

DRESS SILKS, VELVETS, ETC.

Satin finished weaves grow in favor. Semi-lustrous peau de sole is in favor for evening wear. Crepe Mireille is one of the latest things in French crepes. Surahs are always good. They are never out of style. They are in favor now. The ombre effect is a general favorite, being found in silks and ribbons of all kinds.

Pansy velvet and Bishop purple are Parisian favorites in both costumes and millinery.

China crepe is being used in large quantities by Parisian modistes, including the great Worth.

Some of the latest productions in white silks have shaded stripes, tiny figures and delicate cross-bars of black.

Small figured brocades, in Empire, Pompadour, Louis XV., and Dresden patterns, in changeable effects, are among the leaders.

In the class "Aqua," or silks with watered grounds, are shown velvet palms, water-crosses, sea-weeds and like aqueous plants and flowers.

The American *Silk Journal* says that palm leaf designs, lovely satin brocades of pale clover-pink shade, sprinkled with sprays of clover in a deeper shade, and trailing vines, stems and leaves, black grenadines with linen and figures in satin and velvet effects; new style bengalines, cross-corded, giving a honeycomb effect; black gauzes sown with small colored dots, diagonal stripes, garnished by tiny sprays of flowers, on a white satin ground, crinkly horizontal cords, shaded effects in various weaves, the shading forming two wide stripes, separated by a large dark stripe in the middle, and with narrower borders of the same color, are among the features of the display of the newest things in dress silks.

GUIDES FOR THE WORLD'S FAIR.

The World's Fair management is arranging to provide guides for visitors. As yet the plan for the assignment of guides has not been completed, and, in fact, it is not likely to be until actual service shows what is most needed by the visitors to the fair. One plan contemplates that those who desire the service of a guide shall purchase a ticket entitling them to such a service. The rate for this ticket has not been determined, but it is thought this system will be adopted to avoid the pernicious system of tipping.

A visitor who has such a ticket when he arrives at the terminal station, or at any of the main entrances to the ground, will find a detachment of guides under command of a sergeant. The visitor presents his guide ticket to the sergeant, who details a man to accompany him to any building that he may wish to visit. When they enter the building the guide will turn the visitor over to the sergeant in charge of the detachment of guides in that building, who will assign a man to show him through the building. At the conclusion of the visit to this building the visitor will be taken to the next building that he wishes to visit, and turned over to another sergeant at the entrance, who will assign one of the men

of his detachment to take him through the building, and so on the plan will work the same in all parts of the grounds.

This plan is subject to modifications and improvements, but in a general way it is determined that the guides who wait upon visitors shall be specialists in the particular department where they are on duty. By this method much better service will be given than if one man were detailed to explain the immense variety of exhibits that are to be seen.

COST OF WAR.

The meeting of the peace congress at Berne, Switzerland, has served to call out facts in relation to the cost of wars in men and money. A member of the French academy has presented some interesting statistics in relation to the number of men France has lost in war during the century. During the fifteen years ending in the fall of Napoleon, a million of men died in the field and as many more in the hospitals. Of the 800,268 French soldiers who took part in the Crimean war, 10,240 died in battle and 82,375 in hospitals. In the Franco-Prussian war, 1,000,000 men were called from their homes, of which number 401,905 never returned. Sweden still suffers from the wars of Charles XIII., as France does from those of Napoleon. In some of the small republics of South America, a much larger proportion of the people have been killed in wars than in any country in Europe. In times of peace, as the present, it is well not to prepare for war, as the old adage advises and so many countries are doing, but to take measures to settle difficulties without resort to arms. Publishing statistics like those presented to the peace congress may have a wholesome effect in hastening the time when nations "shall learn no more."

THE ORIGIN OF LIFE INSURANCE.

It is a curious fact that the "doctrine of probabilities," or the scientific basis upon which all insurance rests, had its origin in a game of cards. That is to say, the foundation upon which this great economy depends, and upon which it owes its claims to the confidence and patronage of the community, originated from investigations regarding games of chance. It happened in this way: About the year 1650 the Chevalier de Mere, a Flemish nobleman, who was both a respectable mathematician and an ardent gambler, attempted to solve the problem of dividing equitably the stakes when a game of chance was interrupted. The problem was too difficult for him, and he sought the aid of the famous Abbe Blaise Pascal, a Jesuit priest, author of "Night Thoughts," and one of the most accomplished mathematicians of any age. Pascal solved the problem, and in doing so enunciated the "doctrine of probabilities," or laws governing so-called chances. Upon this depends not only the laws governing insurance of all kinds, but also the laws governing the motions of planet in space, and, in fact, all astronomical science. This doctrine or theory Pascal illustrated by the throwing of dice. When a single die is thrown the chance of turning up an ace is precisely one out of six, or one out of the

total number of sides or faces. But if a large number of throws are made, it will be found that each face will be turned up an equal number of times. From this Pascal laid down the proposition that results which have happened in any given number of observed cases will again happen under similar circumstances, provided the numbers be sufficient for the proper working of the law of average. Thus the duration of the life of a single individual is one of the greatest uncertainties, but the duration, or rate of mortality, of a large number of individuals may be predicted with great accuracy by comparison with the observed results among a sufficiently large number of persons of similar ages, occupations, and climatic influences.

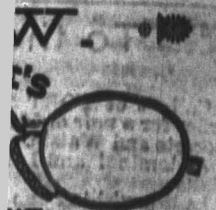
The *Canadian Journal of Fabrics* complacently makes the following remarks: "Chinamen are gradually taking the place of whites as help in the woollen mills of California and adjoining states, and one superintendent praises them highly. The Chinese have for some time been employed in the western boot and shoe factories with great success, but the adoption of that class of labor in the textile trades is an innovation, and its extension will be watched with interest, although that interest may not be very sympathetic on the part of mill hands." Our contemporary, manifestly, is in ignorance of the Chinese question in all its repulsive and disadvantageous features, and has apparently yet to learn that there are others than the vital labor interests concerned which, upon this Pacific coast, strongly protest against the introduction of Chinese who, with their exclusive characteristics and relations, have no *raison d'etre* in countries where it is possible to do without them, there being countries other than white men's in which there is yet plenty of room for them and with, at the same time, more congenial associations.

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