

**SCOTCH DYE WORKS.**

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Guaranteed.**The Ladies' Column.****COOKERY.**

**CELERY A LA VERSAILLES.**—Cleanse two or three heads of well-blanch'd celery and trim them nicely, leaving on just as much of the stalk as is tender; parboil the vegetable in well-salted water, then rinse in cold water and drain on a sieve. Having about a pint of boiling white stock ready in a saucepan, lay in the celery, with a large onion cut in quarters and a good seasoning of salt and pepper, and cook very gently until the celery is quite tender, then drain the vegetable carefully on a napkin so as to absorb all the moisture, and cut each head into quarters lengthwise. Fold the pieces into as neat a shape as possible and make them even in size; mask them entirely over with thick béchamel sauce and allow this latter to stiffen; then dip the pieces in beaten egg, roll thickly in fine white bread-crumbs, and fry in boiling fat. When sufficiently browned, drain on blotting-paper, and pile up high in the centre of a hot dish covered with a napkin. Garnish with sprigs of fried parsley, and serve.

**HAM FRIED IN BATTER.**—Cut even slices of cold cooked ham, and pepper them lightly. Make a batter of a cup of milk, two eggs, and a scant cup of prepared flour; salt slightly, dip the ham slices in it and fry them in boiling lard or dripping. Drain off the grease and serve on a hot platter.

**RICE WAFFLET.**—Two cups of flour, two cups of cold boiled rice, three cups of sour or buttermilk, three eggs, a teaspoonful of lard. Melt the lard and beat it well into the rice; add the milk, the eggs whipped light, finally the flour. The batter should not be stiff, so have "a light hand" with flour. Bake in well-greased waffle irons.

The Court Drawing-rooms are over for this year, and both her Majesty and the Princess of Wales must be rejoicing that they have seen the last of this Season of the crowd of ladies who thronged the staircase and Throne-room of Buckingham Palace. To the student of fashions, there were several interesting points observable at the last of these functions.

In the first place the trains were unquestionably longer, but happily for the wearers not wider, and the trimmings added were reduced in abundance. Except in the case of Dowagers and the ladies averse to change, very little trimming was seen on the trains, which were of richer material, and made more like those worn in

97 — TO — 101  
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the earlier days of her present Majesty's reign. Attempts not wholly successful have been made to revive the use of old lace, which is generally discouraged by milliners. The French modiste looks with disfavour upon heirlooms when she has imported gauzes and rich embroidered trimmings from her own country. Diamonds, especially when mounted as stomachers, are favourable to the lace revival, as a soft background is a necessity, and colored, or gemmed embroidery would be out of place. Shoulder knots of fine descriptions of old lace, with wire run in the edges to keep the puffs erect, were, at the last Drawing-room fastened down with diamond sprays and stars.

The increase in the wearing of diamonds is another modern feature, even young ladies appearing in stars and necklets which would once have been considered bad taste. The young Princesses of England for two or three years after their *debut* wore no ornaments but a string of pearls. Even on her wedding day the Duchess of Fife left all her splendid gifts at home, and kept to her simple pearl necklet.

The movement to promote the wearing of English silks instead of foreign shows progress this Season. Macclesfield has turned out brocades beautiful as a dream, and the silk dyeing at Leek, in Staffordshire, satisfies all the severely æsthetic tastes. Princess Maud of Wales wore an entire Court costume of English silk, bodice, train, and skirt alike, the last trimmed with pearl embroidery. The Marchioness of Londonderry also wore brocade of Spitalfields manufacture, so rich that her millner left it unencumbered with frills, ruches, or other adventitious embellishments.

Shower bouquets were the favourite style for young people, the flowers mounted artfully to look as if a breath of wind would blow them all apart, with drooping fringes of maiden hair, lily of the valley, laburnum, and other light flowers. The orchid bouquets cost fabulous sums, and of these there were a large number, the pale lilac shades toning in with the delicate pink, and mauve dresses. What the cost of the yellow and other rare varieties must have been it would be rash to hazard, for an ordinary orchid bouquet, large enough to conform to custom, costs ten guineas.

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