

CURRENT FASHIONS.

Already there seems to be a breath of spring in the air, and we have only to glance at the windows of the leading dry goods houses to be convinced that at least the spring time is not far distant.

The first importation of spring wools that are shown are homespun Cheviots, tweeds, and fanciful plaids and stripes with rough surfaces. Gowns made of these materials are very stylish and inexpensive. They only require a stitching on all edges, or they may be bound with silk or mohair braid, and have light or dark pearl buttons or those matching the braid, the mock buttonhole button being very stylish for this purpose. An idea of simplicity must pervade the dress to make it successful. The skirt is plain across the front and sides or has a few plaits on either side, at the belt, to break the monotony. The back is in fan or box plaits, which must be firmly pressed in shape, as the object is to see them clearly defined, though not caught so as to show that they are fastened.

Beige and tan shades are always popular in the spring and are now of the lightest mushroom tints. A special fancy this season will be the use of pale green shades as garnitures of these light tan dresses.

Darker green and pale yellow will also be used with gray dresses. The prevailing style of bodice for these, seems to be the deep-skirted coat, either single or double breasted; if single breasted they are open on a shirt waist of a contrasting color.

Ladies' cloth, in light weight, will also be in favor for street, visiting, home, dinner and evening wear, with trimmings of velvet, bands of ostrich feathers, gold and silver galleons, embroidery and jeweled passementeries. For street costumes, two shades are combined, the lighter being used for the vest, cuffs and under skirt which is often braided with silver or gold cord.

In cotton goods, gingham remain the popular fabric, and these come in faint tints of blue, tan or gray, with white cross bars, and a second, or even a third color in hair-lines or narrow stripes. The plaids are from one to three inches, and small checks also form plaids, cross-barred with a thread of contrasting color. The most costly and exquisite of these goods are copies of Louis Quinze brocades in chain stripes of flowers and vines on white grounds, alternating with solid stripes of pale rose, sky-blue, mauve or gray.

Sateens come in dark colors, and flowered batistes with lace stripes, while challies show long-stemmed effects, such as are seen in India silks.

The most important part of a lady's toilet is her bonnet, which if not made to look attractive, to harmonize with her face and dress, has the power to completely destroy the effect of the entire costume. Already modistes are beginning to display spring styles, and from the models shown toques and capotes are to be smaller than ever, mere "nothings" so to speak; a bit of fluffy lace combined with a few flowers so natural that they seem as if freshly plucked from their native heath, or gold lace, passementerie or jet ornaments with narrow rouleaux of velvet, lace and flowers. The shapes show but little change from the winter styles, but the trimmings are brought more to the front. Long ends of black tulle, frosted with gold or silver, brought from the back of the hat and fastened loosely under the chin or at the side with a fancy pin, are shown by a leading Fifth avenue house, and will be, as the season advances, very stylish and popular for there is nothing which has such a softening and beautifying effect on the face as lace. Mere bandelets of flowers, with velvet ribbon ties and bows, are suitable for evening wear, only.



No. 905.

Hats show large fronts coquettishly bent here and there in the Gainsborough style, and while pretty to look at are becoming to but very few. Straws show odd shapes like shells, leaves and flower-petals also being coming to but one in a thousand. A large white straw is almost covered with arbutus while in the back, between the hat and the hair, is a little band of gold velvet from which depends a quaint golden net caught up, and letting the hair shine through its meshes. A silver gray straw has pendant clusters of pale lavender wisteria falling on the hair. For spring concerts, is a head-dress that looks like a thorny rose-stem, twisted about the head, and then allowed to fasten itself under a cluster of creamy, yellow rosebuds. Black, lavender, yellow, turquoise, pale green and gray, mignonette, hyacinth, peach or pearl colors to match walking costumes, are the leading colors in millinery.

Another important feature of a lady's toilet is her foot wear. The best styles in shoes are simple and plain, as far as shape is concerned; but in place of large bows, the whole shoe is now decorated. For example, a bronze one had been covered all over with a



No. 906.

double lattice work of closely stitched baby ribbon. For dressy occasions the ooze calf, sometimes called velvet calf, is very fashionable. It derives its name from the fact that the dyes are cozed through the calfskin, which is of a very fine quality. It takes readily all colors, which do not easily fade, but remain fast. It is so becoming and so rich in appearance that it is not strange that it increases daily in favor. It is made up in various colors with satin leeds of a contrasting color; it is also made up in handsome low ties for afternoon wear.



No. 907.

Some pretty evening slippers, in tan, gray and black suede, are shown with beaded toes and silver straps, which are not only ornamental but keep the slipper firmly on, they being inclined to fit rather loosely around the ankle. Slippers of patent leather have the sharp toe and a pointed tongue over the instep under a strap and handsome buckle. Spider web embroidery on the toes of slippers in gold thread, with a red and gold spider and a bluish fly are among the latest novelties. Black slippers are worked with pink beads lined with pink, and have a fluted bow lined with the same rosy shade.

The greatest novelty which has yet appeared for bridesmaids is a cream suede shoe, entirely covered with embroidered gold stars.

No. 905. DRESS FOR A GIRL TEN YEARS OLD.—Material plain wool goods. The skirt is pleated in the back and plain in front; the front is covered with a square apron of the same length and



No. 908.

No. 909.

material which is bordered with a braided design. Round, close-fitting bodice, the front ornamented with a braided plastron having three flat folds of the dress goods on each side. The bodice is invisibly fastened under the folds on the left side. Straight collar of velvet. Full sleeves gathered into deep, braided cuffs.

No. 906. MATELASSE JACKET.—Our illustration shows a matelasse jacket of black wool with lining of black silk or serge. The high collar, and cuffs are of black velvet also the plastron which extends the entire length of the jacket. The jacket is invisibly closed on the left side by means of a button-hole fly underneath the edge of the front and small buttons set on the vest.

Ornaments of buttons with corals cross the fronts.

No. 907. CHILD'S FROCK.—This little frock may be made of flannel or of gingham and other washable materials. The model is of plaid blue and white flannel, feather-stitched with blue silk. It is a simple yoke slip gathered in at the waist by a draw-string. The narrow standing collar, poke, hem and wrist-bands are all ornamented with the feather-stitching. The frock is closed in the back with pearl buttons.

CHILDREN'S COSTUMES.—No. 908. The first costume is a dress of pink silk over a foundation skirt of sateen of the same color. The silk skirt is finished with a hem two inches deep above which are three tucks each one and three-fourths inches wide. The skirt is gathered and fastened to a band an inch wide. The waist is gathered at the top and finished with a band of silk about an inch wide, which goes over the shoulders; it is also gathered at the bottom and fastened to the skirt-band, which is concealed by a broad ribbon sash. Short puffed sleeves and bronze kid slippers.

The second costume is a dress of dark blue cheviot with netted insertion of Crimson Berlin wool. The skirt is pleated and the front breadth is trimmed with two rows of netted insertion mounted with a cord piping. The gathered waist has a square yoke composed of stripes of the dress material and netted insertion. The straight collar and waist-band are made of the netted insertion. Full sleeves gathered into deep cuffs formed like the yoke of stripes of the dress goods and netted insertion. A sash of the dress material with a row of insertion across the ends and finished with fringe is fastened to the centre of the waist-band in the back.

A WINTER GARDEN.

BY ELIZABETH GRANSON.

"It is my faith that every flower enjoys the air it breathes." Not long since I entered a neighbor's house which was so filled with beauty and fragrance from a low stand of flowers near the window, that I could not but wonder at their loveliness. The winds of January were roaring without, the snow flew in little whirl-winds against the window, but the bright flowers lifted their faces as cheerily as ever did rose of June.

"How do you manage?" I said, for my friend had no conservatory or any special means of taking care of plants.

"Well," she said, "to begin, I do not try to have any of the rarer hot-house flowers, but only the good, old-fashioned kinds, which are hardy and easily cared for. The geraniums, as you see, make up most of my winter garden. This beautiful crimson is my favorite; it is a dwarf, and gives an immense mass of bloom. 'Lady Washington' is old and good. This is my latest acquisition, 'The Bridesmaid,' and I am greatly pleased with its delicate blossoms. Geranium slips should be planted in small pots, pinching them, occasionally to make the plants stocky; the flowers stems must be kept back until fall, then re-rotting them into larger crocks, they will bloom well through the winter. Large pots with a good soil, require watering but twice a week and must be kept in rather a cool room, with plenty of light,—these are the conditions if you would keep them healthy.

"Occasionally, I take all my plants, and setting them in a large tub give them a good shower bath, washing the leaves gently, and turning the crock around as I set it back in its place so that the sun can reach every part.

"I have flowers of some sort all winter, and with the scented leaves of the rose-geranium are always ready to supply a boutonniere at a moment's notice, while my table is never without its bouquet of flowers.

"The Begonias are very desirable house-plants and are almost entirely free from the nuisance of insects. Tarexias are among my favorites, both for their beauty and fragrance. With them, the question of bloom is only one of growth. Secure healthy plants and make them grow and you are certain of the flowers."

"Here," she said, turning to a small pot over-run with a spreading vine-like plant, "is my especial favorite; I never pass it without rubbing my fingers upon it, or pulling one of the little leaves. See what an exquisite lemon-like taste and fragrance it has. It is the lemon thyme and is one of the daintiest little plants imaginable.

"No, I seldom have any trouble with insects. The best remedy I know of, for them is tobacco, either smoking the plants or using a weak solution as a wash.

"I study the catalogues and manage my house-plants so as to have a constant succession of bloom through the winter; then, early in the spring I begin with my out-door garden, for flowers are a necessity with me and I like to let my winter plants rest through the summer.

"I make up my mind early as to colors and kinds wanted; have my seeds on hand early, and preparing boxes and pans of earth, plant in the house seeds of the kinds which will bear transplanting in order to have early flowers. Among these are pansies, balsams, portulaca, petunias, Drummond phlox and nasturtium, all good and reliable. A later lot may also be planted out of doors making a succession of blooming for the summer.

"Sweet peas can be planted very early, as soon as the ground thaws enough to put in the seed. If the weather turns very cold after planting, cover the spot with coarse hay or straw, pulling it off again when the sun shines. Treated in this way they will bloom profusely from June till November, if the flowers are cut with a liberal hand. Cut them continually for bouquets and tables and your plants will blossom brighter and better for the pruning.

"Then, too, the children have their 'wild flower garden' where the early spring flowers lift their heads, before planting time has come. In the sheltered corner of the fence is a row of tall ferns and feathery marsh-grass. Here 'Hepaticas' show their pink and blue and white blossoms, sometimes before the end of March. 'Wake Robins' with their white three-lobed lilies and broad three-lobed leaves. 'Spring beauties' and 'Adder's tongues' (don't ask me to be botanical and scientific, we call them all by their common names). Blue, and yellow, and white, violets and the waxon mandrake blossoms of which we make exquisite flat bouquets wired with green leaves. They scent the whole house with their sweet perfume.

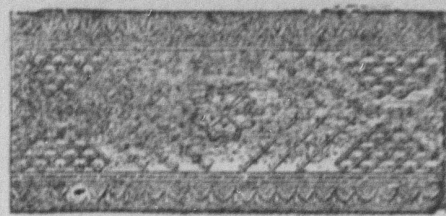
"I cannot tell you all the treasures the little ones bring in from their garden from March till June, when the garden flowers are in bloom and the children's corner begins to be slighted, though they have growing many of the native shrubs which will command admiration by the side of more pretensions and high-priced bushes and plants."

Bread.

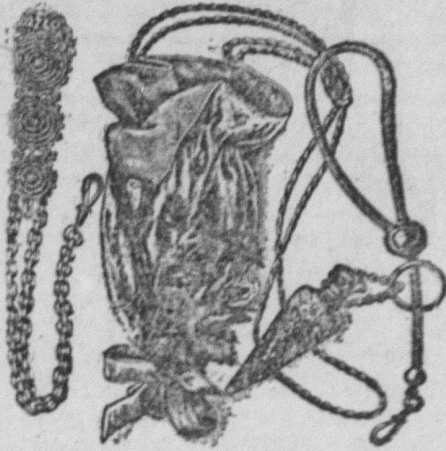
To some of the tired ones I will tell my way of bread making. First, all that bother of potato yeast is needless work. In a hollow of your flour put a compressed yeast-cake and a little milk. With your wooden spoon break and mix; add more milk and make a thin batter, which beat ten minutes. Early in the morning add more flour and beat ten minutes. It should be ready to mold soon after breakfast. Now don't double up your fists once, but stir it thick, and open your hands flat and roll it without using any strength until smooth. The longer you roll the nicer it will be.

Misses Kate and Carrie Mann, recent graduates of the Iowa Agricultural College, will put their knowledge to practical use. They are starting a small fruit farm, and will also experiment in raising sugar beets. They propose to do the work themselves.

FANCY WORK.



TRIMMING FOR A CHILD'S DRESS OR APRON.—These light stitches are easily reproduced in wool, floss, cotton or silk, and can be made on a band of any material desired to be used as a trimming.

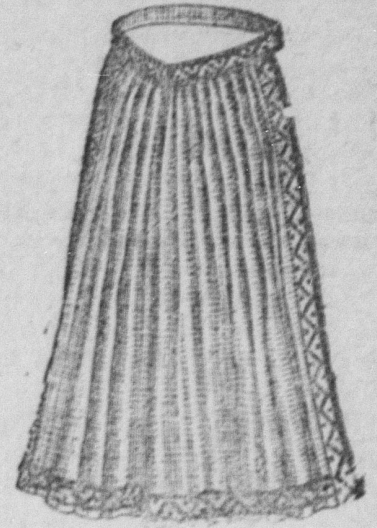


VINAIGRETTE, FAN BAG AND TRAY LIFT.—The great value of many of the fans now carried, as well as the perishable nature of those which are handed down as heirlooms in families, render necessary these pretty fan bags to provide against their destruction when carrying them to the opera or ball.

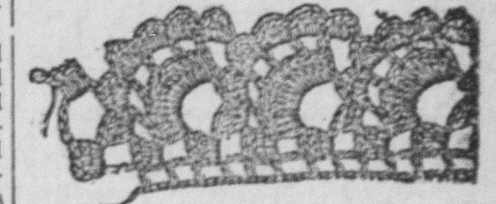
DESIGN FOR TRAY OR TABLE CLOTH.—If this design is used for a Tray Cloth, the entire surface of the linen should be covered with the design; if for a table cloth, the border should surround the cloth and the three unfinished stars in the corner be completed. The corner design should be repeated in each corner. The stars are worked in flat stitch in white floss and outlined with a color. Between the lines, connecting the stars, is a row of small drawn work blocks also in the leaf-shaped figure in the border. This drawn work may be omitted and a very pretty result still be obtained.

The illustration shows a corner for a table cloth worked in cross-stitch. The materials used may be wash silks or embroidery cotton. With this should be used a table scarf worked with the same design, and edged with Russian lace.

hole stitches in colored washable embroidery cotton. The veining is done in cotton of a lighter shade. The oblong mat is of white linen-momicloth, with a drawn work border and deep fringe. The embroidered design is done in outline stitch with white linen floss and blue thread. The square doiley is of cream linen with red border lines on each side of a band of drawn work; the corner designs are worked in red and white linen thread.



SEWING APRON.—This is made of cream-colored scrim and is a yard wide and twenty-seven inches long. Around the edge is a cross-stitched border worked in washable silk, the pattern of which is shown in No. 909. Each stitch is taken over three threads of the canvas. The border should be worked two inches from the edge, and when finished, the material beyond, turned down and hemmed under it. The top is pleated in side pleats, turned toward the middle, thus reducing the width to nine inches.

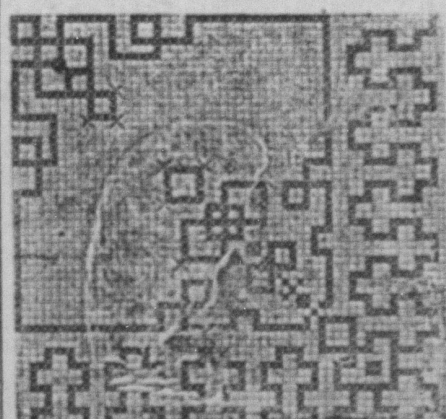


CROCHET EDGE FOR UNDER SKIRTS.—This pretty edge may be made of linen

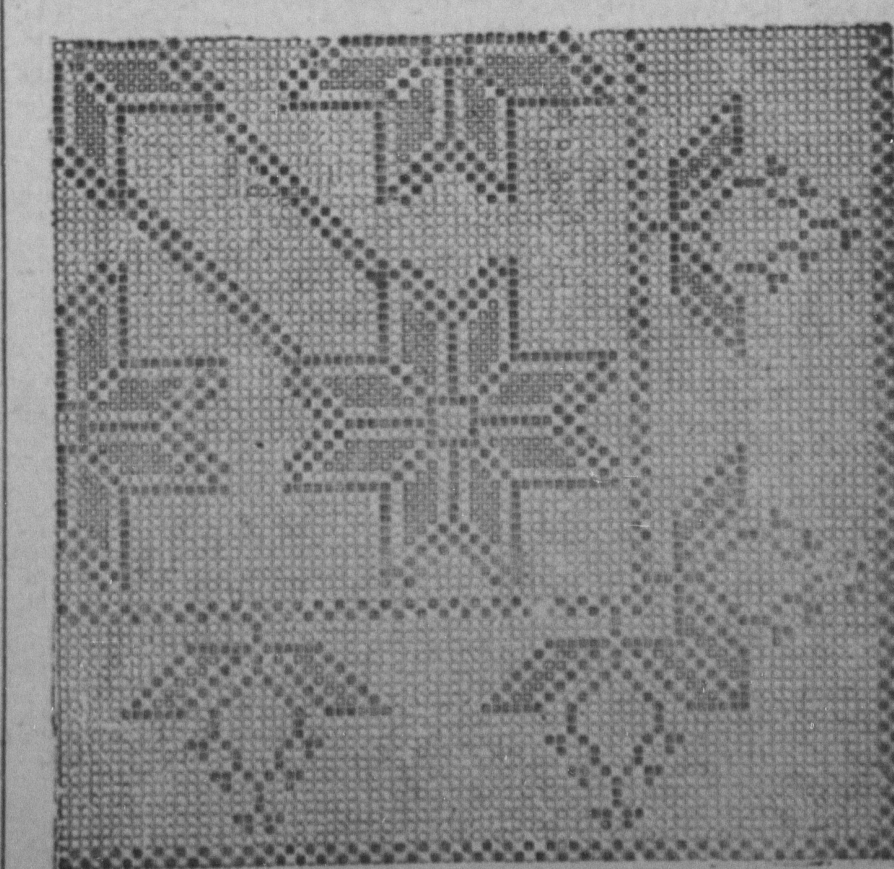


GROUP OF TABLE MATS.

GROUP OF TABLE MATS. The oval scalloped mat is of white linen; the design being outlined with fine white linen soutache sewed down with button



CORNER FOR A TRAY TABLE CLOTH.



DESIGN FOR A TRAY OR TABLE CLOTH.