

## STRIKING NOVELTIES.

## THE GENUINE UMBRELLA SKIRT FOR THE PROMENADE.

It Comes from Paris, but Our Dressmakers Are Adopting it Rapidly—Ruffles and Flounces Will Prevail on Spring Gowns, and They Are Graceful Too.

The most striking midwinter novelty in skirts to be worn on the promenade is the genuine umbrella skirt, the New York Tribune says. This skirt, as it is sent over from Paris, has from six to nine pointed gores of even size. This makes a skirt that is quite full at the bottom, but is narrowed at the top, so that it fits the hips smoothly with no apparent fullness, the gathers necessary to fit the skirt gracefully at the back being carefully concealed. A modification of this skirt is being quite generally adopted by our best dressmakers for walking gowns. It consists of six gores and is a little fuller at the back than is the Parisian skirt.

Every seam in the umbrella skirt is gored on both edges; therefore it is necessary to introduce a piping cord or some



THIS UMBRELLA SKIRT.

other trimming at the gores to prevent the inevitable sagging at the seams that must otherwise occur. All skirts are cut with as pronounced a flare at the bottom as it is possible to give them. They are trimmed up considerably higher than they were at the beginning of the season, the trimming reaching to the knees or above. As many as seven rows of fur, separated by spaces, are seen on some of the new skirts.

Bands of fancy galloon, ribbons and folds of black satin will be used in rows in the same way as fur on spring gowns. Small bows are dotted on at intervals sometimes. Where the material permits, ruffles of the dress goods may be used. A new ruffle which reaches to the knees, like the old fashioned Spanish flounce, is cut in a circular fashion, somewhat after the manner of a bell skirt. This ruffle is quite full around the bottom and scant at the top, giving the fashionable flare of the season. It is usually put on with a heading of two or three narrow ruffles standing upright, or with a band of fur.

A group of from three to five narrow ruffles overlapping each other is also used on the bottom of light goods, such as the black or cream gauze with gray satin stripes. Let it be acknowledged here that these full skirts are lovely. They are becoming and graceful to the



GRACEFUL AND BECOMING.

last degree, and without crinoline will be everything that women of artistic taste and knowledge of their own capacity for beauty can demand.

## Fashion for Dogs.

The latest whim for the owners of dogs is to make them wear shoes in the house for the purpose of protecting the polished floors. They are made of chamois, with leather soles.

## Virginia Eggnog.

To make one gallon of eggnog take one dozen eggs; separate the whites and the yolks very carefully. Beat each until it becomes as light as practicable. Add one pound of pulverized white sugar to the yolks and mix thoroughly. Then add one quart of cognac brandy and a half pint of Jamaica rum, pouring them in a small stream while stirring actively. Add half a gallon of rich milk. Then add not less than three-fourths of the bulk of the whites and incorporate thoroughly. The remainder of the whites should be put upon the surface merely as an ornament. A large portion of the white of the eggs should always be mixed with the compound to render it light and wholesome.

## Branch of Promise.

She had flirted, been engaged Half a score of times and raged Over every handsome man that crossed her life Till at length a poor old fellow, Who was wrinkled, rich and yellow, Asked this modern maid if she would be his wife.

But she led him such a dance That he, quite unused to prance Like a bear upon a rope at the behest Of a girl whose sole desire Was to try and make him buy her Costly presents, one day left her like the rest.

Straightway she commenced proceeding In the courts, and when the pleadings Had been settled, why, her lawyer "up and hollers"

Of the balm to heal the smart Of a maiden's broken heart, And the jury gave her twenty thousand dollars.—James G. Burnett.

## PERPETUAL YOUTH.

## How Women Can Retain Their Youthful Beauty by Care.

A woman who at forty is always taken for twenty-eight tells the New York Sun how she preserved her youthfulness since she was eighteen. She says:

I have never eaten a sweetmeat, tasted a drop of wine or let ice water pass my lips. Linen sheets, candles and hot baths I avoid like the pestilence. I eat the simplest food, exercise enormously and have discovered the preservative properties of grease. Like all things really worth having, one pays a heavy price to hold youth beyond the allotted time. If you think my red lips, high color and smooth skin are easily come by, you are mistaken.

My breakfast, always eaten in bed, consists of weak tea, a soft egg and thin, very dry toast. At luncheon I take plenty of cold meat, a fresh salad, one or two vegetables and some simple pudding. Consequently my digestion is never out of order, my complexion is unvaryingly clear and rosy, and I sleep eight hours out of the twenty-four in dreamless repose. Before retiring at night I plunge my feet and legs up to the knees in cold water to draw the blood from my head and keep the extremities warm. Then I am thoroughly laced from head to foot in massage fashion. The greasing process follows, for I use pounds and pounds of lubricating ointment in the course of a year.

The only absolutely safe ointment is old fashioned mutton suet, refined and slightly perfumed. This should be applied from neck to heels with the hand, and gently rubbed in so as not to stick or shine, but leave a soft, satiny surface. Under the knees and arms an extra quantity is required; also on the joints, such as elbows and ankles, to prevent the least stiffness and keep the body supple. I always sleep between blankets that absorb every particle of moisture the body throws out, and next morning, after a tepid bath, when meal in place of soap is used, and brisk rub down with a crash towel, my skin is as pink and white as an infant's.

There is nothing more, I think, except to insist upon horseback riding, at least a 3-mile walk every day, dancing whenever you can get it, and not less than two hours spent in the open air. Sleep in a cold room with ample covering.

## No Pinching Shoes.

New shoes can be worn with as much ease as old ones if they are stuffed to the shape of the foot with cloth or paper and then patiently sponged with hot water. Or if they pinch in some particular spot a cloth wet with hot water and laid across the place will cause immediate and lasting relief.

## Prune Pudding.

Soak one pound of prunes over night. In the morning remove the stones, put the prunes in a porcelain lined kettle with sufficient water to prevent burning, cover the kettle and cook slowly on the back part of the stove until the prunes are perfectly tender; this will take about an hour; then add a cup of sugar and stand aside to cool; when cold press through a colander, or if you have a "keystone" beater a few revolutions will reduce them to a smooth pulp.

Beat the whites of three eggs to a stiff froth; add them to the prunes. Have a quarter of a box of gelatin soaked for half an hour in half a cup of cold water; stand this over the fire until the gelatin is dissolved; stir into the prunes with the whites of the eggs; turn into a mold and stand away to harden. When ready to serve turn it onto a pretty dish and pour around it a custard made from a pint of milk, two tablespoonfuls of sugar and the yolks of three eggs. This custard may be very delicately flavored with bitter almond, but be careful to add only a few drops or you will destroy the flavor of the prunes.

## Most Becoming.

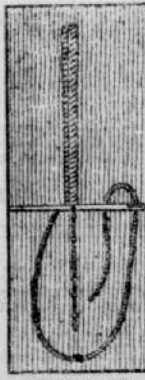
The enormous sleeves of shaded velvet are liked in cloth or stuff gowns and tend to give an air of elaboration to what may be really a very simple costume.

## A Tablecloth Autograph.

In Vienna the latest form of the autograph craze requires the guests at dinner to write their names in pencil upon the tablecloth. This is more popular than the autograph cushion as we have it here in America. The original writing is worked over in colored silk and a permanent trophy is secured.

## Two Fancy Stitches.

Following are illustrations of some of the different stitches which every woman should understand, and, as each one is important in its own field, should be practiced until it can be worked with perfect accuracy. Many ladies imagine that it is impossible to learn from illustrated lessons; to some it may be more difficult than to others, but to none is it impossible. Looking at the illustrations of a stitch is not going to master it.



BUTTONHOLE.



FRENCH KNOT.

One must arm one's self with needle, silk and a piece of cloth, and by a little application of one's energy the puzzle will soon give up its mystery. If the first attempt is not a success try again and again until the stitch on your piece of cloth looks like the one in the illustration. There is not a stitch described in this article that cannot be mastered without further aid if a little perseverance and patience are practiced.

## OLD TOM SIGNED THE CHECK.

## It Never Went to Protest, and Hope and Happiness Dwelt in His Home.

"I'll fill out this check for you, Tom, if you will wait a moment. It is signed, and father told me to fill it out for the amount if he wasn't here. Two and a half—isn't it?"

Old Tom took up the check in his trembling fingers and looked at the straight, businesslike signature.

"Just to think that his name is good for thousands of dollars," he muttered half to himself and half to the bright faced boy who stood beside the desk with his pen in his hand ready to fill out the check. "And yet when we were boys together I was as good as he was any day, and my chances in life were just as good. It's been drink that made all the difference. Well, it's too late to help it now."

"No, it isn't too late, Tom," cried Hugh Evans earnestly. He knew the sad story of this man's gradual descent from an honorable, respected life to the level of a common drunkard, and he felt an impetuous desire to help him, boy though he was. "I heard father say only today that if you would sign the pledge he would trust you to keep it, and he would give you steady work and good pay. Do sign it, Tom. I have a blank one here. It will make such a difference, not only to you, but to your wife and children, if you will."

A gleam of hope lighted up the dim eyes, but it died out in an instant, and Tom shook his head.

"Some other day, Hugh. Some other day. I must treat my friends for the last time, and I'll have a little money tonight, you see, when you give me that check. Some day I will, but not now."

"Don't put it off, Tom," pleaded Hugh, putting the pledge before the man and giving him the pen. "Why, don't you see, it's as good as a check! Sign it, and it means health, comfort and a good living, which you could make well enough if you would let drink alone, and respect from every one that knows you. Why, my father's signature could not mean more than that!"

Old Tom was won by the boy's enthusiasm.

"I'll see what my signature is good for," he cried with sudden resolution, and grasping the pen firmly he wrote his name on the pledge.

"There, I've done it, and God helping me I'll keep it," he said solemnly. "Low as I've fallen I never broke my word yet."

An hour later he entered his home with the check in one pocket and the pledge in the other.

The check was a proof to the poor wife of his intention to keep the pledge, for she knew it must have been hard work to come home sober with money in his pocket.

Need I tell you that the signature on the pledge was never dishonored? It meant a happy home, new hope for the despairing wife, respect, prosperity and God's blessing.

And Hugh! He felt as if he had done the grandest temperance work of his life, though he lived to be a successful temperance worker, when he persuaded old Tom to sign the check.—Sunday School Times.

## The Alcoholic Vice in Alaska.

A historian of the Mogul dynasty of northern India relates that Mohammed Baber Khan undertook to eradicate the opium habit of his subjects by the total destruction of poppy plants throughout his dominions, in the hope of thus saving at least the rising generation, since he had given up the attempt of reforming confirmed poison eaters. The alcohol vice, too, is apt to perpetuate itself from the smallest remaining germs, and radical measures alone can achieve deliverance from its evils. Some twenty years ago the American and British governments made a simultaneous effort to restrict the liquor traffic among the aborigines of Alaska and the adjoining territories, but the root of the stimulant curse was suffered to remain, and is now producing a crop of new sprouts in a rather unexpected manner.

"Our Indians have begun to make their own beer, or kwass, as they call it," says the Rev. O. R. McKinney, of Unga, Alaska, in a letter to a correspondent of the New York Voice, "and though it costs but little, it is nevertheless a deadly intoxicant. While sober they are a good, kind people, ready to be taught and ever eager for knowledge; but it seems they will drink almost anything that will stimulate. Only a few days ago news came to our village that a Russian priest up the bay had killed himself drinking bitters. Every Russian holiday is celebrated by the natives making an unusually large amount of kwass, and as a necessary result getting drunk, fighting and smashing things in general." In other words, the liquor traffic has started "flames that devour the poor aborigines, and they should not bear the exclusive blame if they should be unable to arrest the progress of the conflagration."

## Health of Drinkers and Abstainers.

The registrar general of Great Britain is authority for the statement that the highest rate of mortality among any class of men engaged in any regular branch of industry is found among persons engaged in the liquor trade. A table containing the comparative death rates of males engaged in 100 occupations in England and Wales gives very convincing arguments. Men engaged as inn or hotel servants have the highest rate of mortality; clergymen, ministers and priests the lowest. Of persons engaged in the retail liquor trade the death rate is four times that of the clergy between the ages of twenty-five and forty.

## Odd Items.

Whisky never misses fire.

Cider is the devil's kindling wood.

Indiana prohibitionists held 500 meetings in one week.

Rev. Sam Small has been awarded \$500 damages in his suit against the saloon keeper who assaulted him in a barber shop at Atlanta last fall.—California Prohibitionist.

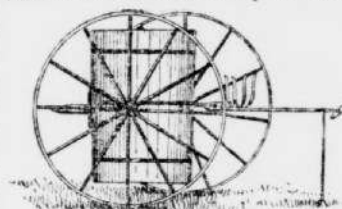


## TWO USEFUL TOOLS.

A Barrel on Wheels and a Device for Reeling Fence Wire.

In the streets of New York city hundreds of workmen go about with implements like that shown in the first cut here reproduced from Rural New Yorker, which says:

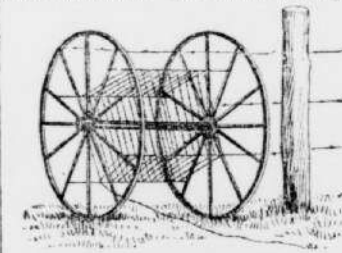
"They brush up the dirt with stiff brushes, shovel it into the barrel and wheel it off to some central point where



A DIRT WHEELBARROW.

they meet the dump cart. The machine is simply a barrel on wheels, so nicely balanced that it will tip easily. The hooks in front make a place for broom, hoe and shovel to hang. For many purposes a wheel barrel like this is better for farm work than the usual wheelbarrow. One can take a heavier load with less work on two wheels. One novel use to which we saw one of these wheel barrels put was in planting potatoes. The barrel of seed was wheeled through the field and five or six rows were dropped at one trip, making short journeys to the barrel."

A cheap and practical device for reeling fence wire, described by a correspondent of the journal mentioned, is also illustrated: "Two wheels of a light



REEL FOR BARBED WIRE.

wagon were taken, attached to their axle. Four pieces of board were placed at regular intervals through the wheel and wired to the felloes. This makes a large reel, which may be rolled along by the side of the fence and which takes the wire up neatly and rapidly."

## Waste of Corn Fodder.

It is always in order to call attention to the waste of corn fodder that takes place on so many of our farms every year, either by allowing it to rot in the fields or making some slight attempt to utilize it by pasturing. The Northwestern Farmer thinks this latter method is of questionable benefit, because the stock will do a good deal of damage to the soil if allowed to run upon it when wet, and they get at the best but a small portion of the full value of the fodder. The amount of labor involved in cutting and handling corn fodder has of course been the means of deterring many farmers from saving it. But it will so largely take the place of hay in feeding the farm stock that it will repay well the cost of harvesting. Within recent years farmers have been realizing the value of this fodder more than they formerly did, and now that we are getting harvesting machines that promise to lessen the labor, we shall hope soon to see the major portion of this great crop put by for winter feeding. As the case now stands, this waste of corn fodder is undoubtedly the largest single leak in our whole agricultural system.

## Building a Compost Heap.

Market gardeners know the value of compost heaps, but farmers have not as much experience in this line as they should have, according to Farm Life, which says: "By composting it all stable and barnyard manure can be put in more available shape and be applied to better advantage directly to the crop than it can be in ordinary form. A good way to build a compost heap is to lay a foundation of thick sods, making the basis of such length and width as seem desirable. Put down sods, say, to a depth of six inches; then cover them with a layer of manure half as deep. Continue with alternate layers until the pile is five or six feet deep. Then finish with a basin in the center and pour water into this until the entire mass is well soaked. Fermentation will soon take place and assist in the decay of organic matter. After a few weeks cut the pile down from one end with a spade and throw it over, and repeat the operation at least once before using. A few months will suffice to give a fine mass of rich compost. The best time to build a compost heap is of course early in the autumn."

## Crossing Tomatoes.

Mr. E. S. Carman, editor of The Rural New Yorker, considers the crossing of tomatoes one of the most interesting pieces of work he has ever been engaged in. He writes: "I began by using the Peach tomato as the mother plant three years ago. The two fruits crossed did not mature. They were green and deformed when frost occurred. I did not suppose the seed would germinate. On the contrary it germinated more freely than that of other varieties planted the same day, and the plants were marvels of thrift. These plants bore all sorts of tomatoes, from the Fig, Pear and King Humbert, Trophy, Victor and Conqueror to the shapeliest kinds of later years; but there was not a Peach tomato to be found among them, nor one with the characteristic downy skin of the Peach. These crosses with the Peach were again crossed, using pollen of the popular varieties of last year, such as Ponderosa, Stone, Ignomus, Long Keeper, etc. I find now that the Peach blood asserts itself. Some of the shapeliest specimens borne by the 200 crossbred plants have downy skins."

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