

RETURNED GOODS.

THE case of Wootton & Co. vs. Coke, recently decided in the Ramsgate County Court, may be said to settle the law regarding the return of goods by retailers. Mrs. Coke gave an order to the plaintiffs' traveler, but a week or two afterwards, having in the meantime sold her business, she returned a portion of the goods, on the ground that her stock was too heavy for the new proprietor. Wootton & Co. declined to take back the goods, and the question accordingly arose whether they were entitled to take this course, or whether they were bound by the custom of the trade to accept goods returned within a month of purchase. To give a custom of trade the force of law it must be certain, general and reasonable. It cannot be contended that the custom of returning goods within a month of purchase possesses those three attributes. Doubtless, goods returned in bulk, and on reasonable grounds, are accepted as a matter of course; but this is not the case with goods broken in bulk. In the latter instance, when the return of the goods is allowed, it is as a favor to the customer, and not as a matter of right. This was the view taken by Judge Selfe, and in our opinion it is the only sound view. The retail trade as a whole have no ground of complaint regarding the treatment they receive from wholesale houses in this matter. We believe we are right in saying that the latter are always willing to take back goods on reasonable grounds, though naturally objecting to do so under compulsion. The action taken by Messrs. Wootton & Co. has had the result of placing the respective rights of the wholesale and retail trades in clear relief. The former are not bound to take back goods broken in bulk—that is the law. That they frequently do so is quite another matter.—London Drapers' Record.

NOVEL FRENCH WRAPS.

Exceedingly handsome models are seen in combination fur and cloth garments. A pinkish terra-cotta cloth cape has a pelerine of chinchilla. The cape is very full, and is caught into the waist at the back, giving the effect of a mantle. The high collar is of fur. Very many full-length wraps are among the lately imported models. Green in brocade, mixed with black velvet, is seen in one extremely handsome garment. In style it is half-fitting, with a broad box plait at the back and front. The wide sleeves are in keeping with the rest of the garment, which seems as much of a dress as a wrap. These long cloaks are intended for the most dressy occasions.

LEEDS AND BRADFORD REPORTS.

In Leeds the clothing trade keeps up well, and the recent colder weather has helped the retailers with their stocks of heavy goods, which were in some instances beginning to hang fire to some extent.

Serge suitings have not been in quite as much favor, but there has been a run on fancy tweeds, which has made up for any quietness in the former class of goods.

In dress meltons and serges the stocks are very low indeed, and the shipping orders for Australia, which should be got off at this time of the year, are, in many cases, still unfulfilled on account of the recent extra business in these goods for the United States.

For this market there is a promise of more business at an early date in worsted coatings for winter goods, and the issue of the returns for the last month shows that in these goods' no

less a value than £151,000 was sent out of the Bradford Consular district.

The amount for stuff goods sent out to the States last month from Bradford was £170,000, but this item includes linings and a good deal of bright dress goods which have been despatched much earlier this year, so as to be ready for the spring season.

ANSWERS TO A QUERY.

THE REVIEW has to thank several of its readers for kindly answering the inquiry of Mr. E. Beattie, of Highgate, Ont., in the last issue regarding corsets. Thompson & Co., Sault Ste. Marie, Mr. E. J. Vincent, of Parry Sound, Mrs. S. E. Mulholland, Niagara, state that the Watchspring corsets are made by the E. T. Corset Co., St. Hyacinthe, and the P. N. by I. Newman & Sons, New York. Mr. D. H. McGillivray, of A. Kirk & Co., Antigonish, N.S., also writes:

In reference to Mr. Beattie's communication re corsets in the December number of THE DRY GOODS REVIEW, I would say that the P. N. corset is manufactured by I. Newman, New Haven, Conn., with offices at 450 Broadway, N.Y., and the Watchspring is manufactured by the E. T. Corset Co., St. Hyacinthe, Que. The E. T. Corset Co. don't advertise in Canada; hence the reason why the Watchspring is not better known.

TRIMMINGS.

The character of trimmings brought out this season represents a higher standard of workmanship than is usually presented to buyers, as the demand for finer and still finer goods shows rapid development. The consumer has not been slow to appreciate the fact that the possibilities for producing rich and extreme effects in trimming are more satisfactorily obtained by the employment of a smaller quantity of the more costly styles of laces than by lavishly utilising cheaper but less effective patterns and grades.

The assortments of fine goods in the hands of importers are becoming greatly depleted. Buyers have purchased many of the more desirable lots, and from present appearances there is not the slightest possibility that either the wholesale or retail dealer will be overstocked at the end of the season.—Exchange.

S. Greenshields, Son & Co. have special value in boys' and misses' cashmere hose in eight-fold and ten-fold knees for early spring wear. Also full assortment for January trade in cashmere gloves and plain and ribbed woolen and cashmere hose at popular prices. The well-known "Ever Fast" hosiery of this firm are also selling more largely than in former years.

THE ENGLISH

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