

GOSSIP FOR THE FAIR SEX.

Notes of Interest in Feminine Topics.

Hats With Lofty Knot—Fancy Waists Won't Be Snubbed—Making a Saddle Skirt, Etc., Etc.

HATS WITH LOFTY KNOT.

Perhaps the most impressive point about the new hats is the lofty knot, mushroom-like, which perches upon so many new chapeaux. You see it in ribbon and lace and sekinned net, and it interests you to wonder in what fabric next it will greet you.

These nodding decorations possess the charm of plumes and long-stemmed roses; they yield with every inclination of the head. Some of them are only rosettes; others, ambitious loopings. In any case, they are serious phases of spring millinery.

FANCY WAISTS WON'T BE SNUBBED.

In spite of authentic accounts from the most official sources and of endless snubs from the tailors and dressmakers, the ubiquitous fancy waist makes its elegant and fascinating appearance among the lovely things in spring and summer gowns. It will not down; this seems positive, and for the very good reason that it is one of the most attractive and graceful forms of dress ever devised for general uses as well as for the most ornate and charming finishing touch to an elaborate toilet; and the tempting, novel, and beautiful creations in these bodies now exhibited by noted importers are potent evidences that they are still at the height of favor both here and abroad.—New York Post.

MAKING A SADDLE SKIRT.

A saddle skirt, which is the kind everybody makes nowadays, takes six yards of goods, a little over a yard wide and twelve yards of twenty-seven inch goods. The material cuts to waste, and must be patched, and you will find yourself in a queer boat with your pattern and your goods.

A saddle skirt is one that is divided in the back, so as to fall over the saddle, but not in the front. That necessitates a middle section, making a sort of divided skirt in the back. Nearly all bicycle dresses are made this way, and so are gowns for every sport. The back division does not show.

Your waist you can get out of five yards of narrow width goods if you do not allow too long a bodice. Many riders prefer to use up the old jackets on the wheel and content themselves with a new skirt to fit the saddle. Very little trimming is needed. Many wheelwomen bind their skirts with a broad band of olecloth that can be washed freely and always looks clean.—St. Louis Star.

PARASOLS TRIMMED WITH FLOWERS.

The new parasols follow the hat vogue in being very fully trimmed with flowers. One for example, is caught with great bunches of daisies, with their clusters of silvered leaves. This parasol cannot be entirely closed. Another, not a flowered one, has puffs of chiffon running around it, the puffs being separated by tiny bands of black velvet ribbon. A big chiffon ruffle falls over the edge.

A very new way of using flowers is to make floral handles. A bunch of violets made of some paste material, and carefully covered, formed the handle of a gold and white parasol, and there are many carved stalks, painted like flowers. Some of these are small and fine; others make a single big red rose or an Easter lily. Gold tinsel over white satin is very much used. Old white satin parasols may be brought out and treated to a dress of gold at small expense. Dresden ribbons are much used. An immense bow to match the heart of the daisies was placed upon a parasol trimmed with bunches of these flowers.

THE NEW MILLINERY.

The sailor hat is too becoming to be allowed to go out of fashion, but this season it is so loaded down with trimming that it bears little resemblance to its original self.

Of course during midsummer the plain untrimmed hats of this shape will be worn by young girls, and even by some of the older women, although the latter do not patronize them so much as a year or two ago.

There seems to be no fixed law as to what kind of straw is the smartest in sailor hats; the fine straws and the Panamas seem rather more popular, but there are a great many of the rough braids. The under brim is now covered with a cream net, or bound with velvet, or made of a contrasting color, and the top or crown is fairly loaded down with flowers. Roses, primroses, lilacs (purple and white), gardenias, and cowslips, all and many more are used, and the stiff bows of ribbon or velvet which are interspersed give the needed effect of height. All the hats have the brim turned up at the back, and flowers galore are put in so as to rest against the hair.

A smart sailor hat of fine black straw has a brim faced with white, and bound with a roll of black velvet just at the edge. Quantities of pink roses cover the crown and are put under the brim at the back, while stiff narrow bows of white ribbon and black velvet are put in among the roses. Another hat, the same shape, is of blue straw trimmed with red carnations and black and white ribbon bows, while at the back are knots of bright red gauze instead of the flowers.

In Panama a charming model was a narrow brim bound with black velvet,

the crown is encircled with roses of different colors, looking as natural as though just picked. At the left side are narrow ends of black velvet, and at the back the brim is entirely covered with bunches of pink, yellow and red roses, closely massed together.

Quite in contrast to these flower-gardens is a hat of the sailor shape with black brim and the crown of black and white—a different straw. This is trimmed with black ribbon velvet, and at the left side a bunch of stiff black quills. The effect is odd, smart, but yet not becoming to every face, as the lines are decidedly severe.—Harper's Bazar.

DON'TS FOR WHEELWOMEN.

Don't wear a skirt that shows more than eight inches of your boot.

Don't wear black boots.

Don't try to raise your hat to an acquaintance because you happen to be wearing a derby or an alpine.

Don't allow your escort to ride inside, nearest the sidewalk. That is your place.

Don't keep on ringing your bell when you see that the driver of a horse is turning out to make room for you. The jangle of the bell may frighten the horse, and is sure to annoy the driver.

Don't stand in the middle of the road to fix your lantern or pump your tire, so that every rider will have to make a wide detour to pass you.

Don't borrow a pump of a man you do not know and forget to return it.

Don't hesitate to accept assistance from a man in case you are in trouble with your wheel. That is an occasion when a woman may take well-meant help from a stranger of the opposite sex.

Don't wear club pins outside your coat and never wear two large crossed flags on your lapel.

Don't ride down elderly or unexperienced cyclists just because you have more control of your machine than they.

Don't boast of the superiority of your wheel. In the slang of the day, "there are others."

Don't coast in the city. You may fall, and there may be a "bike" cop watching you.

Don't argue with a policeman if he tells you to go slow. Remember that policemen are all good riders, and that they have the law on their side.

Don't ride without gloves.

Don't start till you are certain that, not only your wheel, but your costume, is in perfect condition, so that nothing will break loose under the strain of riding.

Don't wear flaming colors in your hat.

Don't rest with one foot on the ground and the other on the outside pedal. It will make you look ungraceful, if not worse.

Don't try to keep up a steady conversation while riding. You need your breath for pedaling.

Don't wear white undershirts on a wheel. They will not be white for long.

Don't trim any part of your visible wheeling costume with lace or frills of any kind. Remember that the best-dressed wheelwoman is she who is most severely plain in every detail.

Don't walk your bicycle more than absolutely necessary. It attracts unpleasant attention.

Don't try to ride on a busy cycle path on the strength of one lesson in an academy.

Don't mount by the aid of a telegraph pole. That is not the way your instructor taught you.

Don't wear more than one color in your whole costume, including hat and boots.

Don't make short turns at corners. A bicycle will slip easily, particularly if the ground is not dry.

Don't hesitate to offer assistance in case of a spill, whether the unfortunate is of your sex or not.

Don't insist upon your right of way if you are going up hill and a cyclist is coming down so fast that he cannot control his wheel. Because he is a fool you must not be a crank.—New York Press.

FASHION NOTES.

Some Parisian authority is responsible for the announcement that gloves embroidered with black are considered out of date.

Mauve and green velvet, with black trimmings, make very effective garments, and the combination of grass linen with black glaze silk is one of the novelties.

The sleeve of the moment certainly has length to recommend it almost in proportion to the size it has lost, and the pretty fall of lace at the wrist is very becoming.

It seems that ears are decidedly out of fashion for women in Paris except for hearing purposes, as the hair is drawn to cover them so completely that there is no trace of their existence left.

What everyone must have is a crush belt of velvet-edged taffeta ribbon and a collar to match. All sorts of similar accessories are in style, but these two are essential if the wardrobe is to be kept up to date.

A very uncommon and showy wrap is made of shot peau de soie covered with cream guipure which is traced with tiny brilliants. Frills of white chiffon finish the epaulettes sleeves, and black velvet ribbon forms the belt and bow at the neck.

Pouched bodices have vigorously renewed their popularity, and some of the latest models are pouched at the back as well as the front. A wide folded belt is the usual accompaniment, and it should be made of black satin if you would look slender.

Boleros of lace or combinations of lace embroidery and beads are a good investment for summer gowns, and a very attractive bolero can be made out of a piece of wide edging with a box-

plait in the middle of the back and one on either side of the front, beginning on the shoulder.

Light cloth capes in gray and tan are still worn, and they are plain, trimmed with stitched bands or decorated with velvet and ecru lace, as you fancy. The linings of these little garments make them very attractive, even though they are perfectly plain, for bright colors in satin, brocades and taffeta are the rule.

The ribbons, in plain colors, floral designs and stripes, are chiefly in taffeta weaves, and will be worn in large shoulder bows, belts, sashes having long ends, collars and bows across the bust. An entire piece of ribbon lavished upon a dimity gown or organdie is usual, a style for which ribbon manufacturers should be thankful.

A garment of black satin shows a Watteau plait at the back, with jet ornaments falling on either side, and black accordion-plated chiffon makes the frills over the sleeves and the trimming at the neck. A very smart little cape of black poul de sole has alternate frills of embroidered grass lawn and black glaze silk, and the jabot is of black lisse with ecru lace applique.

Animals and Music.

A violinist was playing various airs before the cages of the animals. The bow, which had been passing backward and forward half drowsily, took up a gait that would have distanced one of the deer in the pen by the buffalo yard. Then there was a transformation scene in the home of the lioness as rapidly and as complete as that of the tune. The cubs went into ecstasies. They rolled about, jumped, fell over one another, reared over their mother's recumbent body, and danced unrehearsed on her head. They ceased their tantrums only with the ceasing of the music.

Then they gathered at the front bars of the cage again and silently and pathetically pleaded for more. Their plea was successful, and in response to the delicate flattery conveyed by their manner the player gave them the lullaby once more. They simply sat and listened to it as silently as they had at first. The transition to the jig music was once more made speedily. The first note of the lively air had barely left the violin before its riotous contagion had once more caught the cubs. They rollicked and rolled about, and stopped only when the professor, fearing to tire their little limbs, took his bow from his fiddle and told them they had danced enough for debutantes.

The hyena is an uncanny brute. His very appearance goes a great way toward bearing out charges of graveyard robbery brought against him. He has no music in his soul nor room for any. Sweet sounds are to him so antipodal to everything in his nature that they inspire him with nothing but fear, and the most abject fear at that. When Professor Baker tried to interest the two skulking hyenas in his performance on the violin they began trembling visibly at the first note's utterance, and then as the music swelled they sought the furthest side of their prison, and tried their best to squeeze their ungainly bodies through the bars to escape the melody.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Snake Skins as Fancy Work.

The ingenuity of woman has compassed a new use for snakes by the discovery that the decorative cast skins of the creeping tribe may be converted into bazaar attractions.

A well known savant, whose sanctum is lined from floor to ceiling with glass cases whence venomous eyes regard his visitors with futile fury, is besieged by ladies covetous of novelties for their stalls, who beg eloquently for the cast-off clothing of his reptilian pets.

"At times," he says, "I have on hand a large wardrobe of cast skins—a bankrupt stock, so to put it, of returned empties—some perfect, many 'misfits' and a few damaged goods. A really fine specimen like this"—he held up for admiration a tawny golden sheeny length of scales—"brings quite a high price at a bazaar, and many of my lady friends, weary of working the everlasting 'crawly,' or perpetuating the many useless inventions of the feminine needle, 'bespeak' a skin some months before it is due, and are often quite angry that I cannot induce a snake to shed his skin with due regard to a specified bazaar date.

"These ladies argue that it is great saving of labor to substitute the ready made clothing of the snake worked for a tobacco pouch or blossoming braces, while experience shows that the average man readily invests in a good snake skin."—New York Herald.

A Contrary Flag.

If ever there was anything in the world that went by contraries, it is the Chinese flag. It will be recalled that it is one of the gayest of national banners. The body of the banner is of a pale yellow. In the upper left hand corner is a small red sun, and looking at it is a fierce Chinese dragon. About one thousand years ago, so the story runs, the Chinese made war upon the Japanese. They prepared for a great invasion. As a prophecy of victory they adopted a standard which is that of the present time. They took the Sun of Japan and made it very small. This they put in front of the dragon's mouth to express the idea that the Chinese dragon would devour the Japanese. It happened, however, that the Chinese fleet, conveying an army of 100,000 men, was wrecked on its way to Japan by a great storm, and all but three of the 100,000 perished. The result of the recent war has not been any more convincing than the first affair, that the Chinese flag has been correctly conceived.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

HOW IT WORKED.

A Practical Demonstration Proved Its Value Completely.

There are moments in a man's life through which he would not willingly live twice. Such a moment came to the English member of Parliament, of whose efforts to provide instructive entertainment for his guests Chambers' Journal tells an amusing story.

It was in the early days of the London "district messenger system," when the convenient arrangement which had for some years flourished in the United States was taking root in England. The desirability of providing himself with such an addition to his comforts was recognized by the M. P., and he took steps to have a call-box placed in his house. Accordingly the workmen came and set to work.

The chosen representative of a body of the English people was in haste to have the business completed, for he was that day to entertain some friends at dinner, and desired greatly to show them his latest luxury. The foreman agreed to do what he could. He promised in any case to fit up the call-box that day, but he held out little hope of being able to connect it with the office.

The dinner hour came, and with it the guests, and in due time the member of Parliament led his friends into the hall to see this latest scientific novelty. He carefully explained that he could to-day show them the working of this wonderful system as he could never do again, for the box was not connected with the central office. Then he explained the signals one by one, turning the pointer first to the word "Messenger" and pulling a small lever. A clockwork buzzing resulted.

"There," said the triumphant M. P., "that would bring me a messenger in five minutes if it were connected. And now see."

He turned the pointer to "Cab," and a similar operation was repeated. Then "Police" and "Fire" in turn were signalled, to the unfeigned delight of the company.

"Most ingenious contrivance I ever saw," said one.

"Lucky it's not connected," remarked another.

Scarcely were the words spoken when there came a thundering knock at the hall door and a resounding peal at the bell. Before the door could be opened a loud clattering was heard without, and the genial face of the host grew grave. The gravity deepened to anxiety when the door was opened and a messenger and a hansom were disclosed to view, while a policeman stepped inside, anxious to know just where his services were required. This proved to be only the first installment of the comforts resulting from the possession of a call-box.

Another minute, and the hurried passage of feet was again heard, and two more boys arrived bearing the extinguisher. Last, but not least, came the fire-engine, throbber and smoking as the horses galloped up to the door.

It is needless to say that the guests were delighted at this unexpected proof of the efficiency of the new invention, and were profuse in their thanks to their host, whom they left in a state of exhaustion after his efforts to explain matters in succession to messengers, cabman, police and firemen, all of whom seemed somewhat hard to convince.

PAPERS QUICKLY FASTENED.

Staple Fastener Feeds 150 Staples Without Replenishing.

A new staple fastener for fastening papers together, which is always ready for use and can be kept full of staples,

which feed automatically when ever one is used, is a great time saver. It has a spring coil which holds about 150 staples when filled to the end of the coil in the center, and as each one is used the coil can be filled out at leisure. One blow on the top of the fastener cuts the papers, drives the staple through them, clinches the staple through the papers, and feeds the next staple, all ready for the next bunch of papers. This is a great improvement over the old styles, which took from one to three blows of the machine, besides adjusting each staple separately by hand.

The Dark Side of Christian America.

"We have now in America a population of 70,000,000 of people, and yet three-quarters of a million, we are told, belong to the criminal class," writes Dwight L. Moody, in his initial paper in "Mr. Moody's Bible Class," in the Ladies' Home Journal. "And this in Christian America. It is said that in six months thirty graduates of two large European universities were found by one rescue mission in New York City. Nor are the American colleges without representatives in the great city slums. Our daily papers are but a living chronicle of the fearful hold which sin has upon us as a nation. A man must have lost all his senses who says that sin is not inherent, that it is only a physical weakness which culture may ultimately overcome. Venerating the outer man will make him no better within."

A Popular Preacher.

Mrs. Pew—What a blessing it is to hear Mr. Oily preach!

Mrs. Stole—He's perfectly splendid. No wonder he's popular. Why, he preaches so beautifully that the wicked-der one is the better Mr. Oily makes one feel.—Boston Transcript.

Proved.

Before—Do you love me?
"I swear."

After—Do you love me?
"Haven't I quit swearing?"—De.roit Tribune.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Notes of Interest on Agricultural Topics.

Shorthorn Carrots—Want Trying—Varieties of Turkeys—Getting Rid of Cut Worms, Etc., Etc.

SHORTHORN CARROTS.

The large, coarse varieties of carrots most used for stock feeding are not so nutritious as is the shorthorn, which grows most of its bulk near the surface or slightly above it. As the shorthorn carrot can grow more thickly in the row, it is nearly as productive as the deeper setting varieties, and it is also more easily harvested. Five to six hundred bushels of the shorthorn carrot may be grown per acre. This is a paying crop at the usual price of this root.

WORTH TRYING.

I will say to those wanting a remedy to remove warts from cattle try hog's lard, writes N. F. Liles, a North Carolina farmer, in Home and Farm. Apply the lard to the warts freely at intervals of three or four days until you have made several applications, or the warts disappear.

To those wanting a remedy to prevent peaches being wormy, will say rake away some of the top soil for a short distance around each tree, in the spring, and take good wood ashes and sprinkle over the roots near the body of the trees, about two or three quarts to each tree, according to size, then rake back the soil on the ashes.

VARIETIES OF TURKEYS.

There are no less than six varieties of turkeys, of which the Bronze is preferred by most breeders, though the Narragansett, as grown in Long Island, is nearly as good. They are both grown from crosses with wild turkeys, and by growing only for breeding from two-year-old birds, these breeds attain very large size. Farmers of Connecticut and Rhode Island raise a large proportion of the turkeys sold in New York City, and some of them each year present to the President the turkey that furnishes his Thanksgiving dinner. Bronze turkeys have been grown in less than a year to weigh 35 pounds. But there are few families that want so large a turkey as this, even when satisfied it is young and tender. Birds that weigh 15 to 18 pounds find more ready sale, and generally bring more per pound than the heavy weights. The only trouble in turkey growing is to tide the young chicks over the first few weeks of their life. Then they are tender. After getting in full feather turkeys are as little likely to lose as the same number of chickens. The four other varieties besides those we have named are black, white, buff and slate, each of which has its favorites.

GETTING RID OF CUTWORMS.

The worm most commonly called "cutworm" is the white grub, a larvae of the common May or June bug. But the term is also sometimes applied to the wire worm, which works wholly underground, living on the roots of most crops, but being most injurious on Indian corn. Both of these are common in land that has long been seeded. The remedy for both is the same. Starve them out by plowing. Then sow to buckwheat two successive years, and the land will be free from this pest for a number of years. If it is the white grub, and the timothy sod is much eaten, it is a sign that most of the grubs have matured, and will leave of their own accord within a few weeks. By plowing early and frequently cultivating before time to plant, such a piece of land might be planted with corn this year. If there were many grubs visible, however, we should not care to risk a corn crop this season. The white grub rarely does much injury two years in succession. If you were troubled with them last year there will probably be few this. But if they have been in timothy sod the land will need plowing, if it is only to reseed it. This can be done by sowing timothy seed on the surface after the buckwheat is sown. The buckwheat will keep the grass from growing much until it is off, but the timothy will make some growth before winter, and will produce a hay crop next year.—Boston Cultivator.

CARE OF DAIRY UTENSILS.

There would be less poor butter on the market if more attention were given to the care of the dairy utensils. They should be washed as soon as possible after being used, as the longer the milk remains in them the harder they are to clean. First rinse in cool water to remove the milk, never use hot, as this cooks the milk and causes it to adhere to the vessels. After rinsing wash thoroughly, or what is better still, with steam, if it is available. This scalding is very essential and should be thoroughly done. After scalding turn upside down in a clean exposed place where they will get the full benefit of the sun, as this helps greatly to keep them sweet.

Strainers should be given a good deal of attention, as they come in contact with all the milk. If cloth strainers are used they are difficult to keep clean. A cheap grade of cotton flannel used nap side up makes a good strainer, and if only a small piece is used it is best to throw it away after each straining.

All tin utensils should be as free from seams as possible, hence, of course, dressed tin is best. If there are seams or corners they should be filed with solder so as to leave no

lodging places for dirt. A few minutes' work with the soldering iron will save much time in washing. Wooden pails should never be used for milk, as it is practically impossible to keep them clean.

Where milk is taken to a factory the cans should be washed before they are returned. It is bad practice to take back skim milk, which is usually sour, in the cans used for whole milk, but this often done, and can hardly be obviated where the milk is hired hauled. Of course, the skim milk should be returned, but it is much better to have a barrel for the purpose. If the cans are used for skim milk they should be emptied on reaching the farm and thoroughly cleaned.

All wooden utensils, such as churn, butter worker, etc., should be washed and scalded after being used, and if placed in the sun care must be taken that they do not become so dry as to crack. From one churning to another the churn should not be kept tightly closed, as it will soon become tainted. In preparing wooden utensils for use they should be scalded and then cooled with cold water. If treated in this way the butter will not stick.—W. J. Fraser, University of Illinois, in Farmer's Voice.

GRAIN FOR MILCH COWS.

It is possible in the laudation of the silo, and especially of corn ensilage, as the cheapest food for cows, that the subject has been discussed on too narrow a basis. It is true that more weight of corn fodder can be grown per acre than of anything else. It is also true that this fodder is so largely carbonaceous that in itself it is not a complete ration, and needs to be supplemented with food that contains a larger proportion of the kinds of nutrition required to build up muscle and bodily strength. This is especially true of cows, whose product, milk, always contains even when richest, nearly four times as much of casein as of butter fats. Rich corn ensilage which is made from corn when it is in the earing stage supplies the carbohydrates in succulent form. But if a due proportion of nitrogenous food is not supplied to furnish material for the casein, the yield of milk is lessened and the carbohydrates that cannot be used for milk only fatten the animal and unfit her for milk production.

All milkmen understand that to get the most from corn fodder fed any way, something else must go with it. Wherever clover can be given it makes the best and cheapest accompaniment with corn fodder. But with the milking breeds that have little tendency to fatten, some more concentrated nutrition may be often fed with advantage. This is especially true of some of the deepest milkers, whose product is naturally not so rich in butter fats. Such cows are always thin in flesh after milking a few months, no matter how sleek they have been at calving time. They give all to the milk, even including the fat of their own bodies. If they are fed more concentrated food they can eat more and give more and we believe richer milk.

The great majority of milkmen buy more or less oats, wheat bran, brewers' grains and gluten meal, as feed for their cows. They buy because they mostly live where land is too high priced to grow anything except fodder corn, which is too bulky to be brought to the farm, and must, therefore, be grown on it if it is to be had at all. But there are millions of farmers who keep cows for making milk, butter and cheese, and who also grow grain, which, instead of feeding on the farm, they sell. In our opinion, this is nearly always a mistake. It may be that a farmer can better afford to buy grain than to raise it. That will depend on his nearness to a railroad station where he need not carry it far to put it in his barns. But in every case if he has grown the grain in any Eastern state he can better afford to feed it to his cows on the farm where it was grown than to sell it. It is probable that not even the Western farmer can grow oats or corn to sell at present prices. Corn is so cheap in many parts of the West that it is nearly or quite as economical as coal for fuel. Oats are about as cheap, but they are more nitrogenous, and worth much less as fuel than is corn.

Corn as grain and oats mixed together and ground make an excellent grain ration for cows whose main feed is silaged corn. But wherever corn is advanced to the earing stage, there will probably be enough carbonaceous nutrition in the silage. Ground oats with some wheat bran will make a better ration with such silage than will more corn. On farms too far from the station to make it easy to buy Western corn, oats ought to be grown more than they are, not, of course, to be sold in the market, but to be fed to milch cows and thus increase every product of the dairy.—American Cultivator.

The Vagabonds of Siberia.

In many parts of Siberia there wander about from village to village large numbers of men and women who are known as "vagabonds." These are Russians and Poles—people who have either themselves been sent to Siberia, or are the descendants of criminals or outlaws.

These "vagabonds" are passportless people, over whom the police cannot exercise any very effective control. They are now to be collected and compulsorily settled in small colonies in those parts of Siberia where the climatic conditions most favor agricultural labor.

The scheme, it is believed, has the hearty support of the Czar, who is prepared to devote large sums from his private means to further its success.