The Home Circle.

FALL AND WINTER STYLES.

Rumors of fall and winter styles float in from Paris but like the Chinese dispatches, it takes time to establish their authenticity. In Paris, the stage is responsible for many of fashion's whims and the popular actresses of the day are the leaders of style. The present lingerie sleeve is the direct outcome of the production of Cyrano de Bergerac there Bernhardt has always been the idol of the theatre-going public. In the French capital, and despite the fact that she has of late taken to the interpretation of masculine roles, L'Aiglon dates, L'Aiglon coats and L'Aiglon gowns which are now the rage demonstrate that even as the King of Rome, the divine Sarah can give an impetus to Parisian styles.

The new coat, L'Aiglon, which is to be the very swell garment for fall, has already been spoken of. It is severely tailor made, preferably in fine cast black cloth, as long as a man's frock coat, hanging loosely in front and back but defining the hips. There is a double repelike arrangement about the shoulders, and a high, turn-down stock collar, with a jabot of lace showing at the throat. The very close sleeves are exaggeratedly long, reaching to the knuckles, where there is some fullness, which is really the extra length that is pushed up on the arm very much as in a mousquetaire glove. The coat should be lined with a heavy white satin, and on a tall, slender figure is extremely stylish. Bernhardt herself wears to perfection an Aiglon coat and black hat while gliding her automobile along the avenues of Paris.

Incidentally it may be remarked that white satin is decidedly the chic thing for linings in the autumn coats. The new fall dress skirts also appear lined with white soft noiseless taffeta treated with innumerable tiny pleatings or frills at the bottom to give the desirable fron fron. These white taffeta linings are, of course recklessly extravagant for the material must be of the best to wear and to clean well, and at the longest the life of such a lining is of extremely short duration. But whoever heard of the Parisian coutourtiere considering economy? The only appeal from the white taffeta lining is one of silk which exactly matches the material of the dress. Gay linings are no longer fashionable, and with a street gown, if a silk petticoat is worn, it should, to be ultra-fashionable agree with the gown in color.

For under petticoats, flannel has a rival in point of favor among the new modes in wash silk, lined with nun's veiling or albatross. For dainty under dressing these excel the flannel, and can be made to supply the required warmth and at the same time as they are ornamental, the trimming is generally a ribbon or silk ruffle, overhaul with one of lace, and headed by a ladder insertion, threaded with wash ribbon to match the ruffle.

To return to coats at present there is a craze for three-quarter coats in Paris, and from indications garments in this length seemed destined to take the place of the trailing cloth coats of last season. They are not so heavy, or hard to handle, but their style is essentially for a tall, slender woman.

Talking of trains, I see that at Vienna the authorities have taken the matter of sweeping gowns so seriously to heart that printed proclamations, which more nearly take the form of jeremiads, have been posted in all the public parks and gardens, which, while railing at these accumulators of bacteria, also take the practical form of directing women who indulge in them to hold up their skirts when walking abroad. These notices furthermore state that, as these enclosures are given up to the recreations of townspeople willing to escape from the dusty streets, the authorities do not intend that the street be swept up into heaps by the trailing garments of the fashionable woman, and it is said that, in pursuance of this laudable determination, the District Council has ever threatened to issue a by-law proclaiming fines for the untidy female who still persists to litter sweeping skirts.—Parisian Gossip.

THE MILITARY CRAZE.

The military craze abroad continues unabated and is expressing itself in the latest fashions. It is due, perhaps, to the warlike spirit which is rampant among the nations, and partly to the Paris Exposition, which has brought out official uniforms in which gold braid and lace figure prominently. Any quantity of gold trimmings, cords, edges, braids, tassels, buttons and buckles are being urged at the moment. Fashion prophets say that in the fall there will be epaulette effects of gold fringes and scarf ends will have tassels and edges of fringe of a similar character. Chevrons on the cuffs, shoulder straps and collar stars are also predicted, and a strong feature in the new season will be frogs and clasps of military design and large quantities of braid applied in military style. The military coat is in the brilliant red cloth of the English uniform, with white soutache braid cleverly and originally applied.

CHINESE BEAUTY.

General Tseleng-Ki-Tong gives some interesting information about Chinese ideas of female beauty, in a book by him, which has just been published. "In Europe," he says, "the preference is for large eyes, fair hair and a Greek nose. In China, on the contrary, we only admire small eyes, smooth black hair and a duty snub nose. In both countries, however, teeth white as pearls and small hands and feet are regarded as beauties. The Chinese poet says of his muse that her beautifully outlined and narrow eyebrows, remind him of distant mountains, that her eyes are as clear as a lake in autumn, and that her lips resemble the sunrise in the richness of their color.

"A Chinese lady of to-day arranges her head very simply and never dreams of building it up, as formerly, over a turret-like wire frame. The ladies of the upper class have adopted a style of arranging the hair similar to that in Greece but they never crisp or curl it. Curls, indeed, have never been fashionable in China, and hair which curls naturally is hardly ever seen. The chignon is kept in place by a broad gold or silver pin, which is curved in the middle and around it are sometimes placed as ornaments tendrils of various small flowers.

SISTERS DRESSED ALIKE.

An old fashion is being revived and had plentiful illustrations at queen Victoria's garden party, namely, sisters dressing alike. Two girls wore fawn gowns with black hats, another couple blue, with white, and two large straw hats worn by sisters were remarkable for the huge bows of white mauve and blue ribbon introduced on to the very edge of the brim.

DINNERS IN TENTS.

A new fashion has sprung into existence at Narragansett this season. It is that of giving dinners under marquee tents and afterward attending the hops. It is a brilliant sight, one of these big, blossom-like, red umbrella tents, softly lighted by the shaded lamps of the table in the centre, surrounded by beautiful bare-shouldered women in the loveliest of evening toilettes.

The waiters flit in and out of the tents, and the effect is novel and charming.

A CHARMING DRESS.

A charming dress is as dainty and youthful in regard to design as one could desire. It is made of white swiss trimmed with lace and ribbon. The waist on the garment is mounted on a lining fitted by center-front, under-arm and shoulder seams, also single bust darts. This lining is faced in front to form a vest and in the back to simulate a yoke. The fronts of the materials are gathered at the waistline and overlap. The backs are gathered at the waistline and the double ficha is attached to the waist. A plain collar gathered at the back edges completes the neck edge. The sleeve is a two-piece model, gathered into the armhole and finished at the wrist by a facing. Shaped cuffs are attached to the sleeve at the elbow. The waist closes down the center of the back by means of hooks and eyes or buttons and button holes. The skirt is a five-piece model. The flounces of the material at the upper edge is all drawn to the back and disposed in two back ward-turning pleats, each side of the center-back seams, these pleats are stitched down for a short distance, thence the skirt hangs loosely. The upper edge of the skirt is joined to the lower edge of the waist. The circular skirt flounces are attached to the low or portion of the skirt, and may be omitted if a plainer effect be considered advisable.

Cashmere, nun's veiling, crep dete, crepe de Chine, challis chambray, ringlaine lawn, mulls, batistes or organdie, may be used to develop them and lace, insertion, ribbon, embroidery or beading may be employed for trimming.

FOR CHILDREN.

A loose, comfortable gown for children may be made of outing flannel, eiderdown or French flannel to slip on over a night robe when the nights are cold, or fashioned in percale, lawn and dimity it makes a most serviceable little wrapper for summer wear.

It can be made with a straight or round yoke and the edges of the rolling collar shaped to correspond.

The garment is simply adjusted with shoulder and underarm seams, and closes in the center front.

The fullness back and front is gathered and adjusted at the lower edge of the yoke, a smooth effect being maintained under the arms.

The comfortable sleeves have fullness at the shoulders and around the wrist, where they are completed with a narrow band and frill of ribbon, or a ruffle of the same fabric as the gown may be used for this purpose. The collar and front are finished in a similar manner.

The lower edge of the wrapper is turned up in a moderately deep hem, which is featherstitched.

To make the wrapper for a child 8 years, will require four and one-quarter yards of twenty-seven-inch material.

QUAINT MILLINERY.

The tendency toward quaint old forms and revivals of half forgotten fashions increases as the summer begins to merge into fall. A charming model hat is made of crimson chiffon, gathered and ruched with numerous robin wings caught among its soft folds in front; two wide streamers coming from the back of the hat to the front below the chin and form a drapery somewhat in the effect of one of the fashionable neck arrangements.

VARIETY IN NECKTIES.

There seems to be a sort of necktie contest going on. No two women wear the same kind of collar decoration, and everything save leather straps and shoestrings have been commandeered for use in a desperate striving after unique shapes and combinations. One of the latest phases of the contest is represented by a broad pin bow, wishboned to stand up, and fastened at the back of the neck with a widejewelled clasp. Another evidence of the tax placed upon human ingenuity is a stitched stock of white silk, at the base of which is drawn a scarf of fine white net, spotted in small black lace dots and edged with black lace. This is bowed and fastened with a jeweled pin in front.

RECIPES.

Honey Biscuits—Melt together over a slow fire 12 ounces of honey and 3 ounces of fresh butter, then add in by degrees three ounces of freshly ground sweet almonds, half a teaspoonful of powdered cloves, the grated rind of half a lemon, with 12 ounces sifted flour and a teaspoonful each of brandy and vanilla essence. Add just at the last half a teaspoonful of carbonate of soda dissolved in a tablespoonful of hot water, cover up the basin with a clean cloth and let it stand till next day. Now roll out the paste very thinly, cut or stamp it out in fingers, and bake till crisp in a very moderate oven. A little flour may be added if necessary when rolling it out, and a strip of candied peel may be laid on each little biscuit. This is a matter of taste.

With the Children.

THE FARMER'S MENAGERIE

There was an old farmer who had a cow,
Moo, moo, moo!
She used to stand on the pump and bow,
And what could the farmer do?

There was an old farmer who owned some sheep,
Baa, baa, baa!
They used to play cribbage while he was asleep,
And laugh at the farmer's maa.
Baa, baa, baa, baa!
Moo, moo, moo!
He owned a cow and he owned some sheep,
And what could the poor man do?

There was an old farmer who owned a pig,
Whoof, whoof, whoof!
He used to dress up in the farmer's wig,
And dance on the pigpen roof.
Whoof, whoof, Baa, baa!
Moo, moo, moo!
He owned a pig, some sheep and a cow,
And what could the poor man do?

There was an old farmer who owned a hen,
Cuk-a-ca-doo, ca-doo!
She used to lay eggs for the three hir ed men,
And some for the weasel, too.
Cuk-a-ca-doo! Whoof, whoof!
Baa, baa! Moo!
He owned a hen, pig, sheep and a cow,
And what could the poor man do?

There was an old farmer who had a duck,
Quack, quack, quack!
She waddled under a two horse truck
For four long miles and back.
Quack, quack! Cuk-a-ca-doo!
Whoof! Baa! Moo!
With a duck, hen, pig, a sheep and a cow,
Pray what could the poor man do?

There was an old farmer who had a cat,
Mee-ow, mee-ow, mee-ow!
She used to waltz with a gray old rat
By night in the farmer's mow.
Mee-ow! Quack! Cuk-a-ca-doo!
Whoof, Baa! Moo!
With cat, duck, hen, pig, sheep and a cow,
Pray what could the poor man do?

St. Nicholas.

THE USE OF A CAT'S WHISKERS.

A cat's whiskers may seem to you to be merely ornamental. They are organs of touch attached to a set of fine glands under the skin, and each of these long hairs is connected with the nerves of the lip. The slightest contact of these whiskers with any surrounding objects is thus felt more distinctly by the animal, although the hairs themselves are insensible. They stand out on each side of the lion, as well as that of the common cat. From point to point they are equal to the width of the animal's body. If we imagine, therefore, a lion stealing through a covert of wood in an imperfect light, we shall at once see the use of these long hairs. They indicate to him, through the nicest feeling, any obstacle which may present itself to the passage of his body. They prevent the rustling of the boughs and leaves, which would give warning to the prey if he were to attempt to pass too close to a bush; and thus in conjunction with the soft cushions of his feet and the fur upon which he treads—the claws never coming into contact with the ground—they enable him to move towards his victim with a stillness equal to that of a snake.

A JAPANESE LEGEND.

One of the greatest days in the calendar of old Japan is the seventh day of the seventh month, writes Adelaide marlon in the "Chautauquan." On this day the shepherd-boy star and the spinning-maiden star cross the Milky Way to meet each other. They are the stars Capricornus and Lyra about whom the story runs as follows;

On the banks of the Silver River of Heaven, which we call the milky Way, there lived a beautiful maiden, who was the daughter of Kan Sun. Her name was Suokujo. She did not care for playing with other little girls, and, thinking nothing of vain display, she wore only the very simplest dresses. She was always most industrious, weaving day and night together by blending the roseate hues of morning with the silvery shade of twilight.

The Sun King noticed the serious disposition of his daughter and tried in many ways to make her more cheerful. At last he decided to choose a husband for her. The youth whom the King had chosen for his daughter was Kingin, a shepherd boy who guarded his flocks on the banks of the Silver River of Heaven. The King hoped that he would teach his daughter to smile and chatter like other girls.

Kingin succeeded only too well. The spinning maiden became lively and merry and utterly forsook her loom and needle. The roseate hues of morning were left to take care of themselves, while the silvery tints of evening hung like ragged edges on the shades of night. The Sun King was very much offended at the behavior of his daughter, and, thinking the shepherd boy was to blame, he determined to seperate them. He ordered the husband to cross to the other side of the Silver River of Heaven, and told him that hereafter he should see his daughter only once a year, on the seventh day of the seventh month.

The Sun King called together myriads of doves, which made a bridge, and supported on their wings the shepherd boy crossed over the River of Heaven, whereupon the doves immediately flew away. The weeping wife and loving husband stood for a while gazing at each other wistfully from afar. Then they separated, one to search for another flock of sheep to tend and the other to ply her shuttle during the long hours of the day with diligent toil. Thus passed the hours away, and the Sun King again relented in his daughter's behalf. But when night came and all the lamps of heaven were lighted, the lovers could stand beside the banks of the river and gaze longingly at each other, waiting for the seventh night of the seventh month.

At last the time for the meeting of the star lovers drew near, but one fear possessed the loving wife. What if it should rain, for the River of Heaven is filled to the brim, and one extra drop of rain would cause a flood and sweep away even the old bridge. But the seventh night of the seventh month came and not a raindrop fell. The doves flew together in myriads, making a pathway for the tiny feet of the little lady. Trembling with joy and with a heart fluttering more than the bridge of wings beneath her feet, she crossed the Silver River of Heaven and met her happy shepherd boy. This she does every year, save on the sad occasions when it rains. For this reason the Japanese always hope for clear weather on the seventh night of the seventh month.

THE STORK.

The stork is one of the best known birds in story and picture, and especially does it hold a prominent place in fable. In summer it visits nearly every part of Europe. It breeds from southern Sweden to Spain and Greece and in Poland is especially common. The white stork is also found in some parts of Asia Minor, Caucasus, Persia and Turkestan, but east of that it is replaced by another specie. The storks of Europe retire to Africa in winter, some of them going as far south as Cape Colony, while the storks of Asia returns to India. The black stork, (Ciconia nigra) another specie has about the same range, but its habits are different and its domestic disposition is wanting. The stork stands three feet and above in height and the snowy white and deep black plumage, with its bright red legs and bill, renders it a very beautiful and picturesque object.

The black stork is brilliantly glossed with purple, copper and green, while beneath is a patch of red skin around the eyes, bills and legs. It sometimes builds its nests in trees, but as a rule on buildings, especially so in Russia, Holland, Germany and Denmark. The 17th of March, in some parts of Russia, is the legendary day on which the stork returns from its winter quarters beyond the Mediterranean, and is celebrated as a holiday. The stork is a great favorite with all, and especially so with the children who sing songs to it, and repeat rhymes believing that it is this bird that brings the babies. The Mennonite Colony at—Russia seemed to be a favorite place of the stork or else the condition of the colony were especially favorable and pleasing to the bird. Their nests here were invariably built on the barn roofs which were thatched with rye straw. Each year upon the return of the birds repairs were made upon the old nests, which in time grew to such a size that they were likely to break the rafters, and they were obliged to be torn down. Some of the nests would weigh a ton and consisted of a couple of wagon loads of rubbish. The stork is a great thief, especially a clothes line thief, and small garments of children's and babies's wear are delights to pilfer, and with these, line his nest, which gives rise to the legend that they bring the babies. They are not very shy, and are held in high esteem by those on whose buildings they build their nests. Standing up on one slender leg they sleep, and as they sleep, they make with their bills a loud sound as the clapping of shingles or hands together.

HOW A HORSE KILLS A SNAKE.

Few of us have ever seen a horse kill a snake, but Mrs. Custer describes the performance in her story "Tan Kid" in the September St. Nicholas;

As they were pushing out of a jungle one hot one day, the colonel said, "Samanthy is a little too attractive. All, he shoves himself alongside of me, and when I remonstrate he backs a little, but keeps so close he almost treads on my heels."

"Well, father, I suppose he thinks nothing can go on without him. He's been in everything I've ever seen."

As they came to a narrow defile, with the branches of the trees festooned with moss and the ground tangled with vines and thick underbrush, Samanthy forgot his manners and crowded to the front. There was hardly room for two abreast. The colonel peering into the thicket for birds, heard what he took to be the whirr of pheasant's wings, and he lifted his gun to take aim. The kid, pressing on, saw with his keen eyes that it was nothing so harmless as the rising of a covey of birds. A huge rattlesnake overlooked by the colonel in his intense concentration on the thicket, lay coiled directly in front of him, the vicious mouth hissing. All was in agony. He could not fire for his father or the pony would have received the shot, as they were placed.

But a more vigilant pair of eyes than even the kid's had discovered the reptile, and with a spring in front of the colonel, and with the nicest exactitude, down came the pony with a buck jump, his hoofs closing together on the head of the snake, crushing in the deadly fangs, and flattening the skull into the soft soil.

Still there was an ominous rattle of the tail, and the little nag gathered himself again, bowed his supple back and drove his hoofs into the mottled skin of the deadly foe of mankind.

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