

FOR THE LADIES.

LINEN SKIRT LINING.

Unless one can afford a good quality of lining silk the best skirt lining is of linen. It is substantial enough to cause the dress to hang properly. It wears well and slips on and off easily. Linen dress foundations in all shades may be had, and the silk dust ruffles may be added to give the desirable rustic.—[New York World.]

SILK HORNSPUN.

A new material, and one that has every indication of lasting popularity, is called silk hornspun. It is made of pure silk, carded and spun into threads. It makes a rather rough-surfaced fabric of great strength and durability, is indigo-dyed and is warranted to stand sun, storm, salt water and the hardships for which navy serge has been recommended. It is comparatively inexpensive—sixty cents per yard for twenty-seven inches—and a very general demand for it is predicted.

A QUEEN'S ROBES.

The robes of Queen Victoria are never sold or given away, despite the energetic attempts which have been made from time to time to induce the attendants to part with some of these thousands of gowns, which the wearer has probably forgotten that she ever possessed. When the long reign is ended it is a question what will become of the coronation robes, bridal gowns, resplendent garments of stately fete and royal ceremonial, worn in the old days before the magnificence of queenliness was forgotten in the sorrow of widowhood.—[Golden Days.]

THE MOTHER OF WASHINGTON.

A correspondent writing from Fredericksburg, Va., about Washington's mother, says: "None of the means committed to her were allowed to go to waste. There still lives in Fredericksburg a tradition that when she went down the street upon household errands she always, that she might waste no time, carried her apron full of cotton, and picked it as she walked. Moreover, no one is likely to forget that when Lafayette came to pay her his respects he found her hard at work raking up with her own hands the dry weeds and leaves that had accumulated in her garden."—[Atlanta Constitution.]

HANDSOME GARNITURES.

Many showy little jackets are shown of jet, of silk passementerie, and of finest fancy mohair braids, wrought in artistic patterns. In silk passementerie jackets there is a variety of colors, as tan, navy blue, brown, and stone-color; but black is the best choice, as it can be worn with different gowns. The highest novelty for the corsage is the Josephine collar; it has a wide band crossing the bust, and also the back between the shoulders, defining a low square neck, and passes over the shoulders in wide flaring epaulets. It is a very elegant garniture, and especially adapted, as its name implies, to the Empire gown, though it will form a sumptuous garniture for any corsage. These are shown in brilliantly cut jet, in the fascinating iridescent beads showing the colors of all precious stones, in steel, and in silk passementerie.—[Demorest.]

WOMEN'S WAGES.

In pursuit of a livelihood, the hope or ultimate intention to marry is a drawback to woman's success, says a writer in the Forum. She enters any vocation half-heartedly, not as a life career, but as a temporary stop-gap. Abandoning her trade for marriage, years afterwards, perhaps, she returns to it an invalid and with dependents, her hand robbed of its cunning, and she must take her place at the bottom of the ladder. Economically indeed she is yet an industrial makeshift, rarely displacing man except at half his pay. Again, being unorganized, women cannot fight. Such trades unions as dare form are, for want of leadership, scotched by hard-hitting manufacturers at one blow, few associations surviving one formal complaint or strike. Shoe and tobacco unions have obtained substantial results in shortening hours and raising pay.

AN INEXPENSIVE TABLE DECORATION.

An ingenious little friend of mine who cannot afford cut flowers every day made a very pretty and inexpensive fernery for her dinner table, writes Emma E. Brown. First she procured a pressed glass dish of suitable size and shape, and this she lined with tin foil—not only to hide the soil, but also to preserve the brilliancy of the glass. Then she bought at the florist's a gracefully shaped fern for table decoration, the one known as "Atlantium Farleyense." Before transplanting it she put into the bottom of the glass dish a few bits of broken crockery to help the drainage. Occasionally she adds a little charcoal to keep the soil in good condition, and when not needing the plant for table decoration, she puts it on the window shelf, where it can have more light. By this means she keeps her dainty fernery fresh and thriving all winter, and she says that "green" is sure to harmonize with everything on the table, which is not always the case with a flower.—[St. Louis Republic.]

CARE OF THE HANDS.

Keeping the corners of the finger nails well trimmed and oval has much to do with the shape of finger tips. If the nail spreads at the top the flesh must spread also. Keep the nail cut narrow as possible, and wind a linen tape round the fingers to the tip to the second joint at night as any time convenient. Secure the ends of the tapes to a band about the wrist, and wear the compress as long as comfortable. Also sleep in gloves and keep the hands soft and flexible by the use of some good emollient.—[Chicago News Record.]

FASHIONS FOR THE LITTLE ONES.

The dainty and quaint fashions which prevail for children stand as a source of satisfaction to every mother. Simplicity of detail and absence of trimming are marked features, and picturesque and

artistic effects are achieved with a minimum expenditure of time and money. The majority of skirts are plain on the edge, finished with deep hems, and all are fuller than they have been. For children under five they are two inches shorter than those recently worn.

Jacket and blouse effects are very popular, and these are simulated on even the two-year-old dresses. Guimpe dresses will still remain in favor for children under ten; and little Empire gowns, with rounded yokes of puffs or tucks and embroidery, to which the full skirts are fastened, will be very popular. Some of these have wide sashes of the dress material, fastened in the under-arm seams, which tie behind.—[Demorest.]

FASHION NOTES.

Purple and violet gauze veils are the very newest style.

A jewel fastened on the forehead by a gold wire is worn by London society women.

Silver candles with pale green shades and gold candles with white silk shades are some of the new waxlight effects.

Girls who dress thoughtfully as well as elaborately are apt nowadays to put rakish or flamboyant hats under taboo for church.

Corslets are as fashionable as ever, and they are made of all kinds of materials—wool, silk, velvet, brocade, embroidery and lace.

A charming gown, recently imported, was a rather large patterned broche, a dull shade of violet or dark maize, such as one sees in old pictures.

A novelty in fire screens is painted on ground glass, which has a milky effect, with a design of ferns, dogwood blossoms and sunflowers, framed in bamboo.

A quaint little Henri II. cape is of black velvet, very prettily trimmed with alternate folds of black satin, and an elaborate embroidery of jet passementerie.

A rich garniture for a low bodice is formed of four bands of jewel trimming, extending around the waist, Empire style, and clasped at the front with a jewel clasp.

Collarettes to be worn with wraps or over a dress waist are being made of changeable velvet. Some of these extend quite to the waist line, while others are only as deep as a yoke.

A graceful shoulder cape is of tan cloth, smartly trimmed with multi-colored passementerie, and arranged in front with a pleated fichu and bows of corduroy velvet in a darker shade of tan.

Parasol covers are being made as part of a costume. Thus, with but one frame, one can have as many parasols as gowns. Out of this scheme has grown the fad of giving "umbrella sets" as presents.

The newest forks and spoons are of gold with Dresden china handles. They are so pretty that the admiring housewife finds an excuse for placing odd ones upon her table in addition to putting one at every place.

Black is fashionable when made up with Scotch plaid, brocade or any of the modish novelty goods. Many of the new silks are "just the thing" for puffs, cascaded bretelles and tiny ruffles on black gowns.

A pretty present for a busy woman is a white slate framed in gold with a pencil suspended to it. This hangs beside her dressing case and upon it each morning she writes what she expects to do during the day.

A high-backed, gilded throne chair, upholstered in scarlet brocade and banded with royal embroidery, is the "roc's egg" of the moment. The high-class bric-a-brac dealers cannot import them fast enough, orders being far in advance of the supply.

A favorite trimming for toilets of black armure, faille and Victoria silk is finely watered moire Francaise. These trimmings consist of a single extra wide band or several narrow bands around the bottom of the skirt, with the addition of full sleeves, cuffs, plastron and empire grille.

Quite the latest mode from Paris is a loosely fitting coat of black and violet shot silk, hanging quite straight from the bust a l'Empire, and trimmed across with straps and rosettes of black satin ribbon. The sleeves are exceptionally large, and are made of velvet in a lovely shade of purple shot with gold.

A novel coat of pale tan cloth is made in a double-breasted shape, and fastened with large buttons of mother of pearl. The very full sleeves are of Lincoln green cloth, so closely piped that they have the appearance of being very finely tucked. The pleated shoulder cape, which is of Lincoln green cloth, is a distinguishing feature of this strikingly novel coat.

Many of the new pocket-books are made large enough to hold a handkerchief, as well as a few cards and money, as few dresses are made with pockets. The most favored are the morocco books of all tints, from cream and pearl white, gray and tan to match the gown, Russian blue, dark blue and very brilliant red. Card cases come to match the portmanteau, yet it is a convenience to have both in one.

Traveling at Night in China.

In traveling at night in China every one uses a torch or lantern. Ordinary business men use a small glass and tin affair which they swing as they walk. The well-to-do and the mandarins employ the globe already described. Two of them are usually fastened to the back of the traveler's sedan chair as a part of its furniture. At night they are carried by a servant who goes in advance. As a rule, the higher a man's social standing the larger his lanterns. If he has a title it is painted on their surface in characters so large as to surround the light. A title lantern takes the right of way over a plain one, and as between titles, the higher precedes the lower. The only exception is that a "Joss-lantern," or one belonging to a religious procession, takes precedence over all others.

BODY AND ITS HEALTH.

CAUSES OF CONSUMPTION.—A medical authority states that consumption is dependent upon three factors: First, decreased vitality, antagonizing powers, or what you will. This is well known, as well as in what manner it is induced or transmitted. Second, an active inflammatory condition. This may be pneumonia, bronchitis, laryngitis or the like. Third, the presence of the bacillus tuberculosis. Without these three there can be no consumption. It is the usual thing in the examination in the deadhouse to find evidences in the lungs that the subject had at some time a commencing consumption, but the vitality had been so great that nature had encapsulated the infected part with tissue of high vitality and the condition became innocuous. The fatality from tuberculosis, then, is dependent on a decreased vitality, and we must look to a proper kind of diet and a consequent increase in the general antagonizing power of the body for the remedy.

CONTAGIOUSNESS OF PHTHISIS.—The discussion which has been going on for some time past as to the contagious character of phthisis has been emphasized on the negative side by the fact that at the famous Brompton Hospital the records of thirty-six years show not a single authenticated case originating within its walls among some two hundred and eighty physicians, residents and nurses. Equally remarkable are the statistics of the Friedrichshain Hospital in Berlin, which show that out of nine hundred and eighty-nine physicians and nurses only ten became tubercular, of whom three showed evidence of the disease before entering the hospital. Again, Dr. Brehmer states that at Gorbersdorf, where his institution is situated, during the last twenty years more than a ten thousand phthisical patients resided in the hospital, who walked the streets of the town and commingled with its inhabitants, and who therefore apparently crowded the air with tubercle bacilli, yet the mortality is 50 per cent. less among the Gorbersdorf population than it was before the establishment of the hospital. Dr. Schnyder, of Switzerland, also gives record of eight hundred and forty-four cases of phthisis among married people, in four hundred and forty-five of which the husband only was phthisical, and in three hundred and sixty-seven the wife only, while in thirty-two both husband and wife were affected, showing that in eight hundred and twelve instances there was not the least proof of contagion.

ELECTRICITY IN MEDICINE.—A very interesting and instructive lecture was delivered recently by George G. Hopkins, M. D., in Brooklyn, on the subject of "Electricity in Medicine." During the lecture the doctor exhibited and explained the various electrical machines and appliances used in medical practice. In treating the subject Dr. Hopkins spoke of the numerous uses to which electricity is to-day put, and cited three different kinds of currents which are known and used for scientific and practical purposes to-day. The doctor intimated that at the present day the real advancement in electrical knowledge was in the application and improved and superior machines for use and application, and especially was this true in the medical use of electricity. There has been a new era in medical electricity within the past twenty years owing to this fact. He cited a case which had occurred in his practice during the past twenty years of a girl of 16 years who was helpless, unable to walk or to speak words of more than one syllable, but was naturally of a bright disposition and good family, who was taken to St. John's Hospital and treated by electricity, and who finally received the use of her limbs and the physical portion of her body, but was still unable to utilize her brain powers.

A 20-cell bicromate battery was used each day for six months, the current being applied "rough the limbs, and a cure effected. The lady is alive to-day, and, although not in vigorous health, enjoys much that would have been impossible for her without the use of the electric fluid. Electricity is used for many contrary conditions, so as to produce a contraction, or again a relaxation of the muscular tissues. The galvanic current is used as a tonic, and Dr. Hopkins assured his hearers there was none better known, especially for hysterics, goitres, swellings and tumors; also for cramps, nervous diseases and neuralgia. Many very interesting instruments were shown, among others a cataplectic instrument, in which the medicine was held in blotting paper, and by means of the electric current driven through the skin. There were various needles used for cauterizing and disinfecting purposes. The subject of resistance was touched upon and electrocution mentioned. Dr. Hopkins was most emphatic in declaring his repugnance to this form of capital punishment, preferring hanging and shooting as being, to his mind, more humane, as, although the actual execution of the application of strong alternating electric currents, of 1,500 or 1,200 volts was certain to produce instant death, the mental suffering was much more intense and awful than in any other form of death. Dr. Hutchinson differed with Dr. Hopkins as regards the methods of capital punishment, and believed electrocution to be absolutely the most humane, neat and scientific manner of inflicting the death penalty. Many interesting stories and scientific facts of research and observation were related, and questions were solicited on any point not perfectly understood. Among the instruments exhibited was one for throwing light into the stomach by means of a small electric light within a silver tube, through which any surgical instrument might be inserted, and the difficulty removed, was most interesting; also a powerful incandescent light which threw light through the hands and limbs, and was said to be powerful enough to throw light through the neck, sufficient to light up the interior portion of the larynx and throat, making examinations of those organs comparatively easy.

Hotel "Dead Losses."

"The small 'dead losses' in a hotel room up very heavily at the end of the year," said the clerk to the Star representative, "and among the principal items are en-

velopes and paper. There are two hotels in Washington that use over 200,000 sheets of paper and 125,000 envelopes a year, and the paper is of the best quality. Much of it is used by outsiders. We don't mind giving paper to a gentleman—in fact, it is kept in abundance in our writing room—but we draw the line at the hotel and hotel loafer. So when he asks for stationery we hand him a single sheet and an envelope, look him squarely in the eye and ask in our most polite and icy tones, 'Anything else, sir?' This fetches some of 'em even when their gall is as thick as molasses. "Then the soap bill is enormous, a new cake to every guest. The annual cost of so trifling an article as toothpicks would surprise you, while the items for matches, pens and penholders count at the end of the year. These are articles handed over the counter alone and there is no equivalent unless the advertising resulting from the circulation of the stationery may be considered of value. The small losses in other departments are as great and are too many to enumerate.—[Washington Star.]

THE HOUSEKEEPER'S ALPHABET.

A Handy Little Guide for Thrifty Housewives.

Apples. Keep in a dry place as cool as possible without freezing. Brooms. Hang in the cellar-way to keep soft and pliant. Cranberries. Keep under water in the cellar; change water monthly. Dish of hot water set in oven prevents cakes, etc., from scorching. Economize time, health and means, and you will never beg. Flour. Keep cool, dry and securely covered. Glass. Clean with a quart of water mixed with a tablespoonful of ammonia. Herbs. Gather when beginning to blossom, and keep in paper sacks. Ink stains. Wet with spirits of turpentine; after three hours rub well. Jars. To prevent get husband to subscribe for the home paper. Keep an account of all supplies, with cost and date when purchased. Love lightens labor. Money. Count carefully when you receive change. Nutmegs. Prick with a pin, and if good oil will run out. Orange and lemon peel. Dry, pound and keep in bottles. Parsnips. Keep in the ground until spring. Quicksilver and white of an egg destroys bedbugs. Rice. Select large, with a fresh, clear look; old rice may have insects. Sugar. For general use, granulated is the best. Tea. Equal parts of Japan and green are as good as English breakfast. Use a cement of ashes, salt and water for cracks in stoves. Variety is the culinary spice. Watch your back yard; keep it clear from dirt and bones. Xantippe was a scold. Don't imitate her. Zinc-lined sinks are better than wooden ones.—[Philadelphia Times.]

Some By-Gone Superstitions.

The ancient custom of whirling the teacup and telling fortunes by the dregs, seeing a kiss here, and a ring there, clear sky or tears, is now known as a part of the old divination which even the more enlightened of the heathen ridiculed; the notion of the disaster with thirteen at table has been exploded long ago; the idea that Friday is a day of ill luck, that any of God's days can be days of ill luck, ranks one adhering to it as among the low and ignorant. That one must not trim one's nails on Sunday, lest one do something one is ashamed of before the next Sunday; that the scissors dropping into the floor, instead of upon it, announce a coming guest; the rocking of an empty chair gives spiritual warnings; that the buying of a dog at night, the breaking of a looking-glass, the putting on of another's crape, all prophesy death—the belief in these and kindred superstitions, and the expression or exercise of such belief, gives one a low caste, and is no longer to be indulged in with safety by those ambitious of social correctness and elegance. Enlightenment has gone too far in these days for those desiring its extension to subject themselves to the idleness of a belief in any possible power over us inherent in any combination of inanimate substances. We have come out into the light, and left the bats and owls and creeping things of night behind us. We cannot be hampered by those who persist in looking back and lingering over such dust and ashes; we drop their hands and go on. It has become, by the edict not only of Christian faith but ever of gay society, as evidence of vulgar breeding, both inadmissible and impossible, to give any more heed than we should to subjects of curiosity to these notions and fancies which are in amount the creed of the ignorant heathen of dark ages. These useless and depraving things must all go together into the caldron where the sisters of the blasted heath performed their incantations, belonging to the legends of dark history and unhappy ages, and be allowed to bear no relation whatever to the sweetness and light of our own fortunate days, and those more fortunate, perhaps, to come.—[Harper's Bazar.]

A Bank in Her Throat.

Grassini, the great Italian singer, was very much interested in the young girl, among her relatives, and always ready to encourage any talent she could find in them. One day a note was brought to her with the unpromising words, "She is a spoiled contralto, and will never do anything on the stage." But the singer listened while the young girl began her frightened trills, when suddenly Grassini caught her in her arms with delight. "Why, you are not a contralto," she said, "but the finest soprano in the world. Your voice is far stronger than mine. Study well. You want none of my help; there is a rich bank in your throat." The little singer was none other than Giulia Grisi.—[Detroit Free Press.]

In 1610 tobacco was first cultivated in Virginia.

THE JOKERS' BUDGET.

JESTS AND WAGS BY FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

Defined—Cause for Grief—Not So Very Old—A Weak Spot—Very Likely, Etc., Etc.

DEFINED.

"Papa, what is a reception?" "A reception, my son, is a social function where you have a chance to speak to every one but your hostess."

CAUSE FOR GRIEF.

"My good man," inquired the "under-healed old lady," "are you in any trouble? Why do you stand there wringing your hands?" "Cause," replied the tramp, "I just washed 'em."

NOT SO VERY OLD.

Mrs. B.—How do you feel to-day Captain? Quite well, I hope. Captain—Oh, yes, I am troubled somewhat with asthma, and now and then I really fear I am growing old. Mrs. B.—How old are you? Captain.—Only eighty-two.—[Pledge Blatter.]

NOT TOO HIGH.

Von Blumer—How much is this apartment on the ground floor? Agent—Fifty-five dollars a month. Von Blumer—And the one above it? Agent—Fifty dollars a month. Von Blumer—How many stories has this building? Agent—Eleven. Von Blumer—Then I'll engage the roof for next summer.—[Judge.]

VERY LIKELY.

"The inventor of the alphabet must have been a modest man," said Hawkins. "Why so?" asked Mawson. "Because he began it with A," said Hawkins. "Most men would have begun it with L."—[Harper's Bazar.]

FINDING OUT.

Dawson to stranger at Mrs. De Noo's reception—Who is this Mrs. De Noo, anyhow? Stranger—She is Mr. De Noo's wife. Dawson—And who on earth is De Noo? Stranger—L.—[Truth.]

MEANT SOMETHING ELSE.

Jeanne Premier (at the amateur theatricals)—I say, old man, have you got the stage fright? Heavy Villain—No; I think she's in her dressing-room.—[Truth.]

EXPERIENCES.

Van Daub—Were you ever done in oil, Mr. Broker? Mr. Broker—No; but I had three ribs broken in a wheat panic.—[Truth.]

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN.

Dennis—I see dey played base ball in de time of ancient Rome. Mike—How so? Dennis—I wuz down at a book stan' yisterday, an I see a book called de "Rise and Fall of de Roman" Empire.—[Kate Field's Washington.]

HE HAD TO.

"Do you love your teacher?" "I suppose I have to." "Why so, Tommy?" "Because the Bible says we must love our enemies."—[Texas Sittings.]

A WORD OF TWO MEANINGS.

"Achou," in monkey language, means warmth and comfort, according to Prof. Garner. "Achou," when uttered by poor humanity, generally means cold, discomfort, and a sneeze.—[Boston Globe.]

GREAT HUNTING.

"Is Cholly fond of hunting?" "No, people are fond of hunting Cholly; he has been up in supplementary proceedings a dozen times!"—[Rider and Driver.]

APPRECIATION.

Bulldog—That fellow was quite a dandy. Mastiff—Indeed? Bulldog (licking his chops)—Yes; he wore a very tasty suit of clothes.—[Truth.]

A BETTER REASON.

Hobbs—Do you believe Gallup burned his house to get the insurance money? Dobbs—No; I visited him at the jail, and he confessed to me that he did it to get rid of the box of cigars his wife bought him for his birthday.—[Life.]

POPULAR SCIENCE.

He (of Boston)—Professor Skihigh is going to lecture on sun spots. She (of Chicago)—Well, if I thought he could tell of a real sure cure for them I would go to hear him—I freckle so easily.—[Life.]

A CANDID CRITIC.

Author—Well, what do you think of my new drama? Friendly Critic—Splendid! The villain in particular is admirably portrayed. The very words he utters are stolen.—[Life.]

SHOULD MEND HIS WAYS.

James (piously)—What is the gate to heaven? James' Father—Well, it's not the gate you've been going at recently.—[Texas Sittings.]

HE DIDN'T COMPLAIN.

Young Wife—This talk about men being so impatient when a woman is getting ready to go anywhere is all nonsense. Friend—Doesn't your husband complain at all? Young Wife—No, indeed. Why, last evening I couldn't find my gloves, and had a long hunt for half a dozen other things; and yet, when I was finally dressed, and went down stairs to my husband, there he was by the fire, reading and smoking as calmly as if I wasn't half an hour late.

Friend—Well, I declare! Where were you going? Young Wife—To prayer meeting.—[New York Weekly.]

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A WEAK SPOT.

Mrs. Gazzam (reading)—Miss Parker, of New Mexico, runs a telegraph office, two express companies, a railroad office, a ranch, and keeps house. Now, Mr. Gazzam, what do you think of that? Mr. Gazzam—I'll bet a dollar she has to ask some one else if her hat is on straight.—[New York Sun.]

DAYS OF RECKONING.

Wife—When we go anywhere now we have to walk. Before marriage we always called a carriage. Husband—That's why we have to walk now.—[New York Weekly.]

A LOGICAL SMALL BOY.

"You aren't behaving very well, Tommy," said grandpa. "Do you know what I would do if I were a little boy like you?" "Yeth, grandpa," said Tommy, "you'd do the same ath I do, cauther if you didn't you wouldn't be a little boy like me."—[Harper's Bazar.]

CORRECT DIAGNOSIS.

Shrewd Doctor—I see what's the matter. It's mental strain—too much worry. Business Man—What do you advise? "Change of scene." "Where to?" "Oh, almost any country where there is no extradition treaty."—[New York Weekly.]

CHANGED HER MIND.

The Shopping Woman—How much is this silk a yard? Clerk—Six fifty, madam. The Shopping Woman—Then let me have a package of hair pins.—[Chicago News.]

TWO BETTER THAN ONE.

Teacher—We must have been taught to forgive those who spitefully use us, but when Johnny Muggs hit you, what did you do? Boy—I hit him back; but that was only so he'd have something to forgive, too.—[Good News.]

KEEPING THEM DOWN.

Rich Youth—I should not object to the work of earning my own living if I had to, but what I should hate would be the officiousness and petty tyranny of superiors. I should hate to have to bow to the whims of some wealthy man not a bit better than myself. Poor Youth—That's easily avoided. Be a typewriter, like I am. Employees never put on airs over me. I know how to take the starch out of 'em.

"Eh? What do you do?" "Ask 'em how to spell a hard word now and then."—[Good News.]

AN INSINUATION.

"You say your daughter plays by ear?" said the minister. "Yes," replied the mother proudly. "Excuse me—but—er—is your daughter at all hand of hearing?"—[Washington Star.]

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.

Dora—Is that new waist you are having made a creation of your own? Cora—Yes, I am going to call it the new navy design. Dora—What for? Cora—Because I expect to be so well armed.—[Cloak Review.]

SIMPLICITY.

"I don't like your milk," said the mistress of the house. "What's wrong with it, Mum?" "It's dreadfully thin and there's no cream on it." "After you've lived in the city a while, Mum," said the milkman encouragingly, "you'll get over them rural ideas of yours."—[Chicago Tribune.]

THE PRIMITIVE WHISTLE.

"Papa," said Walter, "I wish you'd buy me a whistle like George's." "What kind is that, Walter?" "It's one with nothing to it but whistle. He makes an O of his mouth and blows the whistle through it."—[Harper's Bazar.]

A Man's Weight After Dinner.

Why does not a man weigh a pound more immediately after eating a pound of food? A little reflection will readily explain this apparent mystery. During the process of mastication, deglutition, etc., certain muscles are brought into active play, and the exercise of any muscles necessitates a temporary waste of its tissues, and a certain amount of carbon is eliminated and passed off during the course of the meal. This loss, however, is trifling as compared with that of respiration and perspiration, both of which are increased during the various operations of making a meal.

The length of time one may take to consume a pound of food makes but little difference to these losses, for if eaten leisurely there is but slight increase of respiration or perspiration, whereas if it is hurried through both are abnormally accelerated. Hence by the time the pound is eaten the consumer has lost appreciably in moisture and carbonic acid.—[London Million.]

Smokeless Powder.

Another wonder of future wars will be smokeless gunpowder. The ordnance bureau of the navy has been devoting much attention lately to the manufacture of a preparation of this kind for Uncle Sam's use. Many such powders have been produced by European governments. The basis of them all is gun cotton dissolved in nitric acid, the latter element being afterward eliminated. Not the least remarkable thing about them is the queer shapes in which they are turned out. I have on my desk at this moment a couple of small sheets of thin yellowish-brown paper. There is nothing about it to distinguish it from any other cheap paper apparently. I tear off a piece of it and touch one end with a lighted match, when lo! it flares up brilliantly and is gone, leaving not a trace of ash or smoke. It is gunpowder—the French smokeless "poudre B."—[Washington Star.]

London papers advertise "houses especially adapted to Americans."