all the patch pockets and heavy stitching of the mink affair. Such a garment, however, is hard to find and a very high price is asked for it.

The best boot advised for skating is a long laced one, that comes half way up the leg, of soft, pliant material, with a high heel, and has beside a hollow tongue, which makes it absolutely impossible for any moisture to reach the feet, a very low heel and a moderately rounded toe with it.

A foolish boot offered for dressy skaters was another long laced one of patent leather, with the seams lapped and edged with black and white, the long, slender racing affair of last season is still seen, but a newer one in shorter and squarer and has all the usual adjustments for fastening at the heel for security.

This is entirely of steel and in best qualities costs \$4 a pair. Such a skate is much more becoming to the foot than those which have a leather heel support and strap fastening.

NINA FITCH. DELFT FURNITURE. Quint Dutch Designs Painted on Chairs and Tables. The rage for Delft designs in two shades of blue has now extended to furniture, which may be used with charming effect for fitting up a sunny room for a young girl's occupancy or as a guest chamber. Be very sure, however, that the apartment selected for this scheme of decoration has plenty of sunshine, since these blues against a white background produces a very cool effect.

The articles are a table, stool and screen; similar decoration could be applied to the head and footboards of a bedstead, the top of a bureau, etc.; still better would be for the latter and the washstand, linen scarfs embroidered in Delft landscapes, with the two shades of blue.

The furniture is first painted in white oil color, to form the background in which the little landscapes of windmills, water, boats, etc., are executed, the edges being finished with the design oval and round patterns given, done in dark blue. This appears in the legs of the stool and table, the edges of the shelves, etc.

The dimensions for the articles of furniture are as follows: The screen, whose two halves are united by hinges, is forty-five inches high, the top of the frame is twelve inches wide, with strong square moldings one inch broad. Have the upper parts filled with a thin panel of wood eight and one-half inches wide, and the lower part with a three-inch panel of the floor. The little stool, whose triangular top measures fourteen and one-half inches along each edge, has three legs, each from an angle, and is fastened by cross pieces nine and three-fifths inches long and three-fifths of an inch wide. The top of the table is twenty-five inches square, the height twenty-five inches. Two of the four triangular shelves, half an inch thick, and nine and one-fifth inches by six inches, are placed on the sides, and are fastened to each other, the first set three and three-fifths inches by one inch below the piece supporting the top of the table, the second set four inches below.

The lower panel of the screen is to be filled with silk, cretonne or any pretty material in plain pale blue or figured blue and white, either smooth or gathered, as individual taste may dictate.

OMENS IN WEDDING GOWNS. They Make a Precious Lot of Difference in Certain Details. Fashion that inexorable "She who must be obeyed," has one foe whom she has never wholly conquered in the matter of wedding dresses. It is custom that brings superstition as an ally even into this end of the century. How strong is the awe of the power behind the throne is evidenced by the consternation which a little bit of sinister green adornment wrought in a nuptial celebration at Oroneta, relates the New York Herald. While the prospective bride, with the off-hand estimate and deliberation which are supposed to stamp the omen of the period, was waiting for the minister to find his place in the marriage service, she picked up a newspaper and glanced through its columns, just to put the remainder of the interested persons at their ease.

Her eyes instinctively found a paragraph in a collection of superstitions which announced that "a bride should never be married in colors if she wishes to be happy. The most unfortunate colors are yellow and green." As she looked down and saw some green trimmings on her wedding gown she refused to allow the ceremony to proceed, and was so obstinate in persuasion that she chose to have the engagement cancelled rather than have the marriage service read under such inauspicious circumstances. The children of the rural districts learn in their earliest play, in the game song which rehearses the quibbles about the wedding dress of "Miss Anne or Jones" that "green means forsaken, and that will never do," and that "white is to marry in."

All ages are so nearly universal in their white has been chosen for the dress of the bride if she is a girl, but in different sections of the country a particular significance is attached to various bits of color in the way of accessories. The insulate that a bride must wear "something old and something new," something borrowed and something blue," is so nearly recognized that the efforts to comply with it often cost much more concern and manipulation than plans for the wedding itself. That fortunate damsel who inherits a lace veil which has been passed along the line of her great-grandmothers has as trouble in fulfilling the first condition. She finds it harder

to weave in the color which stands for loyalty. It frequently does service in the way of a hair ornament, being tied somewhere out of sight for the time being. It is told of one fashionable bride of last season that she insisted at the last minute upon regarding the old saw, but as no provision had been made by her maids for such an observance, there was nothing of the requisite color to save except a blue silk veil and cover and a portiere, neither of which was adaptable. At last a little niece of the bride contributed a turquoise ring, which was fastened inside the coronet, and so fulfilled the demand for "something borrowed and something blue" at the same time.

Many gowns, some having wedding gowns made of blue where the ceremony is less formal. Brown and gray are also often used, but no matter how popular or how becoming, pink or any shade of red is usually "abjured." It is singular that red is usually abandoned for a bridal dress, even among the Italians, who are ordinarily as fond of its warm hues, and who do not hesitate to use other colors which are just as warm. Green and yellow are both commonly seen in an Italian bride's dress, and the purple of Tyre and Parma are especially popular for that purpose. The Russian Jews of the east side are particularly faithful to the old custom of robing the bride in the color signifying innocence. The greatest care is taken to

exclude all color from the bride's apparel, even to the little bits of jewelry about her person. The rings are taken out of her ears and buds from the bridal wreath suspended in them by means of white thread. Less conservative brides have used silver wires to fasten the buds to the ears, but these are regarded as a violation of the custom prohibiting colors or jewels. The green leaves of the wreath give the only bit of color to the outfit, and in that connection are regarded as a necessary accessory signifying hope for the future.

The old superstition which makes it unlucky for a bride to use in her wedding attire any pins which have done duty in any similar office is found to exist in other nationalities than American.

SOME COSTLY SLIPPERS. Footwear Adorned with Diamonds Worth \$60,000.

"It would surprise most people," said a West End bootmaker to the New York Jeweler Review, to know of the huge sums which some of the rich aristocracy spend on shoes, and especially on slippers. Only the other day a countess, whose name is familiar to every one, had a pair of slippers made which were decorated in a picture pattern, like a pair of worked slippers, with precious stones, in the form of diamonds, emeralds and rubies. The result was exceedingly beautiful, but the cost was over \$4,500.

"There is one accomplished workman in London whose sole occupation is that of mounting fancy slippers with jewels. The present dowager countess of X—some years ago had made her husband when then alive and gave the order—a pair of diamonds, the value of the stones being considerably over \$12,000, while the cost of mounting them was upward of \$10,000.

"A South American nobleman not long since presented to a foreign prince, then in London, a pair of slippers ornamented with two butterflies of different patterns in precious stones, the value of which was \$10,000. But, in reality, it is quite a common thing for slippers ornamented in gold threads and jewels, and valued at from one to a thousand guineas, to be given to the bride and her attendants. The slippers are furnished with even ordinary blue shoes and slippers to the value of \$200 or so."

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS. The Divan Pillow Always a Grateful Remembrance.

The charm of the divan pillow as a Christmas gift is that whether you buy it, or make it yourself, whether it is costly or simple, it is sure to find a warm and welcome and a hungry nook, where its presence will be always gratefully remembered.

Women who plan to make pillows for holiday distribution should know in time that, no matter how many ticks the feather stuffing is enclosed in, and no matter how clean the cover is, down from barn yard fowls or elder ducks, will eventually work their way into the proper precautions are taken.

An expert pillow maker says that in the factories they hold the feathers in check by ironing out, with a hot iron, the inside of the twilled cotton tick, with beeswax. On a hot flatiron the wax is rubbed and this spreads a thin coating, impervious to feathers, all over the goods, which cotton slip is invariably put over the coarse ticking and then the pillow is ready for use as elegant or simple design as one can afford.

A great many of the holiday pillows are cut three cornered, covered with expensive pale yellow chamolite skins, the very kind used by housekeepers for window and curtain hangings. The pillow is made of three initials of the prospective owner's name are embroiled in the three corners, and instead of cording the edges they are carried down with the heaviest sewing silk twisted to be had, and huge pompons of satin ribbon set on a finish at the three points.

The charming pillow for a woman's dress is covered with heavy white Irish linen, frilled with Limerick lace and powdered with blue embroidered stars about tall white Gothic initial letters. A beautiful brown satin pillow is brocaded with big red pompons, while across the corner runs the legend quoted from Eugene Field's poem. And each hath a dream that is true and false.

The quotation pillow rubs the chair nooks and divan ends and now pretty things from Shaggy, Shagmoose, Coleridge, Kitz and other poets will be met with in every sofa corner for the holidays. A very economical and attractive way of doing an effective thing is to buy a cover for a cushion with some snazzy satin brocade in large figures of a contrasting color. Then outline every leaf and flower in the brocade with square gold thread. This

comes at 25 cents per skein and is easily put on. With a little thin brooding ball thread dash a few grains of silver in the center of every flower and the effect alone, as one woman concluded rightly, is worth \$50.

Of course you can actually lay out \$25 on a non-pomponed pillow, and the handle in it and most of them are covered with embroidered fringe done by Armenian women. As needlewomen these perserved creatures are only outdone by the Russian runs and their work, in gold and silver embroidery on silk, is equal to the best Japanese or Chinese embroidery.

There is an old fact that since the massacres have been so frequent and terrible these humble women have piled their needles as usual, spreading rich silks and flower sprays over silk and satin, but always secretly working amid the delicate leaves, blossoms and tendrils, signs and letters, that when put together and spooled out are prayers for deliverance, exclamations of grief and despair, words of consolation and proverbial counseling resignation.

But the newest pillow of them all is a square, three-cornered or round, is made of rubber, covered as elegantly or simply as you please and blown up with air. It is comfortable and provides to distribute three or four of these in every well cushioned sofa corner, and their covers are usually made of a fine, soft, velvet or plush, with queer little dangles at every corner.

THE SHEEP BEAUTIFUL FEET. Because Her Parents Were Wise Enough to Let Them Grow. "What a dear little girl!" remarked a woman of the world, admiring the tiny foot of a little 2-year-old. "Now, you must always keep her shoes a little snug and she'll have pretty feet when she's grown." "Not

is put twice around the neck before being tied. Girls are the most interesting of gems, and are in great demand. They are the most beautiful of gems, varying in iridescence not only with the temperature, but the mood of the wearer. The Hindu believes opals change with sorrow and joy, and that they are the children of the sunbeam and the moonbeam.

Muffs of velvet to match the hat are very fashionable, and are shaped like a butterfly, with a fur body and large wings of velvet beaver, and large velvet pompons or orchids which harmonize in color with the hat. The shape is made round or flat, as you choose, but quite large. The flat ones, with wide drooping ruffles of velvet at either end, are the prettiest; others are shaped like a butterfly, with a fur body and large wings of velvet beaver, and large velvet pompons or orchids which harmonize in color with the hat.

Mrs. Antonette Fobus gives a quaint touch to many of the new evening gowns. In shape they are like a three-cornered shawl, one end being fastened to the bodice at the front, the other to the bodice at the back, and after being drawn over the shoulders, are crossed over the corage in Quaker-like simplicity, or are merely drawn over the front, the bodice at each side, then fastened at the waist line, and the ends allowed to hang over the skirt.

Revers of many of the new waists are not only broad and with a high collar, but almost entirely covered with a braided design, while basques are elaborately braided, and sleeves receive their share of this trimming. Black and narrow gold braid are wrought together in effective design, and silver braid is also used in combination with black to good advantage. The new designs show two different colors are one of the novelties of the season not to be ignored.

Feminine Notes. Francon Marie Schwartz is the first woman who has ever been appointed director of a girls' middle school in New York. Mrs. John Stetson of Boston is one of the most enthusiastic and, perhaps, one of the best horsewomen in this country. Queen Margherita of Italy is soon to appear in a book written by her, describing her experiences as an Alpine climber.

Mrs. J. K. Barney has been lecturing throughout Rhode Island, detailing her experiences in prison, asylums and workhouses. Mrs. H. P. Ryder, who is perhaps the most accomplished knitter in the world, is bringing out a stocking map which will soon be published. Miss Carolyn H. Whitteley of Cleveland is one of the most noted lady artists on this continent. She studied many years in Spain and in Holland.

Mrs. Alexandrine Zola, the wife of the celebrated French novelist, is now in Rome, and has been assisting her husband in finishing his new novel, "Rome." Mrs. Oliphant's handsomely illustrated edition of "The Makers of Modern Rome" has now been announced, and is a companion to her "Makers of Florence."

One of the leading socialists in New York, a young woman, who devotes her entire time to the culture of socialists, is now in Rome, and has been assisting her husband in finishing his new novel, "Rome." Mrs. Oliphant's handsomely illustrated edition of "The Makers of Modern Rome" has now been announced, and is a companion to her "Makers of Florence."

Mrs. F. M. Chendennin, formerly Miss Gabrielle Greeley, is to undertake a new and arduous journey, a climb, westward, to the top of Mount Everest, a climb, westward, to the top of Mount Everest, a climb, westward, to the top of Mount Everest.

Mrs. Charles S. Browne of the Shinnecock Hills (New York) Women's Golf association, has recently won the women's golf championship of the United States. A handsome silver pitcher was her prize. Other ladies won gold and silver medals.

Mrs. Joanie C. Croy, president of the New York Federated Clubs, and Mrs. Craigie, "John Oliver Hodge," were present at the recent meeting of Sorosis, and assisted in the program concerning "Travel as a Means of Education."

The bright Rob Roy plaid gingham are being used in a new way by the economical woman. She covers her divan pillows with gingham instead of silk. The pillow cover is made with a deep fur, and looks remarkably pretty.

Mrs. Wrede is the Elizabeth Fry of Finland. For the past twelve years she has visited every prison and every penitentiary in Finland, and once a year, many of the most hardened criminals having been reclaimed to useful lives through her efforts.

Mrs. Amelia Wortle of Rockland, Me., recently astonished the medical profession by applying for the medical service of a sailor, a sailor, a sailor. She received it when she proved that for ten years she has been suffering from the same ailment as the sailor, a sailor, a sailor.

Mrs. Helen A. Whittier has for some years been proprietor and active manager of a large cotton mill at Lowell, Mass. She is building a new mill at the south and in fact, the product of her southern mill shall be the coarse and cheaper fabrics, which can be made there to good advantage, with inferior help, while the head looms in Massachusetts are exclusively equipped with the finer grades of manufacture.

The queen of Italy is now studying the Hebrew language and literature with diligence in making great progress. Lately, when in Venice, she received in audience Rabbi Caen Portic, with whom she conversed in the ancient language of the Jews. The queen of Portugal is at present devoting all her spare time to the study of medicine, which science she is working at in a very thorough manner in the home. The her example will be followed by the somewhat indolent Portuguese ladies, and that they will be spurred on to take an interest in the great questions and movements of the day.

Carolina Willard Baldwin, aged 23 years, has received the degree of doctor of medicine from Cornell university. This is a distinction bestowed only for original work. She is of New England parentage, a native of San Francisco, a resident of Santa Cruz, California, of the California State university, where she was the first woman to receive the degree of bachelor of science in the college of mechanics. She is at the head of the science department of the California School of Mechanical Arts, and supervises laboratory and shop-work. She is also a clever machinist.

Keeps Tab on Your Pulse. The newest thing in the way of invention, says the New York Herald, is the pocket watch register. It is a little tin affair, manufactured after the style of a watch. Its face represents \$1. Whenever you spend 5, 10 or 50 cents—as the case may be—you simply press a button attached to the affair and it registers the expenditure. It adds each time you register and whenever you care to see "how you stand with yourself" you can readily do so. The register is a novelty—and a neat one—but I fear it will never come in popular favor. For instance, I bought one the other day and registered the cost of a friend's visit to me. "Just to see how the thing worked" he registered 25 cents and then I had to spend that much.



SEALSKIN COAT AND CAP.

of a bright cloth, a rich red or a zouave blue and with three gilt or black braid in a handsome addition to the fur. Black fox, sable or Persian lamb are furs that will combine with either cloth, though chinchilla and silver braided velvet perhaps be the more charming trimming for the zouave blue. In this case a muff and cap of the chinchilla will be handsome additions, and a scarf quilt across the front at the sides would be a safe note in the cap.



BLUE CLOTH AND PERSIAN LAMB.

skirt bottom and up the sides of the embroidered panel, which was at the left, and a muff and box of the same. The head covering was a small toque of the red cloth, laid in folds, with two lamb heads and a black paint brush stripe at the left front. This superb set-up, together with a pair of knickerbockers of black chamolite, to be worn under the skirt, had been designed for a New York bill of pale brunette coloring. With all accessories, gloves and boots excepted, its cost was \$250.



CHINCHILLA COSTUME.

tom with black leather. The buttons of the short jacket, which was loose and studded-breasted, were hidden with a fly strap, and to be worn under the jacket, and to show at resting moments, there was a cute double-breasted vest of magenta cloth, that fastened with polished gilt buttons. The fur advised for this costume was black Thibet goat, but an enchanting accessory had been provided for the throat. This was a scarf at least three and a half yards long and

CONVULSITIES.

A 17-year-old husband was divorced from a 10-year-old wife in San Francisco the other day. The husband was a messenger boy. The feud among the Vanderbilts has attained so bitter a stage that the Cornelius Vanderbilts will have their daughter's wedding strictly private and unostentatious, simply to be different from the Willie K. Vanderbilts. Therefore, young Miss Gertrude will be married only in the presence of her immediate family. W. K. will be invited, his wife, never.

It is a curious fact, noted by the New York Sun, that dancing and toy-making seem to go hand in hand. In between Christmas and Easter there are few marriages and fewer engagements. In the early autumn, after the summer wanderings, and then again when Easter dispels the gloom of Lent, young men's fancies turn most readily to thoughts of love. In the winter time, a ballroom flirtation is all there is time to think of, and as, in spite of the closing century's advanced views, women must still wait to be chosen, but few engagements may be expected the next three months.

Mayne Pence and Frank Stanley of Anderson, Ind., are about to be married, putting an end to a romance in which bloodhounds and all kinds of stage effects have played a part. Stanley, during the time he has been paying attention to the young lady, was constantly harassed by his rivals, who stole his horse and buggy on several occasions, necessitating him to swim the river going home. He assaulted him, and as a last resort they cut off and stole Mayne's golden tree-top one night while she was set up. Bloodhounds were engaged in what followed, and two damages suits and half a dozen other litigations have followed. The hair was never found.

New Yorkers are telling us another of a good joke on Rev. John Wesley Brown, rector of St. Thomas' church, previously rector of St. Paul's of Chicago. His part in the ceremonial of the Paget-Whitney wedding was to read the service. Either he had marked the wrong place in the prayer book or the singing disconnected him; at any rate the wedding party was amazed to hear his rich, full-voiced words: "I am the rector and rector and the vicar." "Heavens and earth!" ejaculated Bishop Potter in a whisper behind him. The rector at once awoke to the fact that he had read the burial service, and after one breathless second he proceeded with the proper ritual.

Some three months ago a 70-year-old groom, who was making his third debut into matrimony in Milwaukee, handed the minister a \$20 bill. Great was the rejoicing in the minister's household, and the rejoicing did not cease till a few days ago. Then the minister changed his mind, and the groom was told the effect that in the excitement attendant on a third marriage he had mistaken \$20 for \$5, and now respectfully requested the return of the \$15 change. The minister promptly made the change at once. Along with the receipt for this came a note saying that the knot which had been tied had not been productive of unalloyed bliss—and the groom was told that the knot was not the knot of matrimony, but the knot of matrimony.

That's a big piece," said the old man in military trousers and a sweater, who was superintending the transfer of a great ten-inch gun from the wharf to Fort Hamilton, says the New York Sun. "But the world has never known what was accomplished with the Andrews wire-wound gun. When we went down to prove the gun we all thought it would be a failure. We set the target, a ten-inch nickel steel plate, a mile from the gun. The missile smacked the plate, went through twelve feet of solid pine lumber behind it, then through seventeen feet of sand bank, then traveled three miles down the shore, ricocheted on a cliff, went a mile out to sea on an angle, cut the bottom out of a big three-masted schooner, and sank her within one hour. The newspapers, of course, obtained the fact that the schooner was sunk, but, say we concealed from the press the real performance of the gun. It was too big a thing to let out."



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