

NEWS FOR THE FAIR SEX.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ON NUMEROUS FEMININE TOPICS.

The Chantilly Lace Shawl—The Sailor Blouse—A Pretty Style in Headwear—Linen and Pique Skirts—Etc., Etc.

THE CHANTILLY LACE SHAWL.

If you have inherited a quaint old Chantilly lace shawl from your mother get it out and put it on your back, as it is becoming the fashion. Drape it over a lining of burnt orange silk, over which goes a facing of chiffon before the lace is applied. Don't cut the shawl, but drape it in its natural fold from your shoulders back, for the shawl shape is followed slavishly in the cutting of all the new shoulder draperies.

LADIES' BLOUSE WAIST.

Among the various developments of the blouse there are none more popular than those whose fashions are accomplished with an easy graceful carelessness, such as suggested in our illustration. It is developed in the popular novelty of the season, bayadere poplin of dun color, with double revers faced with satin of the same color on which are delicate incrustations of lace and the same decoration on the



rest and collar. The waist has a fitted lining which has the usual seams and pieces and closes in the center front. The vest front and collar hook at the shoulder and at the side, while the outside portion stays in place by means of buttons connected by a dainty chain. The back is plain, having a very little fullness at the bottom. The sleeves are one-seamed and have a small puff of folds at the shoulder.

MILITARY BELTS NOT POPULAR

Leather belts, studded with assorted brass uniform buttons, have not proved popular with women, except as boudoir decoration. They apparently add two or three inches to the size of the waist. Military jewelry is about the only patriotic evidence in dress left from the outbreak awhile ago, which threatened speedily to have us dressed largely in flags, shields and firearms.

THE SAILOR BLOUSE.

Notwithstanding predictions to the contrary, the blouse remains. It is no longer Russian, but the simple sailor blouse, with broad collar and revers. As the predominating feature of the season's costume the blouse is chic and comfortable. It is usually made of a dark, solid color to contrast with a skirt of some light shade. Both wools and cottons are made up in this pretty fashion, as the style adapts itself to all fabrics.

A PRETTY STYLE IN HEADWEAR.

Among the novel styles of headwear this season is a variety of what is called "the jardiniere basket," which is made of straw and sometimes of finely gilded or silvered wire, but whose chief feature is a profusion of loose flowers apparently falling over one another in every direction. All sorts of flowers can be used, so that there is no limit to the possible variety in color and contrast.

THE FASHION IN BUCKLES.

It seems likely that long, oval shaped buckles, with a rounded frame of gold, silver or even gun-metal, will be the smartest ones worn with shirtwaists this season, in spite of the fantastic and whimsical filigree, cameo and paste and steel slides shown in the shops. Of course, any amount of adornment may make these buckles expensive and unique. One has diamonds set in bars across the framework; another has a spray of ivy up one side, the veins done in enamel. Some odd modeling is being done in enamels for men's and new women's cuff-links. One of these odd links shows on one side a perfectly modelled duck and on the other a bunch of green peas. Then there was a neatly tied up bunch of asparagus and other vegetable notions of the same kind.

DAINTY DRESS SLIPPERS.

The official full-dress slipper for the season is white satin or white kid, worked in silver beads. Of course there are one dozen, at least, acceptable variations from this standard. It must be remarked in passing, however, that all the new white-kid shoes and slippers are made of a skin that is so exquisitely dressed it admits of washing with soap and water. The law of new footgear seems to be that everything must be made cool and easy. There is even a new patent leather on the market that neither draws nor heats the feet, while a charming innovation is a green glaze

of calfskin, which comes in the form of ties especially, and sells like the traditional hot cakes. White and tan shoes, of course, dominate the season of hot weather, and women with very exquisite little extremities wear white-satin ties, strapped and trimmed with white kid. They fasten the white laces on the instep with clasps of cut-steel or wee buckles of brilliants.

LINEN AND PIQUE SKIRTS.

Nothing is more comfortable, and certainly nothing looks neater and cooler when perfectly fresh, than a skirt of white duck pique or chevot. The linen skirts aren't so attractive, but they are more practical for everyday purposes in a city. Last year's skirts were plain five or seven gored affairs. Not so this year. The white ones are built quite tight about the hips, hugging the figure closely to the knees, where, by means of a plain circular flounce, they are made to flare around the feet. Those of linen or crash are tucked or corded in various ways. It does not pay to buy a cheap wash skirt, no matter how tempting it may look. Such skirts will shrink on one side and sag down on the other while the first doing up in the most exasperating fashion. There are plenty of tailors who will make to order a pique or duck skirt of shrunken material for a reasonable sum, and it is better economy to have two of these than ten of the others. They fit better, wash better, and, indeed, save no end of time and temper.

TWO MEALS FOR STOUT WOMEN.

"At twelve o'clock sharp," writes Mrs. S. T. Rorer in the Ladies' Home Journal, directing the stout woman how to cure her obesity, "the first meal of the day should be taken: Two well-broiled chops, or sweetbreads, or eggs in any form, one slice of well-baked whole wheat bread, buttered and thoroughly masticated, and one green vegetable. Eat enough to satisfy hunger, but of the more nitrogenous compound. For dessert a cup custard, or fruit—grapes, peaches, oranges or baked apple.

"For the night meal have a clear soup, a red meat—in fact, any meat except pork and veal—a succulent vegetable, like spinach, cooked celery, a little lettuce, new peas, string beans, a little raw cabbage or well-cooked cauliflower. All meat must be broiled, roasted or boiled—not fried. A half pound of meat may be eaten at this meal. A piece of well-toasted whole wheat bread, without butter, a bit of well-ripened cheese, and a cup of clear coffee may form the dessert. The success of this treatment lies in doing without breakfast. The patient may eat sufficient to satisfy hunger, but no more; in a few days she will find that the so-called hunger is not felt at the pit of the stomach, and in less than a week she will enjoy the two meals a day—the first at noon and the last at five or six o'clock—better than she has ever enjoyed her three meals."

LADIES' BLAZER.

One of the newest styles of the popular reefer coat is here shown in tobacco brown neatly finished with machine stitching. The fronts are deeply faced and reversed to form long lapels that meet the rolling collar in notches. They are usually worn open, but can be closed at the bust if so desired. The back fits smooth, side, back and under-arm gores with a curved center seam securing a trim adjustment. Plaids are laid underneath below the waist line in back to form a slight full-



ness. The stylish sleeves have upper and under portions, the slight fullness at the top being collected in gathers. Coats of this description are suitable for traveling, shopping, cycling, or general utility wear, and can be successfully developed in any one of the general seasonable fabrics.

A WOMAN WHO BECAME A PHYSICIAN.

Mrs. Elizabeth Francis of St. Louis, Mo., wished to be a physician. She did not have money enough, however, to obtain a medical education, but she determined to earn it, which she did by becoming a domestic. Mrs. Francis is young and comely. She is a typical nineteenth century woman. She began life with few cares and many comforts, but one day she was confronted by the problem of breadwinning. She considered her capabilities, and found that her education provided her with little that could be turned to advantage unless it was her domestic training. She knew such occupation would shock the members of the polite circle in which she had moved, but the necessity of earning money made her seek work. In 1863 she was employed as housekeeper in one of the large hotels. She has supported herself, educated her daughter and provided for an invalid mother. Out of

her earnings of \$600 a year she has saved enough to pay for two courses in medicine. After leaving the hotel she became a nurse in the insane ward at the poorhouse. After graduating at the Woman's College in the first course she began to practice. She graduated in the second course in 1898. She has now begun to enjoy a good practice. Mrs. Francis has demonstrated that a woman who can carry the keys of a large establishment, overlook servants, keep track of table and bed linen can also wield a surgeon's knife. —Chicago Times-Herald.

FASHION NOTES.

Persian lawn is popular this year and is trimmed with lace edgings. An old favorite that is being revived is the white grenadine with fancy dots of white chenille. White mousseline de soie is still a favorite and will be for some time to come, judging from recent sales. Young women wishing a little heavier material than gauze will find white batiste satisfactory. Albatross still will be worn this season, although not so much as formerly.

Dotted swisses are most fashionable at the present time. They are made with many lace-edged ruffles and bows of ribbon. A new fabric is the "radiant" drap de soie. This is a heavy silky gauze material well adapted to the present clinging style. A rather startling novelty is a dress of red silk gauze trimmed with yellow lace and tiny ruffles of dull green gauze. Very pretty petticoats to be worn with thin dresses are made of light-colored batiste with embroidered flounces. These and white skirts will take the place of the silk petticoats.

A very handsome hat is of black chip. The brim is slightly turned up at one side and a bunch of cherries is placed next the hair. The trimming is of black silk muslin, cherries and white aigrettes. Blue linen makes very pretty dresses for little girls. A new model has the skirt plain, with wide pointed belt, and straps over the shoulders. This is worn with a white tucked guimpe.

One of the newest skirts has a very deep flounce arranged in box plaits, covering all but the front breadth. On the outside of each plait is a band of trimming, which extends to the waistline. The same trimming is used in arabesque pattern on the waist. Taffeta gaiter, with or without changeable effects, is much used in making silk petticoats. Some of these skirts are trimmed with a broad flounce of a contrasting color or one of soft white or cream lace.

Little satin jackets in black, green, gray, and other colors, are in great request. They are short, natty, and effective en suite, with a stylish gown, and in every instance they have the tailor finish and a silk lining of contrasting color.

Lace flounces are again becoming popular. They vary in width, one recently seen on an imported costume being about fourteen inches deep and full gathered at the sides and back, but with less fullness across the front. A heading of beaded galloon made an appropriate finish.

Engineer Brown's Problem.

There's a romantic story in several chapters being carried on near the main line of the Santa Fe, between Topeka and Emporia, and if all the facts were known some people would be surprised. There's a certain engineer whom we will call Brown for convenience; his engine will be No. 47 for the same purpose. Brown has been in the habit of making a visit when he stopped to whistle for a certain railroad crossing. He would stop, pull the whistle, jump to the ground and a romantic young girl would appear from the shadow of the tree and allow herself to be gathered in her future protector's arms while a shower of kisses would be rained upon her upturned face. It would all take but a minute, and Brown would clamber back into his engine cab and pull out.

This has been going on for some time, and the fireman has become so accustomed to it that he would reach over, open the throttle and get the engine started as the engineer would climb back upon the seat in the cab. One night Engineer Brown was absent from the run and another engineer took his place. When the crossing was reached the new engineer stopped and whistled and saw a woman emerge from the shadow of the tree. "What's that?" he asked the fireman. "Why, it's Brown's girl waiting to be kissed," replied the fireman and he explained to the engineer all about it. "Well," said the new man on the run, "I guess I can kiss her as well as Brown," and he climbed down out of the cab, and after the fireman had heard several loud explosions from the outside the engineer came clambering back into the cab, chuckling to himself.

Engineer Brown was absent from the run for several days, and when the girl asked him how it came that he had a mustache one night and none the next night and then a mustache again, the story came out, and now Engineer Brown is trying to figure out how many of the engineers on the line have been kissing his sweetheart.

Liverpool, England, has set aside \$20,000,000 for enlargement of its docks.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The principal ingredient of Spain's new and mysterious explosive is believed to be printer's ink.

The first Chinaman to offer his services as a soldier in the present war was Ong Q. Tow, a wealthy merchant of Santa Ana, California.

It seems almost too bad, but young Alfonso XIII probably will have to learn his geography lessons over again.

Under international law warships in distress for lack of coal may purchase enough at a neutral port to carry them back to the nearest port of their own country.

The lack of cheap coal is a serious impediment to Mexican progress, as with the extension of railroads and the development of manufactures the demand is increasing rapidly.

At Newton, Kansas, the other day, the First National Bank made out \$2,320 in drafts to send for the purchase of war bonds. Of this sum \$2,300 was supplied by farmers and only \$20 came from a business man.

Little Uruguay produced about 10,000,000 bushels of wheat last year, having a considerable surplus for export. It is reported that neither quantity nor quality have ever been surpassed in that country.

The German emperor has for a number of years sought to convey the impression that he was seeking trouble. The experience of Spain should warn him where not to look, suggests the Washington Star.

A soldier's epitaph was uttered by the gallant Captain Capron as he fell mortally wounded: "Don't mind me, boys; go on and fight." That is the spirit that fires an army to win in war.

The government has borrowed \$200,000,000 with which to prosecute the war. This means an interest charge of only \$6,000,000 a year—a mere bagatelle to a nation so rich as this republic is.

Judging by the exports of breadstuffs from the southern ports of the United States, the Manufacturers' Record of Baltimore is satisfied that the war is not interfering with the commerce of the south.

Anon, the Spanish minister of marine, announces that his government will maintain its position in the Philippines. This is important merely because it shows that Spain imagines that she still has a position in the Philippines.

Admiral Dewey's assertion that cheap men are not wanted in the United States navy might be broadened in its scope. They are not wanted anywhere nor under any circumstances, in the "land of the free and home of the brave."

In late years more and more attention has been paid to the condition of the teeth of candidates for life insurance and now the report of the dentist is considered of proportional value with that of the physician in determining the value of the "life."

An English paper says the American is an "incurably cheerful" man. He is also incorrigibly active, persistently inventive, hopelessly patriotic and irrevocably committed to the doctrine that his country has a mission to be loyally and courageously fulfilled.

The conditions under which British sailors and soldiers live are far more sanitary now than in the past. In 1865 more than eleven deaths occurred in every 1,000 men afloat, while ten years later the number fell to 6.8, in 1885 to 5.4, and in 1895 to 4.4. In the army the figures were not quite so satisfactory.

The United States practically monopolizes the trade of Hawaii, receiving in 1895 99.04 per cent of its exports and sending it 79.04 per cent of its imports. The total exports were nearly \$10,000,000 in 1894, and the imports were more than \$5,000,000. Most of the trade is carried in United States vessels.

Some of the primary schools in Germany have their own physician. He watches over the class rooms and is there to show that questions of warming, ventilation, lighting and cleaning have entered into the kingdom of science whereof he is king. Once in every fortnight he is to give instruction to every class in school, and the text he preaches from is "Sanitas, sanitatum, omnia sanitas." In short, he is the health officer of the whole establishment, the priest of Hygieia, and the philosopher and friend of the teacher and the taught. The experiment was first made at Wiesbaden, and has been pronounced a success.

Barcelona, Spain, is riotous and violent in its demand for peace. Being a seacoast town, open to bombardment, it does not encourage all the prevailing Spanish illusions about the Yankees. It may deem them pigs, but knows that they can shoot straight, and admits it.—New York Tribune.

The ration of the American soldier in the field consists of beans, bacon, coffee, sugar, potatoes, tomatoes, rice and hard tack, and always fresh meat and bread, where obtainable. Commissaries also have the right of substitution. Taken all in all, the American soldier is the best fed and clothed of any in the world, that is, provided the quartermasters and commissaries are efficient.

Our sales to China this year will show an increase of more than 300 per cent. over those of 1889, while our imports from that country show an increase of but 35 per cent. in the same time. Our exports of merchan-

dise to China in the present fiscal year are ten fold those of the fiscal year 1889, the total for that year being \$1,101,383, while that of 1898 is likely to be \$11,000,000 in round numbers. Our total exports to all Asia this year will amount to about \$45,000,000, being a gain of ten per cent. over last year, more than double what they were in 1890, four times what they were in 1880, and more than ten times what they were in 1870. Of this total of \$45,000,000 about one-third goes to China, one-third to Japan and the bulk of the remaining third to India and the West Indies.

Some idea of the magnitude of the burden resting upon the Spanish people can be gained by a comparison with our own situation, remarks Gunton's Magazine. Their national debt per capita is about \$94. Mulhall, a few years ago, estimated the wealth of Spain at about \$155 per capita; perhaps by this time it could be placed at \$400. The per capita debt of the Spanish government therefore is more than twenty per cent. of the per capita wealth of the entire nation. The debt of the United States government, which in 1896 amounted to \$2,750,000,000, stood in January, 1898, at (net) \$1,011,701,338.64. This would be a per capita indebtedness of about \$14. The per capita wealth of the United States was in 1890 \$1,036; now it is, of course, greater, but even on the 1890 basis the per capita indebtedness of the government to-day amounts to only 1.1-2 per cent. of the per capita wealth of the nation. The per capita interest charge on this debt amounted to about fifty-three cents in 1896-7; in Spain the annual cost of the public debt is nearly \$6 per capita.

The Poisonous Laurel.

Among the most poisonous of plants native to the United States are various laurels. One of these is the common broad-leaved laurel, which is a handsome shrub from ten to thirty feet high. Its leaves are thick and shining, and its flowers appear in showy pink clusters. This kind of laurel grows abundantly on rocky hillsides. Its poison is a peculiar crystalline substance, easily dissolved out of the plant by cold water, and more dangerous even than strychnine. Great numbers of cattle and sheep are destroyed annually by eating the shrub and children sometimes mistake the young shoots for wintergreen. Occasionally the leaves are used criminally to increase the intoxicating effects of liquor. The symptoms are persistent nausea, frothing at the mouth, grating of the teeth, dizziness, loss of sight and feeling, and coma. Among other poisonous laurels may be mentioned the narrow-leaved laurel, otherwise known as "lambkill" or "lamb laurel." It is much like the broad-leaved plant, but smaller. The so-called "stagger bush" is a species of laurel. Its more common name is "kill lamb." It is a small shrub, with showy clusters of tubular white flowers, and is frequent in low, damp soils along the Atlantic coast.—New York Sun.

The Paris Bill Poster.

The bill poster of Paris is a more picturesque personage than his brother of New York. He plies his trade in all winds and weather, and he is nothing daunted by an assignment of a bleak suburban district on a rainy day. He ties his posters—incased in a waterproof cover—across his back. He fastens on his paste pot. He mounts his bicycle. Then he opens his umbrella—for he is an expert wheelman, and can manage it and his wheel at once. All over the umbrella are advertisements in little form of the article or the event which he intends to advertise in large by his posters. So his entire route is placarded, and he himself is a living advertisement.

Wallace's Scant Fare.

One of the new recruits in camp at Camp Mount, in Indiana, a member of a prominent Crawfordsville family, remarked to General Wallace, "It's rather hard 'nes out here. We've had very little to eat." "What have you had, my son?" asked the General, drawing the boy to a seat beside him. The youth related the bill of fare for the day. "Why, my dear boy," said General Wallace, "that's not half bad. I lived for three days once on water and onions, and had no salt, either."—San Francisco Chronicle.

Remunerative Chimney Sweeping.

A new tenant, desiring to fire his chimney and save the expense of a sweep, hoisted a bundle of burning straw at the end of a pole. A moment later he was startled by a golden tinkling, and glancing down, saw that the old-fashioned hearth was literally covered with gold pieces. Further examination revealed the charred fragments of a leathern bag suspended by a hook in the chimney, while the windfall itself totalled up to nearly \$1,500.—Tit-Bits.

A Chance for Maids.

Wives are wanted in Rhodesia. The British South African Company is anxious for active colonization. For many years the Chartered Company had discountenanced marriage among the mounted police, civil servants and other employees. But this policy has been entirely reversed, and an edict has gone forth among the Chartered Company's officials promising that preference will be given to married men.

One of the hospitals in Moscow, Russia, is large enough to accommodate 7,000 patients.



She—Now, can you guess my age, Major? Gallant Major—No, I can't; but you don't look it.—Tit-Bits.

Josh—It's a wonder none of them fellers ever found the north pole. Hiram—Mebbe it ain't there.

Hoax—I'm not going to call on a single girl during Lent. Hoax—Going in for the married ones, eh?—Philadelphia Record.

"Poor Timmie! Foire years in Sing Sing! I do feel sorry for him." "Bedad, an' yure sympathy's trowed away. He's surrounded by frinds."—Harlem Life.

Rastus, Jr.—Popple, is we gwine to nab turkey fo' mah birthday? Rastus, Sr.—Pends on de moon, chile, de night befo'. Pends on de moon.—Inter Ocean.

Little Sister—What's the difference 'tween 'lectricity and lightning? Little Brother—You don't have to pay nuttin' fur lightning.—Detroit Free Press.

Sponger—Say, old man, can you oblige me with a cigar? Fred (who knows him)—Sorry, but I've the only one I'm smoking, and another which I shall smoke shortly.

Mistress (severely)—If such a thing occurs again, Norah, I shall have to get another servant. Norah—Oh wissh yez wud; there's ailsy enough wurruk for two av us.—Puck.

Daughter—But, pa, Mr. Sweetser has accumulated a competence. Pa—Competence be blamed! Money is the thing. You want a husband who can support you.—Transcript.

Johnson wants to borrow some money of me. Do you know anything about him? I know him as well as I do you. I wouldn't let him have a cent.—Indianapolis Journal.

Perkins—Has Slopoy ever paid you that ten dollars he borrowed last year? Dobson—No. I guess he has forgotten all about it; he is just as social and friendly as he ever was.—Puck.

Attorney (sternly)—The witness will please state if the prisoner was in the habit of whistling when alone. Witness—I don't know. I was never with the prisoner when he was alone.

De Short—You notice, perhaps, that I have sold my gold watch, and now carry a silver one. Harduppe—Yes, old man; it's only another proof of the old saw: "Circumstances alter cases," you know.—Life.

Brady—Did ye hear av the foight bet-tween Hinnessey and O'Gawlinn? Brady—O! did not. Was it to a finish? Grady—That was Hinnessey's intention, but Hinnessey was knocked out before he got that far.—Boston Transcript.

"Your son," said the professor, "has been laboring under a misapprehension." "Perfess," exclaimed Farmer Cornstossel, with joy in his voice, "ye don't mean it!" "Mean what?" "That Josiah has been workin'."—Washington Star.

Paterfamilias—Look here, Dick, you've been a bit wild yourself in your day and I'd like some advice. What am I to do with Harry? The young 'ascal exceeds his allowance every month. Cousin Dick—Increase it.—Chicago Journal.

She—How is it you were not at West-end's reception? He—I stayed away on account of a personal matter. She—May I ask what it was? He—Will you promise to keep it secret? She—Yes. He—Well they failed to send me an invitation.—Collier's Weekly.

Mrs. Betterhaws—I am told that you allow your husband to carry a latchkey. Mrs. Graymair—Yes, but it does not fit the door. I just let him carry it to humor him. He likes to show it to his friends and make them think he is independent.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Mosher—What are you doing with all those bits of card in your pocket? Wiswell—They are seat checks at different theaters. It says on each, "Retain this check." It's an awful bore, to be obliged to carry so much pasteboard around. But, then, what's a fellow to do?

Lady (in employment office)—As there is only my husband and myself in the family, I think you ought to be willing to come for less than you ask. There are only two persons to cook for. Domestic—But, mum, when I'm wid you there'll be three.

"Haberjohn doesn't seem to have a very lovable nature." "Well, no. If Haberjohn were at a banquet and some one should discover that there were thirteen at the table all eyes would instinctively turn toward Haberjohn as the one to go."—Indianapolis Journal.

Clara—Well, aunt, have your photographs come from Mr. Snappeschotha? Miss Maydeval (angrily)—Yes, and they went back, too, with a note expressing my opinion of his impudence. Clara—Gracious! What was it? Miss Maydeval—Why, on the back of every picture were these words: "The original of this is carefully preserved."

A clergyman new to a living in the west of England was told that an old man in his parish was of an exceedingly crusty disposition, so he determined to make friends with him the first opportunity he had. Overtaking him in the village one day, he said: "This is cold weather, John." Receiving no reply, he tried again: "I said this is cold weather, John." Turning angrily around, the old man replied: "Well, who said it warn't? D'ye want to argy the p'nt?"—Answers.