



DESIGN FOR NEW SKIRT.

Only Soft Materials Are Employed in Its Development, and the Effect is Marvelous.

There is ushered into fashion's domain this winter a very pretty skirt which is divided into four parts—in fact it is called the four-pieced skirt. Henrietta, cashmere and lightweight ladies' cloth are the accepted materials for its development, for the heavier fabrics make up clumsily and without grace.

About six yards of material, double width of course, are required to make the four-pieced skirt, if full directions are carried out; but with a little decep-



NEW FOUR PIECED SKIRT.

tion it can be accomplished with just a little more than half as many.

In the former case, four little over-skirts are made separately and put on the same band. In the latter a foundation skirt of silk or imitation silk is made and the miniature skirts sewed upon it, each overlapping the other enough to hide the heading so that a separate effect is maintained. The skirt has an abbreviated train and slightly sweeps the ground all around. There are no gathers nor plaits at the back and the opening is made upon the side to preserve an unbroken beauty of outline. Any bodice can be worn with the four-pieced skirt, and it is particularly dressy with the novel new silk waists that are so much the vogue.

SONGBIRDS FOR FOOD.

Thousands of Robins Eat Every Fall for the Morsel of Meat on Their Tiny Breasts.

In November the robins in flocks of hundreds make their way into the gardens of towns, as well as into the parks and fields and orchards about the bay of San Francisco, where many of the blessed wanderers are shot for sport and the morsel of meat on their breasts, says John Muir in the Atlantic. Man then seems a beast of prey, pray as he may. Not even genuine piety can make the robin-killer quite respectable. Saturdays are the great slaughter days in the bay region. Then the city pot-hunters, good and bad, with a ragtag of boys, go forth to kill, kept in countenance by a sprinkling of regular sportsmen arrayed in self-conscious majesty and legging, leading dogs and carrying hammerless, breech-loading guns of famous makers. Over the fine landscapes the killing goes forward with shameful enthusiasm. After escaping countless dangers, thousands fall, big bagfuls are gathered, many are left wounded to die slowly, no Red Cross society to help them. Next day, Sunday, the blood and legging vanish from the most devout of the bird butchers, and they go to church, carrying gold-headed canes instead of guns. After hymns, prayers and sermon they go home to feast, to put God's songbirds to use, put them in their dinners instead of in their hearts, eat them, suck the pitiful little drumsticks. It is only race living on race, to be sure, but Christians singing Divine love need not be driven to such straits, while wheat and apples grow, and the shops are full of dead cattle. Songbirds for food! Compared with this, to make kindling of our pianos and violins would be pious economy.

HABITUAL BOARDERS.

The Kind Old Bachelor Grows Very Bitter in Discussing Their Alleged Shortcomings.

A dear old bachelor friend who comes to see me frequently broke forth the other day in a tirade against boarding-house women. Not the landladies, but the guests. "Of all the useless, inexcusable cumberers of the ground," said he, "they are the worst. The landlady is to be respected. She has a home and an occupation in this world, but her boarders have none. I don't speak of single women or business women—they have some excuse for boarding, though I think the wisest among them combine to keep house together—but the married women. Their husbands' duty in life is to earn money for the support of a home, and the men do it. The wives' duty is to make the home, but they shirk it. They spend their energies in dressing with as much elegance as they can command. They wear pretty breakfast sacks and put on silk gowns for dinner.

"They dress their hair elaborately; sometimes they dye it. At the table their idea of rational conversation is to find fault with the food. They are adepts at quickly and quietly seizing on celery, olives or any little delicacy which may not quite go round. After dinner they sit in rocking chairs, where they can command a view of the front steps, or of who goes out and comes in the hall. In the daytime, when they are not fussing over their wardrobes, they are haunting the shops and the bargain sales or visiting round in one another's rooms and abusing the landlady.

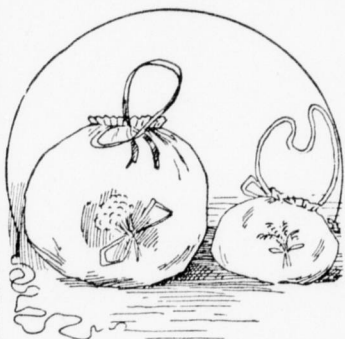
"They go to all the matinees they can and worship actors. Some of them study elocution or china painting or Delarte or any other useless thing to fill up their time. They have no time or energy for charitable work; they have no money to take a pew in church. Besides, they generally don't believe in church. They like to go out Christmas or Easter to hear the music and find fault with the poor, fallible human beings who support such institutions. Their favorite literature is the society columns of the paper. They can tell all that the fine folk are doing as well as if they were intimate friends. They have themselves no circle of friends, only chance acquaintances—here to-day and gone to-morrow, wanderers from one boarding house to another, like themselves. They have no duties, no responsibilities. They'd be afraid to take a \$20 flat and wear a print wrapper and do their own work, and make homes for their husbands and children. Is there anything more wretched than children brought up in a boarding house? Those idiot women would not be capable of it. Besides, they would think themselves coming down in the world. They actually believe the kind of life they lead to be superior. If they started out with a normal allowance of heart and brain, ten years of boarding-house life bankrupts them."—Chicago Post.

BAG FOR STOCKINGS.

An Easily Made Article That Will Save the Housekeeper Much Worry and Trouble.

A stocking bag is a useful thing for the housewife who has to darn the hose of her family. It is as easily made as it is convenient.

Take a yard of pretty cretonne, with a small figure; three yards of satin ribbon an inch wide, to match the cretonne in color, a small piece of white flannel, some stiff pasteboard and a spool of silk. Cut four circular pieces of the pasteboard, each one seven



STOCKING BAGS.

inches in diameter. You may cut them out by a large saucer, or a bread and butter plate. Cover these pieces smoothly with cretonne and overhang them two together, as if for a pocket pin cushion, with the sewing silk. The puff should be a straight piece of cretonne 60 inches long and 12 inches wide. Turn in the edges on the sides of this strip and gather to fit the circular pieces, to which the strip must be neatly overhanded. Leave the ends open for the mouth of your bag, which is a full puff, with a circular disk in the center of each side. Make for the outside of one of these disks a piece of the same size and shape. Cut from the flannel several leaves of the same shape, but smaller by an inch in diameter, buttonhole stitch the edge of each leaf with sewing silk and fasten them to the circle on the bag. They are to form a needle book for darning needles.

Fasten the embroidered cover over this and sew a bow of ribbon where it is fastened.

On the opposite side of the bag a piece of cretonne is set for a pocket gathered at the top by an elastic run in a casing, and at the bottom by two shirrings. This pocket is to hold darning cotton. Hem the ends of the puff for a casing and run two pieces of ribbon in for strings to draw the bag up. The interior is the receptacle for the stockings.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Nutrition in Oysters.

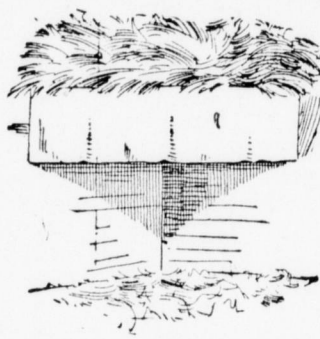
A quart of oysters contains, on the average, about the same quantity of nutritive substance as a quart of milk or a pound of very lean beef.



AN EXCELLENT IDEA.

Roosting and Nesting Device for Leghorn Fowls Which Prevents Freezing of Combs.

The cut shows a very excellent roosting and nesting device that has done duty in the cold of a Maine winter. It is in use for a small pen of Leghorns—a breed that must be kept warm at night, if eggs are to be had at this season of the year. The roost is put across the corner of the pen, and a piece of



ROOST PROTECTED BY NEST.

burlap is stretched before it. A few crosspieces are laid across the corner at the curtain's upper edge, and on these is piled a lot of waste hay, making a very warm roosting place. The Leghorns delight to fly upon this hay and lay their eggs, under the impression that they are stealing away their nests. Humoring a Leghorn in this way is conducive to laying, and the eggs can easily be reached. As the whole thing can be put up in five minutes' time, there is no excuse for frosted combs on the Leghorns.—Webb Donnell, in Orange Judd Farmer.

THE RENOVATED EGG.

New Grade of Hens' Fruit Has Just Made Its Appearance in the Cheap Shops of London.

The "family doctor" is responsible for a new terror. This is the renovated egg. We are all familiar with the ordinary gradations of the egg—the new-laid egg, the fresh egg, the breakfast egg, the family egg and the cooking egg. And, after these, used to come simply the "egg" of which the purveyor could not even boast that it was good enough to cook with, but the purchaser could not deny that it really was an egg. This was the class of egg used, so some aver, to give the gloss to confectioners' pastry; and below even the rank of commercial utility there was still the election egg, a handy missile whose demerits as a comestible became virtues when exploded upon an opposition platform. Here, one might have thought, we had reached the very lowest depths of eggdom; but it seems that there is yet another grade, namely, the renovated egg. This is an egg which has become too palpably stale, soiled and mildewy in appearance to be sold under any appellation whatever until a composition of diluted vitriol has been applied to it. Then the shell puts off its hues of decay and gleams with a maiden snow-white purity that tempts the too trustful passer-by.

The vender will not exactly guarantee that the eggs are new-laid, but "they've just come in, and you can see for yourself, ma'am, what they're like." So the purchaser purchases; but, alas! the virtues of the diluted vitriol have not penetrated beyond the shell, and it is a distressed lodger who rings up the landlady to tell her that the breakfast egg which she has provided ought to have been an election egg at least a month previously.—London Globe.

Quality Determines Price.

Make it a point to have your poultry of the best quality before shipping to market, says the New York Produce Review. One who is not accustomed to visiting the large markets knows nothing of the enormous amount of inferior poultry that is sold and which largely affects the prices, yet there is always a demand for that which is good and at a price above the regular quotations. The assorting of the carcasses before shipping also leads to better prices. Old roosters, which seldom sell at more than half price, should not be in the same boxes or barrels with better stock, and to ship poultry alive and have roosters in the coop with fat hens is simply to lower the price of the hens, as the buyer will estimate the value by the presence of the inferior stock. In fact, never send any poultry to market unless in first-class condition, and under no circumstances ship the inferior with that which is better.

Soft Food and Disease.

There is a partiality for soft foods, because by their use many substances in a fine condition can be given; but it is a mistake to feed soft food oftener than once a day to three days in the week. Too much soft food causes the gizzard to be idle, and, being deprived of its use, the fowl becomes diseased. The gizzard is an organ that performs a certain duty, just as is required of the heart or liver, and any system of feeding that takes largely from the gizzard the duty which devolves upon it will in the end prove detrimental. It is not out of place to allow soft foods, but the larger proportion of the food should be unground, so as to keep the gizzard active; hence whole grains are essential to success. When too much soft food is allowed the crop frequently remains full and food does not pass through the gizzard.—Farm and Fireside.

SPECIALTY FARMING.

It Draws Constantly on the Fertility of the Soil Without Permitting Renovation.

Specialty farming means devoting the larger part of the time to the production of one crop. This crop may be wheat, corn or cotton and there are large sections in this country devoted almost wholly to one or another of these crops. One year's failure of the special crop of any of these sections means serious inconvenience to farmers, and a failure for two or more successive years leads to ruin. From the orange groves of Florida and the cane lands of Louisiana to the wheat fields of North Dakota the specialty farmer is liable to work without profit because of barren years or low prices. It is true that each section is better for some one crop than for any other, and it is good policy to devote a considerable part of the time and the farm to that crop. The good farmer will endeavor to learn which crop is the most profitable, and that having been settled he will try to learn everything that is to be known about that particular crop. At the same time he will learn something concerning every other crop which he can grow, in order that he may diversify his productions as much as possible.

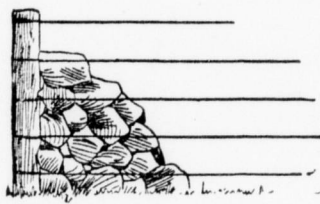
Specialty farming is always destructive of the fertility of the soil without permitting renovation except by the direct application of fertilizers, a costly way of maintaining fertility, no matter what is used for this purpose.

The farmer who plants a variety of crops, keeps sheep, cattle and hogs and takes good care of everything, is always ready for any season or any peculiar condition of the markets. He may not have any especially fat years, but he will never have total loss to contend with and on the whole will have greater profits and fewer losses.—Farmers' Voice.

ANCHORING POSTS.

An Important Item in the Construction of Durable and Satisfactory Wire Fences.

The great secret of getting a satisfactory "stand" of wire fence is to have the end and corner posts most firmly braced. There are various methods—with wooden braces, making a sort of truss between the end and the neighboring posts, as well as by wires anchored to huge bowlders sunk in the ground outside the corner. There is



HOW TO ANCHOR POSTS.

considerable work and more or less uncertainty in these plans, while the one suggested herewith is easily put in force and makes a very firm corner. Stones are piled up against the post as shown—in both directions, or at right angles if the post be at a corner. Where stones are plenty, as they are all through the northern and eastern states, such a corner can quickly be established.—Orange Judd Farmer.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

Farm fewer acres and rent the balance of the farm.

Sawdust is a good absorbent when used as bedding.

It is claimed that artichokes are a good conditioner and preventive of swine disease.

Chicago commission men keep owls to keep rats and mice away. They are better than cats, it is said.

Winter time affords an opportunity to make repairs of implements and machinery for next season's use.

With a homemade wooden snowplow and a horse all the walks about the house could be cleaned of snow in a few minutes.

Grow plenty of grass and keep all the stock that it will support. Farmers who have made money usually have made it through live stock.

The wind that comes through a crack in window or door is biting cold in winter, and it is just as cold where it comes through the crack of the stable.—Western Plowman.

Sinks for Farm Kitchens.

Every farmer's kitchen should be furnished with a sink, into which both hard and soft water should be brought by pumps. It is not always convenient to have the well water thus brought, but there is no reason why the cistern water should not be. The sink should connect with a drain for the carrying away of waste water. If water must be brought into the house in pails, it surely is too much to ask that it be carried out in the same manner and thrown on the ground to make a spot offensive to sight and smell and a breeding place for flies. At one end of the sink a long, broad shelf makes a good place to put dishes as they are wiped, and under this should be drawers for dish wipers and kitchen aprons, and a cupboard for teapot and coffee pot.

Fertilizing Sour Lands.

The first object sought in fertilizing should be to correct the acidity of the soil and to set up the processes of decomposition of the organic matter and nitrification so as to convert the inert into valuable plant food. Liberal applications of decomposing manures, such as barnyard manure, in connection with dressings of lime, have usually been found effective for this purpose.—Farmers' Review.

A Double Crop of Apples.

On a Long Island farm is an apple tree which bore two crops of fruit the past year, and the farmers are taking unusual interest in this peculiarity of nature. Just as much interest has been shown in Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which has the peculiarity of curing dyspepsia, indigestion, constipation and blood disorders that other remedies fail to benefit. In chronic cases it rarely fails, and it cures whenever a cure is possible.

Wanted a Cyclorama.

Mrs. Fatpurse—You paint pictures to order, don't you?

Great Artist—Yes, madam.

"Well, I want a landscape with lots of deer and bucks, and quail, and partridges, and pheasants, and cattle, and sheep, and pigs, and so on, you know; and put a lake and an ocean in—fresh and salt water, you know; and be sure to have plenty of fish swimming around, because it's for the dining room."—Boston Globe.

From Baby in the High Chair
to grandma in the rocker Grain-O is good for the whole family. It is the long-desired substitute for coffee. Never upsets the nerves or injures the digestion. Made from pure grains it is a food in itself. Has the taste and appearance of the best coffee at 4¢ the price. It is a genuine and scientific article and is come to stay. It makes for health and strength. Ask your grocer for Grain-O.

It All Depended.

The General—I have stood unmoved when shells were bursting round me. Could you?

The Actor—Well, that would depend a great deal on the age of the eggs.—Stray Stories.

Pleasant, Wholesome, Speedy, for coughs is Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar. Pike's Toothache Drops Cure in one minute.

Feminine Sisterliness.

"What made you lose your place in the line?"

"Because I wasn't going to be kissed by the lieutenant right after he had smacked that odious, peppermint chewing Bagley girl!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

We think Piso's Cure for Consumption is the only medicine for Coughs.—Jennie Pinckard, Springfield, Ill., Oct. 1, 1894.

Never be at your place of business when a person wants to borrow money of you, because if you are in you will be out, but if you are out you will be in.—Town and Country Journal.

We may listen, but we generally think less of a man after he tells some family secrets.—Washington (La.) Democrat.

"After all, in spite of what they say of the pace of this age killing, lots of millionaires seem to live to a good old age." "Yes, it's their agents that do the dying."—Town Topics.

They had been "keeping company" for eight years, and when he finally proposed and was accepted in the ardor of his enthusiasm he exclaimed: "Darling, you are worth your weight in gold!" With almost cruel facetiousness she replied: "That is saying a good deal, for it was an awful long wait."—Richmond Dispatch.

Richard—"Wonder if we can get a drink at this place?" William—"Don't know. We can find out by going in, I suppose." Richard—"Thanks; don't care if I do."—Larks.

"Lemme get out," said the thin man who had been looking out of the window. "What's the matter?" "Here comes that friend who is always telling me how I'll undermine my health if I keep on worrying. He scares me worse than the grip."—Washington Star.

"He called me a lobster," said the man with the short hair and the hard face. "What did you do?" "I made him crawfish."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Mrs. Foleigh—"Oh, John, the paper is offering a prize for a description of a model husband." Mr. Foleigh—"You want to take a try at it?" "Yes, please." "All right. Just get the pen, ink and paper, and I'll dictate to you."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Tastes.—Moth—"I overheard some callers saying this room is furnished in execrable taste." Other Moth—"Why, the ideal I never ate more palatable upholstery in my life!"—Detroit Journal.

Peaceable Red Men—"Are the Indians near your ranch troublesome?" "Now, they ain't got nuthin' we want."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Keep Coughing

We know of nothing better to tear the lining of your throat and lungs. It is better than wet feet to cause bronchitis and pneumonia. Only keep it up long enough and you will succeed in reducing your weight, losing your appetite, bringing on a slow fever and making everything exactly right for the germs of consumption.

Stop coughing and you will get well.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

cures coughs of every kind. An ordinary cough disappears in a single night. The racking coughs of bronchitis are soon completely mastered. And, if not too far along, the coughs of consumption are completely cured.

Ask your druggist for one of

Dr. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral Plaster.

It will aid the action of the Cherry Pectoral.

If you have any complaint whatever and desire the best medical advice you can possibly obtain, write us freely. You will receive a prompt reply that may be of great value to you. Address, Dr. J. C. AYER, Lowell, Mass.

DO YOU COUGH

DON'T DELAY TAKE KEMP'S BALSAM

THE BEST COUGH CURE

It Cures Colds, Coughs, Sore Throat, Croup, Influenza, Whooping Cough, Bronchitis and Asthma. A certain cure for Consumption in first stages, and a sure relief in advanced stages. Use at once. You will see the excellent effect after taking the first dose. Sold by dealers everywhere. Price, 25 and 50 cents per bottle.

Made from hickory wood. Cheaper, cleaner, sweeter, and safer than the old way. Send for circular. K. & H. A. W. & H. CO., Milton, Pa.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children

Bears The Signature Of *Wm. H. Fletcher* In Use For Over Thirty Years The Kind You Have Always Bought

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, 77 MURRAY STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

"IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED," TRY

SAPOLIO

STAR PLUG L. & M. NATURAL LEAF PLUG CLIPPER PLUG CORNER STONE PLUG SLEDGE PLUG SCALPING KNIFE PLUG SLEDGE MIXTURE SMOKING

Not Made by a TRUST or COMBINE!

LIGGETT & MYERS TOBACCO COMP'Y, Manufacturer.

Catalogues of THOUSANDS of BEST PLAYS

Largest Assortment in the World. All kinds of Books for Home Amusements, including 100 New Plays just issued. Charades, Reciters, Children's Plays, Negro Plays, Dialogues, Mrs. Jarley's Wax Works, Fairy Plays, Paper Dolls, Plays for Male Characters only, Tableaux Vivants, Make-Up Materials, Amateur's Guide to the Stage, Guide to Selecting Plays. "How to Make UP." W. A. M. T. FRENCH, 26 W. 23d St., New York City.

OLD SORES CURED

Allen's Ulcerine Salve is the only sure cure in the world for Ulcerative Eczema, Bores, Ulcers, Scrofulous Ulcers, Varicose Ulcers, White Swelling, Fever Sores, and all Old Sores. It never fails. Draws out all poison. Saves expense and suffering. Cures permanent. Best salve for Boils, Carbuncles, Piles, Salt Rheum, Burns, Cuts and all Fresh Wounds. By mail, small size, large size, 50¢ and \$1.00. A. L. LEWIS, Sole Agent, 100 N. 2d St., St. Paul, Minn. Sold by Druggists.

DROPSY NEW DISCOVERY; gives quick relief and cures worst cases. Send for book of testimonials and 10 days' treatment free. Dr. H. H. HARRIS'S BLOOD PURIFIER, etc.

Wheat Wheat

Nothing but wheat! What you might call a sea of wheat? Was what a lecturer said while speaking of WESTERN CANADA. For particulars as to routes, railway fares, etc., apply to Superintendent of Immigration, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, Ottawa, Canada.

or to M. V. McINNIS, No. 1 Merrill Block, Detroit, Mich.

A. N. K.—C 1743

RISO'S CURE FOR

CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Taste Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists.

CONSUMPTION