

# FASHIONS

## A CHARMING COSTUME.

**A Parisian Indoor Dress in Crepon, Challi or Fancy Woolen.**

This attractive model for a house dress, designed by Worth, combines style, simplicity and comfort in most admirable fashion. The original is a gay and pretty gown of soft, clinging wool of a rose red shade, with large bows of pale moss green ribbon. The collar and square plastron are of Russian embroidery of bright colors wrought in cross stitch—a trimming seen on many of the new dresses.

In design it is an easy fitting princess dress with but few seams and buttoned invisibly all the way down from under the left arm to the hem of the skirt. The bodice is made over a silk lining, with front fitted by darts and hooked down the middle, the top being covered with embroidery. Over this the princess front is drawn plainly, without seams, and turned down diagonally at the top in a graduated revers that is faced with the red material.



FRENCH HOUSE DRESS.

A directory belt with large bow crosses the front only, and large bows are fastened on the right shoulder and far down the left side of the skirt.

The back breadths have fullness added in the seams below the waist. The sleeves are full at the top, where they droop to folds around the elbow and are closely buttoned below. Ribbed red silk stockings and low shoes of red kid, of suede, or of black glazed leather complete this charming costume.

Crepon, challi, cashmere and fancy French woollens can be made after this model in varied colors, as navy blue with bright Russian embroidery and rose colored bows or pale violet woolen with ecru embroidery. Sage green, gray and silver blue gowns made up with cream tinted embroidery have a sash belt and bows of pale pink ribbon of great width.

### Shirts, Waists and Blouses.

Shirts and blouses are well to the fore. Current shows three pretty and popular styles in the former. One of the figures illustrates also the Swiss skirt which, together with the pointed Swiss girdle, is in favor. In the others may be noted the pocket in the side seam of the skirt with buttoned flap. These shirts are in best French cambric. There are attractive Russian waists of crepon, or thin wool



POPULAR SHIRT WAISTS.

knitting, to be worn like shirt waists with different skirts. Dark blue flannel blouses embroidered in red or white will be worn with tennis suits. The washing flannel shirts with feather stitching are very serviceable.

One of the novelties in blouses is a navy blue silk one, trimmed with frillings lined with red, these same frillings being introduced on the shoulder, for breadth and height are desiderata as regards sleeves. Plaited collars are introduced on some of the black silk blouses, and black and white barch, tucked, serve admirably for tea jackets.

Some of the newest shirt waists to be worn with serge morning dresses are made of spotted or striped cambric with a double bill for trimming. In the absence of a bill a tie of the same material would be worn. Some very pretty shirts are of washing foulard with flower patterns in white.

### The New Parasols.

White parasols of large size promise to be much used for driving in open carriages and for summer walks. They are made of mousseline de soie draped in waved stripes, and have highly polished sticks of natural wood decorated with choux of loops of white gauze ribbon set near the handle and around the ferrule. Others are of duchesse satin lace with the scalloped edge falling below the silk lining, and the stick of varnished enameled wood finished with a choux china knob. White crepe de chine parasols have inlaid flowers, butterflies and bands of lace, with the silk underneath cut away, and still others of this

French crepe with striped borders are fluffily draped, or have flounces on the thin silk lining.

For general use are plain parasols of changeable silk or of grosgrain, with club sticks of polished wood capped with gold or silver; or the sticks are of Cape horn, or of what appears to be tinted ivory, with etched figures and flowers.

The sun umbrellas are covered with plain blue, red or brown silk, are twenty-four to twenty-six inches deep in the gores, and have natural twisted wood handles.—Harper's Bazar.

### Fashion's Echoes.

We are told that white stockings are coming in fashion again. In any event white stockings of Lisle thread, embroidered up the front with clocks in a delicate color—pink, sky, orange or light green.

Shirt waists made of surah and suitable for tennis have line stripes in bright yellow or red.

The coat of this season's boating costume is longer than that of last and is made either with the sac or half-sac back.

One of the newest materials for elaborate outdoor dresses is shot repto.

Fawn, gray and beaver are included in the new spring shades for gloves, and there is a demand for black chevrete sewn with a color such as red, yellow or white.

The Watteau fold extends to bride's and bridesmaids' dresses.

### Squaring Things.

Softly is so regardful of people's feelings that when in company he always ends his speeches about persons with, "present company excepted, of course." The other night, while talking with Miss Becky Sharpe on the intellectual difference between men and women, he said:

"But, after all, I think women are superior to men intellectually—present company excepted, of course."

"Well, I don't know," said Miss Sharpe thoughtfully. "I've met some very intelligent men—present company excepted, of course."—New York Press.

### Dropping the Subject.



—Life.

### A Substitute for Alcohol.

A drink made out of ground quassia (a half ounce steeped in a pint of vinegar) is recommended as a substitute for alcoholic drinks to those who crave them. A small teaspoonful in a little water should be taken whenever the liquor thirst becomes overpowering. This is very helpful if a drinker will persevere in trying it.—Union Signal.

### Ireland's Greatest Curse.

It cost Ireland last year \$10,000,000 more for intoxicating liquors than it did for rent, and yet the saloon keepers are not boycotted by the Irish.—Boston Investigator.

### TO MAKE HOME HAPPY.

When you don't know what to say, say so. Nurse good habit and wet nurse bad ones.

Open doors quietly and shut them without a bang.

Use the doormat instead of the floor carpet for a foot scraper.

Let your manners at home be a little better than they are abroad.

Live sociably with your family and peacefully with your neighbors.

When the "last word" is likely to be an unkind one, let some one else say it.

Be as agreeable with your wife as you would be with "other men's wives."

Speak as pleasant to your husband as you would to "other women's husbands."

Look out for the claws of the family cat when its paws are fairly let out of the bag.

If it must be a kiss or a blow, let the kiss come first—the blow will take care of itself.

# THE CURIOSITY SHOP

## MAY MAXIMS.

### Proverbs and Traditional Weather Lore of This Charming Month.

The quaint embodiments of superstition and experience to be found in the mass of traditional weather lore ascribe a considerable portion of influence to the month of May. If the ancient prognosticators, whose descendants no amount of ridicule has served to extinguish, were right in their judgments, the month is treacherous and fatal when it is brightest and most beautiful, and is only acceptable and full of good fruits when it appears cold and inhospitable. The old English proverb, "Never cast a clout till May be out," is a doctrine expressed in many varied forms by the wise people of each passing generation. For once the proverb maker has accuracy on his side. She who "casts a clout" and dons lighter raiment in honor of the return of the sun, will have occasion to shiver in the coldness of the evening. Yet never will calm persuasion have its due effect while the sun shines so brightly on a May morning. The result is bluntly and grimly expressed in the proverb, "A hot May makes a fat churchyard." Let us be warned and be wise in time. Charm the May sun never so wisely, blow the zephyrs never so softly, cast not the clout till the month be out, and its treacherous smiles give place to the more genuine joys of June.

To be acceptable to the agriculturist—if weather lore embody his opinions—May should be cold and cheerless. "A cold May and windy makes a full barn and findy," says the old proverb; and as "findy" means plump, fat and well flavored, the desirability of a cold May from the standpoint of future profit is indisputable. The Italian proverb says, "A cold May brings bread and corn," and the Basque sayings include the emphatic announcement, "Cold May, good year." Another oracle of the same class says that "the month of May seeks warmth to exchange for bread."

If the proverb be reliable "He who mows in May" is in danger of having "neither fruit nor hay," and if you "Sheer your sheep in May you'll sheer them away." "A May flood never did good;" but then few floods ever do. Moderation in all things, even in cold water, is a principle of universal application. Next month may be harmless even if it be moist, for "A good leak in June sets all in tune." Yet heat is also desirable, for "Mists in May and heat in June make the harvest come right soon."

### The Lotus Eaters and the Troglodytes.

There is something peculiarly attractive in following the ancient Homeric voyages by the light of modern science. Who were the "mild eyed, melancholy lotus eaters" who dreamily strolled their island shores? Who the Troglodytes, cave dwellers, speaking a strange language, which Herodotus compares to the squeaking of rats?

Science says that two recent articles enable us to answer these questions satisfactorily. The one is by Dr. E. T. Hamy, in L'Anthropologie; the other by Rudolf Fitzner, in The Globus. The Lotus Isle was undoubtedly the island of Djerna, at the southern entrance to the Gulf of Gabes (north latitude 33 degs. 40 min.). Its population is of unusually pure blood, and presents a fine example of the native blond type of northern Africa. The complexion is a full white, or slightly reddish, the head short, the face round, the nose straight, the lips thin. In other words, they are entirely similar to the Kabyles of the Djurdjura, and the Rifians of Morocco. All three belong to the true Berbers, and speak near dialects of the same tongue.

The Troglodytes are of the same blood. They also are Berbers, of the stem of the Matmata, living in the mountainous region between the Gulf of Gabes and the great salt lagoon, the Schott El Djerid. There they construct their strange, boat shaped cave dwellings, just as they did in the days of Sallust and Herodotus and long before.

### The Language of Umbrellas.

After a lengthened study of the subject, some clever genius has arranged the following "language of umbrellas."

To place an umbrella in a rack, at a club or a friend's house, indicates that it will shortly change owners. If a cotton one is substituted for a silk, it means exchange is no robbery. An umbrella held over a lady, with a man getting all the raindrops from the points, signifies courtship; but when a man keeps the lion's share of the article and gives the lady the droppings, it indicates marriage. To carry an umbrella under the arm at an angle implies that the individual following will lose an eye, while to hold it just high enough to injure passers' eyes and men's hats signifies "I am a woman." Lastly, the loan of an umbrella is synonymous with an act of egregious folly.

### Phenology.

Flowers come into bloom at different periods of the year, forming the opportunity of making what are known as "Floral Calendars." This particular branch has recently received the name of phenology. It would be hard to do much with this study in our climate, for we find some flowers that are ahead of their neighbors in blooming one year, are later instead of earlier the next. After all, says Meehan, even that variation may be considered as an important branch of phenology.

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