

The New Treatment of Blouse-Backs

All the prettiest and costliest of the French blouses have the trimming of the front repeated in a smaller form, of course, upon the back, in place of the almost universal trimming of tucks, or at most, of tucks with a little lace set in. Last year the embroidery of the upper part of the sleeves was one of the most marked features of the prettiest blouses, and, as if there could not be enough embroidery lavished on a single blouse, the new treatment of the backs this year provides one more place for it without giving up any of those it already has.

The prettiest treatment of all is when the flower design of the front spreads up in little sprays which outline the neck and blossom out in a profusion of flowers on the back. Sometimes the tiny motif which is intended for collar (and perhaps for cuffs) is applied, half in and half out of tiny panels formed by narrow lace, which runs from the shoulders down about a third of the way to the waist and back again, the corners of the little oblong neatly quilted.

With most blouses opening, as they do, in the back, the design is necessarily kept very small and repeated for the other side. Or the involved combination of lace and embroidery—insertion, describing deep points and circles and the embroidery winding in and out at its own sweet will, which trims the front—may be repeated in a more shallow way upon the back, the whole thing spaced carefully so that the middle of the point marks the dividing line down the back, where the blouse fastens.

Occasionally when the design is a great flower—chrysanthemum done in the pretty flat Japanese fashion, or the odd conventionalized blossom, which might be anything from tiger lilies to daisies or single blooms—set on each side of the back, high on each shoulder, the stem of the flower starting either at the shoulder seam or coming out from the sleeve seam, or omitted entirely. In a case like this the motif is made far more effective by being outlined with lace, and squares are more liked this year than circles.

When the blouse is made, as some exquisite ones are, with a yoke of embroidery, edged with the small, stereotyped scallop characteristic of French work, the yoke either runs all the way around, cut in a single piece, or is made in two pieces, joined by leading upon the shoulders again, or in the back more shallow, of course, than the one in front.



Collar Motifs Applied to the Back



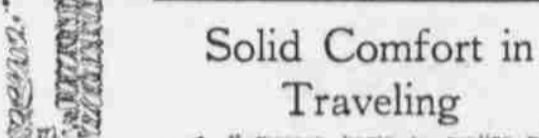
A Waving Design



A Pretty Arrangement of Lace



Sleeves and Back Match the Front



Solid Comfort in Traveling

PAPER HANDKERCHIEFS

THE devotion of the people of Japan to hygienic living is shown in no way more clearly than in their customs in regard to handkerchiefs. The elaborate linen, lace and embroidered handkerchiefs of Eastern peoples would be regarded by the Japanese as unhealthily and unbecomingly. They are rarely carried even by the more progressive of the younger generation who have adopted Western dress. "Are the Japanese so uncivilized as not ever to use handkerchiefs?" some one asks.

Now the little Japs would smile at the application of civilization. They claim, without wisdom, that a handkerchief once used by a refined person or one who understands the rules of health care has no further need for it.

"Well, it is not pleasant," is acknowledged, "but how can one help it? You cannot be burdened carrying around a dozen or more handkerchiefs—especially now that pockets are a bygone luxury. Think how they would bulge one's shirt-waist!"

Yes, you can, if those handkerchiefs happen to be Japanese ones, which are made of paper, so soft in texture that they are as pleasant as the sheetest linen.

A Japanese always carries slipped inside the fold of his kimono a dozen or more little pieces of such paper about six inches square, when he uses but once and then throws away.

"What do you do with them?" "What do they do with them? It is certainly not hygienic to throw them into the street."

Probably not on American streets, but the Japanese keep theirs so scrupulously clean that all debris is removed immediately.

This idea of the paper handkerchief has been widely adopted in this country in cases of sickness. For consumption especially their use is becoming general, and they are sold by the thousands to sanitarians, hospitals, and even to private families, where there is a patient with tuberculosis.

The handkerchiefs made in this country are larger than those of the Japanese (about the size of the linen ones) and come in a fine crinkled tissue paper, entirely free from bacteria. They cost but a few cents a thousand.

The advantages over the linen or muslin rags formerly advocated for the use of the consumptive is mani-

fest. The paper handkerchiefs are cheaper, more attractive in appearance, much more easily carried around and can be burned in a moment, without any danger of clogging a fire, as so often is the case with linen handkerchiefs.

While the average Occidental, unless he is very germ, will hardly forsake the handkerchief of linen for ordinary use, certainly those of paper may be strongly recommended for a sanitarium, and, incidentally, to the man or woman afflicted with a cold, influenza, hay fever or sore throat.

Stockings for Euchre Prizes

IT HAS become rather "the thing" this past winter to give stockings for euchre or bridge prizes. Certainly nothing could make stronger appeal to the average woman who revels in the possession of sheer silk or lace thread stockings, especially when they are a luxury beyond her own purse.

This season, when stockings are more desirable than ever, in infinite variety of sheer fineness, lace openness or gay colored embroidery. Stockings are designed, by the way, especially for use as prizes. They are sheer fine thread in black or white, with silk embroidered clubs and spawwork hearts scattered over the surface.

Equally popular would be those with fine eyelid embroidery.

Though they can really only be called "stockings" by courtesy and should delight a Knellpist, or that advocate of bare feet, Isadora Duncan, the cobwebby chiffon silk stockings are amazingly in favor.

Remember in purchasing such a prize to have it exchangeable, as the winner might not wear the chosen number.

Colored Morning Dresses

HAVE a couple of morning dresses made of some dark or half-dark colored dainty or lawn or gingham. Pretty little dresses of pink and white check, or of the cool figured grays and dark blues can be made lightened up with embroidery or lace, which do wonders in the way of saving laundry work.

A WOMAN'S CLOTHES



Most women have to know something of the care of a man's clothes, be his father, husband or brother. For man far above that of mere womanly qualis when it comes to handling a needle or pressing an obstinate pair of trousers—thoroughly "kneed"—so that the bulging knees are made to shrink and the trousers given their original little crease that makes them look next to new.

Traditions are responsible for the fact that everything done to a man's clothes differs, though possibly only a little, from the corresponding thing done to a woman's—a fact that few women are aware of at the start. Tailors have spoiled the odds of creation, no doubt; still tailors have simplified their methods and their methods are worth copying.

Take that one troublesome detail—pressing trousers. Turn them inside out and press—not the way you should to make that all-important crease come in just the right place, but the opposite way, pressing through a muslin cloth, and dampening again and again, until the steam heat has shrunk the bulging cloth flat again.

Then turn them right side out and press again, folding them so that the crease runs perfectly down front and back (you can do this best by laying the seams at the sides together at the hem, and making them all the way along) and pressing through a damp piece of muslin.

Never put the iron next to the cloth. Duck and linen crash trousers are washed and pressed through the cloth, the only care needed being to see that the steam is in the right place, and that the trousers are thoroughly pressed, upon which the trousers are stretched out on a line or on a hanger, and close to keep them in perfect trim.

Cloths that have grown shiny may be treated in several ways—sponging with ammonia, diluted, of course, with water; or by rubbing, carefully and lightly, with a bit of emery paper, or by steaming in a hot steam iron, over which a wet cloth is laid, close to (though not touching) the surface.

Extra collar bands come to replace those that have been matted in the laundry until the edge resembles a finely drawn saw. Slip the old band off carefully, soaking every bit of starch out first, to make the process of ripping easier, and stretch the new band in place. Collars if they are attached to negligé shirts may be turned when they wear shabby on the right side.

Underclothes should be well looked in the matter of buttons and tapes. Replace and thin places lightly darned—there's nothing else which so adequately

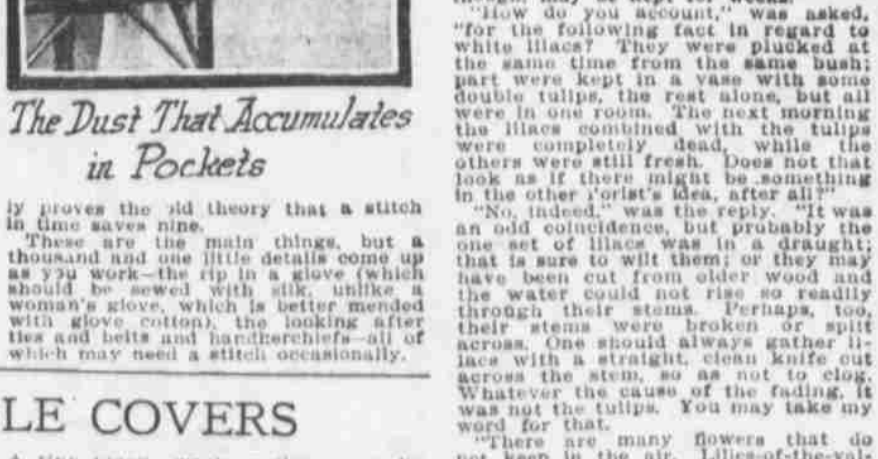


A Difficult Task - Pressing Trousers

Sewing a Button on as a Tailor Does it



Flower Combinations Not Injurious



The Dust That Accumulates in Pockets

A PROTECTION TO PEARL BUTTONS

THE big pearl buttons which decorate the front of so many shirt-waists—both skirt and waist—are anything but improved by being treated to the vigorous tubbing the dress is subjected to.

Some little devices have been invented for attaching the buttons—devices which can be removed before each washing.

Buttons are set on in pairs, it is often possible to fasten them together by a strong cord or by long stitches of cotton buttonhole to make the connecting link strong.