

STYLES IN STATIONERY.

THE caprices of fashion in stationery are almost endless this season, says a special writer in *The American Stationer*, whether it be in the matter of paperies, envelopes, visiting cards, or in monograms and other decorations; and the stationer, in order to obtain the correct thing, must now, as always, exercise great caution in his selection.

In writing papers there are two new sizes which may be termed fashionable. The smaller of these fits, when folded once, into an envelope measuring 4 by 4½ inches; the other size is a little larger by an inch and a half in the length. Little sheets also appear, about the size of a visiting card, accompanied by envelopes, which are designed to replace the convenient correspondence card once so much in use for brief notes to intimate friends. The use of these small sheets for any other purpose would be pronounced "bad form."

Tinted paper has come to the fore again in several new shades, the latest two being a "vieux rose" and a delicate heliotrope, and both promises to become very popular, with the scale tipping, however, in favor of the former, which boasts of Parisian extraction and is new in tint. In other tints there will be a pale green, a gray blue, and a clear, very pale cream.

Popularity is seldom, if ever, a criterion of good taste, as we know; hence these favored tints are not likely to crowd out the more chaste and elegant style of cream and pure white tinted papers. So say, at least, the leading stationers. Finely glazed, satin-finished paper is undoubtedly the handsomest of all, but as it breaks into rough edges when folded, and offers, besides, a slippery surface for the pen, many prefer the never failing medium weight Irish linen, or if disposed to pay a high price, the newly introduced light weight "torchon."

"Ruled paper is still out," says the "leading stationer," and he likewise declares that "no radical rule exists for the width of black borders on mourning paper," but that there are several widths from which a choice may be made, the matter to be decided by the mourner's own taste.

In wedding cards the style declares for a square sheet having a wide margin, the matter being in script, but arranged well in the centre of the sheet. The paper used is smaller than formerly, small-sized note being employed and the best medium being the kid finished paper without gloss. The envelope must correspond, and have either a pointed or square flap, preferably the latter, which is not only more favored but more expensive.

The wording of the invitation has changed, it is "Requests the honor of your company" instead of "Solicit the pleasure of," or "requests" or "invites your company."

The visiting cards are smaller and thinner

than they were last year. Gentlemen's cards are without address, unless it be a club address in the left corner or a professional address. Script is the text for visiting and invitation cards, the old Roman letters, once so fashionable, having been banished, never to return; so says the "prophetic stationer."

Three standard sizes prevail in visiting cards, i.e., a very small one for men; one several sizes larger for a miss, or 2½ by 3½ inches, and one a little larger, all around, for a married woman. The address is placed in the right lower corner and the days at home in the left.

The form of an afternoon reception—in which form the 4 to 7 o'clock tea card is also included—bears in the left lower corner the "days" and in the right the address.

The "At Home" afternoon card introducing a daughter is larger, and has upon it the name of the mother, and below that the daughter's name. Then follow upon the next line the words "At Home," and below these again the date, written out; for figures are used simply for street numbers and are to be avoided, when possible, upon cards of all kinds. The quality of this card is similar to that used for dinner.

Dinner invitation cards appear very often in the following form:

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson
request the pleasure of
your company at dinner on _____
at _____ o'clock
at _____ West Thirty-fifth street

Another form used for any occasion and resembling the above in size of card and quality, reads thus:

Mrs. Albert Browningson
requests the pleasure of
your company at _____
at _____ o'clock
at _____ King's Corner

The two above described kinds of cards are each 3½ by 4½ inches, and the cards are pure white and rather heavy weight.

Showy monograms, mottoes and initials on writing paper are out of vogue, being superseded by the small circle and the oval treated in medallion style. The prevailing treatment is the introduction into these medallions of the lady's initials—small in size—while at other times the medallion resembles a colored seal, and the address is made to match in coloring; again the monogram has the residence name encircling it.

Running script lettering holds its own, but in quiet shades. Most desirable of all, though, is the small single or double circle with the initials in cipher in the centre. Ovals have the initial stamped in the centre in metallic or blended colors, the metallic—gold or silver—composing the background, and the outline and initials in color, or vice versa. There are many ways of blending; for instance, white enamel colors are happily contrasted with the darker shades of paper.

Leading stationers use for private dinners small dinner cards, with initials or crests

stamped in gold at the top, and a space beneath for the guest's name, and these devices are considered extremely recherche; yet many cards are gotten out for special occasions, some of them being very ludicrous and interesting; such, for instance, are water color character sketches of the guests.

Last, but not least, in the estimation of a large part of the world, is the mourning papeterie, which covers quite a big field and varies in composition to suit the circumstances. For example, a death announcement card sent by the mourners to friends may bear the names of several members of the family, and these cards may likewise acknowledge receipt of flowers, expressions of sympathy, etc., the entire wording being in script, usually. However, a better idea is to leave a line blank, where the writer may inscribe her name, thus avoiding the mechanical air peculiar to the first method.

A trifle odd is the silver bordered and printed "In Memoriam" card, which has its envelope to match. It is a folder and has the In Memoriam printed outside. This and the black letter style in solid old English and fourteenth century combined are very popular, but not more so than the script.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH PAPERS.

A curious difference between English and French papers is that the latter never contain any "Births, Marriages and Deaths." Personally, I do not know that this is a matter for regret, but if I were the proprietor of a journal I might think differently. The Times certainly would not like to see it become unfashionable to announce our entrances and exits, and let our fellow sufferers know when we are married—at the rate of five shillings for each event, with a bit extra if we like to advertise ourselves. A good story is told of Joseph Hume, who once went to The Times office to insert a notice of the death of a friend. He counted down the exact sum which he had paid on former occasions. "One shilling extra, please," said the clerk. "What is that for?" asked the economist. "You have put 'greatly esteemed and regretted,'" said the clerk, "and that makes it an extra line." Hume produced the extra shilling and laid it down on the desk. Then he said, with his grandest air, "And let me tell you, sir, that that is an expense which your executors will be spared."

TEA FOR NEWSDEALERS.

The Toronto News Co. are offering to send samples of Jungle Tea on sale to the newsdealers and booksellers who deal with them. The tea is supplied at 24c. and 30c. per lb., and retails at 30c. and 40c. per lb. A sample box of 10 lbs. is sent on sale, returnable without expense in 90 days.