

called everyone was too busy to talk much. That business was rushing was evident in all departments. In R. J. Whitla's they were busy unpacking forty cases just arrived from Paris, and your correspondent had the pleasure of seeing some of the latest Parisian novelties come out of their numerous wrappings. Among these things was our old friend the jersey waist. Every woman will rejoice to see it back again because it was elastic and comfortable. This time the bodices are very handsome indeed. The Russian blouse effect seems to be the prevailing style, and many of these have fancy braid patterns woven into the full fronts and trimming the frill up the left side. Other lines are the plain jersey waist made for adjustable collar and cuffs. Another line that especially caught the eye was a new make of blouse silks in Roman stripes, part of the stripe being an openwork lace effect. The tints in these silks are most delicate, and show combinations of pale green, white and yellow, cream, mauve and fawn, biscuit and pale blue and many others equally pretty. They are in short box length, double fold, 40 inches wide. In gloves the new lines with colored stitchings and large medallion buttons are very fetching, while for comfort nothing is better than the open weave white bicycle gloves.

It is good news to all that the cotton blouse will be still with us, and, in fact, is prettier this year than ever, the choicest patterns being in reds with white collars and cuffs. Some of the designs are white and red, but the handsomest are black and red. Organdie muslins are the most popular for these blouses. The French taffetas in combinations of mauve and pale green, pale blue and fawn, black and white, blue and brown, cream and brown are the most effective dress goods of the season. There is a return, too, of the more subdued colors that are so pleasing and restful to the eye.

By the way, the housekeeper who wants to have her house look dainty and fresh for summer should invest in the Moresque or Tamboured curtains, with goffered frills. Whitla's are showing a very handsome line of these goods.

Speaking of pretty dress goods brings us to the travelers' ball on Tuesday, the 15th, where there was a great array of pretty girls and pretty gowns, and flowers galore. The concert and ball of the city travelers has gone into history as one of the jolliest nights of the season, and for good cause. The concert was good, and every number went with spirit and vim. Then came the dancing on a perfect floor, and to splendid music. There were more dancing men than maidens, always a delightful arrangement for the maidens, and there were any number of young girls; in fact, it was very emphatically a young people's ball. The dance programme contained 18 numbers and three extras, but even that did not exhaust the energies of the dancers, as numerous encores were given, especially to the "Two Steps." Supper was served about midnight, and in spite of the fact that there were 250 guests, there was no crowding, and the service was prompt and satisfactory. The decorations of the tables were very pretty. The committee, to whose exertions the success of the entertainment is due, was composed of W. Blackadar, W. W. Burke, D. M. Horne and John Horne.

I intended this month to give a brief description of some of the leading retail dry goods stores, but copy has run along till I fear the editor's scissors, and will leave it until next month. I must, however, mention an act of one of our leading retail men that deserves record. Jerry Robinson's large departmental store adjoined the burning building, and was only saved by great exertions of the firemen. During the fire Mr. Robinson personally superintended the distribution of dry mits and caps to the firemen, a boon that can only be appreciated by those who stand in a stiff north wind with the thermometer 10 below zero and all their clothes coated with ice. After the fire Mr. Robinson sent a cheque for \$50 to the firemen's benevolent fund.

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