

THE new designs of silk are rather inconspicuous, chiefly fine hair-line stripes, dots in all sizes, rings and small geometrical figures. Few of the huge leaves and flowers that were worn when foulard was to the front before are now to be seen. Taffetas, messalines, louisines and other soft silks have so far little of startling novelty. Checks and stripes are much seen, and a whole range of new colors that are slightly brighter in tone than the soft pastel shades worn this last season.

Lace is to be the chief trimming of the soft silks for spring, though buttons, passementeries and narrow velvet ribbon will play prominent parts. The heavier laces, such as chunly and Irish, are most often used, though the thinner valenciennes and embroidered batiste bandings or hand embroidery are by no means pushed into the background. Many stitched and shaped bands are also used on both waists and skirts.

#### A Few Favors Returned

Here are a few hints, in partial return for benefits received from the Exchange:

1. A small piece of ash soda put into the water in which glasses are washed makes them shine beautifully.
2. A skewer is fine for cleaning dirt out of corners into which the broom cannot go.
3. Citric acid dissolved in hot water and applied to the stained wood of kitchen tables, or to sinks and boilers, will clean the metals and whiten the wood.
4. Save stockings legs to slip on over your arms while at work. They save the sleeves of your gowns.
5. For grass stains on cotton or woolen goods wash in alcohol.
6. Wet tea and coffee stains with cold water and glycerine and let them stand for two or three hours. Then wash with hard soap and cold water—and
7. at first you don't succeed.
8. Try, try again!

B. K. (Blue Island, Ill.).

#### To Prepare Hulled Corn

Some one asked how to prepare hulled corn. Simply boil shelled corn in strong lye water until the hulls can be rubbed off easily, then wash through many waters, rubbing between the hands to remove the hulls. Leave the corn in water over night to remove the taste of the lye. In the morning put it on to cook in an abundance of cold water and boil steadily all day, adding water as needed (use a granite kettle), and stirring occasionally to prevent burning.

When the corn is thoroughly done, prepare as you would hominy, using a little cream and butter, salt, etc. It is an old-fashioned dish, and the thought of it takes me back to my childhood home among the Alleghany Mountains, where ham and hominy, buckwheat cakes and maple syrup formed part of the bill-of-fare in every farmhouse. Other memories are aroused—the "apple parings," where all the neighbors pared and quartered apples until midnight, when they wound up with a supper of wonderful dimensions, and then danced until morning.

It was a simple, homely life in many respects, but the people seemed to get more out of it and lived longer than we do in these strenuous times, when we seem to fail over each other in order to reach that intangible something that we are wearing our lives away for.

Your letter is charming throughout, and I strike hands with you in the tender memories of "a day that is dead." We love to live over the early life, enjoyed as one always enjoys what is new and fresh. There is a subtle, dewy fragrance about the reminiscences of childhood like the breath of wild flowers.

But—I do not agree with you that the former days were better than these. The world is better and wiser than it was fifty years ago. And—here we differ again—people live and work longer than they lived and labored then. The average of human life has gained five years in the last half century. We work strenuously, but we comprehend and obey the laws of health as our forefathers and mothers never dreamed of doing. The saying that "there are no old people nowadays" has a stout substratum of truth.

"The happiest time is NOW!" Lay this beautiful truth to heart, and the world will wear a different face.

No words from the poet's heart and pen rise oftener to my lips than Whit-tier's brave "Life Psalm":

And so the shadows fall apart  
And so the west winds play;  
And all the chambers of my heart  
I open to the day.

#### Removing Stains

WHEN a stain proves unusually obstinate and absolutely refuses to come out by ordinary methods, wet the spot thoroughly and then cover with dry chloride of lime. Let it remain a few moments, rubbing well with the finger meanwhile, and then rinse until all the lime is out. It will generally be found that the stain is gone also. If not, apply again. A second application will remove anything that is removable.

Owing to the nature of the remedy, however, it is far better to make a second application than to leave the first one on until the stain is all gone. The chemical action of the lime removes a portion of the internal fibre of the material and thus eats up the stained part. The proportion of fibre thus removed is so small as to do no injury, but, if left on too long, the lime will insinuate itself, taking a strong hold, and finally bite through the fabric, or weaken it so it will soon wear in holes. Chloride of lime is the base of Javelle water, which is so often recommended for the removal of stains, but using the powder itself is more satisfactory in many ways; and, as it can be bought in small cans with a sprinkling top, it is quite as convenient as when in solution.



## Vogue of Soft Silk for Spring Gowns

WHATEVER else a woman may, or may not, include among her spring and summer clothes, she should never omit to plan for at least one silk gown. Nothing takes the place of it; that is, nothing has heretofore, and it is more than doubtful if the present season will develop anything practical in the way of a substitute.

Moreover, a good silk is capable of being repeatedly remodeled, often giving more real satisfaction in the second season than the first.

The silks already shown, and

anything rumor whispers of those that are to come, point to the fact that it is to be a season of soft-finished, clinging fabrics. Soft, supple taffeta, chiffon and messaline taffetas, louisines, radiums, foulards, rajahs, and that delightful new silk very much like radium, only infinitely cheaper, radians—all will be tremendously in demand.

One of the most conspicuous of the spring stuffs is the rajah silk, which is shown in many new color combinations and designs. The plaids are of every size and width, generally of the fine stripe



variety—a plain ground barred with lines of contrasting color. Gray and white and chestnut brown and white combinations are particularly strong; gray, indeed, bids fair to be as much, if not more, worn than for several seasons past. There are also such wide stripes in tan and white, combined with dull green, violet, mahogany, lavender and blue.

Foulards also are to know a big revival if all the indications hold good. It is already being made up in considerable quantities for Southern travelers.

There is no radical change as yet in the new models. The under blouse of lace, net or sheer lingerie maintains its popularity of the last winter. The long shoulder line has been slightly shortened, and many sleeve caps or short outer sleeves are shown over and under soft sleeves of three-quarter length.

The models shown today are spe-

cially adapted to be made up at once by the amateur dressmaker. The lines, while good, are simple, and the trimming is not over-intricate. All of them are carried out in the supple chiffon taffetas that wear so much better than those with much dressing.

The first model on the left is a delectable creation of citron-colored taffeta, with a soft vest of lace in a deep cream color. Both skirt and blouse are rather elaborately trimmed with a fancy braid in a combination of black, white and citron color. Narrow black velvet ribbon forms the lacing.

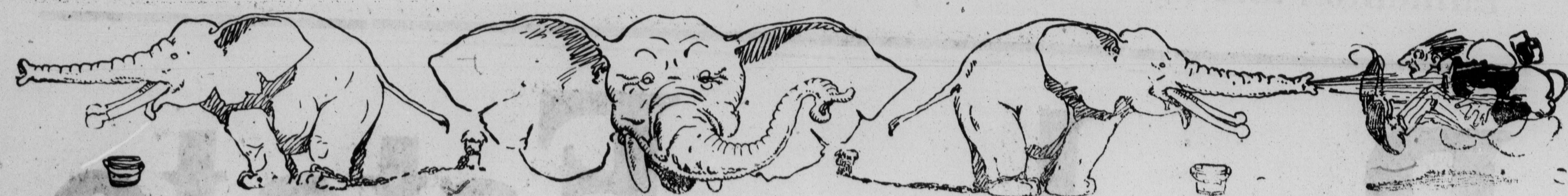
Very simple and attractive is the next gown of dark blue taffeta in the new matelot shade. This is a particularly good style to copy, as, though intended chiefly for a utility gown, it is yet sufficiently elaborate for more formal occasions.

The plain circular skirt is finished with a broad facing, stitched on the outside. Similar stitching gives

quite a tailored effect to the waist. A tucked lining, yoke is combined with a graceful vest of Irish lace. Large buttons in several tones of blue give an added touch of beauty.

Apple green taffeta, worn over a blouse of fine cluny lace of a very deep cream tone—almost a champagne shade—forms the next charming gown. This is a particularly good model for the dark blue or brown foulards or rajahs that are intended for hard wear. Three circular graduated ruffles, headed by stitched bands, make an attractive skirt trimming.

Another stylish blue gown is seen on the last figure. The straight, somewhat severe lines of this are especially becoming to the woman inclined to embozement. The skirt is laid in inverted box pleats both front and back, and is stitched in a slightly darker silk. The blouse is finished in a stole effect, and is worn with a yoke and undersleeves of baby Irish lace.



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