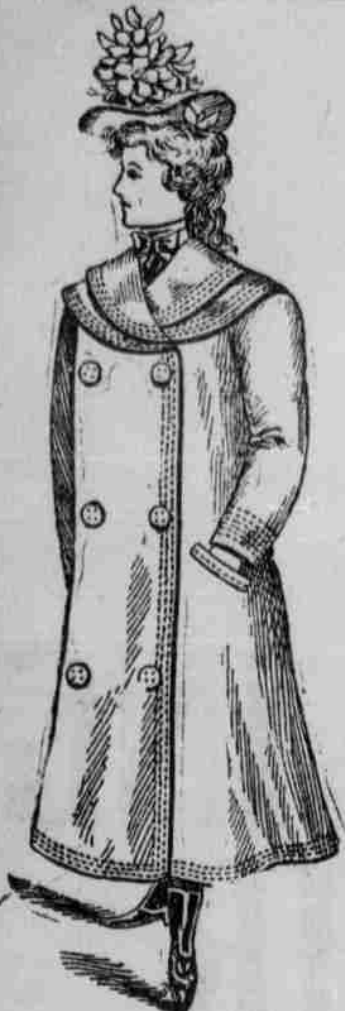


# NEW YORK FASHIONS.

Designs For Costumes That Have Become Popular in the Metropolis.

**NEW YORK CITY (Special).**—The long box coats are being more and more worn every day, and quite as fashionable for the juveniles as for the



A YOUTHFUL BOX COAT.

grownups. This stylish one presented by Le Costume Royal, for girls in their teens, is of gray broadcloth, with the indispensable stitching and large white pearl buttons. The broad, double, shawl-like collar is a new and attractive feature, distinguishing this coat from the usual run.

### The New Spring Blouses.

The new spring blouses are looser in front than last year's, but as it is



SOME SPRING BLOUSES.

their sweet will always be of infinite variety and capriciousness, it is not possible to say that otherwise they have greatly changed. They are made with cape collars and boleros and epaulettes, like other bodices, and they are tucked, plaited and covered with lace and embroidery.

At a matinee this week, writes Ellen Osborn, I noticed a crossed blouse of delicate rose-tinted silk with a yoke of white silk and lace that was marked in diamonds with the narrowest of black velvet ribbon. From the yoke and crossing fronts hung a deep black silk fringe.

A coral-red blouse shoulder to shoulder with the pink one cost both their best effect, just as the dark, brilliant-checked girl who wore it made her blond neighbor look faded. Yet the coral blouse could not be blamed for its pretty tucked and plaited front, its sleeves tucked for a few inches below the shoulder and its white silk corded revers.

A simple and very attractive evening blouse is of cream-colored mousseline, with a deep lace collar decorated with gold embroidered roses. Its flowing cravat is of white silk with lace ends.

A more elaborate evening blouse of golden yellow silk has a small bolero of cream-colored lace and a front of plaited mousseline. The crossed ends of the yellow silk cravat are carried out to the sides and held tight by mousseline rosettes and strap buttons.

### Glimpse of Spring Styles.

If one may trust the harbingers of fashion, which have all the air of swallows from the Riviera that in due time will make a summer, the Easter hat of 1900 will have a high, formidable looking square crown, or else one that is practically flat; its brim will be swathed in cloudy folds of tulle and its chief ornaments will be large, wheel-like rosettes of lace or ribbon or velvet, and flowers of a delicacy of coloring and texture that is new to millinery. Apple, peach and cherry blossoms are first favorites, and one sees entire strawberry plants—leaves, flowers and fruit.

The fringed scarves of last autumn have given place to tulle scarves that are brought from the back of the

crowns to cross upon the hair and then knot in front with long floating ends.

### A Dress to Be Remembered.

A dress that may be remembered beyond the close of the season was lately worn by Mrs. George Gould, at Georgian court. The underskirt of exquisite silver gauze was plaited over pale blue mousseline de soie, which, in turn, had an underlining of pale blue taffeta. The overskirt, which opened in front, was of pale-blue satin, incrustated with silver embroidery, and the low round bodice had wreaths of tiny roses for shoulder straps. The belt, of pale-blue mirror velvet, fastened at one side of the front with a big velvet rosette. Mrs. Gould wore pale-blue slippers and gloves, and her hair was dressed with roses.

### The Flare Will Not Diminish.

The flare around the lower portion of the dress skirt, which continues to cling about the hips, will increase rather than diminish as the spring and summer styles appear. Around the bottom of some of the French accordion-plaited models rows of narrow pleated frills are arranged, and these give a decidedly wavy spreading effect to the skirt below the knees. Machine stitched or piped ruffles will also aid in producing this flare, and not only will these trimmings, plain or lace edged, be set upon the skirt, but they will likewise appear upon the silk or muslin petticoat worn with the frilled gown.

### The Military Trend.

Epaulettes dresses show the military tastes of the hour, the epaulettes serving the double purpose of giving to the shoulders the breadth denied by the close sleeve and of displaying gold filigree and jewels. Another device for broadening the shoulders is a deep cape collar of lace, which, though not new, will be seen on a greater number than ever of the smartest spring gowns.

### The Rage For Fringe.

On elaborate costumes an eighteen-inch fringe is not uncommon, and fringes are made in two or three layers of different colors, or different shades of the same color, that in themselves almost constitute costumes.

### The Bolero in High Favor.

The oldest of old friends that has



just taken a new lease of favor is the bolero, many, many new editions of which appear every day. Endless variations are worked upon this theme.

### The Fashion in Aprons.

The rule of simplicity applies to maids' aprons. There should be no huge bretelles nor flaring flounces nor "trimmings" of embroidery and lace. A nurse's apron may indulge in a few tufts clustered upon its deep hem, a parlor maid, housemaid, waitress and chambermaid, all of whom have substantially the same uniform, must wear perfectly plain aprons. Shoulder straps and a bow in the back are common to both brands of aprons. Some mistresses permit an untrimmed brette, but the narrow shoulder-strap is better taste. Long streamers in the back are preferred by some. You can hardly go astray in the matter of servants' dresses as long as you insist upon plainness. It is the woman in



NURSE'S APRON.

search of novelties and "extras" who makes the mistakes.

## \* AGRICULTURAL \*

### Value of the Separator.

The use of the separator is doing much toward making winter dairying profitable. If it is properly managed all the butter can be taken from the milk, or so near it as to amount to a loss of about one pound in a thousand, while the old system of setting the milk in a room where it might freeze often caused a loss of two or three pounds in a hundred, and sometimes the butter refused to come at all, or was worth but little when it did come. With separator and all the other improved appliances in the dairy room, a knowledge of what is good food, and all the other dairy information which has been disseminated in the past twenty years it would seem as if the dairymen should have an easy and a profitable business, much better than we had twenty years ago.

### How Fertilizers Affect Potatoes.

Three years' test at the Virginia experiment station seems to warrant the conclusion that potatoes grown without fertilizers contain the greatest amount of dry matter. The addition of fertilizer tends to diminish the dry matter in proportion to the amount applied. Potatoes grown with sulphate of potash contain more dry matter than where muriate was used. The ash did not appear to be affected to any appreciable extent and the same is true of starch. Neither the kind nor the amount of fertilizer seemed to have any effect upon the percentage of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, but the percentage of chlorine was considerably higher when muriate of potash was used and increased with the amount applied.

### Frequent Milking.

It has been well established by numerous experiments by scientists, that the longer time that elapses between milkings, the less solids will the cow secrete in her milk, says Hoard's Dairyman. Those who have made tests of cows for purposes of competition have also noticed that a cow will give considerable increase in solids, as well as in quantity of milk flow, if she is milked three times a day instead of twice.

The physiological laws, which influence and govern the flow of milk, should meet with much more study by cow owners than is done. We are too apt to go along in a careless and indifferent manner, forgetting that our success with the cow can be greatly increased or diminished thereby. Every man who milks a cow is dealing with one of the most complex and delicate machines in existence. He ought to be a sincere, earnest student of the wonderful varying forces which may affect that machine to his profit or loss.

### Planning Farm Work.

The farmer should decide upon the fields he intends to cultivate next season long before the time comes for putting the seed in the ground, and should try to decide what crops he will put upon them. In making his decision, he should consider not only the adaptation of the soil to the crop, but how the work upon the various crops can be so planned that he will not have too many irons in the fire. We know something about it, for we have been there and have had to plow up a fair-looking crop while growing, because it was so weedy as not to be worth hoeing, as we had been busy on another field. But the best plans may be changed sometimes when one has to do with anything so fickle as the New England weather. Even insects may force a change, as we were once forced to change an onion bed into a squash field, because the onion maggot had appeared in such numbers that we saw the crop would be a failure. We admire perseverance, but there is such a thing as being too obstinate, and striving against the inevitable. Give up when fairly beaten, and try to retrieve fortune in some other way.—American Cultivator.

### Single Sashes Double Glazed.

One of the ways in which poultry and other stock suffer is from the rapid radiation of heat from the windows at night. Double windows are sometimes used, but these are expensive, somewhat of a bother to put on and hard to keep clean.

The cut shows a single sash, double glazed, which a poultryman has recently described. The sash is made



SASH WITH DOUBLE GLASS.

so that the glass can be set on both sides of the wooden bars, leaving a half inch or more of space between. This gives a double window and the cost is said to be not more than twenty-five cents extra per sash for the glass and the labor of setting. Those who are providing windows for new or remodeled poultry houses will do well to experiment with this plan. The glazing must be tight and carefully done to keep out all dirt and dust from the inner surfaces of the glass.—New England Housestead.

### Practical Poultry Points.

The pure-bred hen will usually lay more eggs than any cross of the same breed, and many more than the scrub hen with a mixture of half a dozen different breeds in her make-up. If she does not it is the fault of the one who cares for her. Some breeders really know more about the markings of the feathers and shape of the comb than they do about feeding their poultry, and they care more about having these points just right than they do about the number of eggs they receive, says a writer in the Cultivator. If they can get eggs in the spring, when they are wanted for

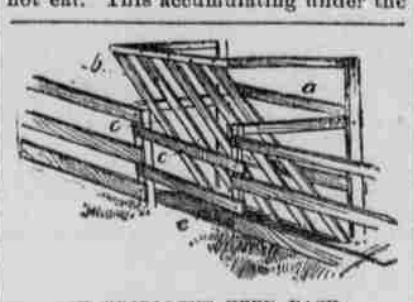
hatching, they are contented with that.

In this way some strains of pure-bred fowl may have been so kept and managed that they produce a less number of eggs in a year than they would under better conditions, and as the chickens inherit the propensities of the parent and the grand parents they deteriorate in productiveness, as much as a herd of dairy cattle would if kept in such a way that they were not up to their standard in milk production.

But because certain strains under this management do not produce many eggs, it does not disprove the statement with which we began. Place the pure-bred hens and chickens under the care of a good feeder, and in three generations they can be made to produce more eggs than can be produced by any cross-bred or scrub-bred fowl. By selection of eggs from the best layers among them, this can be brought about, and the poultry keeper who expects to grow chickens next spring should begin this winter to feed his hens for egg production, and should watch them to see which to save eggs from for hatching. We have never attained the twenty dozen a year mark, and never expect to, for we cannot devote our time to the poultry yard, but we believe it to be possible and desirable and think it possible without losing any of the fancy points called for by the poultry standard, though it might take a long or time if we tried to combine the fancy points and the egg production at the same time than it would be if we only selected the best layers without regard to the markings, as it would limit our number to select from.

### A Rack For Feeding Corn Fodder.

Feeding unshredded corn fodder is hard work, on account of the difficulty of handling. There is also a greater part of the stalks that the cattle will not eat. This accumulating under the



AN EXCELLENT FEED RACK.

cattle's feet or about the feed lot soon becomes a nuisance. Accompanying this description I send the sketch of a rack that will be easy to fill and which will retain the stalks, allowing the cattle to strip off the leaves, corn and tender, eatable portions. The uneaten portion can be cleaned out before filling anew, and the useless stalks piled up for hauling away or mixed with the accumulating manure heap, where the refuse of barn and stable is piled before being hauled to the fields.

The rack is to be built against the fence, so that the filling can be done from the outside of the manger at "a" being only high enough to retain the fodder. The frame of the rack should be made of 2x4s. The rack "b" should be made of four-inch fencing lumber, the slats about four inches apart. The outside rack, "c," should be set out far enough so the cattle can easily reach down inside to pick up the chaff. To guard against any waste here, it is well to have the bottom, "c," floored, and the floor surrounded by a six-inch board. The rack can be made any length, according to the amount of stock to be fed.—J. L. Irwin, in American Agriculturist.

### Pruning Apple Trees in Winter.

There has been a great deal of argument as to which is the best season for pruning apple trees. Some assert that the work should be done at a certain period, while others are equally emphatic that some other season is much to be preferred, says a writer in the Mississippi Valley Democrat. And there are great many, in all, who think that the man who advised that the pruning be done "when the tools are sharp" was about right. It is true that the experts assure us that pruning should be commenced when the tree is small, and be so closely followed, year after year, that there will be no necessity for removing branches of much size, even after the tree has reached its full growth. Doubtless this is all right from the expert's point of view. For the man who is able to give his whole time and attention to the care of his orchard there may not be a better plan. Such a man can watch his growing trees, and with a pruning knife, or shears, or at most a fine-toothed saw, he can keep the top of the tree in good shape and can prevent the growth of branches which would prove useless or worse than useless, if they were allowed to remain upon the tree, instead of being destroyed when they were buds or only small shoots. But the man whose principal business is farming and whose time is largely occupied with the cultivation of the soil and the care of live stock, finds such a course is altogether impractical. He wants and ought to have, something of an orchard, but he must care for it more in a general way and at "odd jobs," rather than follow the elaborate methods which the professional fruit grower finds it desirable, or perhaps, even necessary, to adopt.

For the reason above noted, the great majority of farm orchards need pruning, and, while it is easy to overdo the work, a great many of them need a good deal of labor to bring the trees into the best possible condition for future usefulness. When this work shall be done is a question for each owner to answer for himself, and the answer, if it be a wise and judicious one, will depend very largely upon his location and circumstances. If located in the far north the farmer will not attempt to do much with his apple trees until the next spring is fairly opened. This, for the double reason, that during the winter the cold is much too severe to work in the tree tops with any degree of comfort, and because when low temperatures prevail the removal of branches at this season would be almost sure to permanently injure the trees.

When a dog barks at night in Japan the owner is arrested and sentenced to work for a year for the neighbors whose slumbers may have been disturbed.

### Are Friends of the Farmer.

The wheelmen during their bicycle trips and the horseless carriages during their peregrinations in the country may occasionally scare the farmer's horse; but none the less the farmer should give them welcome. They are the advance agents and apostles of the good roads, and of the farmer good roads are of the first necessity.—Philadelphia Record.

### Wanted: An Object Lesson.

Puerto Rico offers a virgin field for the good roads organizations of the United States. Let them cultivate it and submit the result to this country. An object lesson is a powerful teacher.

## GOOD ROADS NOTES.

### Connecticut Highways.

The annual report of Highway Commissioner McDonald, just issued, brings out some new and important features of the work for highway improvement in Connecticut. There are now some 15,000 miles of highways of all kinds in the State, of which the Commissioner implies that about one-half are practically useless, but cannot be discontinued on account of costly questions of land damages. The magnitude of the general work of highway improvement is indicated by the expenditure, actual or to come, of about \$800,000 during the years 1899 and 1900. Although the smaller and poorer towns are, more commonly than heretofore, availing themselves of State aid under the new law, the wealthier towns taking it are still in the majority. Altogether, however, since the State aid plan was adopted, 138 towns out of 168 in the State have taken the State aid. There is an increased tendency to use the State funds in grading and graveling. Only two towns did so in 1895, and twenty-one towns in 1898.

The Commissioner believes that the maximum width of a State aid road should not exceed sixteen feet. He opposes the long trunk roads to be built by the State, until the local work of improving roads under the care of the towns is more advanced. He points out that, as all the shore towns but two have taken State aid, there will ere long be practically a trunk line along the shore reaching from the New York to the Rhode Island State lines, a distance of 120 miles. He commends the work of the League of American Wheelmen in erecting sign-boards at Connecticut cross-roads. The importance of good roads in attracting summer residents from the cities is strongly emphasized. He urges that the Federal Government create a fund of \$50,000,000 to be apportioned among the States in aid of highway improvement.

### Maryland Improvements.

Figures gathered by the State Geological Survey in Maryland as preliminary to the work of road improvement in that State show that of the 14,483 miles of public road in the State only 1360 miles are improved. The road laws are not of a character to insure good roads, and, as a result, the roads are badly located, badly graded, badly drained and badly surfaced, causing a very heavy tax on all hauling. The average distance each ton of freight is hauled to or from the Maryland farms is 6.7 miles; the average cost is twenty-six cents a mile per ton, or \$1.74 a ton for the whole haul. There are about 5,000,000 acres of farm land in Maryland, and there is about one ton of freight hauled annually per acre to or from each farm. The total cost, therefore, of this transportation is over \$8,500,000 a year. The cost of hauling in New Jersey has been reduced one-half where the roads are improved. Therefore, by improving Maryland roads one-half of this sum could be saved. Making a liberal allowance for the fact that part of the hauling is done over toll-roads, and that some of it goes over unimproved roads that could not be immediately improved, it is estimated that at least \$3,000,000 a year could be saved by improving the main roads in the State. A similar estimate is reached by considering the reduction in the number of draught animals necessary, and the saving in the wear and tear on animals, wagons and harness by good roads.—New York Post.

### Convict Labor on Roads.

Effective use of convict labor in roadmaking is reported from Columbia, S. C., where an average of eighty prisoners has been employed in this work for the past two years. Last year thirty-one miles of road radiating from the city were remade, graded, ditched, laid with sand on clay or clay on sand, and converted into smooth and satisfactory highways, capable with timely and systematic care of indefinite maintenance in good condition. During the preceding year fully ten miles had been remade, so that now there are over forty miles of these permanent roads leading out of Columbia. With the levy asked for the mileage can be doubled this year, the work on each road being taken up at its present terminus, from five to seven miles from the city, and carried an equal distance beyond. By following this plan every main road in the county can be remade in from three to four years more. "Columbia is now far more accessible by highway than it has ever been," comments the State of that city; "a fact daily evidenced by the number of wagons and carts coming to and going from the city, the traffic on certain roads at certain hours assuming professional proportions."—New York Post.

### To Change the System.

Governor Stone, of Pennsylvania, has announced the appointment of the Special Commission to present a bill to the next Legislature of the State, which, in the opinion of the Commission, shall best meet the demand for a change in the present system of road building. The Commission consists of A. J. Cassatt, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad; ex-Governor Beaver, John P. Elkin, Attorney-General of the State; H. B. Worrall, Chairman of the League of American Wheelmen; Highway Improvement Committee; H. M. Breckenridge, of Latona, and H. C. Snarely, of Lebanon. This Commission is appointed in keeping with a resolution introduced at the instigation of the Pennsylvania Division of the League of American Wheelmen, and the bill to be presented is the one the League is hopeful of having passed next year.

### The Deadly High Heel.

In the feet vanity too often pays a price which is dangerously expensive. The high-heeled shoe is made in defiance of the relation it ought to bear to the anatomy of the foot and to the direction in which the pressure of the body's weight falls upon it. The boot or shoe, that it may not slip upon the foot, which by the high heel is deprived of its usual purchase of direct downward pressure, is made to hold with undue firmness just above the back of the heel. Chafing of a delicate skin is readily produced. This, though in itself a trifle, may lead to graver troubles. Inflammation of the leg with abscess formation not infrequently follows, and the exciting cause has been traced to the patient's shoe. Abscesses forming around some neglected trifle of this kind have sometimes ended fatally.—London Family Doctor.

### Rusk's Sense of Taste.

John Rusk, at seventy-five, had as keen a sense of taste as most men have at twenty, and greatly enjoyed new flavors.

### My palate.

"My palate," he once said, "serves me now so well, because when I was a child I was given only the plainest food. When I was a boy, too, I had but one or two toys and no amusements. Hence the keen delight which I take now in every little pleasure."

## POPULAR SCIENCE.

The popular notion that the blind possess a more acute sensibility for tactile impressions is not supported by the numerous and carefully made observations of Professor Greinbach, of Basle.

Self-fertile plants or varieties are those which do not require pollen from other plants or varieties in order to produce seeds or fruit. Self-sterile plants or varieties are those which do require pollen from other plants.

It has been assumed that the depth of unvarying temperature in the soil increases from one foot at the equator to seventy odd feet at the poles, yet a shaft in northern Siberia has reached a depth of 1500 feet without getting through the frost. A Western mining engineer explains that this may not disprove the theory, as the deep freezing may be a result of annual accumulations of sediment on unthawed ground.

Barometric readings reduced to true atmospheric pressure are now required by the Weather Bureau, the approximate corrections for gravity being applied to all barometric readings. This correction applies to all mercurial barometers and is nearly constant at any one station. The corrected reading is a standard measure of atmospheric pressure and can be compared to similar corrected readings made at any place in the world.

Hormaguilla, a beautifully resonant wood of Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia, is made by the Quechua and Aymara Indians into a remarkable musical instrument, an invention that seems to be an heirloom from prehistoric civilization. The instrument resembles, in principle the xylophone, with the addition under each piece of a sounding box of a size corresponding to the note. Some of the instruments mounted on stands, have as many as forty-five tones, and are played by four or five operators. The tones are not short and sharp like those of the xylophone, but are sustained by the sounding boxes in an organ-like melody.

The reputation of being the driest spot on earth is claimed for Payta, in Peru, a place about five degrees south of the equator on a coast that has risen forty feet in historic times. Professor David G. Fairchild, a recent visitor, reports having reached there in February just after a rain of more than twenty-four hours, the first for eight years. The average interval between two showers is seven years. Sea-fogs are common. Of about nine species of plants noticed, seven were annuals and their seeds must have remained dormant in the ground for eight years. In spite of the lack of rain, the long-rooted Peruvian cotton is grown in the dried-up river-bed, furnishing crops that yield substance to the natives.

### Cork Floors.

Cork, as every one knows, is one of the best non-conductors of heat or sound. That it has not been more widely used in building is due chiefly to the difficulty of obtaining it in an undiluted form. A product called cork tiling has recently been placed upon the market, which is made of what is known to the trade as "virgin cork," ground, compressed and otherwise treated by a patented process, and which is free from the cement and glue usually employed to hold the particles together.

We are informed that tiles made of this pure, compressed cork form an admirable flooring, which, besides being noiseless, waterproof, warm and germ proof, is capable of withstanding hard usage. By varying the degree of compression and modifying the manufacturing process slightly, sheets of cork different in color and density are obtained, which, when sawed and finished in the form of panels, can be used for wainscoting alone, or in connection with cork floors.—Scientific American.

### Their Names Misleading.

It is quite generally known throughout Orange County, New York, that the Goshen Independent Republican is a Democratic paper, while the Goshen Democrat is of the Republican faith. That this fact is not known by everyone is evident by the following from the Independent Republican:

There came into the office of the Independent Republican not long since a gentleman who desired to have his name enrolled upon its list of subscribers. But as the new subscriber took his departure he was moved to remark: "One of the things I have no use for is a Democratic paper." Evidently he had been deceived by the name of the paper. The joke seemed good enough to tell to Brother Will Mead of the Democrat, who chuckled and said: "That's nothing; we've had orders lately for \$2.50 worth of work from a man who said he'd never give a Republican newspaper a cent's worth of work if he could help it."

### Table Mountain.

The ropeway located in the town of Fairport, N. Y., is an important structure 5280 feet long. It consists of fixed ropes on which are drawn to and from with a driving rope, the driving rope being a steel cable. The driving rope is of the twisted rope type, and following the great span of about 800 feet takes a span of 1500 feet projecting rock some 100 feet starting point. Resting at this point, the cable spans a span of 1400 feet to another 3200 feet above the lower ropeway has worked so well that it is not only used for construction of a ropeway, but times used for passenger ropeway.

### Ten Drinkers.

Six hundred and thirty pounds of tea are consumed every day, which gives us, minute, night and day, a year. The tea drunk in a year would make a lake five miles long, one six feet deep.

## CUBA'S BOILED

It's Not Nice When Mixed with the New American. An American who came to Cuba was having with a companion in a drink. The companion, that a tamarind fruit concoction from fruit—the best he had in the country.

"Oh! no," said the "milk is milk anywhere," seltzer and milk. "It's totaler's drink in the drunk it from Maine to."

"Well, have you tried inquired the friend."

"No," said the other, "will just to show you the business."

Thereupon he himself who responded and bring a "Jebe con plain English is a seltzer and milk is the merits clinked glasses who had tackled a fruit took a long pull.

"Spt!" he went for cuspidor.

"Why this milk is claimed. 'It's pretty. It'd make a fellow sick. The milk's all right, but seltzer and milk is the soon as it comes from no other way can it be the lavish use of ice seems similar in effect spheric conditions obtain States during a thunder the good country boys of erally find their milk in hands. Boiled milk in bars and restaurants just as fresh milk as is used for the same first it is rather disagreeable but after becoming accustomed one does not mind, and drink late at night the Cubans generally use panele, a flakey cake of white of an egg, mixed with the boiled taste and the put strengthening. But seltzer in the milk combination makes it taste though it were raw soured.

Another reason for here is the prevalence all kinds, milk being best that it is dangerous raw. The fact that lists among the cattle reason for taking this is both economic and New York Sun.

A French Roadmaker and interests within the development of this country, have taken the manufacture of this application. The road, is giving us the French Army. Twenty engines can provide men, sixty miles. Distances in eight hours also transport fifty weighing twenty-four distance of ten miles. If the Prussians had required to wait three months before getting position for the siege of 960 wagons and over from Metz for the purpose traction engine replaced horses, and 200 or 300 have enabled the German bombardment Paris after the investment evident that in future engines and motor an 'important service.—London

### Character in Red.

Red-haired women vivacious, especially if they have hazel eyes, in which have a bright and quick. They have a great deal of study, and give the same warmth of character much intelligence; bright of a rich, deep color and waving texture, and on the head and somewhat artistic is the signature of Apollo. People with red-locks are very thick, and redder and at the temples than sort of hair gives some painters, force of language in poets, poetry composition.—Woman's

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