

OUR FASHION LETTER.

Spotted Net and Fine Cloth Gowns For Debutantes.

FULL SKIRT HAS COME TO STAY

Increasing Popularity of Ribbons For Trimming—Children For Use Under Lace—Shaded Effects Are Very Much the Fashion.

Some pretty simple evening gowns for debutantes are of spotted net and even of very fine cloth gathered into a waistband of soft silk.

Evening petticoats are particularly gorgeous. White cambric has given way to beautiful brocades trimmed with ruchings of taffeta and entreeux of lace of heavy makes with inner frills of accordion plaited taffeta.

Nowadays the petticoat is an important consideration, as so many of the fuller dress skirts are unlined.

Brocades are also used for petticoats for day wear, but these are of much

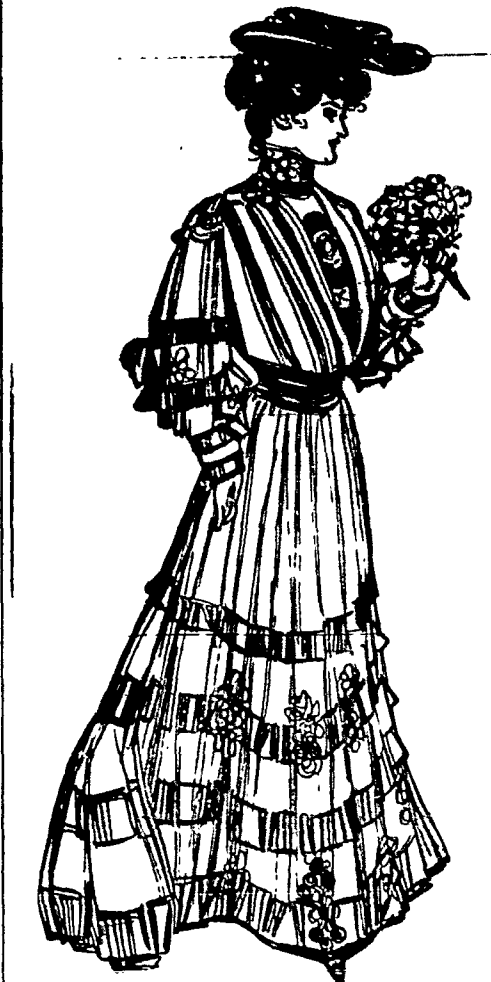
evening in winter and on the street for dressy occasions during the summer.

The picture shows an evening gown of gray silk mull trimmed with gray sequins and yellow lace.

SHADED EFFECTS.

Shaded effects are very much the fashion just now. They are seen in ribbon and in accordion plaited chiffon. Gray in all the shades, ranging from deep gun metal to almost white and from the deepest church violet to pale lavender, is the favorite tint. In feathers there is a long plume shaded from the faintest pink to a deep flame color.

Some beautiful shot effects are also to be seen, such as mauve showing



BLACK VEILING GOWN.

through blue, with a suggestion of scarlet beneath it, and purples combined with pinks and silver grays.

A new weave of satin is called satin messaline. It is a soft, lustrous weave which falls into exquisite folds. A pink satin gown seen recently had a key pattern around the neck worked in silver embroidery, and this was duplicated on the edge of the hem of the skirt. The skirt was of silver.

Fringes of all kinds, including gold, silver and jet, are used. The gold and silver are used with fine cloth in the pastel shades. Silver fringe is particularly pleasing used with pale green cloth.

Elderly women are wearing beautifully embroidered cloth gowns, the embroidery designs being taken in many cases from antique patterns.

Moleskin gray is a shade which exactly matches the fur. It is very popular for walking costumes and general utility wear. When relieved by touches of pale blue cloth, it is even dressy.

The cut shows a gown of black veiling trimmed with velvet and applications of silk gauze.

NOVELTIES OF DRESS.

Boleros are quite short and show a good deal of the wide waistband. They are made of every conceivable material, including lace.

Silver and gold braids appear both on hats and on tailor modes. Toggles are narrow and elongated, but picture hats are very large.

For evening wear mousseline de soie and crepe de chine are mixed with



WHITE TAFFETA WAIST.

coarse Irish lace and guipure. On the other hand, thick cloths are enriched with the most delicate embroidery.

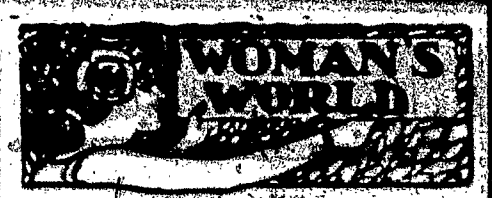
The velvet bolero and the skirt of cloth banded with velvet are a smart fashion, and a great deal of velvet is used to decorate skirts and blouses. Sometimes this is cut out in figures—lozenges, diamonds and squares—and it is fastened down with fancy stitching.

Velvet will be worn late in the season. Amethyst, violet and Lincoln or sage green are smart colors, and fine silk braid and heavy laces are used as trimming.

Those who are forced to be economical will welcome the sets of mixed materials—velvet, lace and fur—which replace the too expensive fur stole and muff. Better a thousand times such novelties than the muff and stole made of cheap fur.

The illustration shows a white taffeta waist trimmed with white silk hemming run through with narrow black ribbon.

JUDIC CHOLLET.



MRS. HERMANN TOEPFER.

A New York Woman Who Is An Artist In Evergreen Decorations.

Mrs. Hermann Toepfer is probably the only woman in this country engaged in evergreen and floral decorations. For more than thirty-seven years her mother, Mrs. E. Suhler, conducted the business which the daughter now carries on. Their establishment is one of the quaint, odd affairs which one finds by rummaging around on the lower east side. In the winter its exterior is particularly attractive to the passing stranger on account of an evergreen exhibit which almost entirely conceals the three story structure as it nestles between two big tenement houses.

In this place, which is owned, together with much other valuable property, by the mother, Mrs. Toepfer



MRS. HERMANN TOEPFER.

learned the art of decorating, evidently aided by considerable inherited ability. For about fifteen years the daughter has been the business head of the house and likewise the energetic head of her own house, being the mother of a large family of boys and girls.

Since she took an active hand in her mother's business Mrs. Toepfer has decorated most of the large events in New York which required this kind of trimming, including the city hall and Madison Square Garden.

Mrs. Toepfer says she never sketches out a hall or building prior to putting in the decorations. She keeps several large, damp cellars on the lower east side well stocked with evergreens from the north and the south. She knows what she has on hand, and she has won constantly keeping her stock green by watering it. When she gets a contract, large or small, she goes personally to the place to be decorated. She says she can tell in a very few minutes just what is needed, and then she gives her orders. But her workmen do not do all the work by any means. They do the lifting, and she shapes the designs and creations.

She is a very large and robust woman despite her constant application at all seasons of the year to business. She believes that working among the evergreens gives her strength, and, aside from believing that her business is a healthy one, she takes a great interest in working out novelties.

New York Telegram.

The Worth of Cheerfulness.

A woman's winning card is cheerfulness.

She may be capable of countless self-sacrifices, infinite tenderness and endless resources of wisdom, but if she cloaks these very excellent possessions under a garb of melancholy she may almost as well not have them so far as the ordinary world with which she comes in daily contact is concerned.

Tell the average busy man that a bright, lovely flower blooms away down in an underground cave, and he won't care enough to have time enough to delve down there to look at it. But let the flower nod its lovely face up in the daylight on the everyday level of the busy man's tread, and he is certain to see it and pretty sure to look at it with pleasure too.

That is cheerfulness. The root of gladness may be in the heart all right, but it has to blossom out into a sunny face and pleasant words before men will pay the slightest attention to it.

The sunny aspect toward the world is the only footing upon which social intercourse can be based. Some one has been quoted as saying:

"Come, let us gather up violets and make them into balls. Then I will toss them at you, and you will toss them at me."

Foolish? Oh, no. For while we toss figurative violets back and forth we are all making each other's acquaintance and laying the ground work over which we may walk up to such closer relationships as the fates have destined for us, and meanwhile the air is made fragrant for everybody.

The Advantages of Absence.

Children who are inattentive, disobedient and altogether disagreeable with their mother will almost change their character when their father comes in from his business, not necessarily that they love him better than they do their mother, but because he is fresh and new and interesting, a delightful person because he is a novelty.

A very rich woman said once that she visited her children in the nursery once a day. Whatever the pressure of her engagements, the hours from 5 to 7 were kept sacred to the children. To her children she is and always will be a sort of goddess, a wonderful being

who never scolds or punks, but made to beam and play, and talks with them, then sits away to return for the same dear programme tomorrow and tomorrow and all the days. She is an event to them, a constant joy.

When two people with personalities of their own spend all the time together, it is a wonder if each loses something of the delight that ought to come from companionship. It is better for some women to try systematically to escape from their children, once in a while both for the children's sake and the mother's. Children are pleased to see the mother when they meet after a parting, and all enjoy each other's society much better for the parting.

Does all this sound heretical? Well, it is worth-while to observe when one has the opportunity and see if "judgment in absence" is not an excellent thing.—Chicago Journal.

Receding Gowns.
Nothing is prettier and more becoming to a fair, slight woman with a pretty complexion than white, but white gowns must be carefully avoided by her sister of too simple charms. Black is the color for the stout woman, especially if she be of the black eyed and black haired type. A black gown will make her look slighter than anything else, while pale blue, light gray and nearly every shade of red will make her "too, too solid flesh" most undecorably self-assertive. A subdued shade of blue, heliotrope and olive green, with black, may be advantageously worn by the stout woman, who will also find mauve and the higher shades of green, used in decoration about the throat and shoulders, very helpful in diminishing the effect of her size.

Bulkiness About the Hips.
To overcome much of the bulkiness about the hips discard all full gathered petticoats and substitute those that are gored and carefully fitted like a dress skirt. Use a five or seven gored petticoat pattern, with an inverted box plait at the middle of the back and finished with a flounce. Adjust the belt the required size and close with a flat button or with hooks and eyes. The tapes tied in front and bunchy gathers probably cause your well made new dress skirts to wrinkle below the belt. Undervests and drawers should fit snugly about the hips, and the latter should always be put on under the corset.

Loosening the Corsets.
A Frenchwoman is always careful to employ more than one pair of laces for her corsets. She is particular to have one lace for shoulders, coming as far as three holes above the waist line; another for the remainder and waist holes and a third for the hips. This bust, waist and hips are carefully and proportionately adjusted and much more comfort gained in wear. Any one trying this mode of lacing will pronounce it a great improvement on dragging the figure all out of symmetry by having only one pair of laces instead of three.

A Perfect Complexion.
There are people who believe that if these rules are followed it is not impossible to have a perfect complexion. Don't worry; don't fret. Be calm and quiet. Don't drink tea and coffee, but pure water. Eat apples, raisins and figs and a few salted almonds each day; an egg or two a day (soft boiled) and no animal food. Eat an orange every day or two. Walk two or three miles a day, and bathe the whole body every day in tepid water.

A Midday Nap.
A long, comfortable couch in a room on which one may throw herself is an absolute necessity for comfort, and an occasional half hour of rest is a boon to the mentally or physically tired, fortune hunter. A few moments' loss of consciousness will often set a worn body straight for the remainder of the day when things have been going wrong, and there is no better medicine to drive away the blues.

To Redden the Lips.
To keep the lips red rub them with a salve made of one-quarter ounce of spermaceti, one-quarter ounce of white wax, half an ounce of almond oil, fifteen grains of flour of benzoin. Mix all the ingredients and stir them until cool. Then redden the mixture with alkaneet root until you achieve the desired tint. After rubbing in leave no salve on the lips.—Chicago News.

The Extreme of Decollete.
Five inches of bodice, with even less at the back, a narrow velvet band or jeweled shoulder strap doing duty for a sleeve, constitutes the evening gown of a fashionable woman. In the most extravagant days of France the gowns were not nearly so low as is considered good form in English society today.—Lady Jeanne in London Mail.

Beauty.
Don't fail to appreciate the fact that, while beauty may not bring happiness, it is nevertheless a power. It is to a woman what capital is to a merchant. Its absence may not be a misfortune, but its culture is wise and proper.

A bag of cotton flannel fitted securely to the brush of an old broom and equipped with tapes to fasten it firmly to the handle makes a good polisher for hardwood or painted floors.

A pretty fancy in carrying out certain schemes of decoration is to inclose electric bulbs in a tiny Japanese lantern. The effect is charming.

Old bedspreads make nice table pads. Trim them off to fit your table, then hem.

Ammonia painted over woodwork will deepen its color.

BEAUTIFUL HAIR.

That's a beautiful head of hair in a man's crowning beauty none of the usual sort of all the unfortunates who do not possess one.

Some words of a beauty specialist who for many years has ministered to the charms of the "Divine Sarah" may therefore be of interest. He recently gave some points on the care of the hair to the correspondent of an English journal.

First and foremost, he deprecates too much washing, a process which causes the hair to lose its suppleness for some days and be more apt to break.

Next to be commended is the habit some women practice of coxing short hairs to remain in place by wetting them. This not only superinduces neuralgia, but is most harmful to the hair, causing it to rot and to fall out.

The specialist also says that cutting is unnecessary to give vigor and strength to the hair of a healthy woman. Every three months or so the ends should be singed. Singularly enough, the scalp is said to require air, which must be permitted access either by allowing the hair to hang loose down the back for some time daily or by giving it a good deal of attention in the way of brushing and combing.

To restore the luster of the hair after washing it may be anointed slightly at night on retiring with a lotion composed of: Perovosine, 25 grains; camellia cologne, 25 grains; nitrate of pilocarpine, 1 grain.

THE WEDDING CHEST.

A Sentimental and at the Same Time a Sensible Idea.

Quite a sensible idea for engaged girls is the wedding chest, and even girls who are not engaged are the secret possessors of this sentimental and at the same time sensible article. The wedding chest may be a fine new trunk of the latest style or it may be a plain wooden affair, prettily covered and lined with flowered chintz.

The idea is to fill the chest with pretty things to wear or for the furnishing and decoration of a home. One girl is filling hers with dainty clothing which she is making herself. Another is buying ornaments and knickknacks from time to time and filling her chest with them. Not only things to wear, such as gloves, lingerie and dainty hosiery, but pieces of lace, tapestry squares for covering sofa pillows and handsome table covers, are receiving the attention of a bonny Scotch maiden.

Another is making a fine collection of table linen—napkins, mats, center-pieces and so on. Pretty bits of china and bric-a-brac go in the chest of another maiden.

Thus the girls are slowly collecting pretty things and saving them for use in their homes. As a rule their friends know of their chests and take pleasure in helping to fill them, although some of the girls like to feel that everything was bought with their own money.

LAUNDRY LINES.
Do not allow your iron, to become red hot, as they will never again retain the heat.

A little starch in pillow slips and handkerchiefs keeps them clean longer than if not starched.

In washing, boiling water works most actively in scalding soiled clothes, and killing disease germs.

If starch is too strong for stiffening delicate fabric, use very weak gum water or rinse in water which has a few lumps of sugar dissolved in it.

When washing linen dissolve a little pipeclay in the water, which saves half the usual labor and soap. This improves the color of clothes almost as much as bleaching.

When you are ironing any dark material do not put a linen cloth underneath, as the lint will come off on to the stuff, and you will have great difficulty in brushing it off again.

Choosing Friends.
It is a good idea to choose your friends as you do your gowns, because they wear well. The pretty face of another girl may attract you to her on first acquaintance, but you wait to have a better reason than her pink and white complexion for spending much time with her. Don't select a girl as your particular friend because she is wealthy or because she lives in a pretty home or because she has a horse of her own to drive. The right kind of friendships grow with your growth and hold fast in spite of change and separation. But such friendships have a solid foundation. Choose today the friend you will be proud of when you are a woman. It does not take long to tire of those who are selfish and silly.

Chatting.
All sorts of glass vessels and other utensils can be purified by rinsing them well with charcoal powder. Rubbing the teeth and washing out the mouth with fine charcoal powder will beautify the former and purify the breath. Putrid water can be immediately deprived of its bad smell by charcoal, and a few pieces of charcoal placed on meat, fish, etc. that are beginning to spoil will preserve them and absorb all the strong odors. A tablet of willow charcoal taken twice daily will purify the stomach and aid digestion.

Color For Sleeping Rooms.
For sleeping rooms white is said to be the most sanitary color, as it is the most restful and least absorbent of germs and odors. Have white washable curtains and a bare floor or one covered with matting which can be washed up with salt and water. Have wool blankets. Eucalyptus silk comforters, for silk is a nonconductor

of the heat radiating from the body. The dainty dressing of counterpane shown in the illustration is made of three handkerchiefs together with one and one-half yards of white tagging, trimmed with narrow lace and finished with yards of ribbon. First measure your head with a tape measure, drawing the measure tight. Note the result; it never makes that case you would divide inches into three equal parts, make the big corner of the sheet collar the length of the head. There is just room to be drawn through the hole in the piece of ribbon is sewed on to the bottom hem of the front handkerchiefs, as in the illustration, together to form sleeves. It is a test of taste whether roses are to be on the bows or not.—New York Herald.



HANDKERCHIEF DRESSING.

Hem of the best handkerchiefs, with their attractive color.

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INDOOR HAMMOCKS.
An Ideal Resting Place For the Sick and Invalid.

The hammock in the sick room is associated with the idea of rest and recovery. It is an old summer time, but it is just as useful as an indoor hammock in a sick room. A woman in helping to fill them, although some of the girls like to feel that everything was bought with their own money.

Consider a hammock little more costly, while in large rooms a hammock would merely be a piece of furniture, a perfect lounge for resting in a sick room. It is made with strong silk, it is made and laid in and it can be in perfect harmony with the room. The hammock can be made in any color.

Indian red is a good color for a hammock, with almost any color of blanket could be made. One of our choices, which we dream of for years, is within the reach of everybody. It is made of the best and most durable material, and it is made for the sick and for the invalid.

There now remain many instances of the hammock, and of two large silk hammocks, one ends to cover the hooks in the room, when not needed, they can be unhooked and placed on the ground. The first step in making hammocks will pay all trouble and expense.

The Nurse Campaign.
A writer in the Philadelphia Record discourses on the advantages of women who would fit themselves for the position of nurse companion. Women wishing to qualify should not be nurse companions, but should take the regular hospital training, giving sometimes two, but generally three, years to it. It is quite probable that as the field widens and such positions come to be known as complete in themselves and not regarded as a branch of nursing in the hospital, it will be a special certificate to women intending to devote themselves to this branch. There are few better than a woman's work than this from a practical standpoint. The generous nature to be commended by women who are in almost entire possession of their living expenses, but the cost of living being met by those who are not.

The Nurse Campaign.
Many families that would care best being substituted at every meal. In many cases the results have been rapid. However, the most made in the ordinary way is soggy within a short time, and will not benefit the patient. The bread should be thoroughly dried out in the oven, toasting, then broiling, then brown. Perhaps more than the surface could be done, even soggy bread, even when it is not dry enough to eat, and is not dry enough to eat, and is not dry enough to eat.

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The nurse campaign is a good idea, and it is a good idea to choose your friends as you do your gowns, because they wear well. The pretty face of another girl may attract you to her on first acquaintance, but you wait to have a better reason than her pink and white complexion for spending much time with her. Don't select a girl as your particular friend because she is wealthy or because she lives in a pretty home or because she has a horse of her own to drive. The right kind of friendships grow with your growth and hold fast in spite of change and separation. But such friendships have a solid foundation. Choose today the friend you will be proud of when you are a woman. It does not take long to tire of those who are selfish and silly.

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