

The Ladies' Page.

NEW YORK FASHIONS.

FALL BONNETS.

Fall bonnets, as foreshadowed by imported French models, will show a comfortable improvement on those now worn, inasmuch as they will cover more of the head. The new shapes have low but capacious crowns that fit smoothly over the high coiffure of soft puffs now worn in Paris, clasp the head snugly on the sides, and have broad coronets with a full face, trimming beneath. To be well worn they must be neither too far forward, nor, in the other extreme now fashionable, too far backward, but on the top of the head, the place where the bonnet ought to be. The material, usually velvet, is placed smoothly on the frame, and the latest importations even omit the tiny piping folds used for borders. The face trimming under the coronet or inside "scoop" fronts is the conspicuous feature of bonnets, and is also seen under the brims of round hats. The novelty for the face trimming is a band of closely curled ostrich feathers; and as this is introduced by a leading Parisian milliner, it will doubtless be successful. The coronet is plain and high, and stands out from the bonnet instead of resting against the crown. The intermediate space is not, however, left bare, but is filled by a scarf of soft silk, either repped or twilled, twisted around the crown in easy, careless fashion, and a Shah ornament of some kind, either the Shah aigrette of feathers, or a cut steel ornament, or else a rosette of clustered loops of ribbon. Flowers, especially roses, are in order any where on the bonnet, either as a wreath for face trimming, or clustered in front of the crown on the left side as a base for plumes, or else low behind as they are now worn. Two demi-long plumes of shaded ostrich feathers curl over the back of the bonnet. Streamers behind that bend down high ruffs are seldom seen, and thus the bonnet is left compact, and is, besides, picturesque, pretty, and will be generally becoming.

TRIMMINGS.

Bias strips of soft flexible silks are used for trimming velvet bonnets and the fine chips and straws that are shown in black and various dark colors. Gros d'Orleans and gros de Suez, finely repped silks, are more choice selections than the turquoise now used by milliners. New-est of all is the gros d'Orient, twilled like serge, mentioned in a previous paper. These bias silk bands are finished with a French hem on each edge, and are used as scarfs around the crown and as long loops placed erect on the sides. Gros grain ribbons three inches wide are chosen for strings and for rosettes. Double-faced ribbons are largely imported; these are black on one side and a color on the other, or else each side shows different shades of one color, or perhaps the sides contrast, as in the Pompadour colors, having one side pink and the other blue. Very eccentric combinations of colors are found on French bonnets, yet French taste succeeds in making these oddities very pleasing.

FLOWERS.

Of flowers we have already spoken. The quaint Persian greens—olives formerly, but remained in honor of the Shah—prevail among flowers. There are wreaths of roses with natural red centres and half their outer petals green, vines of green buds, new satin leaves, beautifully shaded, tricolor clusters of rose-buds, many dark bronze brown roses, and indeed, roses of every hue, both natural and unnatural. There are also many bacchanalian wreaths of grapes, with leaves and tendrils, and strewn among the leaves are the inevitable roses. There are mammoth roses of muslin petals, fresh and natural-looking, while among them is a single velvet petal, black, as if blighted by frost, or else brown and flecked with yellow. The grosaille roses of warm, bright crimson are the favorite choice with Parisian milliners, who place them upon bonnets of deepest blue, black, or myrtle green velvet.

SHADED FEATHERS, ETC.

Shaded ostrich feathers are the most perfect garniture of the winter bonnets. Four or five shades of one color or of two appear in these plumes, and they are curled and twisted most fancifully. Two demi-long plumes, or perhaps three, are preferred for bonnets, while a single long plume sweep over round hats. Soft willow plumes are again offered, but they are very frail. The high Shah aigrette is shown in white marabout tufts, with heron feathers and a mother-of-pearl ornament. Slender wings of tropical birds are imported for round hats, but the first choice is for a cluster of two or three long cocks' plumes of bronzed green. Aigrettes of game feathers are also shown, and other large round feather tufts, as conspicuous as that on a drum-major's shako. The finest novelties are the exquisitely curled ostrich bands for face trimming or for the brims of round hats, and the long soft plumes of camel's-hair fleece, made either in very dark or very delicate tints. In buying ostrich plumes remember that the real feather has a single quill down the centre: in very fanciful long plumes it is sometimes necessary to add other pieces, but the foundation should have the long quill.

STEEL, JET, AND PEARL.

The cut steel or diamond-steel ornaments are very handsome, and also expensive, a single ornament sometimes costing \$6 at the wholesale

houses. The steel aigrette for the front will perhaps be the most fashionable ornament of bonnets for young ladies. A very slight beading of cut steel is in excellent taste around the brim of black and other dark velvet hats. The new jet ornaments are exquisitely fine. They are made of tiniest beads sewed on black net in patterns of leaf and flower, or blocks, or Greek squares. There are jet coronets, either very massive-looking or else as light as lace, jet plumes, wings, aigrettes, bands of jet passementerie all beads like embroidery, and beautiful diadems with drooping fringes. Simple hoops, merely large rings of jet or of cut steel, are used amidst loops of silk or ribbon. Slides of jet and steel mingled are shown in square and oval shapes, and there are horseshoes of jet with cut steel nail heads in them. The handsome buckles and slides are of brown smoked pearl, very large and oval. These are especially admired when associated with black velvet.

NEW COLORS.

Perruche, or parrot-color, a delicate blending of pale yellow with green, is imported in trimming silks, to be used as facings for black and dark green velvets. Seal-skin red, precisely the color of the dark fur-seal, is a rich hue found in velvet bonnets. Slate and granite are the names given to dark blue-gray shades that will be stylishly worn this winter.

DRESS GOODS.

TUFTED CAMEL'S-HAIR, ETC.

A novelty for winter polonaises is called tufted camel's-hair. This has the soft twilled camel's-hair surface, with small clusters of raised loops set about on it in diamond shape half an inch apart. It is already displayed on counters of retail stores, and meets with great favor. It is found in dark brown and gray shades, is double width, and costs \$4.75 a yard. Plain camel's hair of heavier quality than that worn last year, and showing quantities of the loose fleece, costs from \$3.50 to \$4.75 a yard; this is nearly a yard and a half wide. Camel's-hair serge is merely an imitation of the real fabric, but it is a soft, warm, all-wool material of serviceable iron gray shades, excellent for making polonaises and redingotes that must endure hard usage. It comes in double fold, is a yard and a quarter wide, and costs \$2.50. Another fabric of similar quality and very good style is a single-width camel's hair serge showing the heavy, broad diagonal lines that form a feature in fall goods. It may be had in all the dark fashionable shades of blue, gray, brown, and drab. It is three-fourths of a yard wide, and costs \$1.10.

CAMEL'S-HAIR CASHMERE.

A new product of the loom called camel's-hair cashmere bears away the palm for softness and fineness, and will probably be the choice of the season for over dresses. This is almost as closely twilled as French cashmere, but has the rough lustreless surface of camel's-hair, with its many loosely woven fleecy-ends, and its unctuousness so pleasant to the touch. It represents all the stylish tints of slate-color, dark-blue, olive, brown, tea, gray, and myrtle green; it is double fold, and costs \$3.25 a yard. An imitation of this fabric is sold for \$1.75. Jacquard striped cashmeres showing reversed diagonal lines that form narrow stripes cost \$2 a yard. Single-width French cashmeres of admirable quality are 85 cents a yard; these are preferred to double-width goods when bought for a whole suit. Double-width cashmeres sold for over dresses cost from \$1.25 to \$2.25 a yard; four or five yards are required for a polonaise. Myrtle green cashmere, so dark that the color is almost invisible, finds favor, even at this early day, for polonaises to be worn throughout the fall and winter. Dark blue cashmere is also being sold for this purpose, and merchants anticipate that these colors will rival the iron gray and marron brown over dresses that are now so popular.

SERGE DE BEGE.

The light sleazy fabric called de beige found such favor for summer traveling suits that manufacturers have made a similar soft material heavy enough for winter use, and, having woven it in stylish "diagonals," have renamed it serge de beige. It is pure wool, not of the finest quality, but in its undressed state, and natural brown and gray shades; it is three-fourths of a yard wide, and costs 75 cents a yard.

ENGLISH DIAGONALS.

Among other standard fabrics are the English serges woven in stylish broad diagonals. These are firm heavy, and serviceable, and though harsh to the touch, are of pure wool. They are three-fourths of a yard wide, and cost 75 cents a yard in all the dark cloth colors. French serge of similar twill, but softer, is 90 cents. Various lower-priced goods, costing from 40 cents upward, are shown under the general and popular name of "English diagonals." These are usually mixtures of wool and cotton, and though some of them appear well in the piece, they shrink after being dampened, and do not wear well. The best qualities are sold for 60 cents a yard, and, it is said, will take the place of satines, cheap empress cloths, and other goods of the same value. Glossy satines are shown again, but they do not wear satisfactorily, as their lustre is scarcely surface deep, and soon disappears, leaving a thin sleazy fabric: price 50 cents and upward. Empress cloths of admirable quality and stylish colors are 75 cents a yard; coarser empress cloths are 50 cents.—*Harper's Bazar.*

FOOT-COVERINGS.

The mistaken notion that only a small foot can lay claim to beauty, even though its smallness come by compression and not by nature, is slowly but surely giving way; and the shoemakers will hasten to avail themselves of the change.

Last summer an attempt (it failed, we are sorry to say) was made to introduce broad soles and square, English toes. Standing in the shop-windows, their effect was not so pretty as the effect of the dainty narrow-tipped, pointed-heeled French gaiters. Therefore they were scouted as ungainly by the happy mortals whose feet, despite a long siege of French boots, were still tolerably sound. This year, however, some relief is looked for, and the only permanent relief will come, not with plasters and lotions, but with wide, sensible soles, and low, broad heels. The way has already been opened by the introduction, this season, of these desirable alterations into the low shoes called indifferently "Croquet slippers," "Oxford ties," "Newport ties," and a variety of other names. These are to be followed in the Autumn by buttoned walking-boots of kid and goat-skin, having square toes with rounded corners, broad soles,—the widening from toe to joint being scarcely perceptible—and low heels, not more than half the height of the absurd French ones. But it must not be supposed that, in thus obtaining comfort, good looks are abandoned. Anybody who has worn these ease-giving shoes knows that they are vastly more becoming than the strictly Parisian gaiter. The breadth of sole, permitting a corresponding narrowness of the upper-leather, so sustains the foot that, even in an old boot, it is not inclined to spread, as it must where the upper is wide, and the sole slender. A well-shaped foot, though it be large, is beautiful; and a misshapen foot, though as small as Cinderella's is ugly. No foot can remain beautiful where the toes are unnaturally cramped, or when the entire weight of the body is thrown on the toes by exaggerated heels.

Beyond this important change in form, there will be but little difference in the new Fall boots. Buttoned gaiters are such decided favorites that it is unlikely they will be displaced before another spring, though balmoral boots, lacing on top, and kid gaiters, lacing on the inside, will be somewhat worn by those who prefer novelty to grace.—"Home and Society," *Scribner's for September.*

THE SEPARATION OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN.

We sometimes hear it said that the American people are different from Europeans; that they are a home-loving race; whereas the Europeans, especially the French, have no homes, have no word for "home" in their language, and are forever gadding about: whereas the Americans do not care for pleasures that are only to be had in public; hence, for them, no need of squares, "plazas," "places," public gardens, parks, etc., etc., etc. We will not discuss here the question whether the French are as domestic a people as the English are. In the strict sense of that word they probably are not, for their climate does not make it necessary that they should hug the hearth as their island neighbors do; but that the love of the family is as much developed in France as it is anywhere in the world—that, in fact, to speak the truth and fear not, it is rather stronger in France than it is anywhere else in the world—we do most powerfully and potently believe, and stand ready to give good reasons for so believing. Yet it is certainly true that they spend little of their leisure time in-doors, and the middle term that reconciles the two statements is, that when they go abroad, the family, as a rule, goes all together. Now we see no reason for doubting that Americans, if the proper means were provided, would come in time to take as much open-air exercise as the French, and that they would enjoy as much as the French enjoy taking the air—father and mother and children, all together. We think it in the highest degree desirable that this should be. One of the most prolific sources of misery and crime, in this civilized world of ours, is found in the separation of the interests of parents and children. In this respect we have much to learn from the French and Germans, and much to unlearn from the English. Our immediate subject has to do with only one form that this separation takes, but, it ought to be seriously reflected on, how many are its forms. In England it begins in the nursery, and it is far from uncommon for it to begin as early with us. Then there comes the Sunday-school, an institution with which there would be no fault to find if it were not to be suspected that it is coming to take the place of home instruction in religion—a lamentable thing, if we only knew it. That children should go away from home to be taught their secular studies has become so universal, and is a custom so old-established, that there is no use in asking whether it be wise or no; but here in America it is only one in the long list of separations between parents and their children. Perhaps it is more conspicuous in our amusements than it is in the serious work of every day; but a foreigner accustomed to seeing mothers sharing with nurses the supervision of their children in the parks and gardens; fathers, mothers, children, and nurses, all together at the fairs, and abroad on fête-days, and all the family, even (as in the case of working-people) to the baby, enjoying the theatre together—how must the foreigner in

WATERPROOFS.

A writer in an English paper says: By the way, speaking of waterproofs, I think I can give travellers a valuable hint or two. For many years I have worn india-rubber waterproofs, but I will buy no more, for I have learned that good Scottish tweed can be made entirely impervious to rain, and, moreover, I have learned to make it so; and, for the benefit of your readers, I will give the recipe:

In a bucket of soft water, put half a pound of sugar of lead, and half a pound of powdered alum; stir this at intervals, until it becomes clear, then pour it off into another bucket, and put the garment therein, and let it be in for twenty-four hours and then hang it up to dry without wringing it. Two of my party—a lady and gentleman—have worn garments thus treated in the wildest storms of wind and rain, without getting wet. The rain hangs upon the cloth in globules. In short, they were really waterproof. The gentleman, a fortnight ago, walked nine miles in a storm of rain, and wind such as you rarely see in the south, and, when he slipped off his overcoat, his underware was as dry as when he put them on. This is, I think, a secret worth knowing; for cloth, if it can be made to keep out wet, is, in every way, better than what we know as waterproofs.

FERN-PRESSING.—The girls should not forget that this is the time to gather and press green ferns. They are so pretty and refreshing to have in the house in cold weather, so easily obtained, and so little trouble to prepare, that it is a pity any one should be without a few bunches when the flower season has passed. There are many modes of preserving them; but the one that seems most successful is to pick the ferns when they are young and tender; lay them between newspapers, or in large, flat books, and place them under very heavy weights, until the sap has entirely dried. Persons who gather them in August often leave them in press till Thanksgiving or Christmas, asserting that this long subjection to the weights keeps the color better than any other method. The safest way to secure perfect ferns is to take a book to the woods, and lay each one between the leaves as soon as broken from the stem. Even in a few minutes, ferns will curl at their tips, and after an hour or two, it is almost impossible to lay them flat. The process is very good for bright leaves, and makes them look less artificial than when they are varnished. Bunches of Autumn leaves are very beautiful evening decorations, if a lighted candle be set behind them. This brings out their brilliant tints, and gives them the appearance of having been freshly gathered.

THE customs and manners of Pacific society are graphically illustrated by a local item in a recent copy of the *Vallejo Independent*: When the New York and New Orleans circus was in town, a young gentleman called at the residence of his adorable in the evening and requested the pleasure of escorting her to the performance. Another young gentleman, however, had arrived before him and obtained the young lady's consent to accompany her to the circus, and when No. 2 arrived he was apprised of the state of affairs and informed that he had come too late. He went off in a towering rage, swearing vehemently, and, it is said, defaming the young lady's character. The young lady was informed of his conduct, but she took no notice of it at the time, and enjoyed the evening at the circus as if nothing had occurred. Next morning, however, she determined to inquire into the matter, and was reliably informed concerning the abusive talk the young man had indulged in concerning her character. Calling around at his place of business she saw the young man in person and questioned him about the matter; but he feigned total ignorance. He was brought to his senses quite suddenly when the young lady drew from her pocket a six-shooter, which she cocked and pointed at his face. A man feels peculiar when looking down the barrel of a revolver which is momentarily expected to be discharged; at least this man did. He remembered everything he had said and made a full and ample apology for the same. The apology was accepted, but he was warned against ever doing the same thing again.

A YOUNG married friend tells a good joke on himself perpetrated by a little three-year old "pride of the family." She is the only pledge of love that has twined itself around the heart and affections of himself and wife. A few evenings since a minister visited the family and remained until after tea. At the table the reverend visitor asked the blessing, and the little one opened her eyes to the fullest extent in startled wonderment. She could not understand what had been done, and it was with great persuasion that her mother could keep her quiet during the time they were at the table. When they left it she walked up to the minister, for whom she had formed a great friendship, and said: "What did you say at the table before we commenced eating?" "My little darling, I thanked God for his goodness in giving us to eat, so that we might grow and be strong." "Papa don't say that." "What does your papa say?" "Papa says, 'Godlemighty, what a supper!'"