NEW YORK FASHIONS.

Designs For Costumes That Have Become Popular in the Metropolis.

NEW YORK CITY (Special).—"One is always hearing of that amateur millinery genius who takes a few notes through the shop windows, goes home, investigates the family scrapbag and

A CALLING GOWN OF MULBERRY CLOTH AND BROWN VELVET.

produces therefrom a confection beside which a Parisian novelty seems positively shabby. One hears of such wonders on all sides, but it has never been my luck to see one of these scrapbag reincarnations that was not dismally home-made in every feature," said Mary Dean, the fashion expert, recently. "Now, however, with a half-yard of velvet, a buckle and a pretty ostrich plume it is a poor hand that can't contrive as smart a little revolutionary toque as need crown any head.

"One I saw this afternoon deserves telling about, because the girl who wore it wore also so sweet a little calling gown that I followed her for a half-dozen blocks in order to take in every detail. The frock was a soft satin-surfaced cloth of deep rich mulberry color that is bound sooner or later to be as popular as fluette blue once was. Her skirt was slit open from hem to some distance above the knees in front to show an underdress of beaver-brown velvet picked out in tiny jet-worked figures. Her shirt waist opened in front to show a flat vest and collar of the brown similarly decorated, and I can assure you that this study in mulberry brown and black is quite the most piquant thing I've seen in two months. Her toque had a crown of mulberry velvet, a brim of one roll of grebe, a dashing plume fastened by some invisible agent directly in the front of her crown and a big bow of cream-colored antique velvet adjusted a little above the brim to the left side. That hat, I'll wager, was her milliner's supreme inspiration."

The 1900 Shirt Waist.

Instead of giving up the shirt waist, as fashion arbiters seemed determined they should, women have decided that it is the most useful article in their wardrobes, and this season will cling to it more determined than ever. The differences in style between the new ones for the season of 1900 and those of last year are principally matters of small detail. Bayadere and bias effects will be entirely out this summer, while vertical effects will be en regle. Tucks will again be the height of vogue. Fan-shaped tucks are, perhaps, the newest and most novel innovation.

For backs, however, the perfectly plain French back fashionable last summer will obtain to a certain extent, while a back with a cluster of tucks on either side, either parallel or forming the fan-shape, will have wide vogue, too, being newer.

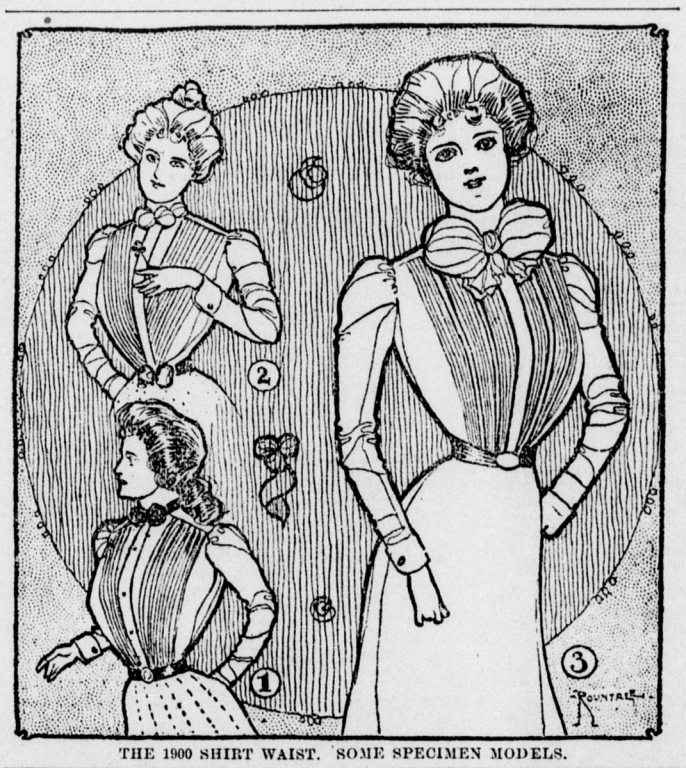
In materials, percales, ginghams, madras and cheviot are favorites, and will be more worn than ever. Stripes will be largely in the ascendency in pattern designs. White lawn will be much used for midsummer wear.

The sketches presented herewith are from the very first showing of the coming season's wash shirt waists, the first one being a particularly desirable model. It has fourteen box-plaits on the front, a French back, with five box-plaits down the centre, and the new Dewey collar.

The new V or fan-shaped tucking is illustrated in the second one, the front having two bias clusters of twelve each, and the back has five vertical tucks on each side of its centre. The shaping of these tucks is very becoming, giving as it does breadth across the shoulder, and a taper to the waist.

The third waist shows the use of embroidery combined with the tucks, and, while it is more decorative, many women prefer not to use it, as they think it detracts from the distinctiveness of the shirt waist, as being a tailor-made garment and an adjunct to a tailor-made suit. Consequently they prefer no trimming on a wash shirt waist other than tucks or machine stitching, depending for a dressy separate waist on a regular tight-fitting, trimmed-silk waist.

Notice the clustered effect of the tucks on all the waists, and just on either side of the centre back and front, as opposed to the spaced tucking all over the waist, back, front and sleeves, so modish last season. Anything for a change! Poor femininity evidently will have to change those last summer's tucked all-over shirt waists that were the pride of her heart, but which now, oh blighting words! are last summer's mode.



THE 1900 SHIRT WAIST. SOME SPECIMEN MODELS.

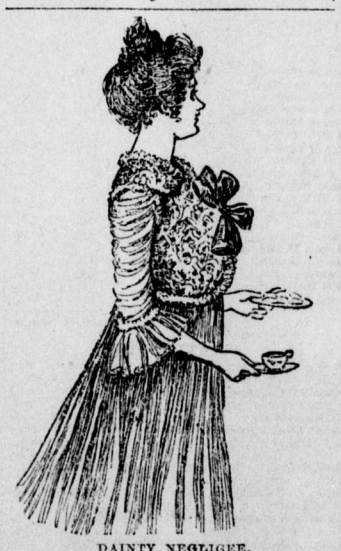
Lace and Fur Combination.

Lace seems to be a novel fabric to combine with fur.

A Popular Negligee Effect.

The shops are full of stunning negligee gowns at this season, and there seems to be a perfect craze for original effects in garments of this description.

One of the most striking effects seen lately is herewith illustrated. It is from the Dry Goods Economist,



DAINTY NEGLIGEE.

and is a negligee of pink mousseline de soie, with bolero of lace mounted on satin. The bow is of pink satin.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

Ferns as House Plants.

A well grown, thrifty fern makes a beautiful house plant, but delicate and tender kinds are not suited for parlor or sitting room. One great advantage of ferns as house plants is that they do not require—in fact, do not like—much direct sunshine, although they do require plenty of light. The majority of ferns thrive best in a compost of turfy loam, old leaf soil and loam, and some sharp sand. Gross-growing ferns are benefited by a little manure. If succulent drainage is given they can hardly be over-watered; but the most important requirement of ferns is to have them sprayed overhead two or three times a week.

When to Subsoil.

Whether or not subsoiling will improve the ground depends altogether upon the character of the soil and also upon the amount of rainfall during the growing season. In dry sections where the subsoil is very compact, subsoiling is usually profitable. The breaking up of the impervious subsurface layer lessens evaporation from the surface of the soil and provides a large storage place for moisture in the upper few feet of soil thus loosened. The roots of plants are better able to go downward and secure the necessary plant food and moisture. If the soil is moderately loose, with a sandy, open subsoil, this method of treating the ground is not profitable. Then, too, if there is sufficient moisture always available during the growing season, it is not necessary to subsoil. Try the subsoil plow in a limited way, carefully noting the effects on subsequent crops. You will then soon be able to determine whether or not subsoiling is profitable.—New England Homestead.

Lime in the Garden.

Usually the garden soil is full of humus, and lime may be used on it to good advantage. Lime is one of those elements of the soil which is essential to the growth of plants and trees, and when it is properly used a vast difference in the growth of the vegetation is noticeable. All farmers and horticulturists use it in many ways, but it is probably as often abused as used. The full and direct effects of lime upon plants under all conditions have not yet been fathomed, but enough knowledge concerning its general effect is possessed for one to use it intelligently on many crops. In the vegetable garden lime is invaluable. It is the best preventive and check for mildew on cucumbers and diseases of potatoes. As soon as the cucumber vines show signs of the disease, the powdered lime should be sprinkled over every part of the plants that are affected, and the operation repeated after rain so long as there are any signs of the mildew. If one watches the plants early in the spring, and applies the lime as soon as the disease manifests itself, it will never be allowed to make much progress, but sometimes in the case of plants being nearly dried up with the disease, the lime will give them new life and growth.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

Glanders in Horses.

Glanders in horses and mules are liable to occur at any time, and there have been recent reports of the disease in certain sections. It is ordinarily a fatal disease, only a few cases in man or beast ever having recovered. It is such a dangerous disease that treatment is too full of risk and too uncertain to be warranted. The pronounced symptoms are tubercles on membrane of the nasal passages, and, when these break down, there is a discharge of pus from one nostril and a swelling under the lower jaw. This swelling is usually about the size of a walnut, is tender to the touch, and not very firmly connected.

The disease in some horses does not make rapid progress, but remains stationary, giving no evidence of being dangerous. But such cases are exceedingly dangerous and are often the cause of spreading the disease broadcast. Horses have been known to have glanders in a mild form for a long time, to keep in good order and work right along, the real trouble never being suspected. In advanced stages of the disease sores may appear on the surface of the body. These are stubborn, discharge pus and can not be healed. Farcy, which is caused by the same germ, is indicated by farcy buds—swellings on the skin, usually on the legs—which break and discharge freely. The legs swell and become a mass of sores. Animals that even slightly show any of these symptoms should be immediately isolated until the character of the disease is determined. If it is glanders, kill the animal at once, and wash the stables and everything with which the horse has come in contact with a solution composed of one ounce of corrosive sublimate in two gallons of water. Wash several times at intervals of two or three days.—Agricultural Epitomist.

Importance of Milk Veins.

An examination of the stomach of an average cow that is producing milk will reveal thereon, extending from the udder along each side, a milk vein about one-half inch in diameter. These milk veins, at the point most distant from the udder, pass through what are called the milk wells in the walls of the abdomen. These orifices through which the veins pass should be of good size, thus permitting a strong flow of blood through them.

As a rule, the greater the milk secreting power of the cow, the larger and more twisted of outline will these veins be. In such a case the cow may have three large veins, the third being a shorter one between the outer two, and branching over the udder and on the belly immediately in front of the former, may be found quite a number of very pronounced smaller veins. These veins extend in no definite direction, being usually very irregular and somewhat knotted. The development of these blood-vessels becomes most pronounced with age, although there is a noticeable difference in their size and extent in young heifers. The writer has seen cows with remarkably large, long, elastic veins, which extended from the udder and disappeared high in the armpit at the front leg. Such veins may measure an inch in diameter, and on compression with the fingers exhibit great elasticity.

Writing of the milk vein, nearly twenty-five years ago, Hazard stated that, if large and tortuous, with a considerable opening through the muscles of the belly to admit of its passage outwards, it is frequently connected with a rich udder; but far greater reliance can be placed on the network of veins seen beneath the skin over the forequarters of the udder. This characteristic is little noticed by authors, and dairymen or dealers in cattle rarely speak of it. But both the veins and the udder itself, and those which pass upwards behind towards the tail, when large, are sure tests of a competent milker.

Scientific Farming.

Scientific farming is farming in accordance with nature's immutable laws. That is what farmers have been trying to do since the very first beginnings of the industry. These laws men have measurably learned by experience. Should each depend on his own experience for the knowledge needed to guide him in his industry, he would not learn in his lifetime the alphabet of farming. He has unconsciously benefited from the accumulated experience of ages. Could he not benefit more, now that so much has been learned, by frequent farmers' meetings, discussions of methods and exchange of experiences?

Farmers should learn the objects and appreciate the value of the agricultural experiment stations. The object of the station is to ascertain what crops, and what particular variety of crop in its own state will give the best results, how they can best be cultivated, protected from damage by drouth or insects, cared for during and after harvest; how the values in the soil may be maintained at the least cost, and what manures, commercial fertilizers or crops will best maintain fertility; what is the best rotation of crops; what varieties of fruit to plant, when to plant and how to care for them by culture, manuring and pruning; how to feed livestock to obtain the most and the best quality of meat at the least cost and in the shortest time; how to do best all the many necessary things in the care of the dairy herd and the making and care of dairy products. These are only some of the matters which the stations are investigating with a scientific and practical training and with such equipment as can only be had at such public institutions. Each investigation entered upon is followed up persistently until results are obtained that enable the station to say in its bulletin thereon something that has practical value to the farmers, and the officers of these stations are always glad to give freely the information thus obtained to the farmers who will take the trouble to apply for it. The farmers themselves could extend the value of this experimental work by organizing local farmers' associations, undertaking certain experimental crops, methods of culture, etc., under the advice of the station officers, discussing the work at their meetings and reporting results to the stations.—Texas Farm Journal.

THE COTTON BELT.

Where Our Twenty Million Acres of Cotton Are.

The cotton belt covers 24 degrees of longitude and 10 degrees of latitude. Excluding from the count the greater part of Virginia, more than 100,000 square miles in western Texas and the whole of Kentucky, Kansas, Missouri, Utah, California, Arizona and New Mexico, in all of which cotton has been cultivated, and where a larger demand might cause its culture to be extended, the cotton-growing region measures nearly 600,000 square miles, almost one-third of the total area of settlement in 1890 of the United States. The 20,000,000 acres planted in cotton occupies barely five acres in every 100 of this extensive region. Scarcely 50 per cent. of this territory is in farms and not more than one-fifth has at any time been tilled. This section contained in 1890 a population of over 8,000,000 whites and something over 5,000,000 negroes, in all, 13,651,007, every 100 of them producing 53 bales of cotton, an average of 254 pounds of lint per capita.

"In 1801 South Carolina led the other states in the production of cotton. In 1850 Alabama stood first. Mississippi led in 1860-80. Texas stood at the head in 1890, and still does. The centre of production was near Montgomery, Ala., in 1850; this centre had moved two miles west by 1860. In 1870 it was near Carthage, Miss., and in 1880 was in Noxubee county, Miss. In 1890 it was 60 miles northwest in Attala county. It is moving west all the time on account of the increasing crops in Arkansas, Texas and the Indian Territory, not to mention Oklahoma."—Ainslee's.

The oldest resident of the town of Emporium, Kan., is J. P. Mather, who is said to be a direct descendant of Cotton Mather. Though 85 years of age he goes daily to a gymnasium and exercises on the bars.

The production of prunes is increasing rapidly in Oregon, the annual shipment of the dried fruit now amounting to 500 cars.