## FASHION

NEW YORK, Feb., 15.—The best dressed woman is not always the one who has the most elaborate clothes, but she who knows how and when to wear what she has.

During the snowy, rainy weather of last week, I saw several laughable, even pitiable, examples of women wearing the unsuitable.

At one of the large music stores on Broadway where the customers are usually well-dressed as well as talented, I encountered three young women who came in out of the driving rain garbed as for an afternoon reception.

The hour was eleven in the forenoon. One of them, young and pretty, wore a very handsome and elaborately white-lace-trimmed black silk velvet skirt, with a sweeping train, and showing a white silk petticoat beneath.

White, did I say? Well, it had been white before its contact with Broadway's muddy puddles.

She carried her skirt very high exposing not only about a foot and a half of this accordion-plaited and much be-ruched petticoat, but a pair of dainty French slippers with very high heels and buckles, and black silk stockings with lace insertions through which the flesh tints of her wellturned, siender ankles were visible.

It would have been funny, had it not aroused in me a feeling of pity for her ignorance.

Her clothes were of the richest quality. The long chinchilla boa worn over her Persian lamb coat was one of the finest I have ever seen, and her hat, save that the plume was damp and stringy, was a work of art.

It was a large, black velvet affair, with a big pale blue ostrich plume wound about it.

Her two companions were quite as inappropriately attired, though they had the saving grace of more seasonable footgear.

One was in brown corduroy, with furs and hat to match; but the plumes on the hat were done for.

I am not an advocate of the short skirt-indeed, I do not like it for town, it is so associated with the country and the links; but if a woman must of necessity go walking in the rain, then, I say, wear a short skirt and a dark

It must be perfectly patent, even to those who know little about these matters, that the women to whom I refer were ridiculous.

It is really remarkable how few women know when to wear the costumes their wardrobes afford. I have seen the only daughter of a multi-millionaire at an after-theatre supper in a severe tailor-made suit and an Alpine hat, apparently oblivious to the fact that all the other women of the party were beautifully and properly gowned and jeweled.

Many Southern and Western women, visiting New York and stopping at the best hotels, almost invariably wear their afternoon gowns as early as nine in the morning. Indeed, I saw the wife of a well known Western millionaire breakfasting at an early hour one morning recently in a gown of pale green satin, and I am not sure that she did not wear diamonds.

I have heard of the Chicago man who appeared at breakfast in a dinner jacket, and of the Texas lawyer who pleaded his cause before the Supreme Court of the United States in full evening dress. Such masculine errors are comparatively rare; but women are constantly making mistakes that are equally ridiculous.

To be sure, I have never yet seen a woman decollete in the morning-I have in the afternoon-but I shall not be surprised even at that; for anything can happen where men make fortunes in a minute and advance their wives from poverty to affluence over night.

The new street costumes and afternoon gowns are most artistic.

A dull gray, heavy hopsacking, with a long-tailed coat and handsome black

lynx furs, was conspicuous at an art exhibition last Friday.

Its wearer was tall, and carried the style beautifully.

Her hat was of crushed gray felt. with black roses.

Short women, even if slight do not carry the Empire coats well, and I do not believe it is wise of them to make the attempt.

At the Preston Chantant, at the Waldorf-Astoria last week, brown was the predominating color,

An Englishwoman, tall and fair, wore an American-made costume, having a cloth skirt and long velvet coat of the same shade of brown. It was quite simple, but exquisite in its lines. Her hat and veil were brown, too, the former trimmed with crushed pink

Another tastefully gowned woman had her gray zibeline trimmed with wide cuffs, wide collar and bands of Russian squirrel.

A light-brown princess gown was laced up the back with wide ribbons. which passed in and out of elaborately embroidered evelets.

The furs worn with these various walking and carriage costumes are simply wonderful in their quality and variety.

And now a word about the shoulderprotecting wraps for evening wear over the low gowns, said to be advocated by the wife of the President.

They are showing a few in the best

One is especially pretty, although I still favor the wide and delicate ostrich feather boa as a protection from draughts. The wrap to which I refer is a small cape, made of white crepe. de chine and delicate Irish crochet.

It reaches half-way to the waist. and is quite fluffy at the bottom. The top fits closely, and is entirely of the lace. Wherever the crepe de chine shows, it is tucked.

Another is a short Eton with elbow sleeves, made of pink chiffon to match the chiffon robe, of which it is a part. This wrap is tucked in diamond-shaped fashion, and has lace squares appliqued upon it.

Wide ribbon sash-ends fall from the middle of the back to the bottom of

I doubt very much, however, that the fashion will ever become popular. -Lady Modish in Town Topics,

### 非 非 非 Atheism Combatted

The observations in The Courier of January 4, under the caption "To Combat Atheism," suggesting plans for the establishment of Bible study in connection with the state university of Nebraska, are not new, as some may gather from the reading of the article

Thomas Jefferson in a letter to Dr. Cooper, November 2d, 1822, described his plan of inviting the different religious sects to establish "each for itself a professorship for their own tenants" in connection with the state university of Virginia. Later Dr. Laws for years chancellor of the university of Missouri, cherished the hope that the Christian denominations of the state would unite in a Bible school "which should sponge out of the university all that was available for theological students."

The first Bible work started in the United States in connection with state universities, was inaugurated October, 1893, when the Christian woman's board of missions of the Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) upon invitation of the university, established the English Bible chairs at Ann Arbor, Michigan, with Professor H. L. Willet and Clinton Lockhart as instructors More than 1,200 students of the university of Michigan and many citizens have already availed themselves of this instruction. President Angell testifies to the great good already accomplished "We feel under obin the following: ligations to the Bible chairs for the help they have rendered in religious work among the students."

Mr. Jefferson's chief motive was to disarm prejudice of the religious sects. against an institution of "no religion" as it was dominated. Dr. Laws' plan

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was a broader one yet it was limited to the mere object of the making of theological students. The Bible chairs as established by the Christian Woman's board of missions, are for the purpose of promoting systematic Bible tudy among the students and others and "was undertaken with the firm conviction that university students ought to be afforded an opportunity to receive Bible instruction of university grade." It seems needless to cay that in accomplishing this work, the "same scientific methods must be employed that are found in the university." The student is not required to read theological works about the Bible, nor is he indoctrinated with the preconceived ideas, creeds and dogmas of men, but is set to work to investigate the Bible itself as biography, history, literature, a system of ethics and above all, as the divine revelation to man.

Since the endowment of the Ann Arbor Bible chairs, we have established this work in connection with Chicago university, the universities of Virginia. California, Kansas, Missouri, and in connection with the great University of Calcutta, India. The University of Minnesota and others, appreciating the value of this study among students, are asking that we establish a similar work in these universities.

MRS. H. J. KIRSCHSTEIN,

Hastings, Neb.

Some of the caterpillars found in the vicinity of the Darling river. Australia, are over six inches in length.



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