

## A DOLL FACTORY.

### HOW SOME CHRISTMAS PRESENTS ARE MADE.

#### Winter Employment for Many Country People in Germany—Doll Hospitals in New York.

It is an open secret that Santa Claus brings the greater part of his vast stock of Christmas toys from Europe, Germany being his favorite collecting grounds. But he encourages American industry in a few directions, notably in cheap mechanical toys. The tin railway trains and tin horses and steamboats that run when wound up with a key are made in quantities in Brooklyn by machinery; and the cast-iron toys of the same description are made principally in New York. When he desires an expensive mechanical toy, however, he goes to France for it; to Saxony for his Noah's arks and all the other carved wooden toys; to Nuremberg for his toys, tin trumpets and magic lanterns, and to Thüringia for his toy china tea sets.

Far more important than all other toys are the dolls, and nine dolls out of ten are little German girls. In whole districts in Germany the country people spend the winter in making dolls, tilling their fields in summer. The cheap wax doll, a necessarily known as "composition wax," as may be bought in this country for 25 cents, furnishes perhaps the best idea of how dolls are made. A "modeller," who has nothing further to do with the making of dolls, makes plaster of Paris models of the styles of heads and limbs most in demand, and sells them, singly or in sets, to the peasants who make the dolls. There are all sorts of faces among the models—pretty girls, smiling boys, old women, negroes, and crying babies. Throughout the winter, father, mother and all the larger children unite in making papier-mache casts from these models, each cast being, of course, an exact counterpart of the models, but thin and light, and gray in color.

The legs and arms are dipped in flesh-colored paint, and the painted shoes are put on with brushes. These various parts, together with the head, are fastened to a cloth body stuffed with sawdust, and dolly goes off to the factory, where the more artistic work is done. Her limbs have the proper tint, her body is as true to nature as necessary, but her head is still bare, her cheeks are gray, and her colorless eyes express no intelligence.

An expert workman in the factory, holding dolly by the feet, dips her head and shoulders for a moment in melted wax, and she emerges from the bath the composition-wax doll of commerce. When she is sufficiently dry she passes into the hands of a girl operator, who quickly paints the pink tinge upon her cheeks. Another girl adds the blue eyes, still another the eyebrows and eyelashes, and she goes through the hands of a row of girls, one girl for each tint, the whole process taking about six hours, for there are delays while the paints are drying. In six hours six girls are expected to paint ten gross, or nearly 1,500 dolls, complete. This requires rapid work, and the girls receive about \$1.75 a week each. Flowing locks of mohair are fastened to the head, and dolly is ready to emigrate to America.

For the real wax doll, a more expensive article, the molds for the head are made in three parts—one back and two fronts. The mold is filled with melted wax; which is allowed to remain for a minute or two, and then all that has not hardened is poured out. This leaves a hollow wax head about a quarter of an inch thick, which is afterward strengthened by "backing" with a quarter of an inch of papier mache. Some patent "washable" dolls are made of hardened papier mache; and when these have cloth feet, which will not break, they are a valuable addition to the nursery.

But if we do not make dolls to any extent in this country, we repair them at a great rate. About Christmas time a "doll hospital" is established in all the big stores in New York where toys are sold, and dolls with eyes that should move but are fixed, with legs that insist upon being knock-kneed, with arms that are loose, with wigs that fall off, or with joints that refuse to bend are taken back to be repaired or exchanged. In some of the larger concerns the doll hospital at such times contains more patients than any real hospital in the city. These returned dolls would be almost a total loss were it not that there are in New York a number of foreign doll-makers, who make regular visits to the toy stores soon after Christmas, carrying away the killed and wounded, and taking them back in a few hours as good as new. The mending of a doll is an extremely simple matter, unless some of the casts have been broken.

The wooden stables, kitchens, groceries, butcher shops and the familiar Noah's arks are all made by hand in Saxony. What wages these simple carvers make may be judged from the fact that small Noah's arks, containing more than a score of carved animals, can be bought at retail for 5 or 10 cents. Even in cheap Saxony the peasants could not live by this industry alone. They have some other calling; and on winter nights the whole family gather about the blazing fire and carve out miniature lions and elephants. The children in these families often develop peculiar ability in making particular animals. One boy may make good horses and camels, while a younger brother may far excel him in the carving of lions and tigers.

So remote are many of the German districts where dolls are made, that it is often necessary for the factories to send men out on six or eight-hour journeys to get the heads and limbs, and in summer they can hardly be had at all, for then the doll-makers are at work on their farms. —[St. Louis Republic.]

#### Portuguese Workmen.

Among Portuguese workmen—and now I allude to those who have learned a handicraft—there is what I may style, without exaggeration, a national want of the perception of accuracy. There is an unfortunate expression, "a little more or less," and this is its constant use, verbally

and practically. A door may gape at the top or bottom, windows almost invariably rattle in their sashes, but you will never persuade the carpenter that his work is badly done; he will acknowledge the existence of what are pointed out as defects, and answer: "That's no harm—what does it matter?" From the same cause, straight or parallel lines or right angles, the careful carrying out of which makes all the difference in the finished look of work, are also "a little more or less;" and then the vagaries of a furrow in any plowed field must be seen to be appreciated.

The actual supply of first-class workmen is practically nil, and the artisan is not only unequal to the production of excellence in this special line, but, what is worse, does not possess the moral faculty of judgment and enjoying it, the sight of perfect specimens of workmanship. Stonecutting seems to have been for centuries an art in which the Portuguese have excelled; and this silver-smith's work are the two crafts which may be exempt from the sweeping condemnation passed on the artisan of the present day. —[Blackwood's Magazine.]

which was but a slight one at first. Gauguere set in and caused the master's death on March 22, 1637.

Batons of approximate size continued in existence until the end of the eighteenth century. Strauss used a baton as it is used to-day. After his death, which occurred in 1849, the chief of the violinists presented Johann Strauss during one of his popular Viennese concerts during one of his father in the presence of 3,000 spectators. Meyerbeer used a baton of solid silver. That of Feris was richly adorned with gold and gems, and Mozart conducted his choruses at Salzburg, his native city, with a little stick made of ivory. —[St. Louis Post-Dispatch.]

#### THE SPRUCE-GUM PICKER.

##### An Industry for Which Vermont is Once Famous.

Genuine spruce gum has almost disappeared, as a regular article of merchandise, from the Bennington, Vt., market. Formerly the supply was abundant, the price low, and the quality first-class. But the supply now depends on mere chance, the gum picker giving little attention to the gathering of the commodity, as there is no money in the business. The saw mills, pulp mills, and forest fires have wrought such devastation among the big tracts of spruce trees which formerly clothed the Green Mountains that the occupation of the gum picker is almost gone. Sometimes a lumberman or a mountaineer in Woodford, a town adjoining Bennington on the east, discovers a tree that will yield several pounds of marketable gum, which is brought to Bennington, where it finds a ready market at a good price.

The price depends entirely upon the quality, ranging all the way from fifty cents to \$1.50 a pound. Gum of poor quality is readily distinguished by its opaqueness, and by its very intimate admixture of minute bits of bark, which became entangled in the gum when it exuded from the tree in a semi-liquid state. Poor gum is further distinguished as being too heavy or too light, bitter and permanently sticky to the teeth in some cases, and very hard and crumbly in other specimens.

Gum of the finest grade is either translucent or transparent, of a light-amber color, filled more or less with minute bubbles of air, breaking with a short, scintillating fracture, and having a sweet, peculiar and balsamic odor and taste. The word "gum," however, is popularly misapplied, as the substance is, properly speaking, a resinous matter.

A large portion of the gum offered for sale in Bennington is sent West in small packages by mail. The reason for this is that large numbers of Eastern people who have gone West miss their accustomed "chew" and send back to their old home for small supplies at a time. In this way, too, quarter-pound packages of gum are sent across the continent to California, where the article is valued almost beyond price. The Ohio and Michigan branches of the Olin family, who recently held their annual reunion in Bennington, "cornered" about all the spruce gum stocks in town.

Several years ago an enterprising young man, H. W. Martin of Bennington, worked up a very large trade in this commodity. Tons of gum, by mail, express, and freight were sent by him to remote sections of the country, and the demand was often greater than the supply. The gum, however, which was of extra fine quality, was obtained in the State of New York. Mr. Martin was subsequently appointed postmaster at Bennington, and the gum business was abandoned.

Perhaps the most famous gum picker in Vermont is Alonzo K. Bishop of Woodford. He is a professional in this peculiar industry. Bishop is about forty-five years old, stout, well built, good-natured, and wears long hair. During the hot season, when gum cannot be gathered in a merchantable condition, owing to its stickiness and its liability to run together, Bishop poses as a farmer and a Yankee-notion peddler. But when cold weather sets in, "Lion," as he is familiarly called in all the region round about, penetrates the deep forests of the mountains in pursuit of his favorite calling, which he has followed all his life. With a bag slung over his shoulder, and carrying a long, slender pole, which is armed at one end with a sharp chisel, that gum may be detached from the tree at a considerable distance from the ground, this man roams the mountains, often days at a time, alone, and miles from any human habitation. —[New York Times.]

#### Phosphorescent Infection.

The curious discovery has been made that the phosphorescence frequently exhibited by many species of the crustacea is infectious. A French naturalist, M. Giard, has traced the phosphorescent light in *Talitrus* to bacteria in the muscles, these muscles always showing signs of disease. On inoculating healthy individuals the same luminous appearance was produced. Each and every inoculated specimen, however, died within seventy hours. —[St. Louis Republic.]

## QUEER ROADS IN CHINA.

### Curiosities of Travel and Postal Service in the Flowery Land.

Minister Denby has just sent to the Department of State a very interesting description of roads in China. Outside of the cities they are of the most primitive nature, being merely lines of ruts across the fields. In summer they are fathomless, impassable bogs, and travel, except on foot, is practically suspended. The pig-tailed orientals have never taken much trouble with road-making, partly because throughout their country the plains are a network of waterways, natural and artificial, while human labor for carrying burdens has always been preferred to that of beasts over the narrow and circuitous mountain passes. Roads for military purposes seem never to have been thought of by the Chinese. The great campaigns of the Mongol and Manchu conquerors were conducted with herds of flying cavalry along no fixed routes.

China has telegraph lines now, but previous to their introduction intelligence was conveyed to the center of government from outside provinces by an elaborate system of post stations. These were placed about thirty miles apart, and relays of horses were constantly kept in readiness for the imperial couriers. By such means dispatches were sent to distant provincial capitals at the rate of 250 miles per day. Kubla Khan, the Mongol emperor, had more than 10,000 post stations, with 300,000 horses, especially kept for the use of messengers. In connection with the mounted couriers an elaborate system of foot messengers was also maintained. The latter were swift runners and their stations were only three miles apart. By them the emperor said to have received news from places ten days' journey distant in twenty-four hours or information from points 100 days' journey distant in twenty-four days' journey, arriving on the evening of the next day.

Express couriers who carry imperial messages between Gartok and Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, make the entire distance of 800 miles on horseback in eight days without relief, riding night and day. Dispatches are placed inside their robes, and the latter are sealed upon their bodies, so that they cannot be removed until the end of the journey, when the seal is broken by the proper official. These messengers are lifted at the post stations from one horse to another and arrive at their destination with cracked faces and eyes bloodshot and swollen. They sometimes die on the way from exposure and fatigue.

All private correspondence is transmitted by private post offices, of which there are several rival establishments in each city. These firms employ their own couriers, who travel on horseback, on foot or by steamer when possible. Between cities, where the business justifies a regular mounted service, letters and small parcels are carried at the rate of seventy-five or eighty miles a day. The charges for small distances are not excessive, a letter being sent from Peking to Tientsin for about 10 cents. For long distances, however, the postage is disproportionately large. The United States legation has frequent occasion to communicate with missionaries in the interior, particularly in the provinces of Shantung. From Peking to Chiananfu, the capital of Shantung, is about 225 miles, and the usual charge for transmitting a letter thither is 40 cents. Competition forces the postal establishments to be very careful and reliable.

In North China, where waterways are not so numerous as in the south, intercommunication has always presented serious difficulties, which no attempt has been made to overcome. The large rivers are to be crossed by ferries only, while the smaller streams must be forded. At the ferries the ferry boats are intentionally constructed with a high side board so that carts cannot be driven on without unhitching. This gives employment to a crowd of hangers-on in lifting on and off the carts for a compensation. In time of flood there is apt to be no way of crossing the streams at all. Where nature has afforded no convenient impediment bad characters sometimes dig holes in the road so as to obtain employment in helping carts through.

#### A Speculation in Cats.

Here comes a story for you which sounds almost like an out-West fairy tale, but I am told that it is strictly true: "During the first days of 'Pike's Peak,' when that country was being occupied by mining prospectors, their cabins were overrun with rats—not your domesticated house-mice and rats of an old civilized community, but rats—large, voracious rats—with teeth and digestive apparatus capable of managing anything from a tough old boot to a dainty piece of breakfast bacon.

"This state of affairs came to the knowledge of a thrifty Dutchman, poor, but willing to earn a bright dollar if the way was only pointed out, and roused his dormant ideas to take advantage of the rat nuisance and profit thereby. The Dutchman secured a yoke of oxen, rigged a prairie-schooner with three stories, and filled the same with good cats which his neighbors were glad to be rid of. With this outfit he started across the plain for Pike's Peak, a tedious journey of some six hundred miles. This, with scant supplies of game, prepared the cats for any encounter with their victims.

"Their arrival spread joy among the householders, and everything was set aside to purchase cats. When the stock of our worthy Dutchman had been speedily converted into gold-dust, he sold his team, returned on foot across the desert plains to Omaha with over \$1,500, and bought a farm near by. But the climax of this venture was attained when his faithful oxen strayed back to him." —[St. Nicholas.]

#### Official R d Tape.

The new extradition treaty with England is said to show by its practical workings one of the finest exemplifications in the world of the red tape process of how not to do it. A man wanted in Boston was known to be in

London. The Boston police cabled to Scotland Yard a description of the man, with particulars of his crime. After more than a month the Secretary of the Governor of Massachusetts came to see the Boston chief, to inquire if he wanted such a man from London. He said yes. The answer was then carried to the Governor, who communicated it to Washington, whence it was forwarded to Minister Lincoln, who waited on the British Foreign Office with the information. Thence it was communicated to the Home Office, which notified Scotland Yard to arrest the culprit. Scotland Yard replied that he had gone to Antwerp a month before. —[New Orleans Picayune.]

#### Cause of the Chinese Riots.

"There is a deep plot behind these anti-foreign riots in China which goes far beyond the feeling against the missionaries," said Colonel W. H. Brand, of the British Army, at the 'Tremont House.' "I spent several years in China, and one cannot travel in any part of the empire that he does not see a feeling of discontent among the natives. The empire, I believe, is on the verge of a great rebellion within its borders. The present government, known as the Manchoo dynasty, is made up of Tartars almost altogether, and the rebellious spirit is being cultivated among the people with the view of expelling the Tartars from the throne. The people in China have always been taught to believe the emperor is the son of heaven. This idea is now exploded among the progressive and intelligent classes and they no longer entertain their former reverence for the Tartar throne. The empire is honey-combed with secret societies which foster this antagonism to the present government. The greatest of these societies is the Kaloa Hui, perhaps, which numbers among its active members many of the high military officers and a large percentage of the standing army. This is the society said to have instigated the series of riots against foreigners. I believe that they have incited these riots for no other purpose than to embroil the Tartar rulers with European powers. The idea is growing stronger every day among the Chinese patriots that a new era must be inaugurated soon. One cause of the great discontent in China is that the Manchoo dynasty is far behind in modern progress. Yet the Manchos, who belong to a different branch of the Mongolian race than do the other inhabitants of China, are the most intelligent people there, and have only to arouse themselves to the exigencies of the times to make China one of the most powerful nations in Asia in point of education, finance and general improvement." —[Chicago Herald.]

#### Food for the Sickroom.

The diet for sick people reaches its highest perfection in the various hospitals where the physicians prescribe certain rules and regulations, and the sufferers are compelled to abide by them. In sickrooms the nurse should gently but firmly compel the patients to submit to intelligence which has in view something higher than the mere temporary gratification of the taste. Seasoning in food for sick is seldom used in the hospitals except to a very limited extent. Salt can be used in a limited way, but pepper is always refused except in cases where a little spicing helps to stimulate the stomach to take food. Those who have been prostrated by disease for a long time require foods that will be nutritive and gently stimulative in their actions. Foods of this nature are generally found in the various dishes made from fish, game, beef, mutton, poultry, eggs, peas, baked potatoes and other mucilaginous substances. They can be made into a variety of dishes and combinations, with just enough seasoning to make them palatable, but not harmful. Hot milk, drunk with a spoon, is generally a good nourishing food used extensively for patients in the hospitals, but it should be absolutely pure and free from all disease germs. Baked apples have had good results as an invalid's food, but much sugar should be avoided. Oranges are recommended at the beginning of a meal. The great food, for the sick room, however, is pure, unadulterated arrowroot, which can be made into a variety of dishes. The powdered root should be moistened with cold water, and then boiling water be poured on it until it is transparent. It should be sweetened slightly. —[Yankee Blade.]

#### Preventing Coal Dust Explosions.

A successful method of preventing coal dust explosions has been adopted in various German mines. The usual method of sprinkling water in dusty parts of the mine has only a limited value, as much of the dust generated in the mining of coal is hereby unaffected. Water is now forced under a pressure into the coal to be mined, thus not only setting the dust in advance but facilitating the removal of the coal. Holes one meter deep are drilled at a distance of about three meters. Here wooden plugs are inserted and through them are run iron pipes from 1 to 1 meter long, with openings between 2 and 3 millimeters large and connected with rubber hose. Important factors in the successful application of this method are the water pressure obtainable, the quantity of water injected and the firmness of the seam. The last item depending to some extent on the size of the coal pillars in the workings. —[Chicago News.]

#### A Portable Hospital.

During the recent maneuvers of the French army a thorough test was made by the medical corps of a portable hospital invented by M. Espitalier. It measured sixteen metres by five metres inside, and could receive twenty beds. Packed for transport it weighed 2,000 kilogrammes, and was drawn by two horses. The framework of wood and iron is fitted with panels of carton, or cellulose, which form the walls and ceiling, and the whole can be erected by the soldiers in four hours. The hospital is complete in every respect, and has given entire satisfaction during the trials. —[Picayune.]

## THE LADIES.

### THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE IS HIS SECRETARY.

Mme. Carnot, wife of the President of France, acts as secretary to her husband, has the care of his private correspondence, always, and when he is over-pressed with business or is desirous of taking some little repose, as well as during his absence, she takes his place and transacts all current affairs with a care and perfect knowledge of business routine which she shows to her early training; for in her girlhood Mlle. Dupont White was the constant companion and also the amanuensis of her father, and had early to learn to sacrifice her own tastes and amusements that she might be the right hand of the able political economist. —[New York World.]

### PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT OF THE SEX.

Several English medical journals have recently called attention to a fact, sustained by common observation, that the young women of the present day are better developed physically, taller, plumper, stronger and healthier than the young women of 50, 100, 150 or 200 years ago, and that in this continuous and perceptible improvement of condition and aspect there are no steps backward. One journal has called attention to the circumstance that whereas a century ago handsome women inspired sentiments of such an admiring curiosity that her arrival or departure drew vast crowds and rewarded the patient waiting of hundreds; beauty of the same sort is so general nowadays as to evoke no ripple of excitement. —[Chicago Post.]

### THE NEW BODICES.

The new bodices are all made over a fitted lining. The only places where the material of the bodice is united to the lining and on the inside of the waist are at the shoulder seams. The new linings are noteworthy for the slender effect that they give to the corset. The darts are brought as far forward as possible, leaving only about an inch between the first and second darts, while the second darts are set but a short distance further back. The old-fashioned dart is an unknown thing on the outside of corset, unless it is on plain tailor dresses. The fulness necessary for the figure is drawn up in the centre of the back and in the centre of the front of bodices in a cluster of tiny petals as described, or is held in and concealed under a vest of embroidery and velvet in front and a long slender point of the same at the back. All the new waist forms are fully boned in every seam. —[New York Tribune.]

### TEACHING FACTORY GIRLS.

The ladies of Elberfeld, Germany, have adopted a practical system for teaching factory girls how to become good wives. It is well known that factory girls are singularly remiss in everything pertaining to good housewifery, and that when they marry they know no more about getting up a good dinner than they do about sailing a yacht. The plan of the Elberfeld women is to take these girls into their homes for a year of service previous to their marriage. So now in Elberfeld the plan of teaching factory girls how to live is something like this: As soon as a factory girl becomes engaged to be married she gives up her position and takes employment with some woman who pledges herself to teach the girl all she knows about cooking, baking, sweeping and all other housewifely arts. At the end of the year the girl is qualified to keep house properly and economically. And if, by a mischance, there should be a slip between the matrimonial cup and the lip, the young woman has learned so much that she can go right on in domestic service, earning good wages, if she so desires. —[St. Louis Republic.]

### A GREEN BRONZE BOA.

I was told, writes a Paris correspondent, that bores a la 1830—that is to say, the long ones—would be abandoned this season, but from the amount and variety of its species noticeable, not only in every window, but more especially around every mondaine's neck, I very naturally come to the conclusion that my informant's tip was of a very uncertain kind. With regard to these comforters I may also add that fur, ostrich and cock's feather boas are the most fashionable at the present moment, while long flat stole-like collarettes of sable fall to the feet, and are finished off by the dark tails of that expensive little animal. These flat boas, I fancy, used to be termed in by-gone days Victorines. The ostrich feather boas are now built of a series of tips overlapping, and not of one unbroken line of plumes as heretofore. The latest novelty, however, and which I told you of several weeks ago, is the green bronze boa of roasters' feathers, forming a very thick ruffling of curled feathers; others are made of perfectly flat and uncurled "plumes," and although pretty, are not so light in appearance as the frisees. —[Ladies' Pictorial.]

### SHE MISSED IT SO.

"It's an old trick of the trade with the novelists to tell how young women, when in love, never fail at a certain juncture to double-lock their room doors, and with many flushes and heart-beatings write down their Christian name coupled with the surname of the man whom they have promised or hope to marry," commented a young married woman lately wedded to a fine man of her choice. "I suppose it is the way of many sentimental girls, though I never did it myself; instead, I underwent a very different emotion, of which I don't think men have any comprehension, but which I find is not peculiar in my case. I mean grief of having to give up one's maiden name."

"All the time I was engaged I never took any thought for the day on which I was to drop my own nice surname and title, for which I had such a deep affection, and be addressed by my family, my friends and people to whom I was introduced by an entirely different one."

"For the first week after my marriage even, I scarcely noticed the change, but

one day there suddenly came over me a curious little lonesome feeling. It seemed so chilly and formal, so unlike myself to be addressed as 'Mrs.' at every hand, and never to hear my own dear original name."

"The more I thought over the matter the more despairing I became. Never, never could I hear the old familiar 'Miss' when anybody spoke to me."

"Thereupon I actually locked myself in my room and wept so long and bitterly from pure homesickness that my husband besought me tearfully through the key-hole to tell him what was wrong."

"He was very much hurt when I first explained the cause of my grief, but when I brought him to a realization of my loss, he grew sympathetic, and, do you know, for a long time he called me by my maiden name. That wore off with the honeymoon, however, but even to this day I think sadly of my lost name." —[Illustrated American.]

### INDUSTRIES FOR WOMEN.

It is very grievous to notice how great and various are the difficulties in the way of making new employments successful. The first and really important difficulty of men objecting to admit women to new spheres of work, is almost entirely overcome, but there is more fear of women injuring their cause by their own petty heeklings and wranglings than there ever was from the opposition of men. Here, for instance, are the lady market-gardeners. A more excellent scheme than that which Miss Grace Harriman started a little more than a year ago was never devised for giving gentlemen who had not the abilities or the chance of making a living by what is called brain-work a chance of congenial work and fair remuneration. But no sooner had the practical work begun than the lady gardeners became a house divided against itself. Some of the novices had to be dismissed because they would not help to sell things when they were ready for the market; there were faultfindings and backbitings concerning minor matters, and the result of it all was not only much annoyance to all concerned, but also inevitable pecuniary losses. When will women learn that it is absolutely no good to enter upon any serious work so long as they cannot be contented to sink their fads, fancies and prejudices, and look at their work from a broader point of view?

Why in the world are not a few more enterprising women, with a small capital at their disposal, coming forward as poultry farmers? There are one or two already "in the trade," and doing exceedingly well, and there are hundreds and thousands of women who "make a little money" by selling eggs and poultry in an amateurish way. But while we have such facts before us as the following, which comes from a reliable source, it is not amateurs, but practical professionals that are required. During the last eight months no less than 114,865,360 eggs were exported from Russia into England. They represented a value of \$1,125,000. The conditions under which poultry farming may be successfully carried on are infinitely more favorable in this country than in Russia. Why, therefore, should not English eggs supply the English market? Of course poultry farming means something besides the acquisition of a small "run" and the proper placement of a few nests with nest-eggs, but the science of rearing chickens is pretty well exact, and not very complicated, and there is no doubt that if poultry farming is done in a practical and business-like way it will have practical and satisfactory results. —[Pall Mall Gazette.]

### FASHION NOTES.

Short white face veils are of figured or applique lace.

Jeweled portieres are at their best and most effective under the gaslight.

Some of the dyed fur rugs are found very disagreeable in a warm house.

Yokes of fur are now applied to cloaks of cloth, or to any of the woolen cloakings.

It is truer now than ever before in the history of fashion that "fine feathers do not make fine birds."

Scarlet waistcoats, embroidered with fine gold braid, are in high favor among the women of fashion.

Women who wear diamond rings outside their gloves are, contrary to hope, not all dead yet, by any means.

Purple, heliotrope, sapphire, carnation, apple green, and pinkish browns are fashionable colors for costumes.

New effects in portrait photography are nothing if not startling. The head looks to be in a cloud of "cott-a-smoke."

Some of the new skirts are made with pocket slits on both sides of the front, and are trimmed with passementerie, gimp, or velvet.

Faille Francaise, bengaline, gross-grain, ottoman, peau-de-soir, and sergo-de-Lyon silks will all continue fashionable through the winter.

The novelty in bodices just now is a perfectly smooth, tight-fitting waist of velvet or satin, without trimming of any kind, and long sleeves made entirely of feathers.

The muffler for full dress is of some solid, deep color, and is in the form of an enlarged handkerchief, to be folded to a width from four to five inches, placed about the neck under the swallow tail collar and folded across the waistcoat opening.

The new French skirt, or umbrella skirt, as some call it, on account of its shape, is the very latest skirt for walking costumes and house wear. It molds the figure below the waist and around by means of a few darts, the entire fullness being adjusted at the back.

The seams on the bodices and skirts of silk or velvet evening gowns are being overlaid with a narrow silk gimp or passementerie. Silver or gold seems to be used for preference, although many women think the use of metallic trimmings makes a gown look tawdry. If the trimming be good and not tinselly, however, it brightens a gown amazingly, if not too freely employed.