

## THE HOME.

### Spring Cottons.

In the midst of snow and ice the spring cottons are fluttering into the retail shops from the domestic and foreign looms, and while we are snuggling into our furs, we are expected to wax warm with enthusiasm over the fabrics which five or six months from now we shall welcome gladly made up into zephyr thin gowns, but which in midwinter give one the shivers to think of, but not to see. Oh, dear, no. The minute one gets within seeing distance one is lost in admiration. The cottons have been growing lovelier from season to season, until last year it seemed as if the climax had been reached; but the sample books which ye editor of this department has been privileged to behold set forth unequivocally the fact that cottons for the coming spring and summer are to be the loveliest yet.

Thin and sheer are the materials, and exquisitely colored, running to light rather than to dark tints, and favoring every suggestion of the loveliness of the woods, and of fields and flower gardens. It is well known among manufacturers and wholesale buyers that the designs in cottons each year follow more or less closely the leading designs in high priced silks, satins and pattern cloths of the preceding season. A particular design carries the day in an expensive brocade one winter, or an especial trend in style, as toward fine flower designs, or bold conventionalized patterns, is noted. The first cloths manufactured thereafter follow suit. In another season or two the style gets into the cottons, and something else is winning favor in brocaded satins. Now and then even the manufacturers make a mis-step. For example, the large wholesale houses are placing their orders now, and have been for months back, for the dress goods in wools, which they expect to sell in the autumn of '96. Plaid velvets and silks having had great vogue in Paris early last fall, plaids were expected to boom in wools next fall, but, if you please, the cotton manufacturers have stepped in ahead of the wool manufacturers, and there are so many plaids among the cotton goods for the spring and summer trade that they are bound to be passed by with more or less disdain by the time the fall comes. Well, even so, no one need feel sorry. They are all very well upon children, and for gay house bodices, but generally speaking plaids are not becoming enough to make it worth while to put much money into them.

Some seasons wash fabrics are not in good repute with fashionably attired people. Some seasons the cheap silks crowd them out, but all advices from the other side point to the fact that wash fabrics are to be all the rage this coming summer for thin dresses for informal wear. Besides the cottons that all women know by heart by name, but which are lovelier than before this season, such as the gingham and cambrics, the muslins, and so on; there are a number of distinctly new goods on the tapis, meaning the counters, or will be soon, for next summer's wear.

Tulle chatelaine is one of these; it is neither a plain material nor an openwork cotton, but, betwixt the two, comes in Parisian designs of an organdy nature, and is sheer and attractive. Women who are no longer youthful as they once were will delight in the silver silks. These are wonders of the looms. They look like plack satins and moires brocaded with silver, gold and bronze, and will make really elegant-looking afternoon gowns. Unlike silks and satins, they can be washed and ironed and are warranted to look as well as new under the treatment. Of course this statement must be taken with a grain of salt, or, better still, the salt should be put in the water to set the colors. Seriously, though, secure such effects

den patterns transferred from china to the looms. The ingenuity of the designs is more than matched, however, by the beauty of the combination in coloring, which ranges from the brocaded satin designs, rich and dark, to the daintiest cloud-like tissue.—Jenness Miller Monthly.

### Beans (Snaps).

"Snaps" are one of the leading crops of the Southern trucker. They need the lightest and dryest land of the farm, and the warmest exposure. They are more cheaply grown than any other crop of our gardens, and occupy the land but a short time, making a good succession to the early cabbage crop, without any more fertilization, and, when the crop is gathered, the vines can be plowed under to fertilize the land and be followed by a crop of crab grass for hay. As the profit in them is mainly in the earliest, it pays the gardener to run some risk in order to be in among the earliest. It is therefore common to begin the planting by the middle of March, although there is serious risk that these early sown ones may be cut off by frost. But if they survive they pay better than later plantings. When planted on land specially prepared for this crop manure of some kind must be used in the furrow. Some gardeners consider fresh stable manure best, but this is seldom available, and we consider it a mistake to use it on a leguminous crop like the bean. Beans do not need heavy manuring, and a dressing of 500 pounds per acre of a high grade fertilizer, well mixed in the furrow will be sufficient for them. Two furrows should be lapped over the manured furrow, the ridge thus made rolled flat and the seed drilled on this flattened ridge. A skilled hand can sow the bean in a very shallow furrow in the absence of a seed drill, but drills of various kinds, both for hand and horse power, are essential to every truck farm. An ordinary cotton-seed drill will sow beans as well as anything else.

### SHIPPING.

The green beans should be shipped in well ventilated bushel crates. The pickers must be instructed to pick the pods as soon as they are of fair size and before they are old enough to show the bulge of the seed. They must use both hands so as not to disturb the roots of the plants. The packing in the crates must needs be done with care, as the beans shrink in transit and the crates should be full on arrival. A light sprinkling before packing will help in this matter, and the packing should be regular and firm and not a promiscuous tumbling into the crate.

### VARIETIES.

For the earliest planting the Mohawk is still popular on account of its hardness, but it is soon superseded by those of better quality. Of the green-podded sorts the Extra Early Valentine we consider the best. It is very early and productive, and is free, to a great extent, from the rust that attacks the wax-podded sorts. Of the wax or yellow-podded sorts we have yet found none that have so many good qualities as the Gold-Eye Wax bean. It is not so handsome a pod as the old Golden Wax, but as it is usually free from the rust which has driven that fine variety out of use, it is a safer bean to use. Those who want a wax bean should use this. There are many other sorts in the catalogues, but as we are not preparing a catalogue we simply name varieties that we can recommend.

### GENERAL TREATMENT.

The culture of snap beans is so simple and so soon over that it is not necessary to go into detail. The rows being the proper distance apart for the use of a horse cultivator that tool is all that is needed. We have found it a great advantage in some soils to give a top dressing of land plaster along the rows. The members of his family have been for years will

shape, cut into points. This is of white satin, braided all over in arabesques of brown soutache, sewed on to bring the braid on edge. The bonnet for this cloak is made of white satin, made with many shirrings, but, instead of falling in a Mother Hubbard frill over the face, it comes down in a Napoleonic point over the ears, and is trimmed with bows and tiny tassels of otter fur the color of the coat. Brown russet gaiters were worn with this toilet, and brown kid gloves adorned the hands of the little maiden, who also carried a muff made of the cloak material and the fur.

One of the fancies of the day is to have the "leggings" worn by little girls made of the material of their cloaks. A blue miroir velvet, for instance, has a cape trimmed with Venetian guipure—one of the nice machine-made varieties—with a row of ermine between the lace-covered cape and the border, and there are long gaiters to match made of the velvet.

In the mourning millinery of the season there is almost as much variety as in the colored headgear which finds favor. For first deep mourning is entirely covered with a very long veil, which hangs almost to the hem of the dress in front, and part way to the knees behind, and fashion sanctions the use of the heavy English erape—a pity, when one thinks of the superiority for eyes and head of the lighter nun's veiling. When the veil is laid aside the erape is tied into smart little bows, with hemmed edges, upon pert little shapes, and one new model has the front of the bonnet made in a series of points by folding the erape, and, of course, wiring it invisibly.

All the bows on millinery and those which so lavishly adorn the capes and yokes of the season, are made to preserve their smart effect by being wired in one way or another. The bows on shoulders of bodices, for example, have a fine bonnet wire the shade of the ribbon, basted along the inside of the ribbon through the middle, before the ribbon is bowed up, using one long wire. The tassels and wings of lace on millinery have one, two, three, or as many as are needed, short wires sewn width-wise of the lace at intervals. Long stitches which do not pass through to the right side are used, each separate stitch being taken with a back slip to make it hold. Wires are also used, instead of thread, to hold the loops and ends as they are made—a clever dodge known to milliners for a long time, and one that deserves more general recognition.

### The Art of Darning.

The proper darning of a rent in cloth is an art that cannot be easily picked and should be taught to girls as an essential part of their practical home training. The expert darning of woollen cloth will make a rent practically invisible by weaving together the torn edges, matching them as carefully as possible and afterward pressing the rent. A fine sewing silk is used to darn woollen cloth in preference to any wool, which would not be strong enough unless the thread or raveling was too course. Where the cloth is thick enough endeavor to conceal the silk thread between the face and back of the cloth. Begin about half an inch from the edge of one side of the tear, and run the needle the same distance from the other edge, concealing the thread carefully and drawing the edges closely together, but not so they overlap. If there is any nap on the cloth, brush it back while you are darning, and then brush it down again. Lay a damp cotton cloth on the wrong side of the cloth, over the darn and press it down once, then remove the cotton cloth and press next the woollen surface, being careful that you do not press it perfectly dry, that a very little steam arises after the iron is removed. If the cloth pressed perfectly dry, the work of iron will be shown on the right side of the cloth is usually

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