

THE WORLD OF FASHION.

SUGGESTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE TREAD OF FASHION.

The Outing Costume is Now Indispensable. Thin Gowns are Popular—The Season's Modes—A Paris Design—Cloth Gowns.

EVER was the outing gown a more necessary part of a woman's outfit than this season. It is to be a summer of "outings," one might say, for, with the increased interest in the bicycle, golfing, and other outdoor sports, the American woman is developing a love for the open air that is really one of the most commendable of her many good points of character.

A charmingly smart outing gown has a skirt made in the most voluminous style of light-weight cheviot, in pale tan and cadet-blue plaid. It is lined throughout with fibre chamols, giving the skirt a splendid stiffness not likely to diminish. The jacket is a jaunty mite of a thing, scarcely more than a round bodice. The tails are so short there is no danger of their becoming flattened and crushed, as ripples are so apt to do.

This jacket is made up of the softest shade of pale cadet-blue broadcloth, cut most gracefully, and with all the seams tipped with white cord. There



A Sweet Outing Rig.

are sharp-pointed cuffs and collar of white broadcloth, and a turned-back facing of white at the front. Double rows of small pearl buttons ornament the front. This gown is worn with a blousey front of cream white silk, belted about with a white kid belt.

This goods—satin, tulle, and other materials—have been used for the past two or three years are popular. There are two primary rules—that the materials shall be transparent, and also have what is known as "body" to them; in other words, have sufficient stiffness to flare out in the ungraceful folds which are declared to be the correct thing. And the second little point to be remembered in these charmingly transparent materials is that the linings which usually are of silk cost as much, if not more, than the outer part. Fortunately, linings and uppers do not need to be of the same shade of color, so there is no necessity for one of those fearful days of chasing from shop to shop to match a shade.

The colors that are combined would, in any but this poster age, drive us all quite mad, but now we submit to wearing purple and green, blue and heliotrope, yellow and orange, and console ourselves with the thought that if our sense of what we used to consider artistic coloring is outraged, at all events we are in the fashion.

New York receives new designs constantly from Paris, and, it must be added, turns out from its own shops as dainty costumes as eye can wish to dwell upon. Fashions in dress are never so fascinating or quite so tantalizing as they are at this time of year when with the first premonition of summer they blossom out like flowers in such rapid succession that any satisfactory selection would be a difficult task. This season surpasses all others in the variety of modes and all their elegant accessories, which are certainly the dominating feature of the present fashions, and we can only wonder what will come next and tentatively consid-



Biogo Cloth Gowns.

er each new suggestion as it may apply to our special needs. Individuality in dress has a wide field in the midst of all this profusion, and the woman who is fortunate enough to possess good taste can surely make a fashionable as well as artistic success of her summer outfit. With the diminished sleeve, which is the most marked characteristic of the spring fashions, and the moderately full skirts, exaggeration seems to have ceased, and the outlines of fashion were never prettier than they are now. The best fitting skirts are cut without the godet effect in front, fit closely around the hips, with all the fullness at the back either gathered or laid in three box plaits at the waist, and flare out prettily all around the bottom. The new sleeve shows unlimited variety, and may be exactly

what the wearer or the dressmaker chooses to have it, either small or medium large.

A late Paris design, by Doucet, is of bright beige cloth and mauve taffeta. The dress is decorated with applications of flowers in white and mauve cloth, embroidered with white, mauve and green silk, with branches of the same shades. Each flower is bordered with a gather of purl, placed upright. The skirt is flat in front and at the sides, and the four godets are thrown behind. The body is of mauve taffetas, gathered and blouse shaped in front. The back is made of small stitched pleats, forming small acute angles, alternating with narrow cream Mechlin lace, gathered. The front is trimmed in the same manner. It opens over a broad satin ribbon, covered with a light drapery of cream Mechlin tulle. The waistband is of white satin, wider behind than in front, and ending in front in two rosettes. The neck trimming is of mauve taffetas, covered with mauve tulle and fastened in front with a large tulle bow of the same color. It is ornamented by a collar of white tulle frilling. The sleeves, which are of mauve taffeta, illustrate the decline of the big sleeve. They are very moderate in size, plain on the under side, and trimmed with stitched pleats and Mechlin lace alternately on the upper side, from above the elbow.

Cloth gowns are conspicuous. The smooth face cloth is the most popular, while covert coating will be as much worn this spring as ever. The skirts remain quite plain, and the godet plaits are already out of fashion, as they spoil the figure, being unbecomingly all to thin and stout people. The trim bodices often have white cloth or silk lapels, collar and cuffs—either plain or braided in a mixed black and blue cord. Open fronts are coming in again for coats; they are too good an excuse for dainty vests to remain very long out of favor. The newest style of vest is of white satin or cloth made with just a little fullness. This is embroidered in steel or gold beads in floral design, entwined with a narrow lace insertion, simulating ribbon.

White serges and twilled flannels depend upon a colored blouse and yellow shoes for their effect. The fancy of the moment in blouse fronts is for stripes.

In the kingdom of hats and gowns of ceremony, as the French say, it is almost dangerous to enter. Never were the efforts of the milliners more elaborate or expensive.

The shapes are in general of two kinds, the turban and the flat hat, with broad brim that turns up in the back. It is a trying style for girls with round faces, because they can find solace in neither. Hats with Tam O'Shanter crowns are quite common. Colored straws are very fashionable and the favorite tints are bright yellow, green and violet, either in solid colors or in combination with black. In trimmings the popular flowers seem to be "roses red and violets blue," only the roses may be blue and the violets red, without any outrage to art as expressed in millinery. It is remarkable what license is allowed the manufacturers of artificial flowers.

Women's Student Life at Oxford. Sport, however, is not the only form of recreation at Somerville and Lady Margaret. There are the debates between the halls, and the Shakespeare societies, little teas in the girls' own rooms for special chums, more general at home throughout the winter, and garden parties and all sorts of gayeties during the closing week of the summer term, when the lists are read and honors awarded. Girls may also receive visitors of either sex in reasonable numbers, and are often allowed to dine out with a friend or be otherwise entertained in her house; but that same friend may not come for her to chaperon her elsewhere. A chaperon provided by the hall does that.

Each hall also maintains a miniature society, governed by the strictest rules of etiquette as regards calls and entertaining among the students. The "freshy" must conduct herself with meekness and lowliness of spirit. Never may she dare call on a senior before that senior has seen fit to call upon her and "take her up" in polite society. Moreover, this grave and reverend senior may leave her card if the "freshy" is out; but the "freshy" may never leave a card under any circumstances, but must keep on calling in return until she finds the senior in; to leave her card only would be unparalleled presumption. Neither may any freshman presume to entertain, to invite a dinner companion, or, in fact, tender an invitation of any sort or kind, unless an intimate friendship intervenes to suspend these laws of social life. No seniors are ever, ever asked to meet "freshies," and if "freshies" are to be present at any "spread" or spree the seniors are so advised beforehand, that they may stay away if it so pleases them. In short, the freshman's social standing might be termed a modern reproduction of that of the medieval Jew—shunned, snubbed and looked down upon, or treated with the lofty condescension of a bare and meagre toleration.—Harper's Bazar.

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When midsummer heat descends upon the community even the sisterhood that scorns all but common sense shoes suffers. Heavy boots are out of the question, and thin-soled ones do not seem to afford sufficient protection to the inflamed feet. Nothing but constant care will save one from the tender mercies of the chiropodist. The feet should be bathed at night in water as hot as can be borne. This will reduce the swelling and allay the inflammation. Then they should be immediately plunged into cold water to harden the skin. If they are still sore they should be rubbed with witch hazel. In the morning, of course, they should receive another cold-water bath. These cure for, and preventives of, swollen feet are particularly valuable for the woman who has to stand much during the day.

For Shabby Boots. It does not take long for a pair of boots that are worn constantly to get so shabby that frequent blacking seems powerless to restore their freshness. Then is the time to cut off all the old buttons and put on a set of bright, new ones. Shoe buttons are not an expensive luxury; and yet they are a pet economy with the majority of women, and do much to restore the freshness of old shoes.

Hose Reels for Engines.

It is announced that the Pennsylvania company is about to equip its yard engines with a hose reel, and that water can be forced to a considerable distance by means of the pumps. The hose can be also used where there are fire plugs and in this manner the yard crews can successfully fight fires at stations, bridges, platforms or in suburban towns where there are no fire apparatus. By means of telegraph the engine crews could be notified of a fire in an instant, and, by clearing the track of other trains a fast run could be made and much valuable property saved.

There is a township in Dauphin county in which there are 254 inhabitants, according to the past census, and fifty voters. In that township there is no minister, no church, no Sabbath school, no lawyer, no justice of the peace, no industrial work of any kind, and no place where liquor is sold. There are three grocery stores and one school house. When the people want to attend church they have to cross the river into Perry county and walk to Duncannon. The township is Reed. The people are lawabiding and peaceable. There has been but one case in the criminal court from that township in the past twenty-five years. There is not another township like it in the whole United States.

Philadelphia's biggest taxpayer is the Pennsylvania Railroad. The company's taxes for 1896 amount to \$261,925.43. This represents a valuation of about \$20,000,000 on the real estate in the city owned by the company. Most of this pays taxes at the full city rate, and but a small portion is assessed at the two-thirds suburban rate. The Broad street station and the elevated structure to the Schuylkill are assessed at \$3,228,000, the old Thirty-second and Market streets property at 2,000,000, the old Navy Yard at \$1,010,000, the abandoned Fourth street offices, which were formerly assessed at \$400,000, at \$200,000, and the Philadelphia Wilmington & Baltimore station at Broad street and Washington avenue at \$406,000.

A Thorough Investigation.

It is rumored that the commission appointed by the Governor to investigate the Pittston mine horror is to be supplemented by an additional section of three skilled miners whose knowledge of the ramifications of the ill-fated twin shaft mine, should be particularly complete, as they were for years employed as miners in the shaft. The authorities it would seem are determined to make a thorough and exhaustive investigation. Place the blame of disaster where it rightfully belongs and devise means if possible to prevent a recurrence of similar disasters throughout the coal region.

Tons of Fish at a Haul.

Very successful catches of striped bass, or rock fish, have been made at Havre de Grace the past few days. A haul of 15 tons was made at Popular Point, which is near Carpenter's Point, made a haul and drew in a ton of beautiful fish, weighing from 7 to 15 pounds each. It is not an infrequent thing to see a "school" of several tons of fish near Popular Point during July and August approach the shore, and if not disturbed wallow along the shore like a herd of hogs.

Snake Found in a Hen's Egg.

While preparing the morning meal a domestic in the employ of Major J. B. Cobb, Goshen, Ind., discovered in a large egg which she had just broken, one of the greatest curiosities in the shape of a light-colored snake about four inches long, which soon showed signs of life, and is alive and doing well. The truth of the story is verified by some of the best citizens of the town, who were called in as witnesses.—Chicago Times-Herald.

For Preserving Flowers.

One having a fancy for preserving natural flowers may do so by dipping them into melted paraffin. The mixture should be only warm enough to remain fluid. Hold the flowers by the stems, which should be free from all except the natural moisture, dip them in the fluid, give them a quick turn to remove the air cells, and place them in a glass until the coating becomes firm.

First-Class Job Printing.

The COLUMBIAN office is the best equipped printing office in Columbia county, and is run by water power. Any kind of printing, from a visiting card to a three-sheet poster, is done. All kinds of colored work, and the best of type used. We do our work neat and clean, on good paper, and guarantee it. Our prices are as low as in the large cities. We have no facilities, consequently can't give you money. Come to the COLUMBIAN office first and get our prices before placing your orders.

HERE'S A SOCIAL TANGLE.

Thousands of Kansas Divorces Are Found to Be Illegal.

Unanimous decision rendered by the Kansas Court of Appeals has declared ineffective the law under which divorces have been granted in that State for the past 25 years. During that period from 35,000 to 50,000 divorces have been granted in Kansas Courts, all of which are probably illegal. The marital and property rights involved are so great that the news of the decision has excited extraordinary interest and apprehension, leading, as it will, to confusion in the adjustment of estates and the rights and custody of the children of litigants.

Lawyers in New York city apprehend that the decision will cause an almost endless amount of confusion in marital relations, in the relations of children to parents, and in the custody and disposition of property rights. If such a decision should be given in reference to the decrees of divorce which have been granted in Oklahoma and the Dakotas in the past few years, it would cause a veritable revolution among the many well-known families in the East.

Kansas has never been a favorite State for outsiders to go to to get divorces, as since 1881 its divorce law has required an actual residence of the applicant for at least one year before the beginning of the action. In other respects, the divorce law of Kansas is an easy one for litigants. Divorces are granted there for abandonment for one year; for extreme cruelty, and extreme neglect of duty, besides the more serious causes.

There is one clause of the Kansas law which in itself would make it unpopular, with many who want divorces. It makes it bigamy for divorced persons to re-marry within six months of the date of the decree against them. Nearly all the decrees of divorce granted in Kansas have, therefore, been presumably to its own residents, but that other persons than actual residents of Kansas will be affected by the decision there can be no doubt. Many of the divorced persons have moved away from their former homes and remarried, and some of their children can probably be found in almost every State in the Union.

Every lawyer who was asked about the matter spoke of it as a very grave situation. "It is a very serious matter, indeed," said Frederic R. C. Coudert; "it will affect the present marital relations of the parties to the divorce suits, making their new marriages illegal, perhaps depriving their children of legitimacy and disturbing the property interests of many families.

"If the decision is based upon the imperfections of some matter of procedure, then, perhaps, the troubles caused by it may be remedied, but if it is based upon the unconstitutionality of the law itself, then I do not see how it can be remedied.

"In that case, the whole of the decrees which have been issued under the law will stand as if they had never been issued. Therefore, the people who were married before the decrees were issued will be married now; new marriages will be void; it will be unlawful for the couples to continue to live together, and children born of these new marriages will be illegitimate.

"Even the Legislature, in that case, will be unable to straighten out matters. It cannot impair the rights of the older contracts nor deprive the people who would have acquired property rights of the older contracts, nor deprive the people who would have acquired property rights under the old condition of things, of these rights. It could mitigate the evils which would be produced by upsetting such a long line of legal action, but not cure them.

Just how many persons will be affected by the decision must be a matter of conjecture. When the census of 1890 was taken it gave the total population of Kansas as 1,427,095 persons. Of these 752,112 were males and 674,984 females. Of the males 469,428 were unmarried, 263,174 married, 16,991 widowed and 1756 divorced.

Of the females 378,900 were married, 263,506 were single, 29,680 were widowed and 2117 divorced. This made a total of divorced persons living in the State of 3873, but this does not include the large number who have been divorced and then remarried. Nor does it give any guide to the number of children of two generations, at least, who have been born as the result of these remarriages. The proportion of divorced males in Kansas is as 1 to 428 of the whole number, and of females as 1 to 313.—Ex.

To Build a New Dam.

A new water dam will be built in the near future between Centralia and Mt. Carmel, and will have a two-fold purpose as its object. It will be used in Summer for bathing, and in Winter lots of ice will be taken from there. Capitalists now have the subject under consideration and in a few days their plans will be consummated.

Advertisement for Battle Ax Plug tobacco. Features an illustration of a man with an axe and the text: 'The North Pole made use of at last.' 'Battle Ax PLUG'. 'Always at the front and wherever "BATTLE AX" goes it is the biggest thing in sight. It is as remarkable for its fine flavor and quality as for its low price. A 5 cent piece of "BATTLE AX" is almost as large as a 10 cent piece of any other equally good tobacco.'

Advertisement for Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association. Text: 'Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association. Edward B. Harper, Founder. Frederick A. Burnham, President. FIFTEEN YEARS COMPLETED—ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORT. The Largest and Strongest Natural Premium Life Insurance Companies in the World.' Includes financial statistics for 1895 and information about the annual meeting.

Advertisement for Sapolio. Text: 'The Pot Called the Kettle Black Because the Housewife Didn't Use SAPOLIO'.