

FOR THE LADIES.

HOME-MADE TRAVELLING BAGS.

Travelling bags are made of common linen hand toweling and trimmed with silk dress braid. One a little different from those made with round ends and joined with a straight piece can be made by using extra-width towelling, and gathering the ends, finishing them with flat rosettes of braid; make handles of linen bound with braid, and close the openings with buttons and buttonholes. —[New York Journal.

A HANDSOME NEW FABRIC.

Angora cloth is a new handsome fabric for coats and redingotes. It is soft and fleecy, like fur on the reverse side, and wraps made of it are only silk-lined in the waist-portion. A stylish garment made of this material has Directorate fronts, turning back in revers of black astrakhan. The huge cloth sleeves have cuffs of the fur, and a large cape collar, pointed at the back, and also made of the astrakhan, rounds on the shoulders and joins the revers on the fronts. —[New York Post.

GIFTS TO BRIDESMAIDS.

It has become quite an English and American custom for the bridegroom to give a souvenir gift to each bridesmaid, and it has become almost a nuisance, for the gifts are often of value. Usually a bangle or a small brooch and a bouquet are all that is expected. If the groom belongs to a boating or sporting club or is a horseman, or has any decided fad, he gives a gift bearing his colors or emblem. There are many devices in bridesmaids' jewelry, supposed to be peculiarly suitable to the sentiment of the occasion, among them a bell for the bangle, modelled after a historic bell and covered with inscriptions of good luck and good wishes. —[New York Telegram.

KNICKERBOCKERS SUPERSERVE PETTICOATS.

Winter petticoats are now being in a very great measure superseded by knickerbockers in London, and many ladies when ordering a new walking dress have a pair of knickerbockers of the same material or in the serge sent with it. They render walking far less fatiguing than the heavy winter petticoats. Each petticoat not only adds to the weight of the dress, but also impedes the movements by constantly pressing against one in the act of walking. That is one reason why girls when walking with their brothers become fatigued so much sooner than boys do. With serge knickerbockers fatigue is avoided without any diminution of warmth. —[New York Tribune.

COOKERY TEACHING IN ENGLAND.

The London News says the number of women who go about the country giving cookery lectures is constantly increasing. In England these teachers are fairly paid. In the county council work the teacher has to drive a considerable distance five days in the week, and back again at night, often in an open conveyance, so that women who are not physically strong would be foolish to undertake the duty. Occasionally three demonstration lessons have to be given in one day, which means about six hours' working and talking. Many of the teachers are quite girls, and it has been remarked that the village mothers to whom they lecture show but little faith in them, resting more confidently upon the assertions of older lecturers. There are many new lights to be thrown upon domestic cookery, and these are apt to be smiled upon with pitying superiority when shown by a girl.

MODISH GOWNS FOR YOUNG WOMEN.

A very rich shade of tomato-red camel's-hair serge is used in gray gowns for very young women. The newest fancy is to make a round waist, with yoke and enormous sleeves of black or very dark bottle-green velvet. The yoke and sleeves appear to be all in one piece, as the seams on the shoulders which join them are covered with a sort of epaulet finish of very elegant cut trim. A single row of black moss jetting is at the foot of the red-skirt, with five rows of cut-jet gimp above. Other dresses in similar fashion are made of violet cloth, hunter's-green vogue, or Napoleon-blue camel's-hair, brightened by a Breton vest of brilliant taurine-red cloth or Bengaline. Around the bottom of the skirt are set two very narrow bias bands of the red fabric, with an edging each side of purled black gimp of a glittering line of jet. These dresses in every case are lined throughout with black taffeta silk, with a balayage flounce of the same silk cut bias and scantily gathered and about five inches deep. —[St. Louis Republic.

THE POPULAR SHAPED HAT.

The aggressively superior way in which the brims of a popular shape in felt hats curl up from the face underneath is nothing short of contemptuous and very far from becoming. The those that droop slightly are even more becoming, but a woman must have deep-rooted confidence in her own good looks before she can with impunity venture on a hat that openly and brazenly disparages them. Unfortunately, many women possess that confidence, which is, however, not shared by their friends and neighbors, and when they purchase one of these intensely superior hats they cannot see themselves as others see them, or they would tear the gibing headgear off and consign it to instant dissection. There are a few faces that can stand the test of these curled-up brims, but they are so few that the pity is to find the fashion becoming general. They are inexpensive and durable, these hats, and as they are also up to date, women wear them without thinking how hard and uncompromising they are. —[Chicago Herald.

SELF-FASHIONED BEAUTIFULNESS.

Chief among the toilet accessories of the Seventeenth Century belle was a pair of chicken-skin gloves, worn at night to keep her hands white and delicate. To keep the complexion peachy and pink the old-time beauties believed that was nothing equal to the juice of strawberries, either fresh or preserved. April snow water, bottled and well corked, was and is used by many a soft-skinned woman for the preservation of her loveliness. To make the waist slender it was the custom of early English ladies to sleep in stays tightly clasped and corded. When a society belle of our grandmother's day happened to be afflicted with a foot too long for beauty she shortened its apparent length by wearing very high heels. Sometimes the heels were so high that dear grandmamma could scarcely walk upon them. To remove skin blemishes that were too pronounced to serve as beauty marks the unfortunate old-time beauties used to bind salt pork upon the offensive spots, and sometimes even eel skins and chopped frogs' legs were employed. Smiting the skin at the outer edge of the eye to give greater size to that orb was not an uncommon thing in the good old days. If a girl happened to be afflicted with stooping shoulders her devoted mamma would bind a flat piece of board upon her back to keep the erring shoulders straight. But there were some very dainty things which were employed by grandmamma and her friends to keep themselves lovely. For example, grandmamma dipped her laces in lavender water to make them smell sweet. She sprinkled her locks with oil of rosemary. Her finger tips were touched with rose paste, and so were her lips, while her skin was fragrant with attar of rose, which was poured into her bath. —[St. Louis Republic.

ALREADY ASTRICH FEATHERS ARE CLAIMING RECOGNITION, AND ARE GROWING IN POPULARITY.

They are used largely in conjunction with the fashionable fancies in large hats. The white felt hat with an indented crown, and at the side a full bow of white velvet, makes a very pretty shopping hat, and serves well for an afternoon promenade. Trimmings for costumes for the street and the country are used sparingly, yet the latter have a very dressy appearance, as all the details are most carefully studied. The Bernhardt toque, a dainty style of headgear for the fall, makes a very acceptable head dress for driving and visiting.

AROUND THE HOUSE.

A vessel that has had oil in it may be easily cleaned by first pouring into it some diluted carbolic acid. Potash as a sanitary means is unrivaled. Take about one tablespoonful of the clear potash to two quarts of warm water, and pour it into the pipes of the bathroom and closets, taking care that it does not come in contact with tin or zinc. A cleansing like this three times a week will prevent any complaint traceable to ordinary bacteria and microbes. Scrub thoroughly the unpainted floors, unpainted steps, board walks, etc., with water made sharp with the potash, and no animal or vegetable germ will flourish after the application. Nothing in the bathroom should be so carefully looked after as the sponge. That but little consideration is given it is daily shown in the forlorn and neglected condition of this very necessary adjunct to cleanliness. Instead of being left to dry in the sponge-basket, it is, as a rule, dropped down in some corner and allowed to soak or given a one-sided chance on the sill outside the room. It is simply useless to expect to keep your sponges in a sweet and wholesome condition so long as they are treated in this manner. In the first place, they must not only be thoroughly washed, but, in order to prevent their becoming foul, each part of the sponge should be exposed to the air. Fastidious women see to it that this toilet article is each week cleaned by dropping it into water in which a large lump of soda has been dissolved, afterward boiling it for sixty minutes, when it is rinsed in cold water and given a sun bath until entirely dry. Always rinse all soapy suds from your sponge and then throw it into your basket, which should be hung just outside the bathroom window. A sponge cared for in this fashion will never be slimy, sour or musty.

The Opal.

There are three varieties of this famous gem. Ranking first comes the Oriental; as second in value, the fire, and, lastly, the common opal. The affection for this precious treasure, as expressed by the ancients, can hardly be believed. Nonius, a Roman Senator, absolutely preferred exile to parting with a brilliant opal of the size of a filbert, which was earnestly coveted by Marc Antony. An opal ranking as third among the finest in the world is described as having three longitudinal bands of the harlequin kind, from the uppermost of which rose perpendicularly the most resplendent flames. It measured nine inches by six. In the last century a very round and brilliant opal was the property of the amateur Fleury. Another, said to be fascinatingly vivid, was owned by a noted French financier. These two were regarded as marvels of beauty among gems. On account of the thousand fissures of the stone, engraving is always difficult, and often impossible. A head of Sappho engraved upon a presumable opal, an antique, has been highly valued and carefully studied by experts in gem lore. It is catalogued, so we read, among the treasures of a princely home. —[Harper's Bazar.

Puzzles About the Eel.

Of all the common creatures of the water none is as great a puzzle to the naturalist as the slippery, everyday eel. That they live and have their being there is not a shadow of a doubt, but exactly how they are propagated no living man knows. You may assert that they bring forth their young alive, like the viper does, and I may declare that the baby eel comes from eggs or spawn, and yet neither can prove that the other is in error. In short, the eel's manner of breeding is one of the mysteries of nature. Some of the authorities contend that they grow up from horsehair; others that they are generated spontaneously from slime. The fishermen of all countries have their popular superstitions respecting this slippery customer. In Scandinavian lands they tell you that eels are the progeny of the water snake and some species of fish, and, being hybrids, like mules, never breed. In Sardinia they are said to be produced from eggs laid by a water beetle known on this account as "the mother of eels." Some years ago the celebrated Virchow offered a large reward to any one that would send him a female eel containing eggs. He was never called upon to pay the reward. A most careful examination with the microscope is necessary in order to distinguish the sexes. If you doubt these things send to the United States Fish Commissioners for a ton of eel eggs. —[St. Louis Republic.

A Message From the Stars.

A meteorite weighing ten tons was found imbedded in the soil near New Castle, Col., about nine o'clock on the morning of November 29th. It was very warm, when touched by wondering floggers, and bore other evidences of having had a fast journey through space. It was lying very still, also, when found, and showed no disposition to leave its bed when called on by curious visitors. It was the only stellar specimen of its kind to be found in the neighborhood of New Castle. Nobody saw it fall; but the warm and restless condition of the meteorite when found should satisfy all real scientists that it had come a long distance and was very fresh—that in point of fact it was and is, in the present of test science, a chunk of Hebe's comet. Welcome, O chunk, to New Castle. —[Frank Leslie's Weekly.

POPULAR SCIENCE NOTES.

How a SERPENT FEEDS.—A tenant of more than ordinary interest has lived in the Garden of Plants, Paris, since August, 1885, and has been an object of study by M. Vaillant. This is a South American boa (*Boa murina*), at least 20 feet long. Up to the end of 1891 the serpent had taken food in this place 34 times, an average of five times a year, the interval between its meals ranging from 28 to 204 days. It calls for its meals by characteristic uneasiness. Its usual food has been small goats, with rabbits on three occasions and a goose on one, and the largest animal it has swallowed has been a kid of 26 pounds, or about one-tenth of its own weight. Such prey is not of remarkable size, as serpents are capable of swallowing animals nearly as large as themselves. A few years ago, indeed, a horned viper was caught in the act of swallowing a French viper a little larger than itself, and no ill effects followed this enormous meal.

POSSIBILITIES OF "SUGGESTION."—Hypnotism formed a subject of considerable importance at the late Congress of Psychology in London. Aside from its scientific interest, it was shown to have a practical bearing upon criminal affairs—as in crime believed to have been committed under the influence of hypnotic suggestion—and upon medicine and education. The case was described of a woman who had been afflicted with a suicidal mania for eleven months, which was cured by suggestion during hypnotic sleep. Dr. Berillon mentioned educational applications. In experiments upon 230 children of both sexes, he had found that eight out of ten children from six to fifteen years old could be put into profound sleep, the ones most susceptible being, contrary to general belief, those most free from hereditary nervous defects. In these subjects it is easy to obtain automatic accomplishment of acts suggested during sleep. This has been verified by many authors, and advantage has been taken of it to treat habits of nervousness, filthiness and immorality that concern pedagogues as much as medicine. Suggestion also offers a means of analyzing the different intellectual faculties of children.

THE OPTICAL THEATRE.—Apparatus for combining pictures of successive phases of action to produce a moving figure have been mostly limited to the representation of a single motion or very simple action. A French optician, M. Reynaud, has greatly extended the idea. He has devised a so-called optical theatre, the object of which is to reproduce a large series of actions, even a whole scene lasting fifteen or twenty minutes, by the use of a very long band carrying a great number of poses. The pictures are enlarged by lantern projection. To give the illusion of life, the postures must succeed each other without any extinction or eclipse between, and this has not been before attained by any projection apparatus. The construction of the optical theatre provides that the succession of the postures may be interrupted at every instant without causing the disappearance of the image from the screen. The long band, upon which the images are produced in colors by a special process, may be moved in either direction before the lantern, when the images are projected through a lens upon an inclined mirror, which projects them upon a transparent screen. Another projecting lantern causes the appearance on the stage of the scenery amid which the characters move.

FACTS ABOUT LIGHT AND SOUND.—Light falling on any ordinary substance produces sound. Throw a beam of it on a glass vessel full of lamplack and sound may be detected. Or, pass the light through a prism and form a rainbow; as the rainbow falls on the glass vessel a distinct sound will be caused. Red and blue light makes a louder sound than green. Fill the glass vessel with red worsted and throw the green light from a prism on it and the noise is very loud. And so, one by one, we penetrate the mysteries of nature. Stand at one end of a stone or brick wall, and have some one strike the other end with a hammer. You will detect two distinct sounds from each blow of the hammer. One comes to your ear through the medium of the air; the other through the wall itself. From particle to particle, whether of air, stone or any other substance, the impulse of sound travels, and so it is that you hear two strokes instead of one. The discovery of the fact that the fall of light creates sound is new; the double sounds from brick or stone is old, and any one can test it for himself. Explode a fire-cracker in an empty barrel, and it sounds about as loud as a gun; fire a gun off on the top of a mountain, where the air is very thin, and it will sound about as loud as a fire-cracker. Sound travels at the rate of about 1,100 feet every second. Fire a gun and any one at a distance will see the flash before he hears the sound; light goes faster than sound, you see. I stood, the other day, on the platform of a railroad station in the country. As the cars got near they whistled, also while going by, and again while going on past us. I noticed a singular thing, and that was that four hundred yards off the whistle sounded one note higher each way. That is, at the station it was "B," four hundred yards before it got there the same whistle had been "C," and after falling, directly opposite the station, to "B," when the train got four or five hundred yards away again the sound went up to "C" again. It was owing to the pulsations of sound being crowded together on the ear by the swiftness of the train. Directly opposite to us they were not crowded on the ear.

A Word About His Mother.

A neat report is recorded of the Marquis of Carnarvon, the Duke of Leeds' eldest son, who, at the recent elections in England, was returned to Boxton by a large majority. The night before election, while he was addressing a mass meeting, he was interrupted by a cry of "Hear ye your mother's name!" "I refer to his very youthful appearance," "Oh, yes, she knows 'em out," said the young candidate, and she hopes to meet you, she'll know 'em out." —[New York News.

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