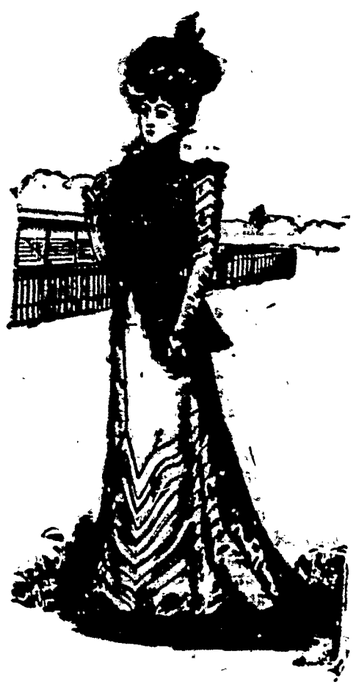
OUR FASHION LETTER

PLENTY OF CLOTH AND AN ABUNDANCE OF BRIGHT COLORS.

Corsage Slightly Blouse Shaped—Many Small Fur Neck Pieces—High Coloring in Millinery Enlivened by Conspicuous Ornaments—Rich, Dark Cashmeres.

Very soft fabrics will be worn this season, as you know. Winter dresses will be trimmed with chinchilla, mink and broadtail, and the same furs will be used for flounces round the bottom of skirts. We are using a large quantity of cloth in all kinds of bright colors. For evening dresses or society functions we continue to use silk muslins and gauzes inlaid with laces, which is one of my special features for evening dresses. The Empire style will be much worn, but we shall only make them with a falling tunic over some other material, with closely fitting corsages.

One dress has a skirt composed of a ground of white satin, over which in front is an apron of mousseline de soie ornamented with nine narrow frilled flounces of the same edged with lace of a very light texture. The apron is only seen from about half way down the skirt to the bottom, which is edged round with a ruche of mousseline de soie, trimmed with comet ribbons. Over this first skirt is a long tunic of white satin forming a train, which is fastened in the centre in front and opens over the apron about half way down. This tunic is ornamented with elaborated designs inlaid at irregular intervals in black and white lace insertion, edged with small black spangles. The design at the bottom runs round in garlands. The ornaments are wider than



at the sides. The tunic falls below the ruche, which runs round the skirt. The corsage is slightly blouse shaped, gathered at the waist and trimmed vertically with inlaid lace in the same style as the skirt. It is ornamented with a small yoke of sky blue satin covered with gathered white tulle. The neck trimming is of white satin cut with vertical rows of lace insertion, and at the back is a lace collarette. The sleeves are of sky blue satin covered with white tulle. They are ornamented with two circles of inlaid insertion edged with black spangles, one above and the other below the elbow. The jockeys are formed of three rows of black and white lace insertion edged with jet spangles. The wrists are trimmed with a flounce of wide lace which falls far over the hand. The waistband is of white satin, of equal width all around, and is spangled with jet.

A dress of almond green cloth, the skirt of which fits very tightly round the waist, like a fourreau, the fullness only beginning to develop half way down and the bottom widening considerably into a moderate train. The upper part of the skirt is plain, the lower part trimmed round with five stitched pleats in waving lines, forming chevrons in the center in front and rising up considerably at the sides and behind, leaving the back of the skirt above the train plain. Over the corsage which is quite plain, is a corsage vest in embroidery and large meshed drab lace, embroidered with rich Jesurum lace designs, very open worked, so as to show the cloth corsage beneath it. The vest fastens down the center in front beneath a frill of drab mousseline de soie. The basque is long, falling over the skirt to below the hips, and is open in front from the waist downward. The edge is festooned all round with patterns in relief. In the centre of the breast is a bow of drab velvet, composed of four regular loops, and a band of the same velvet descends to the waist, where it is fixed by steel and crystal buttons. The waistband is also of drab velvet, rather narrow, and fastened in the centre with a steel and crystal buckle. The collar is of the same material as the costume; ornamented with rows of stitching; it is sloped away in front and very high at the sides.

Another dress of yellow cloth, the skirt extremely tight fitting around the body, and widening from about half way down into the form of a plumeau with a short train. The upper part is completely plain. The lower part is trimmed with bands of a rather deeper yellow than the cloth, covered with white Venice lace insertion, embroidered [illegible]

these ornaments are in the form of cut chevrons, and on the left side the velvet runs diagonally down to the edge of the skirt and rises up round the sides and back. The corsage fits tightly on the upper part and is draped round the waist. The front is ornamented with two rows of velvet and guipure like the trimming on the skirt, which start from the left shoulder and run diagonally across to the waist on the left side. The pain part between them is embroidered with spots like those on the skirt. Two similar bands of velvet and Venice insertion run diagonally across the right side. The lower of these diagonal bands are wider than the upper. The back is trimmed in the same way as the front.

Another dress represented is of mauve cloth and velvet. The skirt is quite tight in about half way down, whence it widens very considerably and forms a very slight train. It is trimmed with four rows of very wide pleats which cross in the center in front and are rounded off at the lower part. These have two rows of stitching round the edge, and have the effect of flat shaped flounces. The topmost pleat is set in the waist; the bottom pleat forms a point in the center over the cloth. The skirt is edged all round with a double row of stitching. The corsage is composed of a short jacket of mauve cloth, made with a rounded square, and fitting the figure perfectly. It is ornamented with arabesques and flowers, embroidered in silk of the same shade.

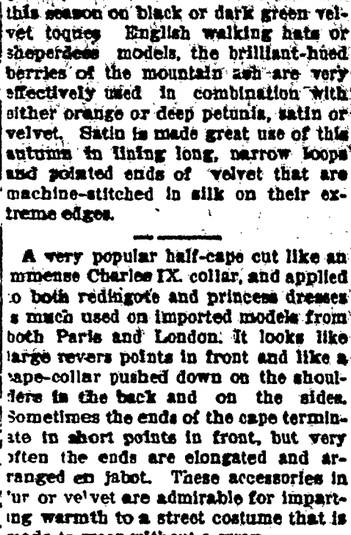
On some of the rich dark costumes for the winter are arranged yokes of silk applique, with revers of seal, mink, astrakan, chinchilla, otter, or other lark fur beyond. Bands of the applique are placed on the skirt en sautoir, being much lower in front and at the back, and rising in graceful curves at each side. The close coat-sleeves are finished with cuffs that flare over the top of the hand, and are covered with applique work; and edged, like the Medici collar, with a narrow band of fur.

The odd and pretty combination of orange and gray, so becoming to many women and so popular the last season, has been carried into the domain of elegant evening dress, where it has gained still greater vogue and success. Pale mauve and turquoise-blue is another favorite combination of colors. In dress millinery it is decidedly popular, so also black and peach color, lightened with a touch of white or cream in the form of lace, aigrettes or feather tips. Autumn foliage is likewise used in greens, russets and brilliant red and this season on black or dark green velvet toques. English walking hats or sheperdess models, the brilliant-hued berries of the mountain ash are very effectively used in combination with either orange or deep petunia, satin or velvet. Satin is made great use of this autumn in lining long, narrow loops and pointed ends of velvet that are machine-stitched in silk on their extreme edges.

A very popular half-cape cut like an immense Charles IX. collar, and applied to both redingote and princess dresses is much used on imported models from both Paris and London. It looks like large revers points in front and like a cape-collar pushed down on the shoulders in the back and on the sides. Sometimes the ends of the cape terminate in short points in front, but very often the ends are elongated and arranged en jabot. These accessories in fur or velvet are admirable for imparting warmth to a street costume that is made to wear without a wrap.

Many of the small pelerines and other shoulder capes of last winter are modishly changed into very attractive stoles with a frill at the edge and long slender stole fronts. Sometimes these additions are of brown, dark green or other deep-toned silk or velvet, or again the yoke piece is of velvet, overlaid with a rich yoke design in silk or bead passementerie, and the frill at the edge is made of fur with matching panel-ends, finished with a number of sable, fox or mink tail at the throat, and a fringe of the same at the ends of the panels.

The princesse dress of to-day has undergone great transformations. Often on imported models only the back is a princesse model, and the front is cut in



the form of a bodice and yoke, a bolero, a cutaway Louis XIV. coat, etc. Another fashionable style is the redingote princesse, opening in long peplum points or panels over a skirt of contrasting material. Certainly the princesse dress of to-day cannot be called a simply style of gown; it entails such elaborate processes in the way of wonderful fitting, adjusting and decoration and on many gowns the trimming on the pointed waist exactly joins that upon the skirt [illegible]

FURNISHING NOTES.

For the Ladies' World.

Very few treatments set off a room more advantageously than having an eighteen-inch border or polished wood to show all around the rug. Where the flooring will admit, this effect may be gained at cost of little time and money.

To get a polished floor, clean the boards first, then stain them with raw sienna oil paint, that is, raw sienna ground in oil; add a little bronze-green, a mere trifle of burnt umber, thin with linseed oil and a bit of turpentine and rub into the floor.

The real Bagdad cross-stripes are very strong, as well as handsome, they therefore serve best for couch covers, but the American, or other imitation Bagdads, are handsome and effective, and with their tasseled edges makes the lounge look very attractive.

To make a box-lounge a decorative as well as a useful feature in a room, have it covered with plain olive-green denim; no figured stuff looks half so well on a large piece of furniture. Throw over it either a genuine Bagdad or else an imitation Bagdad couch cover.

For the decorative uses they serve, as well as for their suitability, couch covers made of lengths of linen crash, not the coarsest, nor yet the finest, but the medium gray crash are well worth the making. These covers are made of lengths herring-boned together with colored cords; the ends of all the lengths must be raveled, knotted and tied to make a pretty fringe.

One of the most useful and convenient, as well as handsome bits of furnishing, is a box-lounge made to order to have an eighteen-inch capacity for storage. Such a lounge topped by fine springs is a luxury to the housewife for summer dresses laid at full length may be stored in it in winter, and winter furs and dresses packed away in camphor in it in summer.

When the stain is thoroughly dried, go over the floor with light hard oil finish; use a paint brush. When this has dried—it will dry over night—wash with cold water, dry and give a second coat. Allow no walking over it for two days. Wash it over with sponge and cold water to help harden it.

Hard-oil finished floors stained as above are exceedingly rich and lustrous looking and help the furnishing to be more elegant in effect.

CALLS.

A first call is made on the newcomer by the older resident without waiting for the formality of an introduction. It is returned within ten days. If the acquaintance proves undesirable, it may cease after the first interchange of visits.

The fashionable calling hour for ladies is from eleven to twelve and from three to five. For men, from eight to ten when the day is occupied.

A formal or first call lasts fifteen minutes, a friendly call twice as long.

A man must ask permission before he may call, or bear a letter of introduction from another city.

Calls should be made on the hostess' day, if she have one.

The guests of a dinner call upon their hostess within a week.

A bride does not call upon her friends until they have called upon her after the wedding reception.

Persons in mourning receive but do not return calls during the first year after the wedding reception.

Calls of congratulation are made on the young mother, the fiancee, or a friend to whom unexpected joy or success have come.

A Bit of Oilcloth.

Women are just finding out the many uses to which oilcloth may be put. In the first place it never wears out—that is one great argument in its favor. Oilcloth upon the floor last indefinitely; used as an article of dress, its life is interminable.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox created a sensation some years ago, by appearing in a rainy day dress faced a foot around the hem with thin oilcloth. Oilcloth facing is now used a great deal upon street skirts. Oilcloth comes in every color and can be obtained in a very showy Scotch plaid, which is pretty. There is also a very pretty fine black and white oilcloth check which is decidedly stylish. A street skirt which is to be worn a great deal can be faced underneath with this oilcloth. When the dress is lifted, only a pretty plaid lining is visible. This can extend up three inches and be met by a fancy silk lining. For rainy day wear, a skirt is faced this way, and nothing could be better for women who affect the English fashion of tramping in the suburbs. For bicycling it is ideal, as the oilcloth is too tough to tear or fray.

An Omelet of White Ants.

Africa seems to be the great country for insect eating. Large quantities of locusts, caterpillars, and beetle grubs are consumed by the natives. And in certain parts white ants, or temites, are esteemed a welcome addition to the bill of fare. These ants may be prepared in various ways. One is to boil them down in water to the consistency of porridge. Or they may be eaten simply dried over the fire. Cooked with beaten up eggs they make a not unsavory omelet, or they may be used in meat pies instead of flesh. A European traveler in Africa remarks that white ants taste something like meat stuffing. He received about fifty loads of them for the use of his people.

The same traveler tells us how on his marches he used small ants' nests as a sure guard against [illegible]

WRITING DESKS.

A Well-Appointed One Considered Necessary in Every House.

If the art of writing letters is going out of date, it certainly is not because there is not every possible inducement for people to write. Never has there been a time when all implements for writing were so dainty, and a well-appointed writing desk or table is considered as necessary in every house as tables and chairs. Where houses are furnished with no regard to expense it is considered necessary to put a writing desk in every room; as well as in library and sitting room; and where house parties are the order of the day, it is considered polite for hostess and guests to take the hour after breakfast for writing letters in their respective apartments.

Writing tables on the plan of office tables with drawers at either side, are now made to match the furniture of the room where they are placed, and are seen in most luxuriously furnished rooms. On them are placed a large blotting pad with fancy corners, a large glass silver-topped inkstand, a pen-tray, letter file, papercutter, stamp box, letter rack and candle for sealing wax. These things so far enumerated are the positive necessities and there are always to be seen many other dainty accessories—photographs without number in every possible sized and shaped frames, vases (small and large) silver-topped mucilage bottles, silver boxes filled with shot or bristles in which to put pens, silver ink erasers, etc., until there positively seems no end to the pretty trifles that can be used on a writing table.

The antique mahogany desks are very fashionable, and many old treasures have been brought to light of this design with brass handles and of most beautiful wood; there are many imitations of the real antique desks that are exquisite in finish and design—some are of plain mahogany; others of the marquetry. A desk with a swell front with three large drawers is very popular, but another style with two small drawers at either side, and in shape somewhat like the dressing table, is also much liked.

For bed rooms the simple desks are the best, made of the same wood as the rest of the furniture; these do not have many drawers nor pigeon holes, and are only for temporary use in guest rooms. They are very inexpensive, some being sold for so little as two dollars and a half and three dollars, rather in contrast to those of mahogany or marquetry, for which hundreds of dollars are asked. Roll-top office desks are now sometimes seen in boudoirs. Women who have a great deal of correspondence find them so useful that their ugly shape and cumbersome size are not thought of. An office desk is never an attractive piece of furniture, but is undeniably useful.

The dainty furnishing now so fashionable for writing desks is not of necessity expensive; silver articles are surprisingly cheap, while in leather and china the same things are duplicated. Christmas, Easter and birthday presents of these same little trifles soon accumulate, and the writing desk is furnished very quickly, while pretty writing paper is now inexpensive.

What is Worn.

Poppy-red neck ruffles in two tones, made of mousseline de soie are a most becoming addition to the neck. Red currants match the shade exactly and appear in the millinery which for the moment is most up to date.

An old custom to which we are returning surely, if gradually, is that of colored boots and shoes, matching our dresses for outdoor wear. Browns and greens have been worn this summer, but blue, violet and even dark-red outdoor shoes are being shown as novelties.

Fruit seems in for a revival, in fact, and, when well placed, accomplishes some very seasonable effects in millinery. A useful but quite smart country hat comes from Paris of brown coarse straw trimmed with three pairs of small black wings set quite erect in front, while a scarf of soft, white gauze under yellow point d'esprit completes it.

So much of a good appearance depends on the dainty finishings of dress. Everybody seems to be demanding something new in blouses, and for the moment novelty takes the direction of rich striped silk, the ground white, blended with white colors—mauve, pink, yellow or sky-blue.

Side Plackets in Skirts.

At last the tragedy, always more or less imminent concerning the placket hole, is disposed of and every woman who cannot remember to hook this opening in her skirt should have her petticoats cut on the new tailor-made, that is to say, with the placket hole buttoned severely up. According to the highest authorities in skirt topography, the opening in that garment should be made in front and a little to the right side, just where the seam of the front width runs up. This leaves the back of the skirt be shaped fashionably plain or plaited in a little and innocent of any rear opening at all.

This change of base for the placket has come about by reason of the new mode of sloping the tops of all skirts, and the placket's location in front is neatly concealed by a short row of small ornamental buttons or a careful adjustment of braid lines. Probably never before in the history of dress-making have skirts been so scant as this year. They simply [illegible] fect in the rear and [illegible] Such a result is obtained by artful sloping and paring and thus ample [illegible]

HOME THOUGHTS.

The Feather Pedigree of a Fashionable Woman.

"I took you for the [illegible] in a large hotel. "Why?" asked the old-fashioned gentlewoman she was dressed. "Oh! your husband looked so decidedly ahead of you [illegible] the ladies' room, and your manner was so deferential to him, and besides, you wore a cap.

This unexpected and unsolicited result of observation set the criticised old lady to thinking and observing her fellow-sojourners as they came in and out of the beautiful, quiet dining-room. To her surprise it was always invariable that the husband paused at the threshold, and either walked beside his wife or allowed her to precede him and choose where she preferred to sit. As a rule, the alert, well-dressed woman betrayed neither embarrassment nor hesitation, but after one swift glance led the way toward the open window or pleasant point of view, with unerring perception of the nicest spot, and rarely having to receive any suggestion of change from her lord and master.

After a day or two of this uninterrupted proof of what Americans would be likely to do, demonstrated by the advent of travelers from north, south, east, and west, the monotony was broken by the arrival of a party of English tourists—three men and two very lovely looking women in very severe dress and odd-looking traveling hats. The men at once became conspicuous; they spoke very distinctly to the head waiter, bidding him find a table away from "those Americans," declared the atmosphere very "stuffy," and after they were all comfortably placed the elder man evidently asked his wife if she were satisfied for she said in her gentle yielding voice "Oh, very nicely, dear, very nicely." It would have been simply impossible to imagine her as taking the lead, there or anywhere.

This trifle, this straw which showed the way in which the wind blew, began a continuous series of observations as to the status of married couples of different nationalities, which have left as remarkable a weight of favor in the American scale, that it now seems extraordinary that we do not more fully realise our privileged condition.

In the first place, marriage between two young Americans is much more truly a partnership on equal terms than exists elsewhere. When [illegible] come man and wife, there is always a freak talking over of the future income and expenditure; the young fiancee has a definite conception of what she will have to spend, and they decide together what they will buy and where they will live, and [illegible] decided the furnishing [illegible] ments are left to the bride's [illegible] the season herself happy. It has never can take time to help her choose. Of course this is from the [illegible] small incomes and hard-working young professional men, or those [illegible] bound to their desks by [illegible] work of one sort or another.

I have known, on [illegible] rich man even, made his [illegible] almoner, supplying a [illegible] ferently colored book of [illegible] this purpose lest by too great generosity she might call too heavily on her personal account.

But where bank-accounts are small and the salary leaves but little chance to accumulate, there is, in a very large percentage of cases, a truer [illegible] ship, in which the husband [illegible] nine happiness when he [illegible] may man do this or that this year, I think." An Englishman would by [illegible] "I can let you have" and a [illegible] Frenchman would [illegible] dramatic little [illegible] "occasion" of the [illegible] In either case it would [illegible] an indulgence not the "[illegible] alike" of the American.

Nor is it in money matters [illegible] the wives of our countrymen [illegible] usual advantage; they [illegible] there largely in the [illegible] children. I do not think [illegible] asserted that no other [illegible] so large an influence in the control of their sons; it is the exception, the very rare exception, when a boy is sent to school or college, or destined to [illegible] in opposition to his mother's [illegible] or without her decided [illegible] brought to bear. In [illegible] of a school, both parents [illegible] into its condition and methods; in [illegible] to a boy's preference for [illegible] life the mother's voice and [illegible] are as powerful as the father's [illegible] mands. Two or three times [illegible] long life one may hear a father [illegible] headed lack to go into the [illegible] comes such positive assertion of [illegible] but what is the ordinary and [illegible] expression of paternal [illegible] everywhere else, startles [illegible] and the man is at once felt to be very severe and unyielding.

A New Traveling Bag.

A new traveling bag is made all [illegible] material of the suit, and [illegible] bond of harmonious effects [illegible] opportunity to display his [illegible] The material is cut to the [illegible] where the leather ends [illegible] then with the nickel [illegible] These bags are more pliable [illegible] leather ones, and have a [illegible] active air which the ordinary [illegible] factured article does not possess.

Tweed, Melton and shevriot [illegible] handsome bags. The larger the [illegible] desired, the heavier the material [illegible] for its perfection.

FASHION [illegible]

Harems [illegible] always are [illegible] vogue.

The latest [illegible] oxidized silver, [illegible] by small [illegible]

Now in [illegible] there [illegible] or accordions, as [illegible] more durable.

The newer skirts are [illegible] and one-half yards [illegible] stiffening, clinging [illegible] figure.

And now there is a [illegible] to be interwoven [illegible] black grenadine [illegible] of a changeable [illegible]

The latest [illegible] lower the [illegible] and pull the [illegible] fully at the sides where [illegible] ears.

White [illegible] is [illegible] and [illegible] a great [illegible] think one cannot be [illegible] date in an entire black [illegible] though gowned in any of the latest [illegible]

White fox fur is going to [illegible] fashionable trimming this [illegible] felt hats will continue the [illegible] inaugurated by the [illegible] straw. White felt pleures [illegible] with plumes will be worn.

The latest veil is a scant two [illegible] long. It is edged with [illegible] the ends with a [illegible] knot at the back, and the ends [illegible] ried around in front and tied in a [illegible] under the chin.

A chic waist of [illegible] has a yoke [illegible] of white satin, [illegible] leg-of-mutton sleeves [illegible] the wrist with the [illegible] a soft finish to the [illegible]

A novelty in [illegible] band of gold [illegible] studded with [illegible] with a gold [illegible] the side in [illegible] and confines the [illegible]

A dainty [illegible] a black skirt [illegible] with black [illegible] garnishings. Another [illegible] made entirely [illegible] rose-pink [illegible]

Up to the [illegible] the [illegible] things. [illegible]

[illegible] away [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]