



A Dainty Jacket—A Smart Hat—The Training of Servants—Clear Apple Jelly—News for Cyclists.—A Novel Use for Long Kid Glove.s

A dainty jacket is a very needful thing in more ways than one, but then it must be a special kind of jacket. Not like the severely useful ones I have lately given you, but a really dressy little affair that can be worn with almost any skirt, and give an air of smartness to the whole toilette. Very often there are parties, I mean garden parties, agricultural shows, tennis parties, and rural meetings of children's fetes, etc. in the autumn, where you need not appear in your very "bestest" of gowns, hats or bonnets, and yet you would be sorry to look as if you had paid no more respect to the occasion than by going in your ordinary every-day attire. It is on such occasions that one of these smart little jackets is so very necessary, and any good dressmaker can make it. I



give you in the accompanying sketch a pretty coat, as it is called, which you will find a good design to go with almost any plain coloured skirt. You can imagine this particular skirt to be of grey cashmere, bengaline, any ordinary silk, or even a pretty light cloth or homespun. With this you may wear a jacket of old blue, heliotrope or any shade of dark green or fawn, or any of the same materials. It is made with wide revers, like those worn during Napoleon's consulate in France, and long basques, and adorned with large oxydised silver buttons. Inside is a very dapper white waistcoat of white silk or cashmere, the wide revers of

which turn outwardly over those of the jacket. It is an exceedingly neat, smart-looking little affair. This waistcoat is fastened with oxydised silver buttons in a smaller edition than those in the coat. * * *

A smart hat is also an addition one often wants to go with the dressy jacket, and now that there is so immense a variety in millinery it may be made of any degree of prettiness. The first is a soft, fine chip straw of pale brown, or, if preferred, cream colour, trimmed with dark, ruby-red velvet. If it is brown straw, either deep sage green or black velvet is more suitable. Pink-shaded feathers will be best for the cream, and pale green for the brown hat. The



little sailor-hat may have a striped navy blue and white ribbon laid round the crown in such wise as to give a plaited-looking design, whilst a wing or aigrette of stiff, little dark blue feathers adorns the other side. The white hat below is of fine crinoline straw, with any kind of flowers, like cornflowers, of varied shades, arranged in a thick bunch outside; not clumped together, but each blossom standing distinct and separate from its fellow flowers. This is trimmed with narrow black velvet, which also turns up the brim at the side, and is passed round the hair. A small trail of the flowers is laid inside the hat, thus taking away the otherwise bare look of the under part of the brim. * * *

The training of servants, about which I wrote very recently, has called forth some remarks from two of my kind readers which have greatly interested me. A response to my remarks comes from a correspondent signing herself "A Poor Man's Wife." She greatly resents my comparison of the French and English homes of the poorer classes, and having seen both very naturally prefers the latter. No one could do otherwise, as all foreign, by which I mean European nations, are decidedly behind us in cleanliness and sanitary matters. But in the matters of thriftiness there are few of the ordinary English poor who can touch the ordinary poor French woman who as a matter of fact works really harder than many of our country-women, as her labour lies mostly in the fields. My kind correspondent seems to have been most unfortunate in her experiences, for according to her it is entirely due to bad mistresses that there is ever an indifferent servant. Certainly there exist bad and foolish mistresses who give a bad name to the good ones, but my experiences, and those of most of the people I have asked, point to the fact that such are in the minority, and that (except in lodging houses and such like) servants fare much more comfortably, are better fed and cared for than the young women who call themselves "young ladies," in the shops, or than they would be in their own homes. Though I am no dowdy, my servants dress a great deal better than I do myself, at least I should say smarter, and in this there is a striking difference with the same class in France. There the maid rarely wears anything but what is plain, and useful. It is not considered a sign of respectability to dress more showily than the mistress on Sunday or other special occasions, but I cannot say it is not so in England. Look at the ladies' maids, head housemaids and such like in noble-men's houses who insist on having the cast off dresses of

their ladies, and how they will appear in these things which are naturally not suited to their line of life. As to the cooking, I still adhere to what I have proved over and over again, that as a nation our English poor are not nearly so economical as their neighbours in France, though they are certainly beginning to learn better now that there are schools and classes of Cookery. Much as I symyathise with my correspondent in the matter of bad mistresses and bad places, I am sure, in justice to the good ones, she will admit and agree with me that it is not necessary to only be under a bad mistress to become a dishonest, and lazy, slovenly servant. It is not necessarily the fault of the mistress for a servant—after receiving every kindness, both herself and relatives, from a mistress who has nursed her in sickness and helped them in distress—to rob that mistress both of money and articles when leaving her. I very much regret to say that my experience of servants is diametrically opposite to that of my correspondent, and that the more that I and my friends have done for them, the less we have found them respond by good service or fidelity. I have an immense sympathy for those who have to earn their bread, who are workers in fact—as I am—and make a point of treating them as I should like to be treated in their place, but whether it is the lower nature, or what—I know not—it does not hinder them from returning it with the coolest ingratitude, at least in all but a few exceptions, whenever it suits their convenience best to do so. At the same time I beg to thank my correspondent greatly for her letter, which is that of a thinking, intelligent woman. I am always pleased to receive such, as I have long made servants' interests, and those of the poor, my own. * * *

Clear apple jelly is one of the next preserves that we must be thinking of, and it is so easily made that the very poorest homes need not be without it. Beg or buy the little windfall apples that drop from the trees during this curiously unsummer-like weather. Chop them in half or quarters, and put them in a preserving or stew-pan with some lemon peel and one-and-a-half pints of water to every three pounds of apples, or enough water to cover them is sufficient. Boil them for an hour, and let them lie in a jelly bag or very fine hair sieve; then take the juice that runs from them, and measure it, adding three-quarters of a pound of white lump sugar to each pint. Boil this for three-quarters of an hour, skimming it carefully, and just before it is quite finished pour in the juice of a lemon, as this greatly adds to the flavour of it. Pour it, when done, into small pots. It keeps well, and is such a really pretty preserve, for the colour is lovely. * * *

News for cyclists. Yes, indeed, Do you know what you are to be? Well, the very latest invention, so I hear, is that besides being marvellously swift movers over the face of the globe, you are to add to your other attractions by having "music wherever you go," though you do not actually "ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross." Musical bicycles are the bicycles (and I presume there will be also tricycles), of the future. I trust that like barrel organs and piano organs you will be allowed a change of tunes, else it will be slightly monotonous though undoubtedly pretty, and that you will be allowed to shut off your musical performance when you like. It would be a novel manner of having a band, if a number of cycles might when together play the same tune. Only if this depended for its time on the rapidity or slowness of the motion of the rider's feet, there would probably be a slight difficulty in getting them to all play exactly together, even supposing they were correctly tuned to go with each other. America, I hear is the "happy land" at present of musical bicycles—but doubtless the time is not very far distant when we shall see then here. * * *

A novel use for long kid gloves I heard of not long ago that is decidedly original. I daresay many of us regret to throw away our long kid or suède gloves when the arm part is really quite good, though the hand is much worn. From France comes a very original idea for the employment of those especially that are of a dark colour. For a navy blue serge costume, you cut the kid of your black or deep brown gloves into a collar-band, using it instead of the material of the dress. With those sleeves that are made slightly puffed at the shoulder, you make the lower part, which fits closely to the arm, of the arm-part of black or deep-coloured gloves; this may be buttoned with small ornamental buttons or left plain, according to taste. More black kid is employed to cover the Swiss belt made of stiff lining or buckram, and this may be laced or buttoned down the centre to match. I am sure that these leather trimmings, or rather adjuncts to a costume would wear very well and last quite a long time.