

CURRENT FASHIONS.

How many of our readers know, and carefully observe, the three general rules which should govern all good dressing: 1st. That the dress should not contradict the natural lines of the body. 2d. The proportions of the dress should obey the proportions of the body. 3d. The dress should reasonably express the character of the wearer. Were these three rules carefully borne in mind by ladies when selecting new costmes, we are quite sure that there would be less of that *outré* style of dressing, which is so diametrically opposed to all the rules of good taste.

The long continued cool weather and the sudden changes from extreme heat to cold, should convince every lady of the necessity and comfort of having two or more costumes of light-weight wool goods in her wardrobe. Among the woolen materials now in vogue for outdoor wear are the usual light-weight chevots, tweeds, and faced cloths. Mixed and clouded effects prevail in these and the general tone is quiet, though many of the new fabrics have dots and flecks of bright coloring, cunningly interwoven through the more subdued tints. Camels hair of light texture is used for handsome costumes, and the leading colors in all costumes are gray, in various tones, beige, suede, and mastic.

The style of making these plain wool gowns shows a narrow skirt of the sheath pattern, with the fullness massed in the centre of the back in pleats or close gathers. Very little drapery is used, but now and then one sees the tiny hip paniers so becoming to tall, slender figures. The bottom of the skirt is finished with the hem turned up on the right side, or a bias piece sewn on to simulate a hem and piped at the top with silk to match; sometimes two or three narrow ruffles of silk, harmonizing with the color of the dress material, are placed across the front of the skirt. Sleeves are close at the wrists, while the top is softly draped and not so full as formerly; rows of passementerie, a band of velvet, or frill of lace, usually trim the wrist. Shawl collars, rolled almost to the waist, coat collars with notched lapels, and the high, straight collar are all worn, but the latter especially for strait gowns.

For home wear, a very pretty material is that imported by tailors for Summer gowns at the sea-shore or mountains. This material is home spun of pure wool, and woven as thin and as light as grenadine, in very narrow stripes of white and delicate colors. These dresses are made up with a silk lining throughout, belted bodices, long sleeves, and a straight full skirt. Collar, cuffs, and a belt of surah silk, to match the color of the stripe, are the only trimmings.

A large variety of fabrics are to be found in the market for outing suits; some of the new flannellets are ribbed in imitation of the Bedford cords, while there are cotton surahs which resemble the dainty wash silks and a host of others that divide favor with the standard prints and all-wool flannels. The latest outing dresses are of navy blue serge, with the skirt attached to a short corselet or bodice, which is furnished with suspenders that pass over the shoulders above a shirt waist of washable silk. These suspenders are straps of serge cut in one with the front and back of the little bodice which is merely a girder or Swiss belt. The skirt is without lining and has a hem simulated at the feet, with a cord of pale blue. The silk shirt has a shawl collar, a box pleat down the front, and a turned over collar to be worn with a necktie; the sleeves are full and straight with turned back cuffs. With this is worn a jacket of blue serge fastened across the bust with a buttoned strap, and having a belt with lapped ends in the back. Other outing dresses have the laced belt or bodice which was so popular last year.

For cool days in summer natty little jackets are displayed, the most elaborate of which are made in recent style with the deep sailor collar trimmed with metal galloon, the same trimming on the pockets, while frogs, made to match fasten the square fronts. Less showy are the double breasted coats of navy blue diagonal or striped cloth with gilt or silver buttons and tiny anchors.

For dressy black costumes, gowns of grenadine rival those of lace so long in favor. The square meshed plain grenadine is most used; those having satin stripes and small broche figures are very handsome and are made over a lining of silk or satin surah with trimmings of lace and jet. Many plain grenadines are made over colored silk linings, while those made over black silk have vests of white gauze lace over gold net; others have sleeves of black net dotted with cabochons and all are elaborately trimmed with lace or jet. As lace is to be so much used this season it is well to know that for a trifling expense it can be made waterproof and thus not lose its freshness when at the seaside or in the mountains. Laces rendered water-proof will not fade and faded laces can be restored by this process to their original beauty.

Net gowns are really more dressy than grenadine, and have lace flounces fastened here and there with bows of gold ribbon or braided about an inch in width. The newest skirts are draped in tiny paniers with bows or lovers knots, which are also on top of the sleeves, back of the bodice, at the throat, bust and below the waist-line, where they hold a belt or Cleopatra girder of wider ribbon. The bodice has the lace around the edge and a full front over a close-fitting lining. The sleeves have lace at the wrists, are very high and are ornamented with bows. This ruffled style of trimming is now in great favor, especially for summer dresses. Hand work is most esteemed and beautiful evening dresses are very artistically embroidered by hand. One of pure white Sicilienne lately shown by a leading house was embroidered with a border of wreaths of flowers and bows. The latter were done in plain and polished silver cord, the flowers in satin stitch with white and silver beads.

At last we have found a useful dress holder which consists of two metal plates fastened together by a strong



No. 1044.

No. 1045.

spring; the dress is inserted between the plates, an India-rubber cover on one prevents the dress from slipping out. A ribbon cord or chain is put through the ring at the top, and can be twisted over the wearer's arm or fastened round the waist.

It is said that the old fashion of sealing our letters with wax is to be revived, and that the coming season will prove the truth of the report. This pretty fashion has lain too long in disuse and will meet with general favor because it gives our letters a distinctive mark which nothing else does. Those possessing ancient seals will be very fortunate, because old heritages are more highly valued than modern inventions; while those desiring to provide themselves with these articles will have to take up with imitations, as all new seals are being made in imitation of those of ancient date. A. R. E.

DINNER TOILETTES FOR YOUNG GIRLS.—No. 1044. Two shades of China crepe, one embroidered, paler rose color, the other of pale blue are employed in making this costume, together with a simulated round yoke of gold cord. The gown, in princess shape, has the



No. 1046.

front of embroidered crepe, the fullness held at the waist line by a series of pleats. The left front is in blue crepe draped like a fichu and held on the right side by a knot of gold colored ribbon. The net of the gold cord forming the yoke is placed over the dress material; the back of the bodice is of blue crepe and lined with gold cord in the centre. Medici collar in blue velvet and high shoulder sleeves of blue crepe. Maize-colored kid gloves.

No. 1045. The second toilette is of blue faille and black Chantilly lace. The bodice is open on a waistcoat of Chantilly which is placed on the linings of the front. A deep lace flounce in the form of a basque joins the bottom of the waist. An embroidery in fine gold braid ornaments the fronts and back of the bodice. Full sleeves of faille reach to the elbow and then are finished with deep wristbands draped with lace. Straight collar draped with lace and fastened on the side with a knot of the same. Plain skirt of blue faille. Light gray gloves.

No. 1046. VISITING COSTUME.—Dress of gray repon cloth with skirt panel, plastron, collar, revers and wristbands of white cloth braided in gold silk. The back of the dress skirt is pleated, the front cut in one piece with the right front of the bodice and draped on the left hip. The left front of the bodice is gathered on the shoulder and at the point where it is crossed by the right front which is bordered by a graduated revers of white cloth braided in gold silk. The back of the bodice is cut with a long plain lagoon. Sleeves of gray cloth, arranged in puff and finished with wristbands of embroidered white cloth.

Hat of gray lace straw trimmed with gray feathers.

No. 1048. PARASOLS AND BELT.—The open parasol has for its upper part crepe de Chine painted with clusters of pink; the flounce of point lace and the stick of polished natural wood around which is knotted a band of ribbon finished with silk tassels.

b. The second parasol has a handle of white lacquered wood mounted with silver trimmings and ornamented with a rosette of heavy ribbon. The cover is of white silk with a heavily embroidered gauze border; a rosette of baby ribbon ornaments the top of the ferrule.

c. The lawn tennis belt is of striped satin ribbon with silver buckle and fastenings.

If you wish to keep the pickles in your glass fruit jars rub the insides of the metal cap with lard. The cans with caps lined with porcelain are much to be preferred for all purposes.

One teaspoonful of ammonia to a teaspoonful of water will clean gold or silver jewelry; a few drops of clear aqua ammonia rubbed on the under side of diamonds will clean them immediately, making them very brilliant.

GRACE GREENWOOD (Mrs. Lippincott) is about to leave New York to make Washington her permanent residence. She is afflicted with a cataract which causes partial blindness, only to be relieved by an operation.



No. 1048.



AMONG THE SNAILS.

BY EDWARD STEP.

How fresh everything appears after last night's rain! The white chalk-dust has been washed off the leaves, and they now appear in their own color. The valley stream has become a torrent. The masses and lichens on the old stone will have plumped up again, and look quite fresh. Ah! and so what else the rain has revived. All over the mooses there are tiny snails, of strange form, crawling. Look at them! here are some with shells but little bigger than the head of a pin; and here are many of the dark brown, almost black shell which, from its many fine ridges and groove, they call the Wrinkled snail (fig. 2). Glance at it through my pocket lens, and you will see that the snail's little head is adorned with two pairs of horns or feelers, the upper pair much longer than the lower.

But if you are interested in snail life, you must look elsewhere for a variety of specimens. These are only small kinds that haunt the tops of walls. At the foot of the wall here, among the nettles, we may find several which appear to you of the more correct shape for snails. This one of a dark reddish-brown color is very common in such places, and may be called the Rusty snail. Here, too, climbing up the wall is the delicate little Silky snail, so-called because, as you see, its shell is thickly covered with ion silky hairs. The shell is very thin, and the snail is very shy.

Over among the coarse-growing nettles by the ditch there are many of the somewhat dirtily colored snails (5), much larger than any we have met this morning, and of a mottled appearance. But up the hillside is the place to find snails. Snails are more plentiful on a chalky soil than elsewhere, and all up the slopes we are likely to find several kinds. This is the path that lead up to the downs, and here, at the foot of the fence, we find the common dirty-looking Sprinkled or Garden snail (4) in abundance, as we do almost everywhere. Some of the specimens, however, are cleaner-looking than others, their colors brighter, and with something of a gloss upon them. Then the shell looks almost handsome. This snail is a great nuisance in the garden; he has such a ravenous appetite. After a good shower of rain he slides out from his retreat and goes in search of the tenderest leaves he can find in the whole garden. When he has found those that he thinks are sufficiently tender for his digestion he sets his fourteen thousand teeth to work, and in the morning the gardener vainly looks for his choice seedlings.

"Fourteen thousand teeth! Surely you are joking with me. No creature has got a mouth so large as to contain so many teeth as that!"

No, my friend, I am not joking; and were we at home with the microscope I could show you that I am stating the most absolute facts, and could let you count them yourself. Perhaps you would shrink from such a task, but it is easily accomplished. Strange to say, the snail's teeth are not placed along its jaws as in most animals, but on its tongue! Fancy that your teeth were all fastened to your tongue, and that your upper lip was somewhat horny, so that you could press your teeth against it, and so bite your food! Suppose also that your teeth were all shaped like hooks, and that you had to lick your food, and that every time you licked so your teeth rasped and cut away pieces of food for you to swallow. Then, further, try to imagine your tongue to be drawn out to an enormous length and covered with these hook-like teeth; then you would get some idea of what a snail's eating machinery is like.

Yes, but whilst you have been telling me this I have been watching this snail. I have found out his mouth, and he often opens it, but I have not seen him put out his tongue?"

Certainly not the snail, though his conduct may not be nice in some respects, should serve as a pattern to some rude little boys I have seen. The snail keeps his tongue always on the other side of his teeth.

This tongue of his is a very wonderful organ. It is far too big for his mouth, and so he has to keep it rolled up like a watch-spring. It is constantly tightening up and then unroll-

ing; and this movement, as he presses his open mouth against those tender seedlings, causes the points of his hook-teeth to catch and tear at the soft green-meats, and bring little particles away. Now the teeth are always arranged in a regular manner on this long tongue, but the order of arrangement differs somewhat in different species. In this Sprinkled snail they are placed in rows across the width of the tongue. Commencing on one side we count fifty-two teeth, then the e comes a little gap, then one tooth, another gap, and fifty-two teeth beyond it. This makes 105 teeth in each row; and when I tell you there are as many as 135 rows, it won't take you long to find that when I said the creature had 14,000 teeth, I was understating the fact, and that it has 175 to spare over and above that number.

All this time we have been ascending the hill-side without noticing anything, and here we are on the chalky footpath, with the pretty yellow rock-rose in abundance on each side, and swarms of Burnet-moths clinging to the grasses or flitting around. Look now, at that violet-tinted snail (7) like a wrinkle crawling along. Do not touch it for a moment, but watch it. Do you see here, on the hinder part of his body, just under the shell, there is a flat, shelly plate, almost round.

Watch, now, when I put my finger in front of him. Oh! why he has gone in at once. Yes, and slammed the door in our faces! Not a very polite snail, is he? Now you see the use of that shelly plate he carried on his tail—it is his street-door. There is no hand to it; nothing by which we can open it; and if there were a knocker he would take no notice of our knocking. It is plain that he thinks we mean no good to him.

"And what is the name of this snail?"

He has no English name; in fact, few of them have; but his Latin name signifies that his is the elegant shell with the round mouth—*Cyclostoma elegans*.

"But all snails have not got doors to their shells, have they?"

Oh, no; very few of the snails have. This is the only one of our land snails that has it; but several of the freshwater species have a horny plate which serves a similar purpose. The Wrinkled snail, to which I first called your attention, has another contrivance for closing its shell. By the way, here is a larger relative (fig. 3) climbing up the trunk of this grand old beech. Inside the mouth of such shells there are several peculiar ridges, which partially obstruct the way in; but when the snail draws himself right inside, there springs out from the column which runs through the centre of the shell an elastic partition which effectually shuts out intruders. This snail, you will notice, although similar in form to the Wrinkled snail, is much larger, is perfectly smooth, of a pale color, and very much resembling the scales of the beech-buds, which are plentiful under the trees here.

The beech-tree is a favorite place for snails, and in this district, at least, you may frequently find quite a variety of snail life on one beech-tree. Look at this very much flattened kind (6), with a sharp ridge or keel all round him. Linnaeus, the great Swedish naturalist, fancied that this snail had the power of boring into rocks and stones, so he named it the Lapidary snail; it is the largest of all British snails (fig. 8), and is variously known as the Apple snail or Roman snail. This is the first that is sold on the Continent for eating purposes—and, for the matter of that, in this country also. I have never tried snails as food, but I am sure, if I do, to commence with this one—it looks so handsome and clean. You were surprised at the number of teeth possessed by the garden snail—this one has over 20,000!

These amber, or cream-colored snails, with the bands of dark-brown (10), are very pretty; they vary so much in the number and width of their bands and the tint of the ground-color, that it is difficult to find two exactly alike. Then here, among the grass and short herbage of the downs, is a flattened white coil, with a band almost of black running round it. This is known as the Heath snail. There are many more, but our time has gone, I must not talk longer about them now. And there are the pond-snails, the pretty thin-shelled creatures that we find in almost every pond (figs. 12 to 16.)

THE JUDGMENT.

From the Independent.

Thou hast done evil
And given place to the devil;
Yet so cunningly thou conceal'st
The thing which thou feelest,
That I cannot see it,
Satan himself I do not see it,
O, where it chooseth thee:
There is none that seeth thee:
Neither for nor lover
Will the wrong uncover:
The Lord's wrath is a thorn,
And thy own past praileth thee.

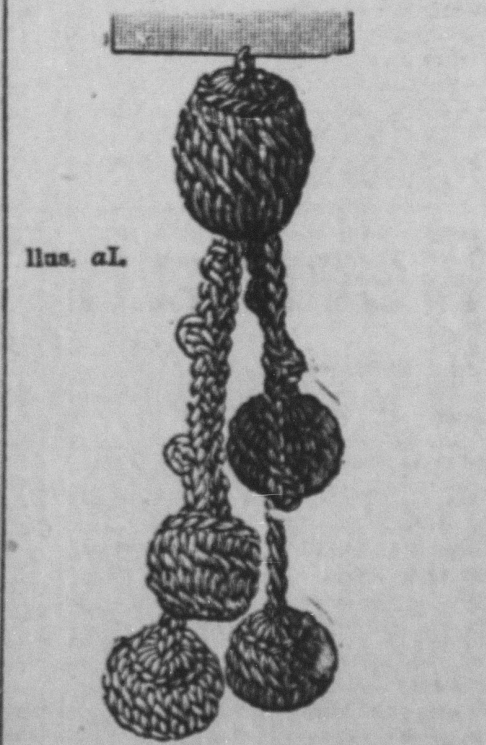
Yet know thou this:
At quick of thy being
An eye, all seeing,
The snake's wit evadeth not;
The charmed lip pers adeth not;
Be thou as shyly despised,
The thing thy hand doth doeth,
Thou' the sun were thy clothing,
It should count thee for nothing,
Thine own eye doth see thee:
Thine own soul arraigneth thee:
God him self cannot shrieve thee,
Till that judge forgive thee.
DORA HEAD GOODALE.

FANCY WORK.

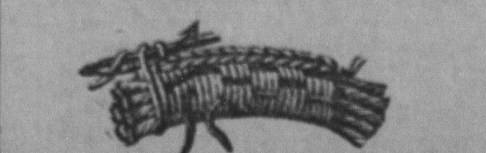
Many pretty and ornamental trifles suitable not only for home decoration, and for bazars, but also those for real use can be made with an expenditure of little money and less money, if one only knows "which to choose." The pretty and useful shopping bag illustrated in No. 1, is made of gray linen canvas and ornamented with cross-stitch designs worked in one or two shades of wash cotton. If one desires a finer and more expensive bag, embroidery silk can be used instead of working cotton, and the bag itself made of silk or plush. A strip of linen 1 yard and 20 inches long and 16 inches and a half wide, is required for this bag. A pocket 18 inches deep is made by turning over one end and sewing together the side edges, and the pointed flap is made by sewing over the corners of the second end.



The cross-stitch pattern is to be worked with cotton in one or several colors, illus. a shows in the proper size one of the pompons crocheted with coarse cotton. For each small ball 4 ch., are cast on and in the first of these 12 T. are worked; the cotton is then cut off pretty long, put through the tops of the T. with a needle, and this drawn tight together after a small thread roll



has been slipped in, out of the end are then crocheted alternately 4 or 5 Ch., and one picot 4 Ch. 1 S. back into the 1st Ch., 1-3 picots being made according to the different lengths of the strands (see illus. c). At the lower edge of the bag 4 such pompons are caught into a larger ball, but at the points of the flap 6-8. The large ball is made much in the same way as the smaller ones, yet at first the cotton is to be taken double and a larger thread roll slipped in; in the middle of this ball all the threads on the pompon are united and fastened. The thread which fastens together the T. fastens at the same time the whole pompons on the



illus. b. bag. A ring 4-4 1/2 in. large is drawn through the flap part, as seen, that the bag may be carried conveniently on the arm, and for this piece of thin string or twine is twisted 8-10 times over a round wooden mesh. This is then crocheted, as shown in the proper size, illus. c, with cream white cotton in S., and colored thread drawn through to form a pattern.

ACTUAL work on the Intercontinental Railway survey has begun.