

SWISS BLOSSOMS

Little Mountain Country Bedecked in May and June by Nature.

PROFUSE AND DAINY BLOOMS

Impression Which One Receives on Beholding Acres of Flowers is More Lasting Than Other Scenes.

To see Switzerland in her flower months is to lay up a store of vivid memories. In May, June, or even July, the loveliness of the flowers leaves an impression even more lasting than the peaks and valleys. Anyone who had not been in the land of Switzerland in the early summer might think the acres of white St. Bruno lilies or glowing alpenrose to be the outcome of a strong imagination. But it is not so. There is a valley properly called the Blumenthal—the vale of flowers—in the Berner Oberland, where every Sunday while the lilies last, men come from the Interlaken hotels with huge baskets to gather them as, earlier still, they gathered yellow and white anemones. They come up the slopes and fling themselves down by their baskets, and so close are the flowers that I remember seeing one filled within half an hour, though the gatherer did but shift his position



LARGE PINK AURICULAS.

twice, and then only by a couple of yards at a time.

The flowers do not all grow in great patches or beds, but are scattered over the beautiful Alpine pastures. Up to the very edges of the snow the soldanella shows its little purple bell side by side with the orange and white crocuses. When they cease to blow they are followed by white anemones, whose seed pods in time become balls of down with long horns of gray and mauve hair. Every seed has its hairy wing, and will in time be blown by the wind even as this dandelion is blown. The crocus and soldanella never wait for the snow to pass from their heads, but burst up through it, and that on its retreating edges where the pressure is most ruthless. For every day the edges grow more thin, and every night the frost makes a despairing effort, so that half the day's growth and all the nightly growth of these flowers is through a layer of something little less inhospitable than ice. The crocus works his head clear, cased in a tightly-rolled elastic sheath. It is little to the tender petals within that the sheath may



LARGE WHITE AURICULAS.

be bruised or scarred; they are safe at rest, and not till the spike's head is clear of the enemy do they swell and burst, and discard their mother sheath. The soldanella, for all its modest drooping head, is little less careful. True, he bursts out while his petals are still touching the snow, but then he bursts downwards instead of upwards like the crocus. His head faces the snow, and when the little globular case, which contains the flower, opens, and the petals shake themselves free, their adventure aids rather than opposes the flower's consummation.

The flowers crowd upon every vacant place. Rock or scarp, pasture or rubble, deep soil or thin, each has its complement, pressing in where others fear to tread. The tiny white and mauve-veined anemones cling about the fringes of almost no soil, and wanton on the less lean slopes. Their bigger sulphur brethren prefer a richer diet, and cluster anywhere from the moderate to the rich soils. But narcissiflora, which loves to wander upon the face of the ground, casting its whorls and circles of little rose-hearted flowers over stony and scrubby grass banks, chooses narrow ledges between rocks, and the steep face of shallow-soiled slopes, with an unerring instinct. Its own first cousin, in seeming, though not an anemone but ranunculus aconitifolia, bears flowers that are almost as those of narcissiflora in size, arrangement, and kind, but knows that the rich silt by the streams' edges is the place appointed for its delight. There you may find it, overshadowed by rue and giant buttercups, long male and sweet-scented orchids, huge ox-eye daisies, and other water blooms, but content, for that is its home.

This is the order of the flower world—keep your place and Nature shall keep you. In the valley woods, where waterfalls spray all the summer round, and the air is steamy, you may find the lily of the valley, but the St. Bruno, with its five or six hanging and sweet-scented bells, grows on the barren slopes, or under the shadow of a wood, at high altitudes. Between the two, almost as if knowing that their color must make them a prey to every passer, and that it is therefore well to live in places hard of access, other great orange lilies, like the Martagon and Turk's-head, cling among the tall pines and on the edges of the cliff. See, too, how curiously varied, yet always with an end or cause in view,



CLOSE TO THE SNOWS.

is the color of the flowers. In the heart of the pine woods the alpenrose spreads a crimson and dull red carpet wherever a break in the branches lets in a ray of sunlight. Here, also, but in the heart of all the shadows, hepatica raises a tender mauve or pale rose head, very delicate, and growing in the soft soil of decayed pine needles. Pyrola uniflora grows hard by, pure white, and with petals so thick and waxy as almost to seem artificial. But there is a reason. Pyrola loves the wood because it loves the cool and moist, yet also too much moisture is by no means a blessing. Therefore it stores moisture and coolness in these fat and juicy petals against days of summer heats and drought when there is no rain and the branches give no entrance to dew. And here sometimes you may also find that tenderest and most lovely flower which Linnaeus, the father of all true botanists, named for his enduring memorial Linnaea borealis. Its home is in Norway but it sometimes spreads its



WHERE THE CROCUSES GROW.

dainy bells over the fallen branches and the roots of a Swiss pine wood. Tiny rounded leaves and delicate bells hang like a score of rosy seed-pods on a stalk as fine as hair. There is no mistaking this darling of Flora. It is to be found in one or two favored spots in Scotland. Fortunately it is so inconspicuous it has escaped the attention of the collector so far.

And now for the open hillsides and moist hollow places, the tops of the passes, and everywhere where the sun flames down unhindered. Here are the truest children of Switzerland, the gentians whom the sunshine has loved till they took the very blue of the skies. You may find a white gentian and one that is almost purple or bronze-green, but they are not the true ones. The true gentian is a star of purest blue—the blue of a cloudless June. But gentian, too, has its poor cousins. They dress in many hues, tall spikes of pale saffron, bunches of rose or yellow, and—in their kind almost as true children of sun as the lords of the family—the great tawny orange spires, whose



YELLOW CISTUS OR ROCK ROSE.

heart is the bronze that comes only of much warmth within and without. Such and of such are the flowers which dwell in soil; but there are others, and they are neither fewer nor less fair which cling and creep and sprout in places where the eye can scarce see place to dwell in. Here among the parched grass and loose stones nestles Globularia nudicaulis, little balls of pale blue, or yonder, where the ground is still rougher, Polygala chamaebuxus, impudently putting up his yellow and orange heads among the lichens and saxifrage and a thousand creeping forms whose heads scarce rise two inches above the bed whereon they dwell. They toil not, neither do they spin, yet the gardens of kings have no such flowers as these—the Fleurs des Alpes.

Mid-Season Fashion Gossip

THE authorities who rule the world of fashion seem to be allowed no rest, for directly a mode reaches perfection the populace, or rather the shopkeepers who sell at popular prices, begin to copy, and down comes a charming model to the level of the public at large. And then the originator of this particular mode evolves another.

There are certain fashions and certain fabrics which never really get common. I do not think the very wide Marie Antoinette bands will, simply because so very few people can make them, and no matter how they are treated they must be more or less costly.

But whether they become ordinary or not, nearly all the waistbands of the moment have much to be said in their favor—they are neat, tidy, comfortable and becoming. Sashes, too, arranged with a bone in the front and at the back, with knotted ends, usually finished with a silk fringe, are a pretty finish to an evening frock.

The young girl on her own allowance can do wonderful things now that the mode of the fichu is in predominance. The fichu covers a multitude of sins, including the defects of the amateur bodice maker.

Some pretty Indian muslin makes an ideal fichu. And what a pretty finish this is to a velvet frock! There are, by the way, some lovely colors in this inexpensive fabric, including the new shades of claret and tomato reds, which are worthy of note. A velvet frock with a fichu of Indian muslin or shaded chiffon is admirably adapted for coun-



A DARK BLUE COSTUME OF SERGE WITH A BOLERO COAT AND MODISH PLAITED SKIRT.

try house parties and various quiet entertainments.

Hairdressing at the moment admits of a variety of styles, some of which are really charming. It is impossible to lay down any hard and fast rules as to how the hair should be dressed, or what should be worn in it. A young Greuzelike face looks charming with ribbons twisted through the tresses, but it is not a fashion I like for the woman past her first youth.

The Parisian is wearing all sorts of fancy tortoiseshell pins, which in themselves are often things of great beauty. Flowers are worn sometimes, but not sufficiently to say that it is a fashion.

Party Frocks for Little Ones

IT IS easy to put a good deal of money into a party frock for a little tot without overstepping the bounds of good taste, but that is only because hand work is expensive, and the daintiest of the sheer little frocks are exquisitely made by hand. Rich or pretentious trimming is altogether out of place, but drawn work, fagoting, tuckery, inset fine lace, delicate hand embroidery, etc., are altogether appropriate and lovely upon the dress of finest nainsook, lawn, mull or organdie.

If a mother puts this work upon her small girl's party dress, as a labor of love, the dress does not cost much in money; but if an expensive needlewoman or outfitter of children makes the dress, its price will run up to a surprising figure.

Fortunately, so much hand work is not essential to a pretty frock. A very fine, sheer material is demanded if the little garment is to be successful. This must be made very neatly, and whatever work there is on it must be fine.

Better a very slight amount of hand work than quantities of machine applied trimming. The keynote of the little child's frock should be daintiness, and a few tucks neatly run in by hand, a little fine lace and insertion applied by hand, a touch of fagoting, hemstitching or smocking, will give a fine nainsook, batiste or mull an air of charming delicacy and childlike simplicity.

Some of the soft, sheer silks, such as China and India, silk mousseline and crepe de chine, are made up into party frocks for children, but are more appropriate for girls older than those we are considering here. The fine woollens, too—albatross, nun's veiling, cashmere, etc.—are used in white or light colors for children's dress frocks, and have the advantage or warmth; but, when all is said, the ideal little party frock is of sheerest white lingerie stuff made by hand and trimmed with narrow valenciennes—i.e. real valenciennes, if that is within the possibilities.

For wear with these thin dresses, little slips of soft silk or fine muslin

Some types look extremely well with a single rose in the hair.

Jewels, of course, are always in vogue. The low coiffure with a wreath or chains therein is charming, provided it suits the individual wearer. But the newest mode in Paris, which is extremely becoming to some women, shows the hair arranged loosely and brushed back at the sides from the face, the dressing being continued from the top of the head almost to the neck.

We women are becoming very sensible where the coiffure is concerned, and we



A DEMI-TOILETTE. Trimmed with Chiffon Roses and Double Flounces. Lace Vest, Velvet Waistband and Bow.

realize that, like the wearing of a full or plain skirt, it is a matter which must be regulated by the individuality of the wearer.

The "highwayman" hat is charming with its gold and silver braidings, its cockades, and hundred and one variations; but how soon we shall tire of it when we see it produced with tawdry trimmings! Gold or silver is ideal for garnitures, but it must be of the best, and best only.

Furs as trimmings are charming. The best skating frocks show trimmings of sable, mink and even ermine; the latter especially is very costly. The cream and white cloths and corduroy velvets now in vogue are vastly improved by an edging of mink or sable, though martens-tail is a good substitute. It is in skating frocks that we shall see the most perfect specimens of the short skirt; it is at its best cut with a somewhat full rill round the feet, which assists in giving that graceful swing that makes skating such a pretty pastime.

The new fur toque is greatly elongated and tilted backward from a very high bandeau in front. It is suited to but few English faces, though where it does suit it is very becoming. The great point is to have a good deal of lace curtain falling down on to the coiffure behind.

In many cases heavy silk cords will take the place of gold and silver on headgear; and here, too, we shall see a new plaited silk braid. I think steel will be rather a favorite trimming in the early spring, but there will be no very distinct changes in millinery, with the exception of the new fur hats and toques, until the January sales are nearly at an end.

Party Frocks for Little Ones

are made, and no child's wardrobe is complete without several of these slips in white and in delicate colors.

All white is possibly preferred by the fastidious, yet a sheer white frock worn over a pink china silk slip and with pink sash, hair ribbons, shoes and stockings, is very charming.

Fine wandering trails of hand embroidery in white and buttonholed scallop edges are liked upon the



white lingerie dresses and on the wool dresses, too. The button-holed scallop edges, supplemented by French knots, fagoting or other hand work, are popular.

The long waist is still favored for the party frocks, though it has lost its vogue for less dressy garments. The Mother Hubbard and shorter waisted frocks are worn, too, but there is something about the long waisted frock, with its crisp outstanding diminutive skirt, that quite suggests festivity and is distinctly piquant.

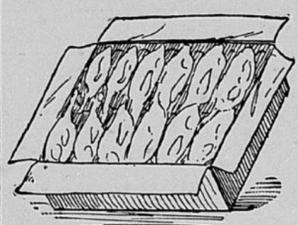
Two flounces, ordinarily form the skirt, and the long waist is tucked or plaited in some way by hand, the fine tucks often forming a little yoke cut slightly square, round or pointed and finished with lace. Then, again, the skirt is in one flounce, inset with many rows of narrow lace and edged with lace.

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

HOW TO DRESS FOWLS.

Timely Advice to Shippers, Supplied by Prof. Graham of the Ontario Agricultural College.

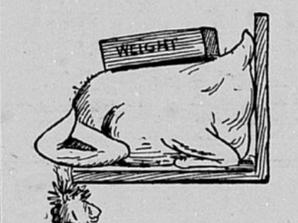
All fowls should be fasted 24 to 36 hours before killing. Where this is not done, the food decays in the crop and intestines, the result being that the flesh becomes tainted and does not keep well. In a recent bulletin of the Ontario agricultural college, Prof. Gra-



READY FOR MARKET.

ham gives some rules for dressing fowls for market.

There are two methods of killing that are considered proper. One is to kill by bleeding, which is accomplished by making a deep incision with a sharp knife in the roof of the mouth, immediately below the eyes. The other is to kill the bird by wringing or pulling the neck. Take the chicken in the hand, stretching the neck, holding the crown of the head in the palm of the hand, and giving a quick turn upward.

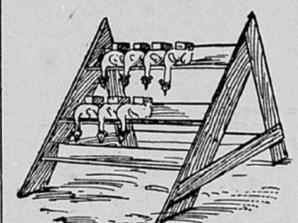


WEIGHTING THE FOWL.

and at the same time a steady pull. This method is favored by the exporters of dressed fowls, and is much cleaner than bleeding the fowls. It is claimed by the exporters that the flesh will keep longer and will not be as dry as when the birds are bled.

After the bird is killed, plucking should begin at once. Care should be taken to keep the head downward, to allow the blood to collect in the neck. Where the birds are allowed to become cool before being plucked, it is very hard to avoid tearing the skin; and the plucking is much more tedious. All fowls should be plucked clean, with the exception of about two inches of feathers adjoining the head.

After the chicken has been plucked, it should be placed on a shaping board as shown in the accompanying illus-



THE SHAPING RACK.

tration. The weight placed on the top of the chicken is used to give it a compact appearance. This weight may be of iron, as shown by the cut, or a brick will answer. If the chickens are hung by the legs after being plucked, it spoils their appearance by making them look thin and leggy.

Many good chickens are spoiled by being packed before they are thoroughly cooled. Care should be taken that all the animal heat is out of the body before the fowls are packed, and this requires at least 12 hours. Chickens are then packed in boxes, as shown in the cut. This box, which is used for export shipments, is three feet long, 17 inches wide and seven inches deep, is lined with parchment paper.

If the chickens are to be shipped a long distance, each bird is wrapped in paper, which prevents them from bruising each other, and at the same time, to a considerable extent checks decomposition. Do not use ordinary wrapping paper, as it draws dampness, and will cause the chickens to become clammy. For local shipments, a box 12 inches wide and 12 inches deep of the same length is used, which holds three tiers of fowls.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Shelter Increases Egg Yield.

In an experiment at the Maine agricultural college 60 pullets placed in a room 12 by 38 feet in size averaged but six eggs more in 11 months than where 90 pullets were confined in the same space, the average yield being 109 and 103, respectively. Another lot, however, that was given warmer quarters during the cold weather, and with the same amount of floor space per hen as that lot of 90, produced an average of 144 eggs in ten months. Half of these pullets were stolen at this time, which terminated the experiment, but it had gone far enough to demonstrate the advantage of warm shelter.

MAKING PRIME PORK.

Modern Methods of Production Differ Essentially from Those in Vogue a Few Years Ago.

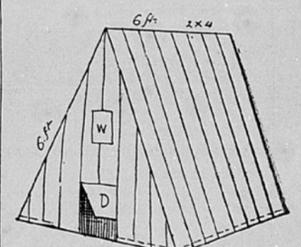
The value of corn for pork production was long since recognized; but changes in economic conditions have increased the price of corn during the past few years and made it necessary for the farmer to consider what grain crops he can grow or feed as a substitute for a portion of the corn so as to cheapen the cost of production and at the same time improve the quality of the pork, writes John R. Fain, of the Tennessee experiment station. The cheapness of corn in the past has in one sense been a detriment to the progress of swine husbandry; it has encouraged a too general use of this cereal for the development of the choicest quality of breeding animals. When corn was very cheap it was a common practice to shut the hogs up in a filthy pen and feed them an unlimited quantity without regard to cost. This made fat hogs of what is generally known as the "lard type." Close confinement and heavy feeding impaired the stamina and vigor of the animals and undoubtedly resulted in undermining the constitution of the brood sow, and this with the unsanitary quarters caused the destruction of large numbers of hogs by the dreaded cholera.

Hog breeders now realize that an open range with grass and forage crops is a desideratum of the greatest importance to them. Under such conditions a superior quality of pork is obtained with a better admixture of fat and lean. As can be easily understood from these facts and many others which might be added, conditions with regard to swine feeding have materially changed. Hence it becomes necessary to determine what grains may be substituted to advantage for a part of the corn formerly fed and to utilize fully such by-products of the farm as slops and skim milk, which were frequently allowed to go to waste, but which are now known to have a high feeding value.

HOUSE EASILY MOVED.

Hog Raisers Will Find It of Great Use, as It Is Complete and Cheaply Constructed.

I have built and used to my entire satisfaction, a movable house, which fills the bill. It is very desirable for a sow to farrow in. It will shelter the litter until all are good-sized shotes, weighing 100 pounds each and later



MOVABLE HOG HOUSE.

accommodate four fat hogs of 250 pounds each. In warm weather, take off the door entirely, also cut a window in the rear end for ventilation, and close it again in winter.

Make a movable floor, to fit inside the two by six-inch sills. This must be of strong boards or plank. Place the floor where you want the house to stand, then set the house over it. It is complete, cheap and easily built.

To move, tip the house over on a stone boat, pick up the floor, and you are ready to travel quicker and oftener than the proverbial preacher of short pasture.—Orange Judd Farmer.

THE HOGS IN WINTER.

Usually, a hog with bristles has a coarse and thick skin.

With hogs, clean pens and clean beds will do much to ward off lice and disease.

If the pigs are closely confined, they must have a variety of food, as they are to be kept thrifty.

Pigs will stand considerably more nutritious or rich food, if it is given often and in small quantities.

Young pigs should be taught to eat as young as possible and be given all the skim milk they will drink.

The fattening hogs should have all of the grain they will eat up clean. But no more than this should be given.

A cross sow is a dangerous animal to have around, and should be made fat and shipped at the earliest opportunity.

A bushel of corn will make more pounds of increase when fed to a pig three months old than when fed to an older one.

In selecting a young animal for breeding purposes, one with a gentle and tractable disposition should always be chosen.

Hogs may be fed out in winter to a good advantage if there is warm and dry shelter, and it is kept perfectly clean.—Live Stock Journal.

Killing Out Bermuda Grass.

Those who fear that Bermuda grass does too well with them may kill it out by plowing two or three inches deep in December, after allowing stock to graze it closely. After freezing weather in January or February, the land should be plowed again six or eight inches deep, well harrowed, and seeded thickly to oats as soon as the weather is warm enough, usually about March 1. Cowpeas should be planted on the oat-stubble immediately after harvest, and after they are mowed, pastured off, or plowed under, wheat should be sown. This method will effectually remove Bermuda grass.—Midland Farmer.