



FASHIONS FOR THE SEASON.

There is no golden mean in evening robes this winter. You may either look delightfully simple, girlish and unassuming, or particularly magnificent, regal, impressive. That is the beauty of the Empire. If desired, no style can be made to look richer, handsomer, more overbearing; but if you yearn for sweet simplicity, behold it in the Empire, with its soft, blue effects.

Never did I see this more strikingly exemplified than at the moment when I looked at two evening toilets, lying side by side in a fashionable modiste's. Both had an Empire touch, and yet one was lightness and delicacy, the other all splendor and magnificence.

The first was in pale water green satin, cut low and square, and fitted close to the figure. Over it hung loosely or floated—as they say so much more expressively in French—a tulle or lace. The delicate edge of it stood up above the decollete, and just beneath lay a band of rosebuds; the buds went up over the shoulders as well, and around the edge of the face at the neck. The high standing, short lace ruffles formed the sleeves.

The second was velvet, rich black velvet, and was cut in a deep, rounding point at the neck. The tulle or lace, which was of sleeves, and a long, full train added to the rich effect, which was slightly touched, however, by an Empire cloak in cream lace that partially covered it. It covered the neck, however, almost completely. A dull gold passementerie belt clasped the black velvet.

The modiste showed me another, cut in the style of 1830, which is also being successfully revived. At the moment when I was at present in what our great-grandmothers wore, and proceed to copy as closely as possible. It is to be hoped that we continue ourselves simply to copying gowns. For if we ever take to the quaint old bonnets of those days, we be unto us!

The 1830 dress was very youthful looking. It was a simple dress for a young girl, and was made of light China blue tulle. Three ruffles in mousseline de soie, finely embroidered in gold thread, were on the bodice. The ruffles, apart from the top one, came within 12 inches of the narrow gold belt, that had little pendants of wrought gold at the clasp. The top of the bodice was gathered, and one about 12 inches above was considerably deeper—I should say about 6 inches; so was the top one. A berthe of this same lace went around the low neck, and the short sleeves had lace ruffles also.

By this time I was so interested in evening gowns that I wanted to see more, and so I looked into the modiste's window. I saw a harmless desire, there was brought out for my inspection a beautiful ball dress that I felt quite in love with. It was pale corn yellow, made of bengaline, and in a thoroughly simple style. At the edge of the skirt there was no adornment, a fact that I noted with a little surprise. The yellow was simply turned in a deep hem. At the top of the bodice, however, by a garland of roses, strung alone, with no stems or leaves. These were very pale—just a touch of yellow in their centers. The roses hung in the low neck, and the edge of the bodice they were laid, also; this bodice was cut off perfectly straight, from shoulder to shoulder, back and front, but not in the least at the waist. The sleeves were simple, the yellow belt, which was simply ribbon knotted and hanging in streamers in front, was covered at the knot by more roses.

I saw a brocade dinner gown, too, that impressed me wonderfully. It was a green, and a fine gold thread outlined the palm leaf design in it. It was cut princess, and had a face front that was gathered together at the top of the decollete bodice, but spread out wider and wider as it fell over a rose-colored satin front. Velvet sleeve puffs, the shade of the gold in the brocade, were caught around from the elbow by pearl embroidered passementerie, and three strings of pearls adorned the bodice's front, caught up in a center by a gold clasp. The dress was most lovely.

EVA A. SCHUBERT.

who remonstrated a little with her royal spouse in the matter. The next day a bottle of hair dye was sent to his dressing room with the Queen's compliments. The King said nothing, but at breakfast the following morning he appeared with his French poude under his arm, his fleecy a rich hue from a plentiful use of the hair dye, while his own whiskers and hair remained uncolored. The use of hair dye is happily not nearly so prevalent as a generation ago, but there are still plenty among us who watch with dread the multiplication of silver in their locks, and not a few who still, foolishly, resort to imitation color to replace them.

At one of the forthcoming November fairs, which always blossom out in expectation of the holiday season, the cutting of silhouettes will be one of the attractions and presumably noticeable receipt-selling elements. A skillful young woman does not only cut, but she also sells. The silhouettes are cut in the proper pose. The patrons of the sterner sex, who expect to spend about so much at one of these affairs, will be likely to squander a considerable portion of it for these portraits and the experiences that go with them.

"I think," said a woman the other day, "that we are going to become a race of specialists. I have recently undergone a trifling operation, and while I was still confined to my room from its effects, I developed a disagreeable, not to say alarming, cold. The surgeon was still visiting me, and at his next call I told him of my condition. He quizzed me rather stupidly, I thought, and finally blurted out: 'Positively, I don't know what to do for you; better send for Dr. Blank. To tell the truth, when I can't use the knife, I resort to the use of the medical profession is true of almost all other departments of life nowadays. It is noticeable at the Woman's Exchange how this and that worker develops superior excellence in one

of a venerable lady, probably the most accomplished of her kind in the city. She is a dainty trifle for a baby's gift is a clover sachet, which is a bunch of sweet clover, flowers and all, pressed between two squares of fine silk muslin, edged with lace.

Many dinner hostesses prefer to change the glasses at every course, where wine is served, to prevent the formidable array upon the table.

Umbrella clasps of gold and silver are among novelties in small silver.

A shoebox seen at a woman's exchange was a box like an ordinary shoebox, which had been fitted with pigeonholes, and cannelled with blue enamel paint inside. A flat cushion of blue and white porcelain cloth, to be laid at Japanese stores, was fitted to the lid, and a valance, leaved at the bottom, fell around the box. The novelty of the box was in the pigeonhole idea, which is better than throwing shoes and slippers all in together, as is done in the usual shoebox.

From the large spoon used for stirring porridge, to the small spoon for stirring coffee, you are cooking, into a dessert spoon, and taste from that. Many persons, if they had the least suspicion of such a habit, would not under any circumstances partake of food prepared in such hands.

The fryingpan has a warm advocate in the man who protests that we cannot altogether do away with it, else what would become of fried chickens? He says, "You could not find many who would be willing to admit that this is an unwholesome way of cooking a spring pullet."

A few years ago the formal dinner was a very tedious function, and doubly so when the servants were not thoroughly well up in the dinner drill. The dinner of the present time, by the omission of many courses, which is regarded as sensible, is more rapid and consequently more successful—for "Festivity to be successful must be rapid."

One can never be over-confident in making a soufflé—a very simple dish, apparently, and one that can be made on short notice. But there is skill required in making this dainty, and it merely consists in knowing when the oven is at its best. If the temperature be too high or too low the soufflé will be a failure. The cook who values her reputation will not depend upon the treacherous soufflé for a dinner party. The moment it has attained the fluffiness it is capable of it must be served, and that, too, in the baking tin. "Like time and tide," says an expert on the subject, "soufflés wait for no man." When once it ceases to go up it begins to go down—either in or out of the oven.

Pierre Biot, an eminent authority in matters of the cuisine, accuses the Americans, especially the poorer classes, of eating

too much pudding and pie, many for economy and others for convenience. The former, he says, are mistaken and the latter are blamable. Mr. Biot says he took the trouble to put questions about the use of pastry to over 300 mothers, wives of mechanics or of employes at a comparatively small salary, and that more than 90 per cent gave about the same answer: That they make and cook cakes in one day, enough to feed the family for three days, to save the trouble of cooking every day.

Mr. Biot cannot see where the trouble can be for a good wife and mother to prepare her husband's and children's dinner. If she save labor by suggesting the cooking of such articles as bread, hominy, boiling meat, ham, potatoes, rice, oat meal, etc., instead of cakes and pies.

These cold, frosty mornings are suggestive of griddle cakes. Eat them in perfection it would be well to revive the old custom of

woolens and colored stockings. The latter, whether woolen or cotton, should be washed and rinsed in fresh water.

Fruit, ink, blood and other stains should be removed before the clothes are wet in soda.

Tea, coffee, wine and nearly all fruit stains can be taken out with clear boiling water, if not, they will yield to borax, ammonia, chloride of lime, or the fumes of burning sulphur matches, held under them.

brush ice cream was served molded in exact imitation of such a loaf, the dark crust being of caramel color.

each member of the party, allowing no time to be lost between the griddle and the mouth. In greasing the griddle—which must be hot—use the smallest quantity of fat, and be careful not to have the fat settle in pools. If it should do so, the cakes will not brown evenly, nor will they have that flannel-like texture which is one of the attractions of the griddle cake. Always grease the griddle from the center.

A practical cook in speaking of the methods of the French, says that a secret of their success is in having a knowledge of the variety of food, plenty of time to prepare it, and a slow fire. With meals cooked so rapidly we are in the habit of doing—by hot fire—the juices do not have the opportunity to cook—instead of being cooked they are baked, and thus rendered tasteless.

A clean kitchen table is the pride of a neat housekeeper, and nothing can be more annoying to such a one than to have it serve as meat board and chopping tray; or as a resting place for hot kettles and greasy pans. To protect it during the process of meat-getting, cover it with white oil cloth. This should be thoroughly cleaned and well dried before it is laid away. A good plan is to have one end of the table neatly covered with zinc, upon which the hot vessels may be placed. In scrubbing the table observe the rule of using the brush in the grain of the wood—never in any other direction. To keep the table white and to remove grease spots use sand and cold water. The excessive use of soap makes the wood gray and dingy. The kitchen table should have its corners rounded.

By taking proper care of soiled linen the

to neutralize the acid, and rinse in two clear waters. A solution of oxalic acid will remove iron rust. Saturate blood with kerosene, then rub in tepid water and wash soap.

Chesop soap and soap powders are "a snare and a delusion," and are sure to make clothes yellow.

An equally fine polish is obtained by adding a little spermaceti, lard or kerosene to boiled starch, but nothing will impart as much stiffness as a teaspoonful of borax added to a quart of cold starch.

Woolens should not be dried out of doors in freezing weather, but in a room of about the same temperature as the water in which they were washed. The texture of all fabrics is injured by drying out of doors in freezing weather, and the practice should be avoided whenever possible. C. E. R.

MISSIONARY WOMEN IN CHINA. The Ladies Have to Submit to Many Startling Experiences. English residents in China have recently directed their attention to a new phase of the missionary question, namely, the fate of many English women engaged in certain fields of mission work, says a writer in London Truth.

One correspondent sent me a startling picture of the experiences which many young Englishwomen undergo in close association with the natives on steamboats and in other similar circumstances. I hesitated to publish his facts and still more his inferences without stronger evidence, but there can at least be no doubt that missionary women are compelled to suffer a great deal and to see a great deal in China for which they can hardly be fitted and for no good purpose that is apparent to the eye.

only one aspect of the matter, a recent China paper comments strongly on the death of a lady attached to the China Inland Mission, and only lately arrived in the country, who had died of heat apoplexy during a voyage in a native boat to Yangchow, on which she had been sent when the thermometer was at 100° in the shade. This is condemned as a willful and purposeless sacrifice of human life, and I do not see what other view can reasonably be taken of it.

Chas. Pfeiffer Dyest 25 years ago and is still dyeing. Tel. 434 Smithfield street. 3469 100 Federal street, Allegheny. 1264 1913 Carson street, Southside.

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SIMPLICITY IN EVENING DRESS.

labor in the laundry is decreased. All articles, although soiled, should be folded and placed at once in bag or hamper. Soiled table linen should be kept in a bag convenient to the dining room. Soiled wearing apparel should be kept as remote as possible from sleeping rooms, and do not convert the closets of the house into dens of filth by storing away in their corners the family wash.

Towels should be used legitimately—never for dusters, wash cloths or lamp cleaners. There is nothing so convenient about the house as a good supply of dusters, and no room in the house is complete without its dusters. These useful articles should always be hemmed, and it is important that they should be washed and ironed regularly. Cheese cloth, calico and old dress linings make good dusters, and the value of cast off stockings—minus the feet—cut and sewed together cannot be overestimated. These are excellent for fine furniture. The care of dusters, tea towels and dish cloths is a particular occupation. Set aside an afternoon in the week for washing these necessary articles, and let it not be on the regular washing day—for if these are allowed to come up in the rear at such a time they are very apt to go without the care they deserve. ELLICE SERENA.

WASHING DAY HINTS. (WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.) It is more economical to use borax, ammonia or some other harmless cleansing agent, than to expend one's strength and wear out fabrics by vigorous rubbing on a washboard.

While there are several ways of washing successfully, there is only one of assorting clothes before commencing operations, and that is to have at least two grades of soiled linen, one of colored cottons and one of

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No truisms are truer than that usually expressed as "we never can tell what we will do." A tactful and gentle woman thus recalls an experience: "Word was brought me of a terrible calamity I must break to a servant. I hurried to the kitchen, and, catching her by the arm, I cried, excitedly: 'Mary, two of your children have been drowned. Take off your apron and go home.' Of course, she stared blankly at me. I spoke more impatiently: 'Don't you hear what I say? Two of your children have been drowned; take off your apron!' As though that were the one important thing."

Two or three pairs of boots, worn change and change about, are most economical and best for the health of the feet as well. Low shoes are sold by authority should be preferred to high ones and laced to those that button. Cold feet, an infallible sign of poor circulation, may be prevented, not only by attention to the general health but by brisk local treatment with a fleshbrush, which, in time, will remove both cause and effect.

An ingrown nail may be treated by cutting a V shaped hole in the center of the nail, or paring the same place thin with a sharp bit of glass. Fastening the side of the nail with iodine has proved beneficial. A hard corn may be removed by frequent soaking in hot water, or by rubbing with salt-petre, or by acetic acid carefully applied. A soft corn is a more serious matter but will yield to tincture of iron. A plaster of lard and iodine is said to reduce the painfulness of a bunion.

The mania for massage is said to be on the decline.

At a luncheon the other day the brown

widely known woman in America, it is told that on one occasion she was expected home and a cabman had been sent to meet the train. He returned to say that there was no such person at the station. "No one but an old washerwoman." The husband of the lady in question stared at him in dismay. "Go back this moment," he cried, "and get her!"

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