

## The Fads and Fancies of the Winter Fashions

What Dame Fashion Prescribes for Women's Adornment During the Cold Months.

THE blouse still lives as a practical illustration of the longevity of all things smart and useful. Fancy bodices and the new coffee jackets are some of the latest creations we may revel in. The coffee jacket is really a sort of elaborate tea jacket. It has smart coat tails, or a small bunchy arrangement at the back, often composed of loops of those lovely wide ribbons that are so much in vogue. But the latest style is a sort of directoire bodice, which can be made with or without short swallow tails at the back.

In sleeves there is a very decided appearance of the leg-o-mutton sleeve, shaped in widths, which is not to be commended or admired, but it is considered smart according to the dictates of fashion.

The novelty of novelties is the pelerine or cape, which falls over the shoulders and into a point at the back, and at the front ends in a bolero. These look best in lace or crepe de chine trimmed with fringe. They are often made of soft woolen fabrics, or even velvet.

The most fashionable material for dresses, coats, blouses—in fact, for everything or anything—is velvet, soft, pliable, and luminous. Velvet, however, is expensive, but the new velveteens, which are well fitted for tea jackets and blouses, can be had very cheap, and delightfully soft and supple they are. Every material has to be made pliable, to allow for the box plaiting which is seen so much on dresses.

Skirts are box plaited from a yoke.



DAINTY EMPIRE EVENING GOWN OF NET.

Blouses are box plaited, and so are sleeves. Short, full skirts are becoming, happily, very popular for everyday wear; and trains are narrow and box plaited at the back. All things reminiscent of oriental garments are in vogue. Tea gowns, morning gowns, opera and carriage mantles, all affect the "kimono" shape. It is so ample and loose that nothing can equal it for comfort. The Arabian "burnous" worn in the early days of the third empire as an opera mantle or carriage cloak will be revived this winter. Mantles, capes, empire coats, and all sorts of semimantles are worn by matrons.

Gray furs predominate. Scarves of fur, made very wide and flat, are worn round the neck. Pelerine capes, narrow to the waist, fall in long stole ends to the hem of the skirt, muffs are bedecked with endless tails, a fashion not much to be encouraged; but what are entrancingly lovely, are the cape-shaped boas and frilled muffs of chiffon edged with fur.

Ermine, marabout, silver fox and mink are being largely used. Cloth coats have bright velvet collars, and colored velvet coats are much worn. The tight-fitting coat with basques, sometimes has a belt and pouched front, which transforms it into a Russian blouse. Fancy and artistic buttons lend a pretty touch of color to boleros and coats.

Moleskin is in high favor for boleros and very small saques. Macarons with hanging tassels and military braiding are seen on many of the new coats, all of which have very full and wide sleeves. Fur coats vastly affect the bolero or the saque shape, and to wear with them we have short sealskin and other skirts made rather narrow to save them from looking disproportionate.

Evening frocks are very light and airy; no heavy materials save velvet are used. Painted and embroidered gauze, crepe de chine, accordion-plaited chiffon, wreathed with dainty roses made of chiffon, form the most delicate and evanescent dresses im-

aginable for gala wear. Matrons affect painted velvets, brocaded silks, bengaline, and such-like sumptuous fabrics.

Wedding dresses and trains are made of white moire, a material we are reviving, and a great deal of silver and mother-of-pearl embroidery is used. Eastern, Russian, Byzantine and Breton embroideries are fashionable trimmings.

The lace shawl pelerines are very pretty draped about a low Victorian bodice. Cameos, hair bracelets, and



POPULAR MODEL OF A STYLISH AFTER-NOON DRESS.

all the old-world jewelry one can pick up is now worn, and the treasured possessions of our ancestresses are being sought after by collectors.

In materials all zibeline cloths are the mode. Costumes of these are frequently trimmed with strappings of plain cloth of the same color, or of velvet. Tiny flat buttons of quaint shapes also form a pretty finish of bodices and blouses, and for the latter, most lively fabrics in the "Vivella" and "Remino" makes are to be had. Indeed, the flannel blouse, like Cinderella, has become quite transformed, and what was once rather a dowdy possession, is now one to be envied. Tuckings, box plaitings, ribbon trimming, lace, herring-boning, all help to make the flannel blouses for this winter smart and pretty enough for both day and evening wear.

Narrow collars of embroidered lawn or lace are worn with the majority of woolen blouses. These a deft needlewoman can fashion for herself out of a pretty bordered handkerchief, so that they need cost only a few cents.

Net and crepe de chine are favorite materials for evening gowns but net is made in large and small meshes, and is woven from that of a pin's head up to a quarter.

Picture hats show a tendency to



A STRIKING FRENCH CREATION FOR AFTERNOON.

increase in size, chiefly, perhaps, owing to the width that the undeniably lovely fur stoles give to the shoulders.

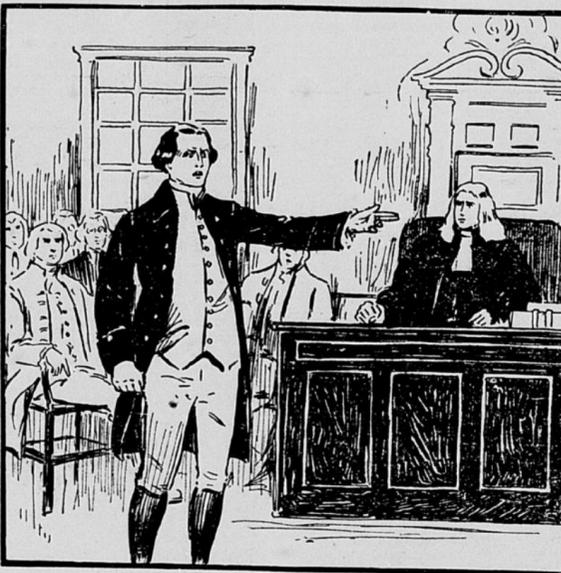
Innumerable offerings of silk, laid closely together, form the substance of some of the newest winter toques. The fur toques are wider and trimmed far more extensively with fur tails or lace, etc., than they were last year.

Certain makes of tartan are very fashionable for street costumes, of which the box-plaited skirt is made of the tartan, but the short basque coat is composed generally of black velvet with revers, and undersleeves of tartan to match the skirt.

Coarse wool embroidery is a stylish trimming for cloths of a hairy surface, and is very effective looking. Jet is also being revived in fringes, and is seen in knobs and buckles used in millinery.

Drop ornaments of every description trim dresses, mantles and millinery. ELLEN OSMONDE.

## LESSON IN AMERICAN HISTORY IN PUZZLE



PATRICK HENRY ADDRESSING THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION. Find the Leader of the Opposition.

A convention of representatives of Virginia was called to meet in Richmond in March, 1775. The whole colony was aflame with patriotic excitement. The convention indorsed the action of the continental congress, and declared they would stand immovable in defense of their liberties, though expressing a hope of speedy reconciliation with England. It was at this time that Patrick Henry declared there could be no reconciliation, and urged immediate preparation for defense. His motion to this effect was opposed by other less ardent patriots, and it was this opposition which brought from the illustrious Virginian that masterpiece of oratory in which he said: "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

### HUMOROUS.

"I hear you are going to marry old Broadacres." "Yes." "For land's sake!" "Yes."—Baltimore American.

Their Cooks.—Muggins—"My cook left because we refused to treat her as one of the family." Buggins—"Humph! My cook expects to be treated as company."—Philadelphia Record.

Compensation.—Hibbs—"I feel bad this morning and there is no occasion for it." Nibbs—"That's what hurts. One can afford to feel bad after an occasion."—Indianapolis News.

Bunkoed Again.—"I don't think much of this museum," said Jinks; "why, they ain't got no skull of Napoleon Bonaparte, and the one I was in, up to New York, has two."—Baltimore American.

Customer—"That dog I bought last week has turned out very savage. He's already bitten a little girl and a policeman, and— Dealer—"Lor! How e's changed, mum! He wasn't at all particular what he ate 'ere!"—Punch.

Author—"My book, sir, will be in existence long after you are forgotten." Critic—"Yes, I should say that it is likely to escape the wear and tear of excessive reading."—Boston Transcript.

"De Ranter may not be elevating the stage, but he has ideas that are up to date and worth money. Why, that man is now coining money playing 'Hamlet' in the one-night stands." "What!" "Sure; in the mad scene, he has Ophelia to sing 'In the Good Old Summer,' instead of those bum verses of Shakespeare's!"—Baltimore Herald.

Higbee—"Our friend Ranek is in Europe now, isn't he?" Jigbee—"Yes, and he must be traveling under the name of 'Stromboli.'" Higbee—"What makes you think so?" Jigbee—"A dispatch from Italy the other day said: 'Stromboli began to smoke yesterday, and the people of the neighborhood at once packed up and moved away.'"—Philadelphia Press.

### Wax in Tree Surgery.

A new and important use for refined paraffine wax seems to have been discovered by a man living near Lancaster, O. He had two trees which were badly damaged by a storm, one being a maple and the other an apple tree. In each case, a large limb was broken down from the trunk, but still attached to it. The limbs were propped up and fastened securely with straps, very much as a broken leg might be fastened with splints, and then melted refined wax was poured into and over all the cracks. The "surgical operation" was entirely successful. The paraffine prevented the escape of the sap, kept out the moisture which would have rotted the trees, and prevented the depredations of insects.—Success.

### Chamberlain Year.

Each year when the time for the making of wine comes round, the owners of vineyards on the Moselle, in pursuance of a very ancient custom, christen the vintage with the name of some important person who has been especially prominent during the previous year. Thus Garibaldi and Bismarck have both figured as sponsors of certain moselles, as well as Emperor William. This year the season has been cold and wet, and the wine will be poor, so the vineyard owners of the Moselle, having a pretty wit for Anglophobes, have christened their wine after Mr. Chamberlain.—London Express.

### Boys Great Smokers.

In a German periodical a teacher named Boer reports that he has found fully one-half of the boys in the schools examined by him addicted to habitual smoking, none of them being over 13 years old.—Indianapolis News.

### SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

Italy devotes \$200,000 a year to the support of Italian schools in foreign countries.

The total number of students in the woman's college at Baltimore is shown by the register to be 355.

The navy department has opened at Washington a school at which the young doctors who enter the navy may be instructed in certain branches not to be found in medical courses of civilian schools. These include ship hygiene, signaling, sword practice, naval law and kindred subjects.

Dr. George C. Houghton, rector of the famous "little church around the corner" in New York, announces that in future he will refuse to marry persons unknown to him unless they have reliable vouchers and acceptable witnesses. "This parish is widely known for its charitable disposition," says the doctor, "but there is a limit to the interpretation of charity, and I limit 'secret marriages' and marriages unsupported by family recognition."

### "SPEAKING A PIECE."

Son Had a Hard Job on His Hazz, But He Was Unexpectedly Helped Out.

"Why does teacher make everybody in school speak a piece?" complained a Harlem youngster one evening around the library lamp, looking up from the "piece de resistance" he was wrestling with, says the New York Herald. "I think some fellows wasn't made to speak pieces—just as the minister said some folks never could spell. I never can get this thing learned—never!"

"Benny," said his father, with becoming parental sternness, "you must learn whatever your teachers tell you to. In my young days I was always minded my teachers, and—um—um—um—as he caught an amused glance from his wife's eyes—a look of smiling recollection—"well, er—that is I always tried to—you may go to bed now, and try your piece in the morning. Good night, my son."

"You nearly forgot that time in the old district school, didn't you, dear?" she queried, as the door closed on the boy. "My sympathy is with Benny now, just as it was with you that long-ago day. Why will teachers persist in trying to turn every pupil into the same mold, like gelatine? Now, you never could or would speak a piece in your life, you know. What a scene you did make that day when the trustees came for their Friday visit to the school?"

"And how my heart did flutter when the master stood over you with that whip and counted off the minutes he gave you to make up your mind as to whether you'd speak for the visitors or take a flogging before them. Those were awful minutes to me."

"Yes, I saw you with your pretty eyes full of tears, and that made me decide to speak, for no fellow wants to get licked before his best girl. Wasn't it a corker, though, that day, wasn't it?"

"I remember every word. I expected the lightning to strike you. He had said he didn't care what you spoke, but say something you must, and you did. I'll never forget you as you slowly rose up—just as Old Bones snapped his watch, too—and you said, solemnly:

"Oh Lord of love  
Look down from above  
Upon our poor trustees;  
They've hired a fool  
To teach our school  
Beneath these yew trees."

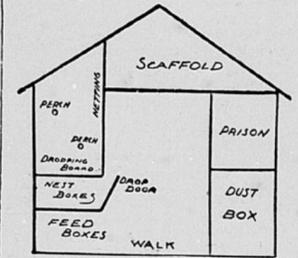
"Ha! ha!" and they both laughed heartily with the memory, and "Ha! ha!" echoed a boyish treble from the stairway. They looked up, startled to see Benny's grinning face above them. "That was a dandy speech, dad—good 'nough for me to use to-morrow!"

## AGRICULTURAL HINTS

### FOR WINTER LAYERS.

Description of a Poultry House Which is Considered an Ideal Structure by Its Inventor.

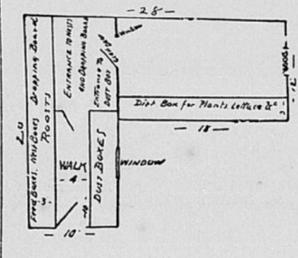
My henhouse consists of two parts, connected by glass door and sliding window. The main part, or roosting house, laying house, etc., is 20x10 feet, with seven-foot posts, and is divided into various compartments as shown by accompanying plan. The dropping board runs the whole length of the house, and over it are two perches or roosts arranged one a little above the other, as the elevation plan shows. Under the dropping board are nest



ELEVATION OF HENHOUSE.

boxes resting on shelf, and which can be removed to clean and whitewash. Beneath the nest box shelf for one-half the length of house are boxes for feed, lime, plaster, etc. These can be easily drawn into the walk, being placed on rolls.

The boxes are made large enough to contain two bushels, one each for corn, oats, wheat, shells, grit, bone, lime and plaster. Corn meal, shorts and meat meal are kept in the house. That part of the roosting place which runs beside the walk is separated from walk by a door, which swings up, made of poultry netting, thus making it convenient to clean the board, and secures good circulation. On the opposite side the prison is also made of poultry net-



FLOOR PLAN OF HENHOUSE.

ting, but the dust box is separated from walk by doors made of matched boards or sheathing and is practically dust tight.

The second part, or scratching house, is 18x12 feet, with 4 1/2 feet posts, and has one-half of the roof of glass, also the side down two feet, and one-half of the end. Running along the glass side the entire length, and level with bottom of glass, is a box three feet wide and six inches deep, containing soil in which lettuce, radishes, etc., are planted. This is shut off from the chicken and protected by a door which is made of poultry netting. Here the hens live mostly in the daytime. I keep the floor covered four or five inches deep with straw, leaves or sawdust, and scatter the corn, oats or wheat in this and make them work for it. The entire house is underpinned with brick extending 2 1/2 feet below the surface of ground and six inches above. Both houses have ventilators.

My yard fence is built of posts 7 1/2 feet long, made out of old one-inch iron pipe, sharpened out at one end so they can be easily stuck down into the ground. Five-foot poultry netting and a bottom board 11 inches wide was put on. The fence is easily and quickly put in place and can be as easily moved to plow, etc.—Orange Judd Farmer.

### Don't Neglect Small Things.

If you do not give thought and attention to the poultry, do not be surprised at the small returns. It is one of the largest interests in the world, and you might as well gain from their possession as others. An equal value of hens will bring more dollars than the cow. If we could only give this our thought and thoroughly learn of the true value of the hen when properly handled, more people would be in better condition financially. Despite the day of small things; one egg is a small item, but in one year the total value of the reality of some states is equaled by the value of the eggs consumed in our country alone.—Commercial Poultry.

### The Selection of Pullets.

When culling the stock and selecting the young pullets that are to make the foundation of next season's breeders, bear in mind that if there is any lack of vigor in them then they will not be hardy when fully matured. Hardiness is everything in a flock, for if any of the old or young stock cannot pass through the warm season of the year with freedom from disease, they will not prove profitable as layers or breeders. The getting of eggs from the hens during cold weather depends on the selection and management of the pullets in the summer and fall.—Poultry Keeper.

### MOLASSES FOR S

Horses and Mules Have 1 centilently on It in Louis Several Years.

Molasses has for two years general use in Louisiana for feeding of horses, mules and all probably nine-tenths of the animals in the sugar district food either alone or mixed with corn. The animals like it kept in splendid condition "Sugar mules," which are fed molasses mainly, are worth from 25 per cent. more than the cotton plantations, which are generally on cottonseed and seed meal.

Molasses has been a waste product in Louisiana ever since proved processes in the manufacture of sugar have extracted more saccharine from it than formerly. The discovery therefore could be used as a food for stock of double value. Six months ago a factory was erected for the manufacture of cattle food from molasses. The process is very simple. Molasses is mixed with corn or nearly equal proportions. The mixture is pressed into a solid mass and then ground into powder.

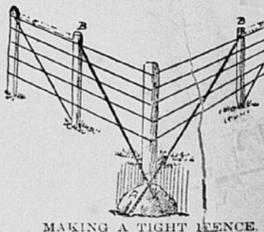
It is like the cottonseed meal which cattle and horses are fed throughout the world. The horse mules and cattle are very fond of the molasses, and they do better on it than on any other food fed to them. They keep fat and are capable of extraordinary work in hauling heavy loads.

This one factory turns out 150 tons of molasses preparation a day; and the stuff is being rapidly substituted on the plantations for the raw molasses, not because it is any better, but because it is more conveniently handled. So far the use of molasses for feeding horses has been confined to New Orleans and the sugar districts, but by this process, which enables it to be handled easily, it is likely to be shipped elsewhere. Only a small part of the Louisiana molasses crop, which runs to from 30,000,000 to 50,000,000 gallons a year, is used for horse and cattle food or in any other way; and a large proportion of it is thrown away or burned in the furnaces with the bagasse and other waste and refuse.

### ANCHORING CORNER POS

How It Can Be Done Without passing on the Road by Where It Is Located.

Where a corner post comes the highway the illustration good way to anchor it with passing on the roadside. Each post from the corner name chor post. One stop, if sufficient large, would serve for both, might be provided for each case, place it at the bottom of ner post. On the solidity and fi



MAKING A TIGHT FENCE.

of the anchor posts, the durability and efficiency of the whole fence depends. The anchor posts should be further strengthened by the use of 5x5 inch scantlings, indicated by the dotted lines, with their corresponding wire cables. In this case the second and third posts should be placed ten feet apart.—J. Phillips, in Orange Judd Farmer.

### The Draining of Hollows.

Hollows in grass land are of frequent occurrence and often contain the richest soil in the field, because they have long received the wash of the surrounding surface. If neglected, however, these hollows will be unprofitable and may even become a nuisance. If water stands and freezes on them in winter, it is apt to kill the grass roots. If it stands on them in summer, they soon become filled with coarse grasses, weeds and sedges. Often the soil becomes soured by the stagnant water; but this may soon be remedied by plowing it deep and turning it up to the sun. Undoubtedly the most practical remedy for the drainage of these hollows is the tile drain. In cases where tilling is not practical a surface drain can be cut quickly and cheaply, and it will prove valuable enough to pay well for the time expended.—Prairie Farmer.

### Germs in Farm Lands.

Under the direction of the department of agriculture at Washington, Prof. F. M. Webster has been making a thorough examination of the farm lands of Indiana and Illinois, in an effort to discover and destroy the rusts and germs which are working havoc among the crops. His examination of the extreme southern part of Illinois, which is just completed, has been very thorough and exhaustive, and the result is very gratifying to the farmers of that section. Prof. Webster claims that scarcely any sections yet examined are more free from destructive germs than southern Illinois; and he attributes this fact to the great diversity of crops and to the rotation of grains prevalent in that section. A bulletin will soon be issued, giving the reports and results of his labors.