

OUR PARIS LETTER.

Toilettes of white have never had such a grand success, and with good reason, for there is an air of elegance and distinction about these toilettes which surpasses those of all others. The wools, nun's veiling and embroidered muslins are simply marvelous. This year, after the races at Trouville and Dieppe, a large number of the most fashionable set who never leave Paris during the winter except for the carnival at Nice, have decided to spend a few weeks at Cannes or at Nice, where the superb villas and the hotels full of comfort and of an exquisite temperature, renders their sojourn one of perfect delight.

This idea is the result merely of a desire for a few weeks of repose, so we find transferred to these beautiful spots our Parisian *boulevards*. The roads here are marvelously well kept and every thing is most charming. The flowers were never so bright or the air sweeter with their perfume. One takes charming drives or, still more agreeable, sails on the gulf for the squairon stationed here proves to be an attraction without a rival. Among the large number of pretty women to be found here are seen the most ravishing toilettes.

The beautiful Marquise X, is often seen in a boating costume of white serge; the skirt straight, and the bodice open; a Treador plastron of puffed muslin, the puffs being separated by rows of insertion: A small rolling collar and a black silk cravat. With this she wore a sailor hat of straw trimmed with a black and white striped ribbon. Jackets of flannel and in white cloth are much worn. They are very coquettish and at the same time very healthful, being light and sufficiently warm. The are worn open, on a front of old guipure falling in a jabot over a full front of colored tulle or crepon.

For evening wear many half-large mantles are seen, somewhat like a pelisse, with large capes of old cream-colored guipure or Chantilly. The body of the garment is of coachman's cloth, red or light blue, and the flounce of lace falls a little below the waistline. Bretelles continue to be all the rage and many robes of tulle are coquettishly trimmed with these, forming butterfly knots on the shoulders. Many mittens extending even to the top of the hand are also worn, but those young women whose hands and arms are really like works of art, are beginning to rebel against this cruel fashion by wearing half-long sleeves.

For city wear, gloves extend beneath the sleeve and cover the arm. We have seen a pretty American wearing a porte-monnaie glove, which is very practical as well as original.



No. 1235.

With the pocket placed one knows not where in the skirt, and which requires not less than an hour to find, a woman prefers to have every thing, so to speak, under her hand. This is why she slips her handkerchief under her belt, and why she carries on her arm a chain from which depends all sorts of things, and also why a glove porte-monnaie is a practical idea.

The style for shoes, is, according to *Fenelon*, to come up high on the foot and close with a strap. For the morning, yellow shoes with the strap closed with copper hooks are in demand; for full toilette, patent leather shoes with large buckles of jet or silver which almost cover the foot.

Stockings are of a richness as yet unsurpassed. In color black is given the preference. Stockings to wear with shoes, of which we have just spoken, have embroidered or open worked clocks; the most elegant ones have the open work of lace fine as a spider's web and most beautiful in effect. There are also the lace stockings and the open work, embroidered stockings with insertions of jet and steel, veritable marvels and signs of an elegance refined to the highest point.

FELICE LESLIE.



No. 1236.



No. 1237.

**No. 1235. TRAVELING COSTUME.**—Our illustration shows a gown of dark blue serge trimmed with cream-colored braid in two widths. The full waistcoat is of blue surah ornamented at the waist and throat with rows of the braid put on to form points. The jacket bodice with square revers and pocket laps is also ornamented with the braid. The sleeves have straight cuffs of surah trimmed with braid.



No. 1239.

**PETTING-COAT.**—No. 1236, illustrates a petting-coat of striped cream and chestnut brown taffeta, edged with a deep frill of lace.



No. 1241.

**No. 1237. STREET COSTUME.**—For this costume tan-colored tweed ornamented with a gold cord arranged in points is employed. The jacket bodice ornamented with cord opens on a plain waistcoat of *Modere* silk closed in the centre with buttons and cut in V shape to let in a plastron of dotted linen with high collar of the same. The skirt slightly draped in front is trimmed with cord and slashed on the left side to display a pointed panel of the silk. Full sleeves of cloth caught by bands and knots of silk, half way above the skirt.



No. 1242.

elbow, to form puffs. Deep cuffs of silk almost reaching the elbow. Hat of brown felt trimmed with ribbon and pheasant wings.

**No. 1238. TUDOR CAPE.**—Russian green cloth is used for this garment which is lined with Salmon-colored surah. The yoke, collar and front pleats are studded with large cut jet Cabochons.



No. 1241.

**No. 1239. SURAH APRON.**—This neat apron is made of a breadth of colored surah, which is shirred at the top and attached to a pointed belt. The edge is trimmed with a lace ruche.

**No. 1240. TROUVILLE JACKET.**—Mushroom faced cloth, is employed for this jacket, the sleeves, collar and lapels of which are ornamented with an applique work in either red or dark brown velvet outlined with gold and silk cord; it is lined throughout with plaid silk and may be worn open or closed as desired. Slanting pocket laps are placed on the hips.



No. 1242.

**No. 1241. SCHOOL DRESS FOR A YOUNG GIRL.**—Plain bodice and round skirt, in Chardon cordurette, ornamented with soutache embroidery which covers the sleeves, the fancy pointed yoke, pointed belt and also the hem across the front of the plain skirt.



No. 1243.

**No. 1242. DRESS FOR A LITTLE BOY.**—Box-pleated skirt of golden brown cashmere, the bodice at the back made like a long blouse fitting to the figure and in front like a jacket, which opens over a full vest and a chemisette with a standing collar which can be changed at pleasure. The jacket fronts are turned over as revers and the neck is finished with a sailor collar. The cuffs of the full sleeves and the vest front are of gray plaided silk. The dress skirt should be mounted on a close-fitting under waist buttoned in the back.

**No. 1243. FANCY BODICE.**—Close-fitting bodice and sleeves of Thermidor silk, trimmed with jet galloon and black cord which outlines the front, the darts and other seams.



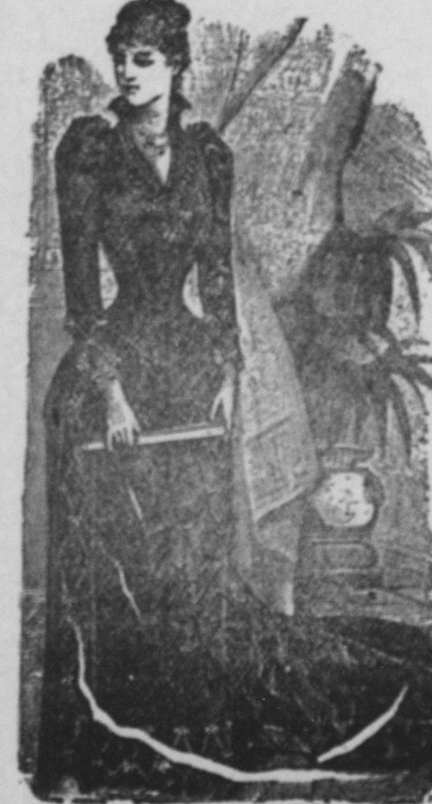
No. 1244.

Embroidered bands in iridescent jet are placed around the throat, the waist and wrists. Wired epaulettes of black lace, pleated ruff for the neck and deep pleated flounce finishes the bodice. Clusters of jet lozenges ornament the sleeves.



No. 1245. BACK VIEW.

**No. 1244. FALL WRAP FOR A YOUNG GIRL.**—This fancy cape is cut *decollete* and opens on a jacket bodice of the same deep, gray cloth. The jacket bodice is buttoned in the centre of the front and around the waist is draped a scarf of gray silk. A ruche of gray feathers encircles the neck. The cape, open in front, is ornamented with a narrow embroidered design, has large puffs of cloth on the shoulders and is held in front by an ornamental Brandebourg.



No. 1245.

**RECEPTION GOWN.**—No. 1245, is of black brocade *peau de soie* in a large fish scale pattern, with jet for trimming. The pointed bodice has a shield shaped front edged with narrow jet galloon and ornamented with drop trimming; it is cut down at the throat and filled in with folds of net, with a flaring Stuart collar at the back. A jet trimmed panel is placed on the right side of the skirt and trimming to match crosses the front of the foot; high shouldered sleeves trimmed at the wrists with the same jet trimming.



No. 1246.

**JABOT OF CHIFFON.**—No. 1246. Three yards of pink chiffon bordering embroidered in a row knot pattern are used to make this jabot. The chiffon is gathered in a ruffle four inches wide, which is set around both sides of a narrow band of foundation muslin long enough to reach from throat to waist; the surplus being implemented in a ruche that is set down the middle.

FISH SCALE EMBROIDERY.

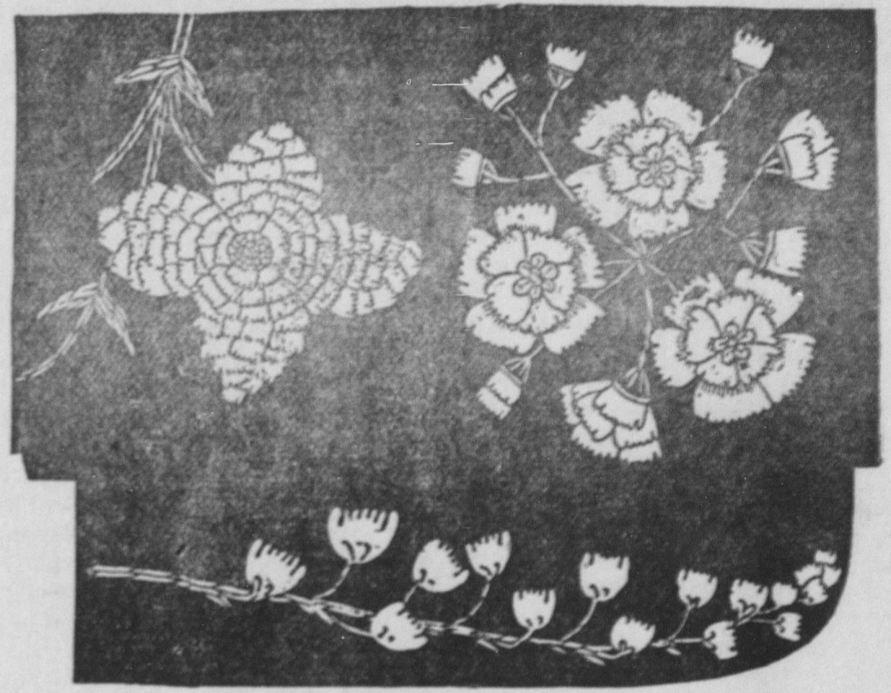
Nearly everyone has seen the jewelry and ornaments made from fish scales, but very few are aware of their exceeding beauty in other ways. For ornamenting various articles of home adornment nothing can exceed in exquisite effect the opalescent tints of fish scales wrought upon a velvet, satin or silk ground.

The first requisite is a box of large white fish scales of all sizes. These may be saved and dried from time to time in the kitchen. The best scales are the brilliant iridescent tints and deep serrations found in the perch and some varieties of carp, though many other kinds may be found that are also beautiful; and if at any time you should be so unfortunate as to lose one or more of your golden pets from the aquarium be sure to immortalize him by preserving his shining and brilliantly colored scales, which in this work are rare treasures. The scales are prepared while quite fresh, or by soaking in clear water until soft and pliable, when each one is perforated with two minute punctures near the base by a stout darning needle fastened in a wooden handle. Have ready a quanti-

one cannot work free hand. A pattern of roses and leaves is very nice for this. Place nine large scales in a circle as large as a quarter; fasten each by a stitch of white silk through the inner end of each. Just overlapping the stitches place seven scales, fasten in the same manner and place scales till the center is full. Finish by a few French knots of yellow silk. Make two roses, and three buds by using three scales for each bud. Outline stems for each with green silk, using a trifle of yellow to shade. Now, with small sharp shears serrate the edges of a number of scales for leaves. Place them alternately on each side of a stem, and vein them with silk as they are sewed on. Of course, the pattern is to be followed as to the number of leaves and buds. Now, the roses and buds may be lightly shaded with rose madder and white, and the leaves touched with light green, or they may be left white.

A beautiful design was seen, worked on a dark plush handbag, the silk being creamy rope silk, and no color used in the work. It resembled pearl very much at a little distance. A handbag of crimson satin has a design of fern leaves. Outline three careless lines as ribs with rope silk. Cut the scales deeply, making them long and narrow, and place them closely along the stems, on both sides exactly opposite. A real fern is of use to look at in placing scales. The "feathered hair" (see illustration) may be copied in the same manner. Sew through the tiny scales with silk to represent mid-ribs.

A beautiful mantle lambrequin is of peacock blue plush worked with lilies of the valley and rosebuds. Have the



ty of silks of different shades of green and yellow, some large-eyed sharp needles, and if desirable, a number of tubes of paint and sable brushes. Those who paint in oil will find the work improved by judicious tinting, although beautiful effects may be obtained without coloring the scales. Stamp the pattern carefully on the satin or velvet, and when thoroughly dry you are ready for the embroidery.

Suppose a rose is to be wrought. First fasten a ring of the smallest scales around the center, with a gold or pearl bead as a heart around which to work. Add one row after another, folded as the petals of a natural rose, that is, cupped inward; then selecting larger scales, arrange the outer rows, opened outward along the edge of the rose, and making one row overlap the other, so as to conceal the stitches by which they are attached.

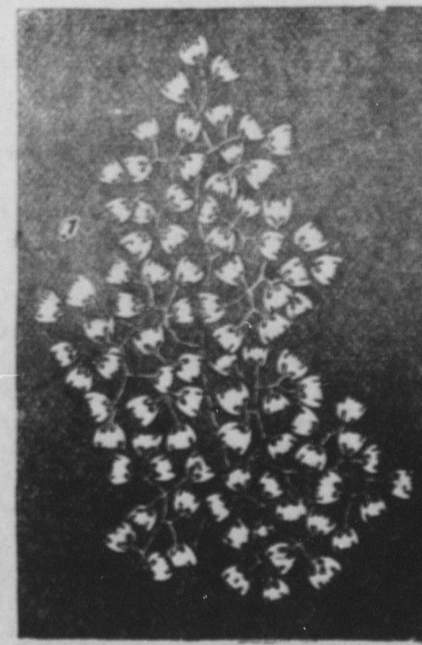
In making daisies, or other flowers of like form, the scales are first sewed round the outer edge, repeating the circles in gradually diminishing sizes till the centre of the flower is reached, which is formed in large flowers by a cluster of ornamental beads, and in small ones by a single bead or button. Amber, gold and opal beads are remarkably effective introduced in certain parts of this work, as these most nearly resemble the true "hearts" or centers of natural flowers.

The leaves are formed by sewing the scales flatly upon each side of the midrib, which should be made by means of lightest green embroidery silk, as also the veins and small leaf stems. Small leaves or those of "oak-leaf" form, are well made in fish scales by cutting them into proper form with sharp-pointed scissors. When such single scales are used it is not possible to hide the stitches; therefore, after passing the needle (threaded with silk) through a hole in the centre of the base, carry it straight to the end, where pass through another hole, (downward); and if necessary make two or three side veins in like manner, thus producing a lovely effect.

We sometimes combine in this work the lovely little pearl shells sold by the ounce in the stores, and a little gold thread and fine chenille of various colors, which produce wonderfully beautiful effects.

There are many other articles that may be ornamented with fish scale embroidery. To make a whisk broomholder cut a funnel-shaped piece of green satin or plush. It is best to have it stamped if

designs stamped upon the plush in any way to suit the fancy, or as may suit style of makeup. Cut the scales in the shape of tiny bells. Fasten in their places by stitches of green silk in the top of each, as in the illustration. Outline the curved stems and long stem with shaded green silk. A large cluster of these should be placed together. Leaves may be worked in Kensington with arrasene, if desired. The rosebuds, which may be scattered carelessly over the plush as if dropped there, are made with three scales fastened ab stitches of green, and the soft foliage is worked at the same time, as well as the stems.



A letter case with natural daisies may be made of a palm-leaf fan. Cover with satin and shirr a pocket on the lower half. Long stems are worked with green silks, and daisies made of the scales are placed on the pocket and above it. Cut the scales long and sew thickly around a round scale. Cover this with French knots of yellow.

A book cover of brown plush worked with "Brown-eyed Susans" in fish scales and embroidery is easily done and a beautiful picture frame for a photograph is of old gold plush, with pansies in fish scales. These may be colored to resemble pansies exactly. We earnestly advise our readers to try this fascinating work for there seems to be no end to the ways in which it may be used, while it is very beautiful, easily done and within the reach of any purse. Those who cannot print or embroider can easily follow a stamped pattern with fish scales and outline stitch. The more ambitious worker may design a banner, worked with a bouquet of flowers with birds, butterflies and insects hovering over them.

For this article with the accompanying cuts we are indebted to the courtesy of the publisher of the *Modern Priscilla*, Lynn, Mass.

Strictly speaking, the only precious stones are the diamond, ruby, sapphire and emerald, though there is often extended to the opal, notwithstanding its lack of hardness, and to the pearl, which is not a mineral, but strictly an animal product. Popularly, a gem is a precious or semi-precious stone worn cut or polished for ornamental purposes.