

FASCINATING FINER FOR FASHIONABLE FOLK.

SPRING'S FIRST FASHION FEATURE.

Our New York Correspondent Tells an Exclusive Bit of Spring News Which Will Delight Expectant Femininity.

NEW YORK, Jan. 15.—Summer shirt waists displayed in January, and by fashionable women as eagerly as if the dog-days were upon us and shirt-waists an absolute necessity. This is a mystery only to those who have not a feminine mind, for when did man ever rush to buy his summer outfit when snow and ice reigned supreme and furs were the only desirable wear? No woman alone understands this, and if you wish her why, will explain with scornful surprise at your ignorance: "The shops have their shirt-waist openings in January, and if I don't see the new models and the novelties now they cannot be bought later," and her statement is correct, strange to say.

In the first place, my readers, you must give away your lovely transparent organdie waist of last year, for while there is little, if any, change in the cut, opaque materials are de rigueur for wash waists. Fines, white, shirting, lincens, canvas cloth, gingham, satens so fine and lustrous that they look like silk, are made up and shown at the openings as the only correct thing. There are many styles of waists, the handsomest in pique, made with attached cuffs and detachable collars. These details remain the same as last year. The full fronts are gathered to the shirt yoke and the effect gained by the material and cut only as a contrast to these waists of white, shirt-bosom made in the same way, but the full fronts are ornamented by means of the tucks slanting to the center. There are other white waists shown, lawns and lappets. Pique in checks with pin-head dots of color and plain lavender and blue are charming and new. Gingham is in high favor, complicated red plaids, two-toned checks, and dainty lines of white on colored grounds are displayed. These have detachable collars to match, but white may be correctly worn in place of these.

In satens perhaps the prettiest designs are those with white stripes like the gingham, on colored grounds spotted with pin-head dots in black.

In the canvas-cloth waists we find pale green plaids artistically mingled with red rose and blue, yellow and green combinations. In the cambrics and percales are lovely checks on white grounds. The bars forming these checks are nearly all wide and are in floral designs, exquisite lavender and pale blue. Crossing these are other floral bars mingled with stripes of black.

The rage for gray has reached and claimed the shirt-waist at last, and some of the prettiest and most becoming are plaids of all tones of gray. I have written "becoming," but let the blonde and the pale woman beware of them. They are only for pink cheeks or faces with dark, rich colorings.

The latest in jewelry is the tendency to render jewelry something more than the mere accessory of a woman's attire. This tendency is very marked, and much of the stock of every fashionable jeweler consists of articles of daily use having an artistic as well as an intrinsic value. Foremost among these stand buckles, which the universal fashion for belts has rendered the almost necessary complement of every elegant costume. Serpents twisted into an endless variety of forms continue to provide many of the designs, executed either in dull gold only, or with polished stones set in here and there. But the greater novelties are the buckles whose shape and decoration appear to have been copied from the Louis XV. and Louis XVI. picture frames in carved, gilded wood that connoisseurs now value so highly. They are square, oblong, oval, round, now decorated at the top, now at the corners, some with complicated shapes as the shell rococo style, and are generally in metal only—oxidized silver or gold, Parosol and umbrella buckles provide another favorite object for the exercise of the jeweler's art. Here fancy has full play both in design and in the choice of material. The heads of parrots, cockatoos, and all manner of elegant costume. Serpents twisted into millar duck, cock and swan are chased out of rock-crystal, jade, Jasper, onyx, coraline, bloodstone, lapis-lazuli, and the more or more of these being combined to represent the different colors of the beak and the plumage. The slender neck of the swan, twisted into a loop, makes a conventional and elegant design, and is also singled out for the same reason. A swan's head in black steel—eclat given to it by the addition of diamond, eyes particularly brilliant for an umbrella. But the jeweler does not confine himself to ornithology, he goes in for the strictly conventional and the fanciful by turns. For example, a diamond-encrusted buckle in smoothly polished crystal or stone, or in frosted gold speckled with small diamonds or pearls; handles of this sort generally form a part of the parol rib, a pretty conceit is imagined for the point of a lady's tail cane; it is made in the form of a pine cone and is clustered with showing bright gold within. Clasps for cloaks are being restored to favor. Never sells more new and beautiful designs, borrowed from natural forms, such as the horse-dribnut, the mistletoe, and the thistle, the stalks twisted into a frame for an unostentatious arrangement of leaves, berries or flowers, the whole executed in gold, burnished and enameled. Among the small knick-knacks that gain popularity are a pair of buttons, and turquoise beads are beginning to be used instead of pearls to introduce into the fine gold chains to which eyeglasses and fans are suspended.

A pretty conceit for a brooch is a small tortoise carved out of a dark stone, the reptile's shell covered with a network of gold filigree set with turquoise.

Beads hold an important place in the composition of collars. Dark acate, black steel beads compose ornaments that have the advantage of being suitable to demi-toilettes as well as evening dress. For a youthful and a modestly combed, tinted coral beads are becoming and quite the vogue, coral having been reinstated in favor. The more usual way is to string the composition of collars. Dark acate, black steel beads, and diamonds, but the latter beads introduced amongst the others so as to compose a geometric design—a check or key pattern, for instance. If diamonds are added it is in the form of pierced beads introduced amongst the other so as to compose a geometric design—the latter beads less formal when arranged obliquely. Diamonds set in plain rows are treated in the same way, not placed close together like the beads, but with a wide space between each row, and so fastened to the frame that a piece of wide ribbon velvet may be slipped in behind the jewels, or narrower velvet be laid backwards and forwards in Vandykes.

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Steel Blue Brocade Teagown Trimmed With Lace and Applique Silk Embroidery.



Pale Gray Cloth Princess Gown. Cut Over the Bodice to Simulate a Bolero. White Chiffon Front Beneath and Black Velvet Waist Band. Black Velvet Border at Foot.

A DAY WITH BAB.

Correctness of Shade the Proper Cap; the Right and Wrong of Inanimate Things.

DURING the past year we had the horse show, the cattle show, the flower show, the dog show, and the innumerable doll shows, but all of them meant one thing. You are inclined to think that the horse show is meant to incite the breeding of finer horses, the flower show to make orchids more wonderful and chrysanthemums bigger, the dog show to induce the bringing forth of smarter puppies, and the doll show to make popular handwork and charity. But that's all a mistake. They are for nothing of the sort. They are all for one cause—the encouragement of woman. You get a horse, or a bowery, or a cogy, or a many-colored background to bring her out and her best gown. Nobody can deny that she rules the court, the camp, the grove, probably most of the men below, though I rather doubt her having to do anything with the saints above. She is the acme of self-possession and parades around the tankard, the soft dirt or the linen cover, and invites all the world to call and look at her. Sometimes she is very well worth it. It is a very funny thing, but there are days in New York when you see nothing but pretty women, and there are days when you could, with certainty, bet your luck-penny without fear of losing it that you wouldn't meet a single good-looking woman on the street. New York has queer regulations, made by nobody knows who, but obeyed by the world of women. One is, that a woman who counts herself of any importance is never seen on Broadway except as she crosses it to go to some other street, except on Saturday afternoon. Then she possesses it.

You see her starting for the matinee, providing herself with sweets and with violets, picking up her chum and later on, when the matinee is over, you see her out for a walk. You see her if she has not been to the matinee. You see her bowing to this man and to that man while all the gay world is surging up and down and you are being punched to look at this one and to stare at that one of the many celebrities.

First, you meet big, blonde, laughing May Irwin. She is dressed in a handsome, dark gown and wearing a huge chuchilla collar and a hat covered with plumes. She is as magnetic on the street as on the stage, and you feel as if you must stare at her as long as she is in sight. Then, looking like a lady in a picture-book, or one of Rochester's nymphs in a Worth frock, comes Lillian Russell, in town for the day and drawn by force of habit to the matinee Saturday afternoon. Her

are as loyal as are those that gladly listen and eagerly applaud his efforts. So they come along, worker and idler, those on the mimic and those on the real stage, and you and I as we drift in to get a cup of tea conclude that Saturday on Broadway—this Saturday at least—is the day for good-looking people.

It is odd how one thing will be absolutely correct and another one so undecidable. You have got to look at a large D anything to which it was attached.

Did you ever stop to think of the right and wrong of inanimate things? Did you ever stop to think that what one person can do with success another one is sure to blunder over? That the well-turned compliment paid by the man who understands the art of conversation is a delight while the attempt at it made by a man who is a fool is worse than a blunder—it is cause for defamation of character?

One woman can be tender and affectionate to all mankind and charm them, while a different type of woman following this example is spoken of as fast and found here. Perfectly dressed, he wears his coat and then fit yourself to it. You have got to suit yourself in dress and manner to that which nature intended you to be, and the successful man or woman is the one who finds out what nature's intentions were and honorably achieves them. If you have any doubt as to what I mean, just look at some of the little things and see how they make or mar.

It is all right to wear a huge bouquet of violets, but roses would look admirable.

It is smart beyond description to swing your muff on a jeweled chain, but a necklace in daytime would be the abomination of desolation.

It is perfectly correct to encircle your waist with a Russian belt covered with brilliant enamel, but it would be in horrible taste to wear three or four bracelets on the wrist.

It is all right to have your muff as big as all outdoors if it is fur, but if it is silk or velvet it must be almost as small as a vest-pocket.

It is correct to have your skirt fitted; but, though to just such attention must be given to it, your bodice must look loose.

It is quite in order to have a veil like no other woman in the city, but that veil must not look extreme.

It is the received thing to have a costly handkerchief, but the cost must be in the fine linen cambric, for you would ruin your reputation if you carried a lace one.

The difference is intangible sometimes, it is slight, but it exists, and it is what goes to make people failures or successes. I don't know how I can explain it better than to say you would not feel particularly good toward me if you happened to address me solemnly as "Mistress Barbara" but you know that you have a friend in need and a friend indeed in BAB.

SUCCESS AT LAST.

He wrote her a rondeau and likewise a sonnet, but she composed prose till his mind was a wreck. He gave her a fan with an epigram on it—she said she had heard something like it before. To meter he twisted his phrases elastic. And when composed prose till his mind was a wreck. She approved, but didn't grow enthusiastic. Till, with fine inspiration, he wrote her a check.

—Washington Star.

THE LADY IS ALWAYS A LADY.

True Keynote of the Grande Dame Is Gentleness and Simplicity.

Ruth Ashmore, writing on "The Simplicity of the Grande Dame," in the January Ladies' Home Journal, asserts that "a lady may stand behind the counter, be mistress in her own home, or busy all day at a desk, but no matter what her position in life is, she never swerves, and unconsciously she always impresses those who are around her with the fact of her gentleness and her simplicity. The lady gains her strength not from riches, not from her high position, not from her great learning, but from good common sense. Any one of us may learn this if we will take a good model and copy it. No lady is free and easy in her manners. She does not, however, go to the other extreme and become stilted, but she tends rather to quietness and to a slight reserve, since when she takes a friend, she proposes to keep her. She does not become intimate with you after twenty-four hours' acquaintance, but you in the place of a confidante in forty-eight hours, and in a week's time tire of you. The lady knows you first merely as an acquaintance, and then, if she finds you interesting, or if she thinks she can in any way be of use to you, she permits you to come gradually into her life, and between you may grow up a friendship that may last through life, even unto death."

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

The secret of making tumblers appear to be full is to put a little water in the water if you wish to prevent black scum from falling when they are washed.

Clear and transparent after milk has been put in, and the water should be washed in them in warm water.

Do you ever employ gelatine for your cookery? Well, when used for creams, remember it is better to cook it for an hour in lukewarm water, kept in a warm place.

In making mush, warm the milk not slightly, and with a piece of clean muslin and some sweet lard, grease the bottom and sides, as this will in a measure prevent sticking.

To cut rarely for seasoning, bunch the stalks together in the hand and dabble the tops over until the whole is kept in half holding it down against a table. Then chop vigorously, and it will be as thoroughly shredded as desired.

When shaking heavy rugs, hold from the sides, never the ends. If possible, spread on clean grass or boards with the wrong side up, but be sure to shake the dirt into the air, using judgment about leaving too long in the sun. This is the method employed by the Turks, who should be connoisseurs in the care of rugs.

An expert housekeeper tells her cook:—That a scant teaspoonful of sugar added to each pint of meat gravy or soup imparts a delicious flavor that cannot be obtained in any other way; that if bread or cake cracks on the top while baking it is because the oven was too hot when it was put in, and the crust formed before the heat had caused the dough to expand.

Nothing is easier to make than a perfect cup of coffee. If possible, spread more and indifferent that the tea is thrown into the teapot with a "guess" instead of a measure. It should never be allowed to boil. In the water should come to a boil, never below the boiling point. To make tea properly, add the teapot and start it on the back of the stove, have fresh boiling water, allow one teaspoon of tea to six cups of water. Let the tea brew five minutes on the back of the range; it is then ready to serve. Never allow tea to remain in the teapot; always rinse it out, and keep it pure and clean.

IS DOMESTICITY WANING?

What Chicago Women Think of Helen Campbell's Article; Two Writers on the Subject.

Many thoughtful women in Chicago have been greatly interested by an article written by Mrs. Helen Campbell for the January Arena on the question "Is American Domesticity Decreasing, and if So, Why?" The article is remarkable for what it suggests rather than for what it declares on one side or the other. Still it is full of both and is interesting at once to women who care to consider one of the deepest questions of our in de siècle civilization, the more so because Mrs. Campbell, a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin, is a recognized authority on the subject.

The arguments are deduced mainly from the labor reports of the states of Illinois, Massachusetts and New York. In Illinois the bureau of labor report shows that 50 per cent of the workmen could not support the families without the assistance of their wives and children. In Massachusetts the percentage is even larger. In Massachusetts 72 per cent of all women employed are married, and the employment of women increases three times as fast as the female population.

Mrs. Campbell sees much encouragement and hopefulness in the "bachelor-mat" element and in all other methods that make women independent to the extent of giving them an opportunity and sufficient time to retool carefully and wisely in choosing and planning for their home lives. The whole matter gets to the bottom of the social structure, and Mrs. Campbell's article calls out the deepest interest from thinking people everywhere.

The views of Chicago women on the question are not less interesting than are Mrs. Campbell's. One of them is as follows:—

I am asked, "Is Domesticity Decreasing?" I reply with another question, "Has the Ideal Domesticity Ever Developed in America?" Let us see.

The sentiment concerning the true meaning of home and the value of domesticity is, in my judgment, a matter of growth of evolution, and only a small proportion of the vast population of the United States has as yet attained to the fullness of the stature of the perfect home lover and home keeper. To be sure, the Puritans brought to New England and the Cavaliers brought to Virginia the domestic ideals of the old country. The descendants of these have ingrained in their very constitutions the love of home and respect for the home virtues. But Americans claim varied ancestries, marriage changes family traits, and as a people it seems to me we are very far as yet from deserving the title of a domestic people.

God sets the solitary in families and the ideal family consists of the husband who provides; the wife, who preserves and distributes; the child, who enjoys and is developed in the home. Can this thing be, I ask, when father, mother, eye, often child as well, has to toil from early dawn to deny eve for the mere pittance which together soul and body, often very illly adjusted and scarce worthy the living? A place to sleep, eat, to keep warm, starvation wages, and "I stay out there," "Come to our place," as so common turns of speech with the poor who seldom use the word home to express the rented rooms, flats or tenements in which they "camp out" while rent is paid. The woman who goes out by day washing and leaves her children a creature to be kept till called for by the leisure to cultivate domesticity, if the husband who cannot get work and little inclination for sentiment.

Then there is a restless, aimless spirit characteristic of our times, which bids people with small incomes to sacrifice for a showy boarding-house or hotel the possession of a home, and with such a home as are undesired and unwelcome. The very wealthy own great palaces, for which the marts of Europe are taxed to the hilt, and the families in the land forbid the intimate relations which constitute domestic life. My attention is here called to the plan of "bachelor-mat" element and in all other methods that make women independent to the extent of giving them an opportunity and sufficient time to retool carefully and wisely in choosing and planning for their home lives. The whole matter gets to the bottom of the social structure, and Mrs. Campbell's article calls out the deepest interest from thinking people everywhere.

But space forbids elaboration, and I come finally to answer my own question. Americans are not at present as a whole a domestic people, but the saving remnant of our native-born citizens have endeavored the mass with their inherited ideal of home life, and the trend may be higher ideals of home and family life. Julia Holmes Smith, M. D., in Chicago Times Herald.

Footstool Mock Terrapin.

Ladies' Home Journal.

This makes an inexpensive and very appetizing dish for an evening supper for twelve persons a pair of ducks and one pound of calf's liver will be required. Clean the ducks, wash the liver, and place them together in a kettle; add two clove of garlic, one small onion, and the tread of celery, four cloves; cover with boiling water and cook slowly until tender. Take out to cool. When cold cut both into a serving time mash the duck, add yolks of six eggs to a smooth paste, add a quarter of a pound of butter, salt, sauceman; add a tablespoonful of flour, mix and add the cream and egg. Scramble until it reaches the boiling point; add half a cup of milk, bring again to a boil; add meat, a teaspoonful of salt, a dash of cayenne, a little white pepper and just a suspicion of mace.