

## Dame Fashion Smiles

By Grace Jewett Austin

Quite often in the process of a week Dame Fashion takes a bus ride, and when she goes at just the right hour she watches always at a certain corner until a wee little girl whom she calls "Robin Redbreast" gets aboard. With her small box of luncheon, this little girl is on her way to a Normal school kindergarten, but she



Grace J. Austin, can give everybody a pretty good fashion hint. Can you hear her when she says:

"I like to wear my gray red coat. My red felt hat is very light. I think you'll just feel happy, too. If you'll wear something bright."

Dame Fashion has seen some of the most beautiful spring gowns and coats and ensembles this week that she would ever hope to see. Do you—oh, do you know what butter-mole fur is like? Dame Fashion saw it first this week, and quite entirely lost her heart to it. It was on a wonderful new spring coat which had never a button to bless itself with, but yet was all ready to wrap itself gracefully around some lovely lady. It was of an imported wool goods in the favorite goldy-beige color, and around the neck swept this collar of "butter-mole." It was a "muff-collar," in fact, if you know what that is. The collar sweeps low and folds under, so the hands may have a place to tuck themselves. "Peach-fitch" is another springy, light-colored fur, especially effective on black coats. Some of these coats, by the way, are further adorned by many of the little pink-tucks which are so good this spring.

Can you imagine anything more appropriate for spring than a two-piece dress, all plaited cordon crepe in the skirt, with a blouse exactly to match in color, of this softest, lightest "Angora" cloth? Especially if the color of the dress is in one of the new greens, lime or mint?

There are floating printed chiffon gowns which are happy and snappy and every sort of good rhyme. A touch of black lace on some of these bright dresses brings out the effect of them in an unusual way. A princess of the Arabian Nights would have thrilled with happiness to receive one of these modish gowns with ten thousand golden "nail-heads." One New York gown was seen this week with those suspenders which were so mightily becoming to feminines of a few years ago—almost twenty years, when you come to reckon!

"Come over here, Dame Fashion, and take a whiff of this sweet pea." What is it—a posy? Almost everybody adores sweet peas.

"Maybe this was a posy once, but now it is a perfume, and it floated right over from France. Take just a wee sniff, because if you should want as much as two table-spoonsful of it, you would have to get out a great big "double eagle of gold!"

(© 1923, Western Newspaper Union.)

## White-and-Gray-Shaded Sports Coat for Spring



Tweeds are said to be the last word in spring coats. The picture shows a clever white-and-gray-shaded sports coat, a straight-line model with silver fox collar.

## House Dresses Offered in Many Smart Styles

If you've wondered whether house dress fashions could be even more attractive than they've been in the last few seasons, you need wonder no more—for assuredly the newest of the new house dresses are more style-conscious than they've ever been! The linen frock that follows counterpane lines is especially smart—and often it pairs with a three-quarter length printed linen coat.

## Crib Cover Made From Two Empty Flour Sacks

The finest silks in the world could not keep the baby warmer and cozier than he is under the charming quilted crib cover shown here. It has the advantage, moreover, of being washable and can therefore be kept as immaculately clean as everything should be that concerns his infant majesty. Yet no one would guess that the foundation of this little quilt was simply two empty flour sacks, bought from a local



Empty Flour Bags Used for Attractive Crib Cover.

baker for a few cents. The chain stitching was quickly ripped, the stamping removed by covering the inked places with lard or soaking in kerosene overnight and then washing out in lukewarm water.

Other materials needed for the quilt were three-quarters of a yard of wool sheeting, mercerized thread and half a yard of gingham or chambray for the appliqued bunnies and the border. The wool sheeting that comes stitched to cheesecloth costs a little more, but is easier to work with and will wash much better. It is basted to the stamped cloth and then quilted in a running stitch. A frame is not necessary if you work from the center outwards. After the quilting is done, use the second flour bag for the back and add the colored border to match the thread used.

A baby pillow to match can be made in the same way only without the layer of wool. The cover should be removable. Other articles for the baby for which flour bags are splendidly suited are stuffed animals, bibs, tray cloths and, when he is old enough, sturdy little creeper suits.

## Clothes Must Harmonize to Produce Air of Chic

Why is it that so many women whom no one would ever accuse of wearing anything but the most charming frock or hat or coat, yet fail to surround themselves with that ineffable air of chic?

Merely because they forget that everything they put on is part of an ensemble and should "belong" in the opinion of a writer in *Delineator*. "Within the last few years," she says, "we have been educated to consider all our costumes as ensembles. As a result, women give a great deal of thought to each costume as a whole and the wardrobe of a smart woman consists of a collection of related frocks, coats and accessories. Sports, afternoon and evening dresses have a coat or wrap suitable in type and associated in color.

"Sometimes coats and frocks are of the same material and follow the same silhouette. The lining of the coat may match the frock, or geometrical bands may take a similar turn on both members of the ensemble. The color of the coat fur, matching the frock, often establishes the relationship. Hit or miss harmony is rarely satisfactory and the un-studied effect that we all desire can be achieved only by studied selection."

## Print Dresses Welcome in Every Good Wardrobe

Every well-assorted wardrobe should contain at least three printed silk dresses. In the opinion of Jane Warren Wells, New York fashion expert, "And this is not an extravagance," she continues, in *Farm and Fireside*. "To the contrary this quota of printed silk dresses is an indication of economy, for there is no material more suited to the closely watched purse.

"In the first place printed silks are so easily workable that the most mediocre seamstress may make her own frocks and save enough on two to pay for the third. Moreover, this material is serviceable and good for many occasions."

This year, Miss Wells says, the variety of printed silks is extremely large and attractive. The predominating colors are the shaded tones which have become so popular. These are lines just "off" color and are sometimes called "dusty" or "faded" tones. They are extremely smart and have the advantage of being becoming to more individuals than the more decided colors. Printed silk in these tones this season are decorated with small designs printed in all-over, rather indefinite patterns.

## Drought Is Not Always Harmful

### Insufficient Moisture for One Crop May Be Ample for Another.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The term "drought," as applied to a lack of moisture in the soil for proper plant growth, embraces many conditions which differ with each type of agriculture. What may constitute insufficient moisture for one sort of crop, or one part of the country, may be ample for another crop grown in different soil or in a different climate, says the weather bureau of the United States Department of Agriculture.

In the East, where precipitation is usually well distributed, a period of 30 days without beneficial precipitation constitutes a drought, which would be especially bad if the subsoil were not well supplied with moisture at the beginning of the drought period. Over the Pacific coast states possible drought is chiefly in the colder half of the year.

### Hurts Nonirrigated Crops.

A generally dry winter season may be disastrous to nonirrigated crops. In the central valleys and Great plains, drought during the early spring months will greatly diminish the wheat yield, and drought in midsummer brings disaster to the corn crop. A short period of drought in the eastern part of the country during the early spring months will frequently greatly curtail the hay crop, but may not seriously injure wheat; in fact, it may prevent excessive straw growth. A period of drought may be beneficial to corn in its early growth, forcing the roots to greater depths. Drought of short duration may be quite disastrous to corn when it follows a wet period immediately preceding the formation of the ear, when abundant moisture is required. If previous wet weather has caused the root system to develop near the surface, the supply of moisture available in the subsoil may not be reached in time to prevent loss.

### May Benefit Cotton.

Moderate drought is not always associated with scanty production. It may prove beneficial to cotton by hindering the activity of insect pests that do not multiply in dry weather. If the cotton plant remains somewhat dormant during drought and resumes growth promptly when moisture is supplied, the crop may develop after the period of worst insect infestation is over.

Early droughts are particularly detrimental to most truck and small-fruit crops, as growth and development of these are usually rapid and any material interruption is decidedly harmful.

## Development of a Plan Needed for Good Garden

The first step toward making a successful garden is the development of a plan showing the general arrangement, direction of rows and area devoted to the different crops. More economical use may be made of the area available by planning for succession, companion and intercropping. For example, a crop of late beets may be planted after a crop of early peas have been harvested or a crop of lettuce may be raised between the tomato plants and gathered before the tomato plants need all the space. Fresh peas, beans and corn may be had over a longer period by making several plantings at intervals of two weeks or by planting early, mid-season and late varieties. The likes and dislikes of the members of the family should be considered and selections made accordingly.

## Fanning Mill to Clean Seed Most Satisfactory

A few hours spent indoors cleaning seed with a fanning mill may save many days in the hot sun next summer and will pay handsome dividends in the form of bigger and better crops.

A farm fanning mill operated at the correct speed and equipped with the proper sieves and screens is capable of doing an excellent job of cleaning clover, alfalfa and other seeds. Since experiments have shown that the main object of cultivation after the preparation of the seed bed is the eradication of weeds, and since most weeds are introduced by means of impure seed, the use of cleaned seed will save a great deal of future work. The value of a good fanning mill in cleaning farm seeds has been demonstrated by hundreds of farmers.

## Agricultural Hints

Soy-bean hay as a roughage is equally as valuable in the ration as is the seed.

The main thing in inoculating soy beans is to make them real dirty with the right kind of dirt.

Swiss chard belongs to the beet family and is grown the same way—in rows thinned 6 to 12 inches apart.

Treating fence posts with creosote makes many kinds of wood posts last 20 or more years. The treatment costs but little.

Let the hoe be your garden puffer, brassie and nibbler, for half an hour a day, and you will surprise yourself with a weedless garden.

# Why

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### Lost and Found

Mr. A. C., a Civil war veteran and former railroad man, enjoys telling this joke on himself: His brother, also a Civil war veteran and former railroader, resembled him to some extent, but had lost an arm in the railroad service. This brother, Mr. C. C., had nothing to occupy his time, so he amused himself frequently by watching the boys play marbles on the sidewalk. One day Mr. A. C. stopped on his way to his office and watched these same boys play. They looked at him in amazement and one fellow piped out, "Why, mister, you have found your other arm!"—Indianapolis News.

### Got Aplenty

"He married to get a home."  
"Yes?"  
"And his wife has so many relations that he thinks he's got a hotel."  
—Montreal Star.

Plans to drain Lake Neml and recover the two sunken ships of the Roman emperors are being completed and work will begin in a few weeks.

### Why Dog Flees

"It's a wonder Mrs. Axelritz doesn't understand why her dog doesn't like to sit on her lap while she eats," observed Grandma Mrtson. "No self-respectin' dog likes to be used for a napkin."—Farm and Fireside.

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### Appreciative Quail

A covey of timorous quail leave their native haunts and fly to the center of Washington, Pa., to feed at the home of Mrs. C. E. McClure, who puts out feed regularly for birds. It was only one quail that first appeared. It flew away and, returned with nine friends and relatives.

### Lacked Support

Father—Here's a C. in your report again. In spite of your getting help at home all this term.

Young Son—That's hardly fair, pop. That C's only in department, an' you didn't give me any help in that.—Stockholm Kasper.