

THE CURRENT MODES.

PICTURES FROM THE REALM OF FASHION.

Some of the Latest Styles for Women and Home-Miss Lolo Fuller on the Usefulness of the Corset—Fashion Notes.

Faces Set by Dame Fashion. With all previous ideas of the fitness of things as far as color is concerned at sixes and sevens, it is still fashion's behest that certain correspondence be maintained between different parts of the costume. The time was when a



PRETTY SPRING HAT.

bonnet or hat, as the case might be, to suit the changing seasons, was sufficient to satisfy the fickle dame's demand, with perhaps the exception of headgear of some sort expressly designed for evening wear. Now it is necessary to have one's headgear not only co-ordinate with the occasion but with the costume, in style, material and color, for although colors are used in confusing complexity they yet must be of a piece, so to put it, with the other color combinations used. Lace is much used for bonnets and hats designed to be worn with visiting toilets. The stylish bonnet illustrated is of cream lace. The bandeau rosette and upright ends are of eude Nile ribbon. On the crown is a mauve orchid held in place by a brown velvet bow. In the back is an upright chon of lace, below which is a cluster of elements. The strings are of brown velvet ribbon.

The Corset.

Loie Fuller refutes the argument of the dress reformers, that grace is incompatible with corsets, by announcing, as the result of her own experience, that a well-made corset fits the body exactly and supports instead of confines it; in short, a help rather than a hindrance to grace. "I do not think I could dance without a corset or a boned waist," she says, "and I am quite sure that I could do all of my dances in the snuggest street gown I own. It is nonsense to suppose that grace and well-fitting gowns cannot go together. It is easier for a woman to be graceful if her dress fits her than if she is wearing a loose rag of a dress." She says, too, that the day is past when women could walk and dance better without heels. The foot has been trained for generations to walk with a heel, and without it is badly strained across the instep. For dancing purposes she recommends a plain satin slipper because it "gives" to the foot, and, being without ornamentation, makes the foot look small. The Parisian career of Loie Fuller, as the French bill boards introduce her, is an interesting study in comparative values. While the literateurs and the scholars receive an average salary of \$3,000, or at best \$4,000, a year for their intellectual service in the world of letters, the light-footed Loie is paid rather more than \$9,500 a month in the Folies-Bergeres alone, and has a three years' contract for twelve months in the year.

In Lace and Cashmere.

To women who are given to the luxurious French fashion of taking their morning coffee in bed dainty lingerie is even more attractive than it is to their more energetic sisters. A fascinating little bed jacket made in an entirely new design is among the recent importations of a Chicago firm. It is a soft reversible cashmere silk wrap, showing varied shades of blue. The material is brought up in folds over the bust and then hangs down in two



A PRETTY BED JACKET.

long ends that are loosely tied. Creamy point de gaze lace trims the cuffs. The sleeve is a swirled puff finished with a ruffle of lace.

Light Fabrics and How to Make Them. The new French and Venetian chables are exceedingly fresh and tempting to the eye after the protracted exhibit of heavy winter fabrics, and with their dainty tinted grounds strewn with flowers and foliage adorn the shop windows as harbingers of balmy summer. These sheer and dainty weaves are made into exceedingly attractive toilets in empire, pompadour

and semi-erect styles. The latest models showing long, graceful draperies arranged over very closely gored foundation skirts of silk or batiste. The pompadour dresses are cut with flowing skirts, the bodices a short-waisted style, and cut out square in the neck, front and back, with lace or velvet bretelles beyond, that spread above the tops of the full sleeves. Among other pompadour dresses are those of flowered mullin made up over skirts of batiste, and of stamped "Persian gauze" over foundations of moire the color of the flower in the gauze. If a rather flaring effect is desired the gored underskirt is made of linen-back moire that is sold for the purpose.

A Pretty Lamp Shade.

One of the prettiest lamp shades I have seen recently is very easily made at a cost of about twenty cents. Get a yard of red gauze veiling at fifteen cents, gather it with strong silk two inches from the top to a length that will fit the neck of a white porcelain shade. Inside of the gathering fix a piece of brass wire fastening to the gauze by small stitches here and there. Now fit it to the shade and blind stitch the ends of veiling, which will now hang several inches below the shade. Catch up the gauze at regular intervals in six places: first with a few stitches and cover the piece with a bow of narrow red ribbon. This bow should have four loops and two ends, each about two inches long. The current of air drawn by the flame of the lamp will keep these little streamers in constant motion. This same shade, developed in yellow mull, with yellow ribbons, is even yet prettier, to my thinking.

Fashionable Afternoon Gowns.

Among the pretty toilets for afternoon wear next season are glaze silks and shot foulards and taffetas in pompadour or old chintz patterns, made up not upon crinoline linings at all, but over inexpensive silks or batistes. The satin and ribbon trimmings on these dainty toilets match the hue of the chintz or brocade. The designs and exquisite colorings of these materials successfully rival the more expensive silken tissues. The new shot silks of the season make up very handsomely with plain surahs, which show one shade of the changeable silk, dotted with silk of the other tint. For instance, a violet and green shot taffeta is combined with a rich lustrous surah of mignonne green thickly dotted with silk spots of a lovely helle-trope shade, a trifle less rosy in tint than the violet color in the taffeta. The round-waisted cut is the latest. The round-waisted cut is the latest. The round-waisted cut is the latest.

Small Maidens.

An indoor gown and an outdoor frock are given here. The little house frock is of white China silk, made with a



short blouse waist and doubly puffed sleeves. The coat is of pale blue broadcloth, with two capes of moss green velvet. The wide revers and double row of pearl buttons make this a very effective little affair.

Notes of Current Modes.

The latest fad in colors is a delicate shade of yellow called brulle frais, or fresh butter.

Goods that are finely topped from selva to selva, both in wool and mixed silk and wool fabrics, are very popular.

Jewels of various sorts are favorite ornaments for the hair. Not only are they in the form of flowers but of spiders, butterflies, bees and humming birds.

The pretty French silks are now rivalled by the English fabrics called Bradford silks, which are especially serviceable and desirable for summer street costumes.

The favorite material for the natty princess coats which are much the vogue as street garments of rough cloths in very light shades, are those woven with loops of camel's hair in a shade darker than the ground.

A simple and stylish traveling costume is of Harris tweed made with a Russian blouse, a flaring empire skirt, very full sleeve and a belt embroidered in mohair braid. The same braid ornaments the foot of the skirt.

The late thing in the mutton-leg sleeve is larger, wider and fuller than it has been. It is not only plaited at the arm size but also at the elbow, on the outside and inside of the arm, to give it the desired draped effect.

Black laces were never more in vogue. They are used for bretelles, collarettes, fichus, sleeves and the parts of sleeves, jacket fronts and neck and belt garnitures. Black lace enjoys almost equal favor and latter in the season will be even more the mode.

As serviceable as they are stylish are castor gloves. These gloves are especially desirable for ordinary use. The leather is soft and pliable and if sponged now and then in warm water in which a bit of castile soap has been dissolved the gloves can be kept in good wearing condition for a long time.

Light summer fabrics which are now being made up in quantities by modistes have round French bodices without darts or side forms and are draped in surplice fashion both back and front. Sometimes these waists are very full and are draped from the right shoulder to the left underarm with a soft, wide corset reaching well up under the arm all around the figure.

FIELD OF SCIENCE.

WHAT INVENTORS ARE DOING FOR THE WORLD.

A Refuter of the Latest Triumphs of Genius in the Industrial Sphere—The Typewriter Girl to Be Replaced—Shield for Cyclists.

Tough on Typewriters.

The typewriter girl has undergone a metamorphosis. She no longer looks lovingly into the eyes of her employer as she rattles off messages of business to be dictated by her. No longer will her winning ways stir the heart of the big man she works for. All this is because of the introduction of the phonograph into most gen-



DICTATING TO THE CYLINDER.

eral use. A great many of these instruments are now in use, answering the purpose of an ever ready and accurate amanuensis.

The progressive business man, looking up in the quiet seclusion of his own room, now says all he has to say in the receiving horn of a phonograph. He reels off his business letters at a rate that no shorthand girl could follow. When he has finished he sends the machine into the room occupied by her, and she is made to enter only as fast as she can catch them and jot them in cold print with the aid of her typewriter.

"I think it's real mean," said a dear little typewriter girl. "I have worked for Mr. Blonde for six months, and I have written every letter that he has sent out of this office, and yet I have never had the chance of saying a word to him of my own free will. I am tired of hearing his dear voice falling on my ears. It's too bad, I say, and if these awful machines are more generally put into use we girls won't have half a chance."

Improved Tentering Machines.

Quite an important change has lately been made in the construction of tentering machines—that is, the pins on the chain links are made to enter the selvages of the cloth at the same distance from its edge, no matter in what position such selvages are when entering the machine. To accomplish this, a finger is mounted in such a position on each side of the cloth as to rest against the side of the selvage, and, when the selvage alters its position on the cross rail, the finger follows the end of the machine. This finger follows the altered position, and transmits the altered movement to a pendulous finger having on its lower end a catch, the latter engaging with notches on a plate. This plate is fixed to the end of a lever that receives an oscillating movement through the shaft on which it is mounted, this movement being obtained by a cam fixed on a shaft parallel to that just named, and acting on a lever fixed to the same. On the shaft carrying the stepped plate and lever are mounted two levers, these being lifted or lowered by the oscillating movement of the shaft out of or into contact with one or more cam surfaces formed on two clutch boxes working in conjunction with two bevel wheels formed with clutch box. These bevel wheels also work in connection with a single bevel wheel mounted on the end of a screw, operating a sliding carriage, which moves the chain wheels nearer to or further from the center of the machine, according to the position of the selvage. The amount of motion in either direction is determined by the position of the pendulous finger on the notched or stepped plate.

Chromium Steel.

It is the opinion of many metallurgists and chemists that chromium steel has an important future before it, and that the special question of steel alloys or combinations will be found to possess no little practical importance to the world at large, as perhaps the means of eventually enabling engineers to design and carry out works of magnitude not at present possible. It is believed, however, that the use of chromium as an addition to cast iron, in any extensive application, is not among the probabilities; that is, it confers hardness, not per se, but owing to the property it possesses of driving the carbon present into the combined form. Successful results have ensued with a basis of good wrought iron scrap, showing small percentages of sulphur and phosphorus, to this being added varying quantities of ferro-chromium containing 6 per cent. of carbon and 66 per cent. of chromium. But the manufacture of these alloys is not easy, owing to the refractory nature of the rich ferro-chromium, and pieces of it later come out of the crucibles unmelting, though subjected to several hours of the most intense heat in the crucible furnace; if the temperature is allowed to diminish, even for a short time, the contents of the crucible are liable to become solidified. If the melting operation is carefully conducted and the heat well maintained, the pouring presents no special difficulty, in fact the product is as fluid as alloy steels, though cooling rapidly.

Railway Inventions.

Some notable American and French devices are among the recent railway inventions. Included in the former is what is termed a combination car, designed to be used either open or closed, the seats so arranged as to leave a aisle down the center as in the ordinary railway coach. The windows are large, with just framework enough to support the roof, each window has

two panes, which may be readily let down into the bottom of the car, thus transforming it practically into an open car in rough weather the windows being drawn up and held by springs, thus making a closed car. In France, the ingenious plan has lately been adopted of making wheels for cars by bending up seven pieces of bar iron in such a shape that the center fits inside of a band or false felloe, which, in turn, is hammered into a groove in the tire, felloe and tire being riveted together, the bars bent round to the center of the wheel, their ends having a mold placed between them; cast iron is then run in, forming the hub, which is afterward bored out and the cast-steel axle forced in by some 55,000 to 66,000 pounds hydraulic pressure, and the life of the center of the wheel is said to be practically interminable under ordinary conditions.

Color Charts of the Ocean.

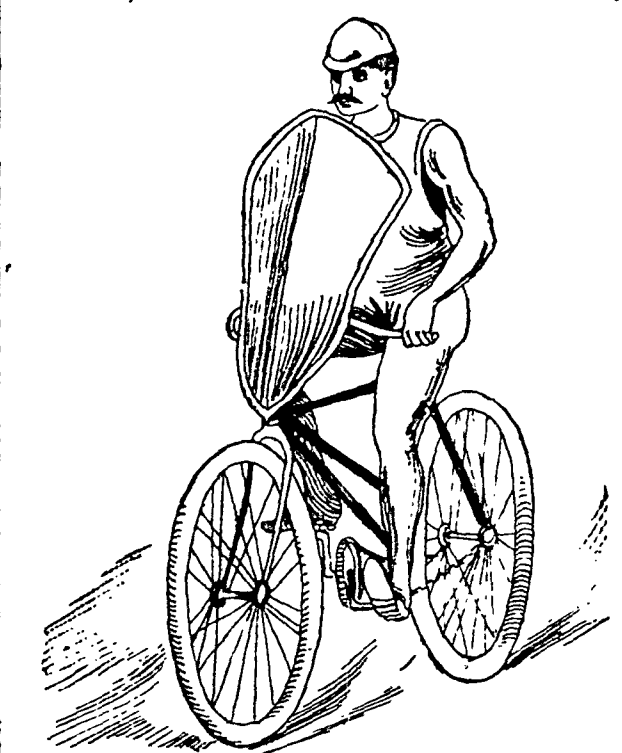
A number of interesting charts, illustrating the colors of the ocean, have been presented to the Paris Museum by Prof. Pouchot, with accompanying explanations. It is well known that M. Pouchot some time ago proved, after extended investigations, that the difference in the color of various parts of the ocean are due to differences in the water itself, and not to the presence of vegetation and insects and the new charts in question confirm this view. It seems that he and his associate, M. de Carfort, watched together the Atlantic from Spitzbergen to Scotland and the Norwegian coast, and with such thoroughness as to admit of nothing escaping their attention. Their observations show that the transition from one color to another is often very rapid; that near Spitzbergen the water is blue, then it changes to green as soon as the Norwegian flocks are entered. For such sudden changes no sufficient cause has up to the present time been assigned; and, though it has been known for centuries that the blue or prevailing color in active water, the most recently published observations show that such a color distinguishes other localities also.

For Band Sawing.

An ingeniously constructed band-sawing machine is among the recent mechanical novelties of note. Its distinguishing feature is that the feed rolls may be given a speed varying from 12 to 40 feet per minute, this being accomplished by means of a friction device belted to the rolls and consisting of two bevel disks, between which the belt runs, one of which is fixed, the other being movable on the shaft; by means of a hand-screw the position of the belt on the disks may be changed at will and any desired speed of rolls be obtained. The attachment carrying the feed rolls is entirely independent of the table, and may be swung back entirely out of the way, permitting the use of the machine as a band saw or resaw, as may be wished. The wheel has two flanges, and the spokes, after passing through the outer are tapped into the inner flange, thus insuring great rigidity and lightness, and instead of the usual fixed and loose pulleys the machine is provided with a friction-clutch driving pulley.

Wind Shields for Cyclists.

The bicycle wind shield has reached Paris, and the French cyclists are giving considerable attention to the value of this novel method of lowering cycling records. The accompanying illustration, from Les Inventions Nouvelles,



A BICYCLE WIND SHIELD.

shows the shield applied. It has a sharp edge extending its entire length, which cuts the air like a knife and reduces the resistance of the atmosphere to a minimum. The shield is especially valuable for racing purposes, where it is expected to have a wide field of usefulness.

Latest in Kettles.

A substitute is now proposed for the ordinary dye kettle or vessels so long in use. It consists of a wooden vat, made in the usual rectangular form, and in which are fixed a solid false bottom and side plates, thus dividing the vat into two portions or compartments, one large inner one, in which the dyeing is carried on, and a small outer one, practically forming one bottom and two end compartments, these being filled with the dye liquor when the vat is in use. Down one of the end compartments passes a steam pipe, the steam from which, passing into the liquor, causes it to rise and flow through apertures fitted with louvers into the dyeing space, whence it flows through perforations into a copper box with perforated sides into the outer compartment. In this way a circulation of the liquor is maintained in the dye vat. The usual winch and guide rollers are, of course, made available, and the dyeing operation is of the ordinary character.

The Panama Silk Tree.

One of the greatest curiosities of the Panama isthmus is the vegetable silk tree. It is a plant that grows from fifteen to twenty feet high and in appearance does not differ greatly from other trees, but the inner bark is a perfect silky fiber, long, smooth and strong. The natives prepared it by some method best known to themselves, the process somewhat resembling that of beating flax. When once it is separated and spun into threads, it can be woven into a fabric so closely resembling silk that it is difficult for any one not familiar with it to distinguish between the two. The species of silk goods is in high favor on the isthmus, and a Columbian belle is never happier than when she is arrayed in a gayly colored dress made from the trees in her father's yard.

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