

Courrier des Dames.

Our lady readers are invited to contribute to this department.

THE FASHIONS.

(See the lower half of the plate in last week's issue.)

FIG. 8. TRAVELLING DRESS WITH TUNIC AND BASQUE WAIST.—The two latter of some corded material, and the former of plain cloth to match. The tunic is draped behind with steel buttons and narrow ribbon, and the waist is similarly trimmed, with cuffs and side-flaps. A small Swiss muslin Stuart ruff is worn with this, and a round hat covered with ruffled muslin or crape and simply trimmed with a sprig of rose-buds and a silk or velvet ribbon.

FIG. 9. COLOURED FLANNEL MORNING COSTUME WITH FALSE JACKET.—The sleeves are made tight at the wrist, with large open false sleeves below the elbow. The trimming consists of huppets of coloured flannel, fastened around the jacket and sleeves with two rows of narrow piping, forming a kind of fringe, and large metal buttons down the front. Swiss muslin cuffs, cravat, and cap, which may be set off with coloured ribbons.

FIG. 10. PIQUE OR BATISTE DRESS FOR A LITTLE GIRL.—Plain skirt and low-necked basque of white or unbleached piqué, trimmed round the neck and the lower part of the overskirt with a ruffling of batiste. Coloured girdle and ribbon sash of two shades, with fringe at one only of the hanging ends.

FIG. 11. COSTUME WITH BASQUE AND SASH.—This costume consists of a high dress with close sleeves and a tablier overskirt of light coloured silk, looped up with a broad sash under an artless basque waist of white cachemire. The cuffs are also of this last material. The basque-waist, cuffs, overskirt and sash are embroidered in colours, and the latter is fringed at one end only.

FIG. 12. TRAVELLING DRESS WITH DUST COAT.—The dust coat is made of camelot, perfectly plain, with the exception of a 1/2 in. back-stitch hem all round, and a broader double-sewn hem down the front. Side and breast pockets will be found useful. Brown straw gipsy-hat trimmed with a plain ribbon and a long veil.

FIG. 13. COSTUME WITH DOLMAN FOR A LITTLE GIRL.—Coloured woollen dress trimmed with light coloured cloth flounces. Jacket fastening behind, with dolman sleeves and pointed capuchon, of dark green cloth, embroidered with green and white silk cord. Sailor's hat trimmed with black or green ribbon.

FIG. 14. COSTUME WITH BASQUE WAIST AND FICHU.—Light-coloured woollen dress with high waist and tight sleeves. Swiss muslin fichu and cuffs.

A VISIT TO A KINDERGARTEN.

In the Faubourg St. Antoine there is an establishment called "L'Ecole Professionnelle," of which Madame Delon is the "Directrice." It is situated in the Rue de Neuilly, No. 25. Having had a letter of introduction, I presented myself as an Englishman wishing to learn something of the Kindergarten, and the "Système Probel," as carried out in that establishment. I need hardly say that I was received with that courtesy and readiness to oblige which stands in such remarkable contrast with a similar application in my own country, except the applicant may happen to lean on the arm of a trustee or a director. This school is not supported by the Government; and therefore is, to all intents and purposes, a private one. The Kindergarten or Probel system has for its purpose the conveyance of knowledge to little children, from the age of four to seven, by means of objects and elementary instruction without books; so that the mind of the young is not taxed or fatigued by learning, but, as it were, pleasantly instructed by amusement. In this school there are about sixty young pupils in two divisions. The first consists of little ones, who appear happy and full of play, and yet learn by playing. I saw a child of four years old to-day, who knew well the elements of geometry, and yet could not read. She recognized at once the obtuse and acute angle, the sphere, the cube, and the circle, and knew how to apply them by dictation to the formation of a figure. It seems almost paradoxical to say this of a child who cannot write a word; and yet it appears very simple and instructive if we only trace step by step the way it is arrived at. The most primitive lesson which the child receives is a ball to play with—simple enough, and which no child objects to; there is half a yard of string attached to it, and the balls are covered with worsted netting in various colours. The child by this is told that the ball is a circle, a round, a sphere; and by the various coverings learns to distinguish the various colours. He holds the string in one hand, and is told to throw up the ball, and of course it comes down again. He learns the words "up" and "down," and is then told that that is vertical or perpendicular. Then he throws it to the right and the left, and learns both those terms; and, in fact, knows his right hand from his left. It is a rule not to confine a child's attention to one thing more than a quarter of an hour; and then he has a box of cubes put before him, coloured red, of one centimetre each. With these he first is taught to put them in a row, and then he recognises a straight line; when this is accomplished, he is taught how, by placing them together, certain elementary forms are made; and so on this proceeds till the infant can construct—and can construct out of his own intelligence—many things in ordinary

use, such as windows, stools, doorways, &c. By degree, the little one, after having mastered the cubes, is supplied with wooden bricks of the same kind, always in mathematical proportion, so that he may not be misled; and thus, after a few initiatory lessons, he is encouraged to exercise his own will, or, in other words, play with them as he thinks best. But the infant is very apt at imitation, and what one does the other will try to do. Before playing with the cubes or the bricks, they learn what is the surface and what the angle; and so, in fact, they learn what geometry is unconsciously, and yet they know it. Then the little ones are taught, for ten or fifteen minutes, in a song or chant, some of the elements of social knowledge as, "how flour is made," or simple figures of addition; and so three-quarters of an hour are spent. Then they are all turned out, if fine, into the yard, to do their gymnastics; or if wet, into the large empty room on the ground floor. —Et Cetera.

When the Germans dictated to France their hard and exacting conditions of peace, the French—and especially the Parisians—vowed in whispers that they should never rest till they had their revenge. "Republican simplicity" was to be the order of the day, and one would have thought—from their words—that frivolity was to be entirely abjured. The constancy of the Parisians may be estimated by the fact that the prevailing fashion in the salons of the French capital is for ladies to array themselves in 80 guinea dresses, which are worn for one evening and put away the next day. The more costly the dress the more it is noticed, and the less possible is it to wear the dress a second time. It is said that some young and pretty women have determined to make a stand against this luxury, and will not wear dresses costing more than £16 or £18, which may be worn on several occasions, but the present idea is that the young army of economy will be beaten by the *villette* garde of coquettes who seek to replace the lost attractions of beauty by the richness of dress.

The young Archduchess Gisèle, daughter of the Emperor of Austria, is in the seventeenth year of her age. Prince Leopold of Bavaria, to whom she is to be married, is ten years older. The princess is described as tall and slight, with blue eyes and a somewhat haughty expression of countenance. She has fine musical abilities, and is a graceful equestrienne. The trousseau and wedding presents are laid out solemnly for exhibition in Vienna, and naturally draw immense crowds. Besides the numberless costly lace and magnificent shawls and dresses, a complete toilette-table, in silver, is admired for its exquisite design. There is also a prayer-book painted in vellum in the style of the fifteenth century, and a fan, set with precious stones, which has been painted by Lebrun. The Grand Duchess Alice of Tuscany has given the bride a set of antique cameos of great value, and the Countess of Chambord, who is related to the bride and bridegroom, has added to the collection a costly knot of pearls and diamonds. The event will be one of much *éclat*, and the Viennese very naturally are on the tiptoe of expectation.

Public opinion in China on the subject of the possession by women of personal property goes even further than English law. It seems evident that in England the continued use of her accustomed articles of jewellery by a woman who has left her husband may entail serious consequences on the abettors of her flight, but in China the same view of the matter is extended to those unions in which it cannot be said that the right of owning property has been relinquished for the security of marriage. A curious case in illustration of this fact occurred lately at Hong Kong: A rich Chinese merchant had, although married, established a second household, in accordance with the immemorial custom of the country. The lady who adorned this dwelling, one of the best in a fashionable quarter of the town, was loaded with presents, her boxes filled with broadened dresses, and her fingers covered with rings. She, nevertheless, thought herself at liberty to sell all the valuables she had received, to pocket the proceeds, and, in spite of her small feet and tottering gait, to run off with the man of her heart. Justice was appealed to by the merchant and his friends. They claimed the restitution of the value of the gifts, and the return of the fugitive to the harem. But the judge, an Englishman, could not, under the circumstances, regard the gifts as anything else, or the woman as anything but a free agent, and dismissed the case. The lady, however, narrowly escaped being stoned by the crowd, and the judge's decision was much blamed by the Chinese.

Among the practices not yet registered by authors of treatises on moral philosophy we must reckon that of over-dressing, of which the *Leisure Hour* says, in the genuine temper of a moralist, "It is to be feared at the present day that women of the upper circles are spending fortunes on the toilette, which good mothers in former times would have saved to endow their children; that less wealthy women are bringing certain misery to many a home by emulating the classes above them; whilst those of humbler rank, rushing eagerly in the same mad race of vanity, exhaust the surplus means that used to be laid by for a marriage portion or a rainy day; and so the mischievous folly descends. The servant wishes to get attired on Sunday, as she believes, like her mistress; the workwoman dons, out of her scanty earnings, the closest imitation she can of the garments she has been fashioning for her wealthy employer. The temptation is greatest of all in large towns, especially in London, where girls are not known to every one they meet, and fondly imagine they are 'taken for ladies,' whilst their toilette is but a caricature of the fashion. If the humble and ignorant servant-

girl deserves such severe censure for abandoning herself to a culpable vanity, how much more guilty are those women of the middle classes who bring ruin on their homes, and women in 'good society' who cheat their tradespeople by procuring goods they cannot pay for? How can they flaunt their brief time in finery that is not their own, but their milliner's or their mercer's? It is not the dress, it is the character, that makes a woman admirable. Mere 'clothes-screens,' as Carlyle calls them, women are admired flatteringly for dress only by those who are strangers to their character and circumstances, and by persons of shallow sense. Of all the snares that beset young girls, none are more dangerous than the love of dress. Mothers should be on the alert to guard their daughters against it. Elder sisters should not forget that young eyes are looking at them as examples, and are much more impressed by the living models before them than by any amount of 'good advice.' Nothing is of greater importance than the companionship permitted to young girls. Not only do over-dressed companions induce the wish in themselves to over-dress, but, if the gratification is denied, 'covetousness, envy, hatred, and all uncharitableness' are very likely to find birth in hearts that might be otherwise full of better feelings."

MR. JAMES I. FELLOWS,
Manufacturing Chemist:

SIR,—For several months past I have used your Compound Syrup in the treatment of Incipient Phthisis, Chronic Bronchitis, and other affections of the Chest, and I have no hesitation in stating that it ranks foremost amongst the remedies used in those diseases. Being an excellent nervous tonic, it exerts a direct influence on the nervous system, and through it invigorates the body.

It affords me pleasure to recommend a remedy which is really good in cases for which it is intended, when so many advertised are worse than useless.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

Z. S. EARLE, Jr., M. D.

St. John, N. B., January, 1868.

Dr. Colby's Anti-Costive and Tonic Pills are the best.

Parities.

A man living in a lone spot in Ireland was taken suddenly ill. His family, in great alarm, not knowing what else to do, sent for a neighbour, who had a reputation for doctoring. "Can't you give father something to help him?" asked one of the sons. "Well," he replied, "I don't know nothin' about doctorin' people." "You know more than we do, for you can doctor cows. Now, what do you give them when they're sick?" "Wa'al, I give cows—Epsom salts. You might try that on him." "How much shall we give him?" inquired the son. "I give cows just a pound. I suppose a man is a quarter as big as a cow. Give him a quarter of a pound!"

The death of Baron Channell has revived an anecdote of his practice at the bar. His lordship was always regarded as a man of sound legal learning, and very considerable general erudition, but he was, at the same time, remarkable for his utter disregard of the unfortunate letter H. Being engaged in a commercial suit, in which the ship "Harrow" was the bone of contention, the judge expressed a wish to know what was really the name of the vessel. "Was she," he asked, "the 'Harrow' or the 'Arrow'?" "My lord," replied Mr. Channell's witty, but disrespectful junior, "when the ship is at sea she is known as the 'Harrow,' but when she gets into the chops of the *Chanacel* she becomes the 'Arrow.'"

A country clergyman of middle age, unquestionable antecedents, and professional appearance, found himself in a railway carriage with two maiden ladies, long past the bloom of youth. There were no lamps in the carriage, and the ladies appeared very apprehensive in the matter of tunnels. At length the train plunged into darkness, when the clerical passenger was horrified to find that one of his fellow-travellers suddenly turned a bull's-eye lantern upon him. "You will excuse us," said the female with the bull's-eye, "but, although you appear to be very respectable, still there are so many wolves in sheep's clothing going about that, whenever we get into tunnels, we prepare for the worst." The terrified parson left the carriage at the first opportunity.

Appropos of the American story we recently gave of a book agent whom the Omaha people tried to kill, but who returned with Cassell's Illustrated Bible, trying to get a subscription from the head of the attacking party, an equally good story is told of the canvaser of a London publisher. He found his way into the parlour of a branch bank, and saw the manager, who, as soon as he learned his business, ordered him out. Very quietly he said, "I meet with so many gentlemen in the course of the week that I can afford to meet a snob occasionally," and walked off. Next day he called at the bank again, and wished to open an account. He was again shown in to the manager, and gave very satisfactory reasons for opening the account, and deposited £270. The manager could not do less than apologise for his rudeness on the day preceding, and ordered a copy of the work—an expensive Bible—and allowed access to the clerks, several of whom did the same. Two days afterwards every farthing was drawn out.

News of the Week.

The Czar will visit the Vienna Exhibition.

The Italian Ministry have resumed their portfolios.

Several reverses to the Carlist arms are reported.

A telegram from Rome states that Garibaldi is dangerously ill.

Bidwell, the forger, has left Cuba for England in charge of detectives.

The London *Observer* states that general elections will be held next spring.

The Turkish Government have ordered 400,000 rifles in the United States.

The Military Governor of Paris has forbidden the sale of the *Journal des Débats*.

The Spanish Government is preparing to issue a large amount of paper currency.

The festivities in honour of the Emperor William's visit continue at St. Petersburg.

Dissensions among the different Christian churches at Jerusalem have led to rioting.

The Quebecers will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the discovery of the Mississippi.

John Stuart Mill died at Avignon, on the 9th inst. The news reached London at 2 p.m.

The number of visitors to the Vienna Exhibition daily was between 12,000 and 16,000.

The Modocs have again attacked the United States troops, and killed or wounded a dozen men.

Private advices from Hudson's Bay Company reiterate the denial of Indian troubles in the North-West.

France will continue to support England in her efforts to suppress the slave trade on the east coast of Africa.

The Dutch expedition recently defeated by the Achehese, have embarked on board their vessels unmolested.

Twelve thousand persons went to hear Pere Hyacinthe saying Mass. The penalty is excommunication.

The additional land required for the Montreal City Hall has been obtained from the Dominion Government.

The news comes from India that Admiral Cunningham has been ordered to Zanzibar, there to await further instructions.

The Postmaster-General of New South Wales comes to Washington to organize a mail service between California and Australia.

The Canary Islands have sent an address to Spain denying the existence of any feeling in favour of separation from the mother country.

France is occupied in solving the question of a fixed form of Government, and it was thought that the Republic would be permanently declared.

A writ of error has been granted in the Stokes' case, on the understanding that the case will go at once before the Court of Appeals, now in Session.

Bradlaugh, the English Republican, goes to Madrid with an address, and Gambetta will meet him at Limoges, and they will journey together.

The Pope is reported to be very feeble and to have had a fainting fit, which lasted an hour. Later reports represent his condition as still worse.

The Rouman police have arrested several persons for participating in the riotous demonstrations in favour of the abolition of religious corporations.

A fearful explosion occurred in the Drummond Colliery, Pictou County, Nova Scotia, by which the manager, Mr. Dunn, his assistant, and sixty miners, have lost their lives.

The official enquiry into the loss of the "Atlantic" was opened on Saturday at Liverpool. The enquiry was chiefly as to her victualling and the alleged insufficiency of coal.

The representative of Spain has, it is reported, asked Lord Granville to take proceedings against the Carlist Committee in London, who are collecting money to assist in prosecuting the war.

The Esquimaux children rescued with the party from the "Polaris" created an immense sensation when they landed in Boston, and were carried through the streets by some of the leading citizens.

Financial circles continue very much disturbed on the Continent of Europe, owing to the crisis in Vienna. Prussia proposes to invest part of the war indemnity in stock, to relieve the market, and Austria suspends the Bank Act.

The Khivese are entreaching themselves and have sent a force to meet the advancing Russians. A skirmish between the latter and a band of Turcomans resulted in an easy victory for the Muscovites, who captured a great number of camels.

The statement made a few days ago that Bokhara would assist Khiva in her struggle with Russia seems to receive confirmation in the announcement that a party of Bokharese horsemen surprised a picket in the Russian advance, putting every man that fell into their hands to death by impalement.

Do not be put off with any imitation of Jacobs' Liquid.