

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

HINTS ABOUT DRESS SILKS.

Primrose striped with pale green is a favorite in the latest gauzes.

A real Paris novelty is the new silk woven in puffed stripes alternating with flat stripes.

A new heavy silk fabric for walking gowns, in plain and glaze, is known as the "England."

Among the more recently introduced novelties are a variety of honeycomb and basket weaves.

Black satins are seeded with tiny silk spots and black silk, striped with fine lines of pale blue, attract attention.

A changeable satin may be combined with marveilleux, in shaded effect, figured with tiny stars in gold applique satin.

Satin finished peau de sole, in two changeable colors, as green and old rose, mauve and Nile, etc., is very effective in combination.

Extra widths in silk goods will be called for to make the new bell skirt. Felix is having special fabrics manufactured for this purpose, and the extra widths will certainly be called for.

Silks in changeable, ombre or other fancy effects are striped with heavy lines of satin or crossed in quadrille effects, while glaze, changeable satins show a stripe of white brocade and all-over figures of a color.

The corduroy silks, in various Oriental striped effects, and in rich and striking combinations of contrasting colors, are among the real novelties in the dress goods department. Green, gold and rose are favorite colors.

Black satin Duchesse and bengaline are looked upon as standard. A charming "harlequin" bengaline shows old rose, ecru, blue, green, yellow and tan in alternate cords; then one of a rosewood brown, and then comes a repetition of the "harlequin" stripes.

A heavy, glossy satin, figured with little set figures in plain silk which appear to be sunk in the satin surface and display three or four colors on a black or dark marine ground has been named "Vitreux." It is especially effective when used in combination with black satin.

Some magnificent brocades show a shot or changeable ground, having lace effects in a spray, serpentine stripe, set or wavy design, taken from a bit of old lace, while figured empire brocades usually show flowers, leaves and stems scattered sparingly over rich satin grounds.

LACES.

Brussels is the finest of all laces, and Belgium is the lace makers' home. In this art one-fourteenth of the city's population is engaged. Nine hundred lace schools are supported by the government and attended by children as young as five years. Brussels, like Honiton, is a pillow lace. The pattern is drawn on parchment and fixed firmly to the pillow. Pins are stuck along the outline and to them the lace is woven by crossing and twisting the threads, each of which ends in a bobbin.

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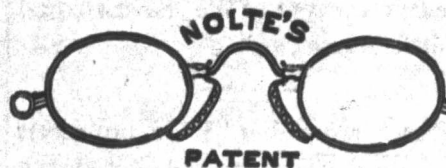
MANCHESTER HOUSE.

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Two or three hundred bobbins are used in making lace two inches wide. A piece six inches wide uses sometimes as many as a thousand. Something in the natural surrounding of Brussels gives a ball mark that nothing else can attain, and though many other countries following the same mechanical processes have attempted to make Brussels lace the efforts have always proved failures. Point Duchesse is made by Bruges. Flanders makes the best Valenciennes, which is a pillow lace. Point d'Alencon is next to Brussels and is made with a needle. Spanish point, up to the suppression of the monasteries in 1830, was so much used by the churches that the world knew but little of it. The black and white silk laces sold in our stores are machine products, coming mostly from Lyons. The silk "Spanish lace" made by the peasant women of Spain and Portugal differs greatly from that used by us. A million lace workers find employment, notwithstanding the immense sales machine laces find. About 1847 lace making was revived in Ireland. Limerick, the most popular Irish lace, is tabour work upon net and muslin, and Irish point is made in exactly the same way. Lace making in America is only in the commencement of its career, although America can claim the only lace tree yet discovered. This is the lace tree of Jamaica, whose inner bark can be separated into layers of an exquisite mesh. Queen Victoria was presented with a dress of this from the people of that colony.

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