

CURRENT NOTES.

Many women of limited incomes often manage, through a wise expenditure of their funds, to present an appearance of elegance which frequently surprises their more favored sisters, and this they do by taking advantage of the market and buying at reduced cost, out of season, the goods for which in its height they would be charged extra rates.

The women afraid to anticipate the season, lest their gowns should be out of style, have yet to learn the secret of being well dressed lies in the study of individuality, rather than of universally accepted styles. She who has barely two hundred dollars a year to spend upon her wardrobe, and yet is always dressed with elegance and neatness, well knows that one gown must serve many purposes and so she fashions it accordingly. She will not spend half this sum on an elaborately trimmed silk, suitable for but few occasions, but will buy instead a light weight cloth of some neutral shade, which will, when properly made, do duty on numberless occasions.

For dressy purposes, a cashmere made in artistic and becoming style will be chosen, and for ordinary wear the suit will be of wool of good quality and simply made. For the warm weather a gown of nun's veiling or a pretty challi may be made at moderate expense, and if in addition a black lace can be afforded, or a grenadine, one will have in her wardrobe gown with possibilities for a variety of occasions. These black dresses, if made separate from linings can be as occasion requires, a sober black dress, or worn over a fancy colored slip, the most attractive of the evening costumes.

Bargains are dear to the heart of women, but we may pay too dearly for many things in this line. We are so apt to lose all the benefits we might derive from purchasing really good articles at a cheap rate, by buying others that we do not need. At the present moment, however, there is a good opportunity for investing money to the best advantage. From the middle of July it is customary for merchants to offer their goods at reduced prices, in order to lessen the amount on hand before taking stock. It should be remembered, however, that standard materials, and those which are salable the year round, never make their appearance upon the bargain counters. You will look in vain for a cashmere of good shade, a white muslin, neutral striped chevot, etc., but cotton dress goods, such as gingham, organdies, batistes, pongees, and the novelties in color design among the challies, woolen fabrics and printed silks will be readily found. Any thing of a high order of color, loud or prominent in design, is not a bargain even at a reduced rate. Pretty lawn waists made up neatly, with pleats and roll-over collar and belt, can be bought for a dollar or even less; satens, and gingham and challis, and outing flannels and the suitings which come so high in the early spring-time are now all marked down at about one half the original prices. Of course it is nice to be able to buy the whole summer outfit when goods are new in the market and the styles are novel and fresh; but the women of small means and large family, who has to make one dollar do the work of two, finds her salvation in these late purchases. The main point, and one to be kept constantly in mind, is not to buy anything so odd or extreme that it will look striking another season when a little out of style. If you come across a small neat design in challi at twenty-five or thirty cents, that has been sixty cents, do not hesitate to buy it for a house dress next year. Blue and white gingham, gray and pink designs, unless very large, are a safe investment for adults as well as children. A short length of narrow striped or small checked chevot will answer for a child, or may be used as a bodice next spring with sleeves of a contrasting material. Printed silks are safe if having a black or cream ground and occasionally a bright piece will make a charming tea-gown. Any black ground batistes or organdies, that are cheap at the end of the season are a veritable "find." But we cannot help repeating, do not buy hastily an item that is not a bargain at any price.

There are also "marked down sales" every year at all large millinery houses, when really good laces, feathers and ribbons, can be bought at half their cost in regular season. The woman of



No. 1161.

taste does not wait for fashion to tell her what colors she should wear, but, having studied her individual needs, selects tints with a view to their becomingness.

Certain articles of wearing apparel vary but little during the year in price. Real bargains in gloves and boots are rarely found. A glove well shaped and of good quality, is not often purchased at less than two dollars, but it will outwear two pairs of dollar kits.

Lisle and silk gloves may sometimes be found during the winter at reduced rates, but the kids, in standard makes, are not found at varying prices. And what is true of gloves, is equally true of boots. It is poor economy for both health and purse to buy an ill-made or cheap boot, and the same thing is true of all articles. But only because you need and be sure that your selections are good in quality, reasonable in price and suitable for the purpose to which they are to be applied.

A. R. E.



No. 1154. BACK VIEW.

No. 1154. GOWN OF FIGURED CHALLI.—Figured French Challi with a light ground is the material used for this gown with trimmings of white lace and black velvet ribbon. The skirt consists of four breadths of the challi; three of these are gathered to the belt, scantily on the front and sides but very full at the back; the fourth breadth is gathered at the top and hooked to the back of the bodice in the center. At the bottom of the skirt is placed a ruche of lace, four inches wide, which is knitted pleated then sewed on in curve. The bodice is fastened in the back and has small paniers on the front; the neck and a deep lace ruche. The front of the bodice is ornamented with three bands of velvet ribbon coming from beneath



No. 1154.



No. 1159.



No. 1160.

the arms and fastened in the center of the front with rosettes of the ribbon. Full sleeves laid in pleats from elbow to wrist are trimmed to match the bodice.

No. 1159. APRON FOR A CHILD FOUR YEARS OLD.—This cunning apron is made of corn Holland and edged with corn linen lace. It is cut in one piece the edges hemmed and the pocket set across the front. At the shoulders straps are attached crossed in the back and buttoned to the skirt of the



No. 1162.

apron. The apron, as well as the pocket, is ornamented with small sprays and grotesque figures worked in outline stitch with washable silks.

No. 1160. BODICE WITH APPLIQUE LACE.—This bodice is of corn-flower blue cordrette, made in pocket shape with added basque and fronts which are drawn to the waist on either side of a plain vest.

Appliques of cream-colored silk gurgare lace trim the fronts, collar and cuffs.

No. 1161. SUMMER HAT. (Two Views).—This charming hat is in black lace straw, its broad brim pleated in the back and held by a knot of heliotrope velvet. On the brim in front is placed a cluster of roses with knots of heliotrope velvet and yellow satin ribbons.

No. 1162. DRESS FOR A GIRL TWELVE YEARS OLD.—This is made of turquoise

blue bengaline, white lace, and ruching of black lace. The skirt opens on the left on a panel of the lace; the round bodice with fronts crossed from left to right on a side of lace which is joined to the panel of the skirt. A ruche of lace borders the crossing and descends to the bottom of the skirt. High collar with ruche; sleeves close with short sleeves of lace bordered with the ruching. Sash of bengaline knotted in the back.



No. 1163.

No. 1163. RECHERCHÉ.—The lace mantle to be worn at Richmond for calls, afternoon teas, etc., is one of RECHERCHÉ'S happiest inspirations. It is a close fitting bodice of black velvet with flaring collar. This is draped with charitably lace and is caught upon the breast and beneath the shoulder puffs, by clasps of cut jet and steel. This drapery takes the form of a long cape at the back and across front and sides is a deep flounce, over which falls fringe of velvet loops and ends. The whole effect is graceful and pleasing in the extreme and the wrap though airy in appearance is really sufficient to protect against evening breezes. For such dressy functions Capotes are more generally adopted than either hat or bonnets. They are very smart and frequently composed entirely of flowers and a few ospreys or a coquille of fine black lace at the back. As much green is not desirable very little foliage is introduced, mixed roses ranging from palest blush to deep red are very effective if well grouped.

How Errors Spread.

In one of the sittings of the Academy of Dijon, in 1817, M. Ballot gave, on the authority of M. Hermann, at Strasbourg, the following explanation of a fact in natural history, which, on the credit of that celebrated naturalist, had been received for the preceding forty or fifty years in the elementary books of the sciences:

In the year 1764, the father of the naturalist, Hermann, visited, for the recovery of his health, the baths of Bar. He remarked, upon the surface of the water, a fat substance which resembled melted tallow; he sent an account of this observation to his son, who wrote on the subject to Gueldard, in Paris. The latter read Hermann's letter in the Academy of Sciences. Some time after Hermann convinced himself that this pretended mineral tallow was a mere cheat of the cunning attendant of the bath, who, in order to procure more customers for his baths, threw balls made of clay and tallow into a kettle. The Strasbourg naturalist immediately informed his Paris correspondent how he had been deceived, and begged him to destroy his first communication. Gueldard read this second letter in the Academy, and here the matter rested for the time.

Ten years later, Hermann, to his great surprise, found his original observation printed under his name in the Journal de Physique for May, 1774; but he was still more surprised to find it also in Kirwan's Elements of Mineralogy, from which it was copied into other works, and mentioned as a newly discovered substance under the name of "Bitumen Sevinum." In spite of Hermann's repeated protestations, this gross error continued to be propagated for years.

Outwitting the Teacher.

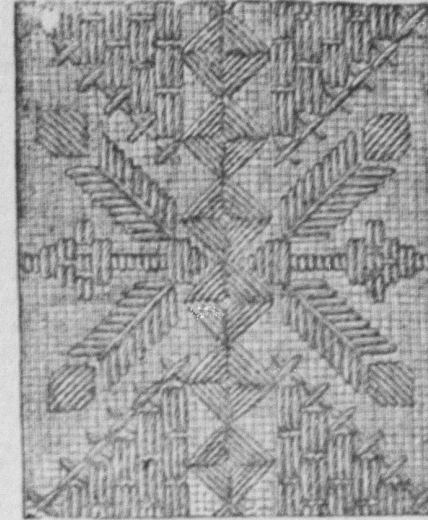
It requires a pretty smart school-teacher nowadays to get any the best of a modern "kid." This was never more fully demonstrated than it was the other day, right here in one of the Chicago schools. In some of the schools the old-fashioned and unnatural method of teaching free-arm writing is employed, and the children are obliged to twist their hands over unnaturally in order to obtain the free-arm movement. In order to insure this position, the teacher places a small shirt-button on the back of each little right hand, as piano teachers sometimes place pennies on the backs of their pupils' hands. This is done to insure the keeping of the hand in the "correct" position, for if tipped in the least the button slides off, and thus betrays the erring scholar. This button arrangement is quite tiresome to the children, and they complain of it at home. The other afternoon a bright little girl returned from school and said to her mother: "Mamma, I kept the button on my hand nearly all day to-day." The mother expressed some surprise at such a feat. "Yes," said the little one, "I gummed it on with a piece of my gum."—Ex.

The largest bay in the world is Hudson Bay, measuring 800 miles north and south by 600 miles wide.

FANCY WORK.

FANCY APRON.—Fine corn linen with bands of embroidery and a crochet edge are used for this apron. Its length is twenty-eight inches and the width twenty-six; the top is gathered with a heading, which is set upon a narrow band, and finished with strings. Across the bottom are three bands of embroidery of which the uppermost and the lowest are of brown linen embroidered in corn, while the centre one is like the ground of the apron worked in brown cotton. Any pretty cross-stitch patterns may be used, the work being done over strips of canvas, which are fastened on the linen and afterward drawn away in threads.

The edging is made with corn Kensington crochet cotton as follows: * Make 33 chain, close the last 12 of them into a loop with a slip stitch, 6 chain, a single crochet on the following 4th chain of the loop, 6 chain, a single



INSERTION FOR A CHILD'S FROCK.

on the succeeding 4th chain of the loop, 6 chain, a single on the same stitch with the slip that closed the loop, X, around the next 6 chain work a single, a short double crochet, 9 double crochets, a short double, and a single, but connect the 6th of the 9 double to the 5th of the 33 chain; repeat from X twice, omitting the connection, then a single crochet on the first single around the first 6 chain, 9 singles on the 21st-13th of the 33 chain; repeat from X, but in every repetition connect the 5th of the second 9 double to the corresponding double of the third 9 in the preceding pattern.

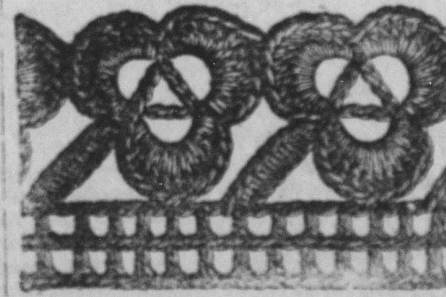
2nd row.—Along the top one double on the next, 1 chain, pass one.

3rd row.—Like the last.



FANCY APRON.

INSERTION FOR A CHILD'S FROCK.—These long and varied stitches can be worked on any braid or material, and have the advantage of being quickly executed. Wool, coarse cotton or silk may be used in several shades, or in a single one, harmonizing well with the material on which it is worked. The arrow-stitch is combined with long and cross-stitches, fancifully arranged in diamonds, bricks, etc.



FANCY APRON. NO. 2.

THE PERFECT GARDEN.

"God Almighty first planted a Garden and indeed it is the Purest of Human pleasures. It is the Greatest Refreshment to the Spirits of Man; without which Buildings and Palaces are but Grosses Handy works; And a man shall never see that the Ages grow to Civility and Elegance. Man came to Build Society, not to Grow a Parcel; As if Gardening were the Greater Perfection."—BACON.

Too often there is seen in our gardens too brilliant or stereotyped effects. Carpet or ribbon beds that flash their gay colors upon us and are gone with the first frost. The lawn is often disfigured with beds of coarse flowers which are quite out of their natural places.

Let us imagine a green lawn shaded with rare trees set out by a tasteful and judicious hand. In early spring snow drops crocuses and violets come peeping through the grass while by yonder path are rows of daffodils, narcissus, blue scillas and odoriferous hyacinths. A little later hawthorn and lilac and flowering shrubs scent the air and the modest lily of the valley lifts its fragrant head under the shade of some low growing tree. In June the roses are everywhere, clambering over fences and porches, and nodding over the hedges. Poppies and hollyhocks border the lanes and the evening primroses greet the twilight while pink and purple morning glories welcome the early dawn. Lilies stand apart in stately

beauty, pansies bloom and smile in their shady nooks, clematis wreathes the trellis, fox glove and larkspur, Canterbury bells and pinks and candytuft grow in the beds sacred to the old-fashioned flowers.

In late fall asters and chrysanthemums and marigolds and flaming nasturtiums still give us Summer's last good bye.

With such a garden but little planting will be necessary and yet succession of bloom and constant beauty will be insured.

Let us plant then hardy flowers, and experiment but seldom with the new or rare or tender sorts whose more exacting care and greater cost is a continual drain on our time and purse.

With proper exercise and prudence judgment far better effects may be obtained with hardy flowers than with those which require more care or are not so well known.



THE ASTER.

Among the most attractive of our late flowers is the aster. It is an old-fashioned flower which used to grow in our grandmothers' gardens where very likely it was known as "arctemisia."

It has been greatly improved of late years and now fairly rivals the chrysanthemum in the richness and variety of its colors and the beauty of its growth.

The "Comet" aster grows a foot or more in height, the plants covered with large double flowers, their delicate pink petals bordered with white twisting and waving in a loose half globe much resembling the Japanese chrysanthemum.

The dwarf peony perfection aster is one of the finest of the dwarf varieties, and is fine for bedding or massing purposes. The flowers are large and double and the colors rich and brilliant.

In the crown, the pimper and the quilled varieties are profuse bloomers and too well-known to need description.

A bed of asters planted quite late in Spring will begin to blossom by August and will only begin to drop their bright heads with the late frosts of Autumn.

We are indebted to W. H. Maule of Philadelphia for the fine illustration of asters given this week.

THE CARE OF HOUSE PLANTS.

Helen Wharbur on in the Detroit Tribune gives some valuable hints on the care of house plants and the selection of suitable varieties for different purposes, thus:

A great deal depends on the light for success in house plants, and unless the window is situated so that plenty of this comes in the flower plants are apt to be poor, weak and sickly looking. The southern exposure is always the best and all plants fond of much sunshine should be placed in a window facing the south. The geraniums, heliotrope and litanas always do the best when they have plenty of sunshine and the southern exposure is the best place for them. On the other hand there are a few flowers which can not stand the warmth of the sun in mid-day, and yet they need it during a part of the day. An eastern exposure is the best suited for such flowers, and the north window is the best side of the house for most indoor plants. The plants as a rule are only suited for such plants as need shade and moisture—those which are grown for their foliage, and not for flowers. The ferns, palms and lycopodiums do well in such a place. The west window will do only for such flowers as need plenty of sunlight, and even then it is often necessary to shade them from the sun in the middle of the day by a thin curtain. This is the warmest window of all, but it is better than no shade, especially if the proper amount of shade is given during the warmest part of the day. A Brazilian flower and climber which has not yet received its just due in this country is the splendid manetia cordifolia, a plant that has been brought from South America and easily adapted to indoor cultivation in the United States. Occasionally one sees a specimen of this climber in a window garden, and whosoever seen grow in health it is a thrill. Its mission is to please, and it will readily adapt itself to almost any situation. It flowers winter and summer, and makes an admirable pot plant for the window garden. It can be propagated by root or green wood cuttings and climbs admirably on a trellis work. It is like a weed in that it flowers persistently, manages to grow under the most adverse circumstances, and constantly calls one's attention to it. If by accident the plants are frozen during the cold weather, do not throw them away until you have tried the cold water, or sprinkle the cold water over their leaves and branches before they have chance to thaw. Keep them as far from the fire as possible. It is sure to die, and house plants to let them freeze, and then to thaw them out, or to be kept in a cold place, and the flowers should be immediately cut off. Fear of hurting them should not prevent a complete wetting.

There is a boy in Centre City, Iowa, whose hair always curls a day or two before the arrival of a storm. When his barometric locks begin to kink the people in his neighborhood prepare for rain.