

Ladies' Department.

FASHION NOTES.

Short round jackets, tailor-made and of figured terry, will be much worn and plain velvet will be used for trimming them.

Indian muslin embroidered in silk drapes most gracefully, and worn over pale colored surah, makes most elegant and attractive dresses.

The woolen materials most in favor at present are broche woollens, and those with chequers and spots in velvet; these are the best and the most stylish of any for demi-saison costumes.

Girls' hats like their mamma's chapaux, are chiefly trimmed with bows, rosettes, and cockades of ribbon velvet. Feathers, wings, and pompons will all give place to velvet cockades, which are used for trimming hats of all kinds and of all shapes.

The "Argosy" gloves are made of soft kid, in all fashionable colors; the cut is excellent, and the sewing all that can be desired. The tiny tassel which finishes the lacing can be tucked in or displayed; it certainly adds a coquetish grace to this prettiest of gloves.

The spring fashions are still only mere conjectures outside the manufacturing world, the weather being too variable to encourage any change from winter garments. One day we imagine ourselves in the month of May, so brilliant and warm is the sun; but the morrow brings cutting winds, had, and all the discomforts of a hard winter.

It is a fact worthy of note that the toilettes, both for outdoor and evening wear, which have had the greatest success, are those the dominant characteristic of which is simplicity. The cause of this is two fold, for a short figure is flattened and crushed by overcrowding the draperies, while a tall, stately figure never looks so well as when the finely curved lines are set off by simple style.

It is scarcely this month to speak of bonnets and hats, as there is but little change from the winter modes. Some few straws have made their appearance, however. It is hardly sufficiently understood by ladies in general that straw, as a bonnet or hat material, is essentially spring, summer, and autumn wear; it is never worn in winter by fashionable women who understand the art of dress.

THINGS USEFUL.

Cold rain water and soap will remove machine grease from washing fabrics.

A spoonful of kerosine oil put into cold starch will prevent the iron from sticking.

A piece of soft flannel is the very best thing to use for wiping dust off silk dresses; better than any brush ever made.

Clear boiling water will remove tea stains; pour the water through the stain, and thus prevent its spreading over the fabric.

Ten pounds of sausage meat allow one-fourth pound of salt, one ounce of pepper, one-half ounce of allspice, and, if liked, one-half ounce of sage.

If you cut the back legs of your chair two inches shorter than the front ones, the fatigue of sitting will be greatly relieved, and the spine placed in a better position.

For felen, take equal parts of gum camphor, gum opium, castile soap, and brown sugar; wet to a paste with spirits of turpentine. Prepare it, and apply a thick plaster of it.

Dr. J. H. Johnson, of Washington, recommends the use of vasoline as a local application once or twice a day to remove the itching and burning sensation caused by the eruption in scarlet fever.

To make starch for colored articles, combine graham and calico, dissolve and add to every pint of prepared starch

a piece of alum the size of a nutmeg. By this means the colors may be kept bright.

Charcoal forms an unrivalled poultice for wounds and old sores. It is also invaluable for what is called proud flesh. It is a great disinfectant. It sweetens the air if put in shallow dishes around the apartment, and foul water is also purified by its use.

A certain poetess is said to make "good jellies as well as good poetry." An editor has the assurance to suggest that she also make a new departure—i.e., send her jellies to newspaper offices and can her poems. Jellies discount poems as "inside matter" every time.

To give starched linen a high lustre, add to half a pound of the prepared starch, a very little ultramarine blue and a piece of stearine about the size of a nutmeg; boil two or three minutes longer. Starch the clothes in this, rubbing the starch well into the cloth and polish with a hot iron.

The suggestion has been made that sanitary advantages would result from the use of sewer pipes of glass. They would, doubtless, be expensive, but they would, probably, be very durable, and their hard, smooth surface would offer no lodgment for refuse matter, thus offsetting the question of cost.

Recipe for Indian pudding: One quart of boiling milk, one cup of meal, two table-spoonsful of flour, one teaspoonful of butter, one egg, one-half cup of molasses, and a little salt. Bake one hour. Mix the meal, flour, butter, egg, and molasses together and then turn the boiling milk on them.

Horseradish will prevent pickles from moulding. Cut in little round slices a piece of horseradish root as large as your finger and twice as long, and throw them into a two gallon jar of sweet pickles just before setting it away, and you will find them all right when you go in haste to get a dishful for the table.

A fireproof ceiling has been invented. It is composed of tiles imported from joists by hangers, and hanging facing tiles placed against the sides of the joist and top tiles placed between the upper joists. The top tiles and the tops of the joists are covered by a layer of cement, rendering the ceiling secure against fire.

For orange cake: Two cups of sugar, two cups of flour; the yolks of five eggs, and the whites of three; two tea-spoonsful of baking powder, the juice of an orange; bake in layers and spread the following mixture between: Beat the whites of two eggs until light, add the grated peel of the orange and four table-spoonsful of sugar.

Discussing the resistance of disease germs to disinfectants, the *Genesee* remarks that it is extremely probably that the germ which produces small-pox epidemics is present in the form of living bacilli in the fluid which is the principal bearer of the infection—the lymph removed from the pustules. The degree of vitality of the bacilli varies in the different kinds of lymph, that from cow-pox losing vitality much more readily than the so-called human lymph.

For ants in the closet, the best anti-trap is an ordinary dinner-plate, the interior of which below the rim, is smeared with lard. Lay cards or a few sticks from

the shelf to the edge of the plate, to afford a bridge upon which the insects can pass up to the inside of the plate and reach the lard of which they are very fond. Of course this trap will only succeed where the temperature will keep the lard soft and adhesive. From time to time scald out the plates, apply fresh lard and set them anew. To sprinkle the shelves well with slaked lime will drive away insects. And the free use of borax is good especially against the encroachment of cockroaches.

Dish Washing.

Though many do not find "pearls in dish water," yet we know that some do find pleasure in dish-washing. When my little "maid-of-all-work" came to make her home with me, she had much to learn, and, like most girls, had no particular love for the above-mentioned duty. I told her, however, that if she would follow my directions implicitly, in less than a month she would love the work which then seemed so distasteful. As the *modus operandi* might benefit others, I will give it, believing that every duty pertaining to the house-keeper may be made pleasant, if set about in the right manner. In the first place, all milk dishes should be thoroughly cleaned and scalded. This being attended to at once, their removal gives more room, and the same water is useful for soaking the cooking utensils, pots, pans, etc., etc. Next, place on the stove a large tin dish-pan (containing soap, or pearline and water), into which slip the plates as the table is cleared; then gather all knives, spoons and forks. These should be washed and polished before commencing on the dishes. Now remove to the table and wash from the water containing soap with a clean, clear water, from which stand perpendicularly to drain in a large tray, remembering always to use in washing a tooth-brush (kept for the purpose) about all handles, and cut glass-ware. We find the tray a great advantage, it so greatly facilitates the work of drying. After each piece has found its appropriate niche in the closet or pantry, we turn our attention to the pots and kettles, when to a few vigorous scrapes with a bread-cruiser shell removes the loosened particles, and after one more wash in the water with which we have rinsed our cup towels, the dreaded dish-washing is over.

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