THE REALM OF FASHION.

A Revulsion Against Showy and Spectacular Dressing.

How to Dress the Shoulders—Words of Wisdom for Short People—A Revival of Drap de Sole—A New Breakfast Gown.

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[Special Correspondence.]

"Know thyself!" is an all important maxim, a guiding principle ever to be received and admitted, especially in the practical concerns of the fashionable world. Of all the aims with which an intelligent woman may undertake the art of dressing well, the most objectionable is that of dressing brilliantly. Specialties of dress, and even nov-

NEGLIGEE GOWN.

elties, sometimes fail in being successful, and there is always more or less danger of losing sight of what is refined and elegant in the pursuit of what is simply striking. On the other hand, mere imitation is not desirable, for the choice of shapes as well as that of material requires individual taste and judgment, and to ths end every woman should understand better than any one else what is best suited to her style and bearing. Hence, not to know one's self results in inevitable disaster as regards perfection in dress.

If your shoulders are narrow, do not wear sleeves which are flat and upright, but rather balloon-like at the top, and above all, avoid puffs at the elbows, nor must you have wide trimming around the arm-holes of your bodice; yet at the same time be careful not to make your shoulders appear too broad for your hips. Study the proportions of your figure. If your body is too short for your height lengthen your waist and wear long-skirted bodices; if the reverse, accentuate the perpendicular lines of your skirt and do not take from the length by having wide bands of trimming around the foot. If you are short in stature be chary of the long-hipped cavalier jacket, which is fast gaining ground because it is the novelty of the moment.

Happily we have stepped out and beyond the limits of old opinions, which were so arbitrary as to seem like inscrutable laws. Less than a century ago there was but one shape of bonnet

EMBROIDERED CLOTH JACKET.

and gown for each season, and every woman dressed her hair exactly as her neighbor did.

Fabrics have one and all made their entree, and we are now thoroughly familiarized with them. Brocades form a large department by themselves, and the newest and richest show a satin groundwork with a detached flower in velvet, in relief. These are predicted as the material of the next few months, and are to be had in the most beautiful colorings and designs, either of several shades or interwoven with gold and silver. Among the richest is a shell pink moire and white and gold brocade, in wide alternate stripes, also a black satin ground scattered with single cornflowers in their natural colors, and a white silk with a large pattern in apple green. A still newer idea is bengaline, with a conventional design of large and lozenge-shaped spots of black velvet. Cafe au lait is one of the novel colors, brocaded with flower sprays of coffee-colored velvet in relief.

For the quiet taste, not indifferent to elegance, "stormy-sky" gray is a peculiar tint much admired in relief designs, for which white and silver are much employed.

The silk department is crowded to excess with all the season's styles, bengalines, faille Francaise and Lyons velvets being the most fashionable of the plain fabrics—velvet and brocade are much combined—velvet for the bodice or coat and brocade for the skirt, which is invariably severe in its lines. Go where you will, tweeds of almost every conceivable color, thickness and quality meet the eye, and for the moment may be said to reign supreme over any other fabric, and they make the "smartest" of street gowns and coats, and have the additional advantage of requiring but little trimming, merely braids and passementerie.

There is, however, very little if any change in the style of making, and good taste is displayed by clinging to the simple mode of the last few months—viz.: the plain, sheath skirt and well-cut bodice, adorned only by a row of buttons in front, with long, narrow, habit back.

Old-fashioned *drap de sole* is revived this season, with brilliant flowers on a plain ground, much light and brilliancy being imparted by gold and silver outlinings. There are, among charming novelties for young ladies' toilettes, Scotch plaid surahs, which are most useful in combination, as well as for sashes, chemisetts, etc. One of the most desirable shades seen in fine wool materials is sea gray, its most harmonious associate color being red.

The newest camel's-hair fabrics are expensive, but extremely handsome, and the shades offered are unlike those of any previous importation. There are what may be called half-tones of blue and green, plum and mulberry purples, and soft tan, almond and biscuit shades which combine so handsomely with velvet.

Among the latest importations are a large number of combination dresses—these consisting of so many yards of plain and so many yards of fancy materials, which are likely to be quite the rage. There is generally sufficient of the fancy fabric to make the fronts of the skirt or side panels, and an additional quantity of a very narrow width to serve as a bodice trimming. Many of the more expensive lengths are bordered with a sort of astrachan, woven apparently with the material, cut into various shapes, such as Vandyke points, hearts and other designs, above and between these being filled in with heavy silken embroidery either in mixed, self colors or black.

An extremely stylish walking costume is of black serge and white cloth, the skirt made in large box-plaitings placed at intervals on a foundation of white cloth, with equal spaces of the latter showing between the plaits, the white being covered from waist to hem

IMPORTED HAT.

with a lattice work made of gold braid in several widths. For the upper part there is a trim little coat of serge over a vest of white cloth braided the same as the skirt, and the sleeve of black is cut away at the inner seam from the elbow downwards to show an insertion of braided white cloth. To complete this there is a toque of poppy-red velvet, flat to the head, with a blackbird on top.

A gown recently arrived from Paris certainly bears the *cachet* of an artist's touch.

It is of faced cloth in a shade which can only be described as cinnamon dashed with pink. The skirt of cloth is slightly draped and has round the hem a border formed of a band of cinnamon satin, brocaded with a large conventional design of black velvet, and the long jacket, entirely of the cloth, with revers of the same, opens over a tightly-fitting cuirasse bodice of the broche velvet, which fastens down the back and well over the hips, and the gauntlet cuffs are also of velvet.

The handsome breakfast gown illustrated is made of pale vieux-rose cashmere cut *en princesse*, the whole front falling in folds from the neck, and confined below the waist with a slanting band of moss-green velvet, vailed with creamy guipure point-lace. A sort of Figaro jacket comes from the under-arm seams and meets just across the bust.

The Medici collar is of the lace over velvet, and a deep cuff of the same reaches nearly to the elbow, the sleeve above it being very wide.

The stylish hat, also illustrated, is one of the highest novelties. The crown is of stone-colored velvet with rim of turquoise blue, and stones are set in the embroidery according the present mode. The feathers are of stone and turquoise blue.

An up-town furrier has come to the rescue of those who have short shoulder capes of fur, either seal or mink, and which do not fill the requirements of the present mode. He has designed corselet bodices of fur, which, added to cuffs and the short capes, afford the necessary protection to the body.

Polonaises of cloth worn over petticoats of velvet are fashionable again, after a banishment of several years.

L'ETOILE.

Easily Understood.

Gentleman (to beggar)—What has brought you to this condition?

Beggar—Sympathy, sor.

Gentleman—Sympathy?

Beggar—Yis, sor. A gang o' fool workmen a t'ousand moiles away wint out on stroik, an' thin we sthruck troo sympathy, sor.—Puck.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

—Clinton, Ia., claims to have the largest saw-mill in the world.

—Professor Putnam, in his report to the Peabody Museum for the current year, says man has existed for 10,000 years in this country.

—The art of making matches has been so perfected that 10,000,000 of the tiny sticks can be cut into shape, all ready for dipping, by one machine in a single day.

—The mineral called turfa, or brazolina, recently discovered in Bahia, furnishes an oil akin to petroleum, a paraffine suitable for the manufacture of candles, and a good lubricating oil.

—A new substitute for sulphate of quinine has been found by M. Valude in the bark of the panbotana, a leguminous tree of Mexico. Either the alcoholic tincture or a preparation obtained by maceration has remarkable effect in fever cases.

—A report comes from the West of the discovery of a process by which iron ore can be so softened by the concentrated rays of an arc light as to be worked with a comparatively small amount of labor. If this discovery is confirmed, it may lead to a considerable modification of the present modes of treating ores.

—The iron industry is rapidly getting into a more satisfactory condition, and, notwithstanding the fact that the production of both crude and finished iron is far in excess of any previous record, yet consumption has so far kept pace with it that the market is nowhere burdened with any large accumulation. Prices have eased off somewhat within the past six months, but are gradually becoming firmer, and as the supply is absorbed without difficulty, the outlook is deemed to be most favorable.—Boston Advertiser.

—In five years of observation at Lincoln, New Zealand, Mr. George Gray has found that the amount of impurity washed down from the air by the rain depends more on the number of showers than on the total rainfall. An acre of land at Lincoln receives annually (in 28.9 inches of rain) about 179 pounds of dissolved matter, including 60.5 pounds of chlorine, fifteen pounds of sulphuric anhydride, and a little more than two pounds of nitrogen. Nearness to the sea explains the high proportion of chlorine.—Arkansaw Traveler.

—M. de la Bastie, a French chemist, has, during the past few years, conducted a series of experiments which are said to have resulted in a method of rendering glass sufficiently tough for use in molding many articles hitherto made of iron. On the strength of this discovery, the hope is indulged that the huge sub-Atlantic pneumatic tube for the connection of the Old with the New World, the suggestion of which was received with indifference and incredulity some time ago, may eventually turn out to be not so chimerical as at first glance it was judged to be.

—The death of Dr. Christian Henry F. Peters, the celebrated astronomer of Litchfield Observatory, Hamilton College, ends one of the most useful scientific careers of our day. Dr. Poters' astronomical work was varied and extensive, including observations on asteroids, comets, solar spots, and the mapping of the stellar heavens. He discovered more asteroids than any other astronomer, the total to his credit, we believe, being forty-seven. He recorded 12,000 sun spots and catalogued 75,000 zodiacal stars. His star charts were among the most elaborate ever published, and contained all the known stars down to the fourteenth magnitude as far as thirty degrees on each side of the equator, throughout the whole twenty-four hours.—Rochester Herald.

ADJUSTABLE SUN DIAL.

A Cheap and Reasonably Accurate Substitute for a Watch.

A very simple, but tolerably accurate, sun dial has been preserved. It is one made in England in the last century, when they were commonly used in certain districts in place of the more expensive clocks and watches. It depends upon the varying height of the sun above the horizon during the day, and not upon its distance from the meridian, as with an ordinary dial.

It consists of three rings, the inner one moving freely between the two outer ones. On the outside ring are engraved the initial letters of the months of the year, and opposite these, on the inside, are the hours of the morning and afternoon. The movable ring is pierced with a small hole.

It is evident that if the opening in the instrument is turned toward the sun at sunrise, a luminous spot will be thrown upon the inside of the ring, and as the sun mounts higher in the sky the spot will move downward until noon, when it will turn and move up again till sunset, and it is only necessary to mark the hours where the light falls during a single day to obtain a ready means of learning the time, at least approximately; but a correction is necessary for the varying height of the sun at different seasons of the year, so the ring with the opening is made movable, and once a month is moved until the opening comes opposite the initial letter of that month.

The extreme error of this instrument is not more than fifteen minutes, and it forms a cheap and useful substitute for a watch.—Jeweler's Weekly.

Heard on the Street.

First Citizen (who has evidently just been to see "Merchant of Venice.")—Well, you see the Jew, when he found out how it was going, he backed out.

Second Citizen—And lost the money.

First Citizen—O, yes; you see it was in this way; she was in love with the fellow the Jew got the cash for; and when the time came to pay, according to the agreement, it was either pay or cut. Well, the old man, he hadn't the money; and the Jew, he was bound to have the pound of flesh: and it looked rough for the old man. Well, she dressed herself in man's clothes and was judge; and says she: "Jew, you are right; I find it so nominated in the bond. But, Jew, mark you, one pound of flesh, not one iota more nor less; and if you shed one drop of blood your goods are forfeit to the State." Well, the Jew, he seen how it was, and he left.

Second Citizen—Pretty deep, eh?

First Citizen—O, there's some very elegant things in Shakespeare.—Puck.