

# THE REALM OF FASHION.

New York City.—Yoke waists are much liked, and have the merit of suiting many figures to a nicety. The very charming May Manton model is



WOMAN'S YOKE WAIST.

Illustrated is adapted alike to the entire gown and the odd waist, and to many of the season's materials—batiste, lawn, Swiss muslin, mull and the like, barege velveteen, crepe de Chine, crepe meteor, India silk and similar soft materials. The original is made of white batiste with cream Mechlin lace and beading, the latter run with narrow black velvet ribbon, and is worn with a belt of wider velvet, held by a rose gold clasp and is unlined, but silk and wool materials require the fitted foundation. The lining closes at the centre front for its entire length. The waist proper also closes at the centre below the yoke, separately and invisibly, but the yoke is hooked over at the left shoulder seam and arm-eye. The sleeves are chic and novel. The lower portions, or deep cuffs fit snugly, while above them the tucked material falls free to form soft puffs. To make this waist for a woman of medium size, three and a quarter yards of material twenty-one inches wide, three yards thirty-three inches wide, or one and three-quarter yards forty-

ments, is not to be cheated out of that little bit of comfort by a cape.

**Rolled Slightly on the Left.**  
Many of the summer hats appear to have flat brims rolled slightly on the left side and drooping in correspondence on the right. The conventional mode of elevating the hat at the left is achieved by using a velvet band, sometimes finished with velvet bow and loops. The more elaborate the bow and more numerous the loops and ends, just so much more will the brim roll up on the left. This is done instead of wiring the brim or stitching it up on the left side to the crown.

**A Comfortable Innovation.**  
The shirt waist gown is really a comfortable innovation. There is the shirt waist made as of yore and of genuine shirt waist design, but with it appears a simple little skirt of the same material, and there you have an entire gown that is pretty and serviceable and inexpensive.

**Gown of Rose Crepe.**  
A stunning frock is of pale rose pink crepe metie, cut after the order of things mysterious—that is to say, the folds of the frock loose the lines of the figure ever so slightly and seem to fall from a bolero of beautiful lace studded with pearls and coral. A bordering of the same lace arranged in Greek design makes a charming finish to the hem of the skirt.

**Some Handsome Fans.**  
Flower fans are, and when closed look like a spray of blossoms. Others are handsome little black gauze things, painted with pansies or other flowers, and as the gauze is thick the flowers look rich. Painted with butterflies and peacock's feathers they are particularly handsome.

**Child's Dress.**  
Long waists with short skirts are much in vogue for little girls, and are very charming in their effect. The smart May Manton frock illustrated is designed after the newest ideas, and is peculiarly effective, as it includes a round yoke that suggests the guimpe, while the dress is actually all in one. The original is made of the nansouk



RAGLAN COAT.

four inches wide, will be required, with one and three-quarter yards of all-over lace, eight and a half yards of heading and ten yards of velvet ribbon to trim as illustrated.

**Woman's Raglan Coat.**  
The comfortable loose-fitting coat that entirely covers the gown and protects it from dust is the most serviceable all-round garment for traveling, short jaunts or bad weather that any woman can possess. The stylish May Manton model illustrated in the large drawing is cut in the latest, most approved lines and can be made with or without the applied yoke as preferred. The original is made of light-weight covert cloth, but tweed, cheviot and all the light-weight cloaking materials are appropriate. The back is plain and smooth, hanging in straight lines from the shoulders to the floor. The fronts are loose, but shapely, and turn back to form revers. The sleeves are in raglan style, extending in a point to the neck, and are finished with turn-over plain cuffs. Pockets are inserted in each front and are finished with stitched flaps. To cut this raglan for a woman of medium size four and a half yards of material fifty inches wide will be required, with one-quarter yard of velvet.

**Wide Tops.**  
The crown of the hat gains constantly in dimensions, not in height, but in breadth. Perhaps only the top of the crown is extended, and it may fall away again toward the centre, hour-glass fashion. The top of the crown is excessively wide, extending almost to the edges of the brim. The falling away between crown and brim affords opportunity for the introduction of the soft scarf. It fills in the space, and by reason of excessive width of crown top the scarf trimming is thrown outward, rendering the plateau much more becoming than if the same trimming were recessed.

**Comfortable Golf Capes.**  
These comfortable big golf capes, when they have not simply a little purse made into one under side of the cape, have a chataleina bag fastened underneath at one side. This is made of the same material as the cape, and does not show, while it gives the woman a place to tuck away her handkerchief and car fare. Poor woman, when she is accustomed occasionally to have a pocket in her outdoor gar-

in combination with inserted tucking and needlework frills, and is worn with a sash of blue Liberty ribbon; but any white lawn or batiste, colored washable material or simple wool or silk fabric is entirely suitable. The long waist is made over a body lining that fits smoothly, without being tight. On it is faced the round yoke, and over the lower part are arranged the full portions of the waist proper, and to the lower edge is attached the straight full skirt, which in this instance is made of flouncing. The sleeves are simply full, in guimpe style, and, as shown, the lining is cut away beneath the yoke, but this last is entirely optional. Over the seam which forms the skirt to the waist are arranged a succession of traps or bands beneath which the silk ribbon sash is passed, and which serve to keep it in place. To cut this dress for a girl four years of age, three and a half yards of material twenty-one inches wide, two and three-quarter yards thirty-two inches wide, or two and a quarter yards forty-four inches wide, will be required, with one-quarter yard of all-over tucking for yoke; or one and three-eighth yards of plain material thirty-two inches wide, two and one-eighth yards of flouncing thirteen inches wide for skirt, one and a quarter

yards of embroidered frills, quarter yard of inserted tucking, and three quarter yard of insertion, to make as illustrated.



CHILD'S DRESS.



## THE LINEN SHIRTTWAIST.

Porter's Linen Now Employed in a Delightful Way by the Dressmaker.  
The embroidered shirtwaist of porter's linen needed but to come and be seen to achieve unconditional surrender to its excellence. Porter's linen, by the way, is another example of a plebeian material put to patriarchal uses, for the French skirt makers, observing the fine wearing qualities and good color values of the blue homespun linen blouses worn by the railway porters, promptly began utilizing the stout and simple goods for their patrons' easy little summer waists. The linen, which is woven with an uneven thread and other careless work in order to simulate the inequalities of the handloom, comes in two colors: a pure rich deep blue and a lighter blue that seems to have a white bloom on it. These are called washed and unwashed blues, in imitation of the fine true color the porter's blouse possesses when new and first worn and the effect of water and sun on it after many washings.

With the color and texture the similarity ends. Most of the smart blue linen blouses are enriched with hand needlework, laid over the bosom only or scattered over the entire length and width of the garment. In many instances the collar and belt are made to exactly match. On the expensive waists this needle work decoration serves as a substitute for tucks. Not, however, that tucked shirtwaists are in the least losing their vogue, regiments of pale brown bistre and chambray and madras waists tucked solidly have appeared on the counters. The newest of these are very finely tucked and then embroidered in white, or decorated directly on the tucked surface, with pale cream-colored lace applications, which run over their broad sailor collars and full fronts.

The allbros shirtwaist, that fastens down the back with a row of close set flat pearl buttons, or fastens up the front only from neck to bust, and is put on over the head, has been claimed by the woman who wears short skirts. She prefers it in blue with a black satin Kaiser stock, having the decoration done in applied bands of bright Oriental cotton embroidery. Both the allbros and the cotton embroidery improve under the laundress's hands.—New York Sun.

**The Unselfish Garden.**  
Every unselfish person's garden should have a corner from which to gather flowers for gifts to one's friends, for use in the house and for personal adornment. In such a place one can sow the odds and ends of seed left after sowing the garden beds, and seedlings may be transplanted to it at thinning-out time. Here cuttings from the window garden may be put out to root, and they will flower in due season, thus helping to furnish a greater variety than annuals alone will be able to give. Such a "cut-and-come-again" corner is often the most delightful part of the garden. Among the desirable plants for it which cannot be obtained from seed are hellebores, carnations and tea roses. It will give the woman who loves choice flowers to invest a little money in each of these. They will bloom throughout the season and afford a vast amount of pleasure at small expense. Old plants of carnations are more desirable than young ones. These you have wintered in the house may be used here to good advantage and new ones grown on for next season's use. Hellebores are easily grown from five to ten cents a plant will soon grow to flowering size.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

**Hints to Needle-Women.**  
Never use long basting-threads, especially in the basting of waists, nor think to save time by taking long stitches. Pins should be used plentifully while fitting a garment on the figure, but they should be replaced immediately with regular basting when the garment is removed. The position for hooks or buttons, and for the corresponding eyes or button-holes, should be carefully outlined with thread in preference to marking with pencil or soapstone. When curved seams are to be stitched up on the machine, fine basting—i. e., by means of short stitches—becomes imperative if the seamstress would avoid puckering in her work. If such curved work be around the foot of a skirt, as in the case of a flared ruffle, the hem first should be basted, lightly sponged, and carefully pressed before the stitching is done. The amateur dressmaker is sometimes troubled over a slight bulging at the point of a dart in the skirt or bodice, when otherwise the garment fits most satisfactorily. Generally this may be obtained by lightly sponging the part in question, and pressing with hot iron so that a quick shrinking follows.—Harper's Bazar.

**Raising of Belgium Hares.**  
Two women in Ashburn, Ohio, who started a rabbitry little more than a year ago with three imported Belgium hares, costing \$100 apiece, have now, besides the original three, a hundred others, worth as a whole not less than \$1000. In addition to these they have sold over \$300 worth of stock during the year. In a recent interview one of these women declared that no more delightful occupation than theirs could be found for women. "We feed and water the hares twice a day," she said, "although some authorities think that once is sufficient. We have never had a case of snuffles, snobbers or sneezes in our rabbitry. Keeping track of their pedigree gives us no end of bookkeeping. "Four litters a year, and sometimes six, is the rate at which Belgium hares multiply, and the number of babies in each ranges from five to nine. The price that the animals will bring depends mostly upon age. Full blooded stock is worth from \$10 to \$25 up to

six months old. After that age they bring more."

**Women Have a Darning Club.**  
The women of Centralia, Mo., have organized a darning club. Men's socks are a specialty in their new organization, and it has been denounced as an encouragement to bachelorhood. The officers of the club are the most expert menders and they assist the rest by showing how to mend the worst holes. "She who cannot darn cannot join" is the club's official motto, but exceptions have been made in the interest of unattached sisters and the motto no longer has the force it had at first. Meetings are held fortnightly and the club boasts of having darned 144 pairs of hosiery at a sitting. Members only are admitted to the afternoon sessions, but in the evenings admiring husbands are permitted to attend and to watch their better halves at work. No charge is made for the sock darning and these bachelors of Centralia who expect to live elsewhere in some period in their lives are very anxious that such a useful institution as its darning club shall be imitated as widely as possible.

**Simple Morning Gowns.**  
Morning gowns are most essential now to the comfort of every woman who likes to be well gowned, and by the term "morning gown" is not meant to include matinees, tea gowns, or similar loose flowing garments, but rather trim little costumes of cloth, linen or cambric, as the season may warrant, and made in simple style without elaboration, so that they are equally suitable to be worn in the house or out-of-doors. The simple morning gown for the city should serve for marketing, for household errands, and for other utilitarian purposes; but is not at all like the plain tailor gown, which, of course, is quite feasible for any morning wear out-of-doors. These gowns have, as a rule, waists to match the skirts, although the skirts are made so they may be worn with shirtwaists.—Harper's Bazar.

**Oddities in Ribbon.**  
A new department in narrow ribbons has tiny pin spots all over on white or contrasting grounds, and tubular—that is, woven double. These are intended for cravats, and there is another make in self-colors, fancy woven, recalling matelasse. Odd and new are marbled effects in soft silk ribbons, light blues merging into deeper tones—blues, reds, etc. They are, in fact, reproductions of the old marbled papers that used to appear on the walls of our halls twenty years ago, but very pretty in their new treatment. Pictorial edges figure on many of the new ribbons.

**Queen's Taste in Dress.**  
The beneficial influence upon dress so quietly but powerfully exercised by Queen Alexandra when she was Princess of Wales has been marked in England ever since she set foot upon those shores. She was never known to countenance exaggeration in any form. Balloon sleeves and huge bustles she forbade. But she has taught women the art of looking young and of dressing becomingly—two qualifications toward a lovely appearance that are indissolubly mingled one with the other.

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**FRILLS FASHION.**  
Pretty little coats for children are of grass linen, made up over some color. Color combinations in the new golf gloves, especially in tartans, are strikingly handsome. Large pearl buckles of different designs are the prettiest of anything of the kind for children's coats. White lace, with an applique of pom-pom roses down the centre makes a beautiful trimming for handsome street gowns. Felt outing hats are trimmed, as they have been at other seasons, with soft silk handkerchiefs in brilliant colors, the kumchurans.

**Little lawn jackets for children** are made in colors and have a small yoke. The lower part is pleated and secured to the yoke by a banding of white. The gold embroidered veil is the latest novelty. A border showing lines of gold or a pattern carried out in tinsel thread is supplemented by gold spots on the plain net. As the fad for going about bare-headed in the country will undoubtedly be followed this year, much care will naturally be taken in dressing the hair. All sorts of fancy bows and combs will be used for this purpose. Apple green glace silk tucked all over and worn with a deep sailor collar or of white hand-embroidered mull is about the prettiest; thing a pale blonde could wear. A deep glidie of pink satin liberty should accompany this waist. A simple and serviceable long cape, which is longer in the back than in the front, sloping up slightly, is of black tulle, lined with white, and simply attached with white. It is a little more than knee length, and a garment which would be useful for many purposes. Chief among the accessories of the toilet at the moment are waist bands. Some are most artistic, made of colored stones inserted in wrought filigree silver or gold. Others are in wonderful enamel linked together, with fascinating chains, while metal belts of every kind will be used.

**The Largest Ship in the World.**  
The Celtic weighs 20,700 tons, the Park Row building, only 20,000 tons. She measures 700 feet, only nine feet longer than the Great Eastern, but will draw eleven feet more water. She will carry 2742 passengers and crew, and 12,000 tons of cargo. She will draw too much water to come into New York harbor when loaded to the masts. She has two decks, and the captain's bridge is 100 feet above the keel. She is one-fourth larger than the Oceanic, hitherto the biggest ship.—New York Journal.

## LONGEVITY'S MYSTERY.

SEEKING THE FORCE THAT CAUSES ALL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.

**Longevity in Men and Animals—Conditions Upon Which Life Depends—Facts of the Mystery—Who Are Short Lived—Rapid Development a Misace.**  
In a paper read by Dr. Carleton S. Moon, the President of the Hundred Year Club, at its annual meeting, he said: Longevity depends upon: 1, vital energy; 2, physical condition of various organs; 3, expenditures, physical, mental and generative; 4, recuperation and repairment. The first, that of vital energy, or the essential principle of life, is a mystery that requires solving. In the words of Huxley, it is the law of nature when working through organized matter. It is not soul, for that is a spiritual, intangible thing. Vital force is material. It is a condition and a priority that overreaches in importance all other studies. A great many scientific experiments have lately been undertaken which may throw new light upon this fascinating subject. We are upon the eve, the threshold, of a marvelous discovery that lays bare this wonderful power that sits behind the throne of all physical activity. To illustrate this wonderful basic principle of life I desire to call your attention to certain facts beyond dispute in a Liberty County, New York State, in short time ago, a gentleman in digging for a well upon a hill dug to thirteen feet of earth, when solid rock was reached. Seventeen feet of this rock was blasted away, and at the very last blast, thirty feet from the surface of the earth, incased in solid rock, eniched, was found a frog alive. This is authentic and is duly attested by witnesses. This frog must have been entombed for over 30,000 years, alive, and aside from the marvelous fact of the solitude of the ages, entombed alone. What marvelous force must be behind it to hold and stay decay!

The stoppage of circulation is death. This seems true when applied to human life. When applied to amphibious life this does not hold true, for the frog may be frozen solid, every drop of his blood frozen; thaw him out and he is still alive. This is also true of many fishes. The study of ordinary laws, now known and apparent, in answer to the question of longevity, is directed to laws of economy which are compensatory. These have been studied, experiments and researches extending into all parts of the biological world have been made, and my general deductions are the following: Structural quality of size seems to be significant in value as a guide to longevity in animals and plants. It would seem as if the initial impulse of inherent vital energy, upon which all life depends for its causation, was so abundantly inherited as to be over and above that used up in resisting disease and decay, and that such surplusage of vital force, having no other use, gave impetus to growth and increased structural strength. Rapid development presages rapid decay. Rapid growth also produces immature development. That which implies quick construction also implies less intricate structure. When applied to life it means less organic development. In short, early reproductive capability is the rule to a short life. It is the rule in nature's realm that small organization, great or early reproduction power and short life are allied. Nature in this way seems to take care of its various species, for animals that are short lived are enabled to propagate more in order to reproduce rapidly that which time so quickly removes. A few striking examples will bear out this fact in the animal and vegetable kingdoms:

**Mammals:**  
Elephant—Extreme age, 200 years. Fecundity, one birth at a time.  
Greenland Whale—Extreme age, 250 years. Fecundity, every few years.  
Rabbit—Extreme age, eight years. Fecundity, seven litters per year; average, eight in a litter.  
Cat—Extreme age, eighteen years. Fecundity, several litters per year; average, four per litter.  
Fish:  
Pike—Extreme age, 207 years. Fecundity, unknown. (Size of one mentioned by Yarrel weighed 350 pounds, and was nineteen feet long.)  
Herring—Extreme age, four years. Fecundity, countless thousands yearly.  
Oviparous animals:  
Ostrich—Extreme age, 120 years. Fecundity, few eggs yearly. Sun perching in hot climate the function of sitting in six weeks.  
Dove—Extreme age, ten years. Fecundity, almost continuously. Sits upon eggs ten days.  
Plants:  
The Sequoia gigantea in California measures ninety-nine feet in circumference and is 300 feet high; age per figures, 430 years.

Very many annual and biennial living in strength, small in size, illustrate the rule of large organic structure and late life holds good when applied to the human race. Our centenarians were not all large men; some were only of medium stature; some below it. Still, the rule of organic structure, as found in animals, will be borne out in the human family. Not essentially when viewed in a single example, but truly so when the rule is applied to the class they sprung from collectively. It is the order of the species we must study, not an isolated specimen, but it is only by an average that the fact becomes pronounced. Thus we have nations of small stature who are short lived. These I have divided into three groupings:  
Group "A"—Races smallest sized men and women and short lived: Eskimo, Mongol, Burmese, Siamese, Japanese, Jukagurites, Korikais, Bengalese, Javanese, Malays, Hottentots.  
Group "B"—Races moderate sized men and women and longer lived: Chinese (South race), Georgians, Arabs, Turks, Syrians, Egyptians, Italians, Spaniards, French.  
Group "C"—Races largest sized men and women and longest lived: Chinese (Tartar race), Scandinavians, English, Russians, Finns, Bulgarians, Irish, Scotch, Germans, Albanians.

**JEFFERSON AS AN INVENTOR.**  
Opposed to Patents, He Gave to the World Many Proofs of His Ingenuity.  
Thomas Jefferson was himself an inventor, but, consistent in his belief in the natural right of all mankind to share useful improvements without restraint, he never applied for a patent. His first original device was a folding chair, which he used to carry to church in early days, when services were held in the court house at Charlottesville and the seating conveniences were insufficient. His grandson tells us how he would "mount his horse early in the morning during the latter years of his life, center down the mountain and across the country to the site of the university and spend a long day there, directing the work, carrying with him a walking stick of his own invention, now familiar to all, composed of three sticks, which, being spread out and covered with a piece of cloth, made a tolerable seat." Mr. Bacon, his overseer, in his reminiscences says: "His servants came with him and brought a seat, a kind of camp stool of his own invention. After Mr. Jefferson got old and feeble a servant used to go with him and carry that stool so that he could sit down while he was waiting for anybody, or attending to any work that was going on."

He invented the revolving chair, now a familiar and necessary article of furniture in all offices and counting rooms. The Federalist newspapers used to call it "Mr. Jefferson's whirl-gig," and declared that he had devised it "so as to look all ways at once." He also designed a light wagon, or sulky, with a comfortable seat and two wheels, with which he drove around the country when he was too feeble to ride horseback. Mr. Jefferson invented the copying press. He writes to Mr. Madison in 1787: "Having a great desire to have a portable copying machine, and having studied over some experiments with the principle of large machines made to apply in the smaller one, I planned one in England and had it made. It answers perfectly. I have set a workman to making them, and they are of such demand that he has his hands full. I send you one. You must expect to make many essays before you succeed perfectly. A soft brush like a shaving brush is more successful than a sponge." He also sent a copying press to the Marquis de Lafayette as a present. Another of his inventions was a hemp break, which he says "has long been wanted by the cultivators of hemp, and as soon as I can speak of its effect with certainty I shall describe it anonymously in the public papers, in order to forestall the prevention of its use by some interloping patentee."

He invented a pedometer to measure the distance he walked. He sent one to James Madison, with the following explanatory letter: "To the loop at the bottom of it you must sew a tape, and at the other end of the tape a small hook. Cut a little hole in the bottom of your left watch pocket, pass the hook and tape through it, and down between the breeches and fix the hook on the edge of your knee band, an inch from the knee buckle, then hook the instrument itself by a swivel hook, on the upper edge of your watch pocket. Your tape being adjusted in length, your steps will be exactly measured by the instrument." His most important invention was a plow. Mr. Bacon, his overseer, says: "He was very ingenious. He invented a plow that was considered a great improvement on any that had ever been used. He got a great many premiums and medals for it. He planned his own carriage, buildings, gardens and fences, and many other things. He was nearly always busy upon some plan or model." Jefferson's plow received a gold medal in France in 1790. During his European tour he had seen the plow with the waste of power caused by the bad construction of the plows in common use. The part of the plow called the "mouldboard," which is above the share and turns over the earth, seemed to him the chief seat of error, and he spent many of the leisure hours of his last two years in France in evolving a mouldboard which should offer the minimum of resistance. He sent the original design to the Royal Agricultural Society of the Seine. The medal which they awarded for it followed the inventor to New York, and eighteen years afterward the society sent him a superb plow containing his improvement.—Chicago Record-Herald.

**Greatest Book Buyers Are Lawyers.**  
The best and most steady customers of the second-hand book dealers are lawyers. That has been the fact as far back as anybody can remember. Rufus Choate was always buying books, and especially on Saturday. He left a library of 50,000 volumes. Joseph Choate, his nephew, has proved in past years an excellent patron of the second-hand dealers when they had anything rare in stock to show him. In Brooklyn, Henry C. Murphy, the lawyer and politician, collected more than 40,000 volumes, purchased from his heirs as a nucleus of the Historical Society's library of that borough. William E. Everts was a large buyer. Charles O'Connor was also mentioned as a collector. With the exception of Henry Ward Beecher and the late Dr. R. S. Storrs, the other physicians are not counted. Nor are the politicians. The mercantile class is reckoned on to absorb any large edition of a popular novel which is much talked about. Mechanics and workmen buy works treating of practical subjects.—New York Post.

## INSIDE JAPAN.

**Dislike the Illustration.**  
Superintendent Bright takes exception to a brightly colored chart in use in country schools which represents the farmer as a painfully moving grass with a scythe at \$18 a month, while opposite an elegantly dressed clerk costs a bolt of gingham to a beautiful young lady at \$40 a month and another city clerk below keeps books on a little mahogany desk at \$200 a month. Mr. Bright objects that the chart conveys a false idea, for the farmer, who really does his mowing by machinery, gets board and lodging with his \$10, while the dapper clerk has to pay \$30.50 a month out of his \$40 for board, lodging and car fare. Also the business houses which are looking for bright young men to keep books at \$200 a month, carefully keep their wants out of the small "ad" columns of the newspapers. The only defense of the chart is that it is calculated to "make pupils think." This is true. It will make them think that the authorities which display the chart have something the matter with their intellects. It is rather odd that so much energy is devoted to making pupils think when very likely a small part of the same energy directed to the desirable end of making the educators think would have a much better result.—Chicago News.

**Remarkable Power.**  
A dear old lady was taken one day to a musical service in a Boston church. She had heard much about the fine voice of the soprano and was prepared for a treat. She sat in rapt enjoyment until the service was over, and then turned a radiant face toward her escort, who was a young grandson. "Dear boy," she said, "you've given me a great treat. Her voice is perfectly beautiful. It made cold chills run all up and down my spine." "It's too bad, grandmamma," said the boy, "but she didn't sing to-day, though she was there. The gentleman next me says she's been suffering from a bad cold, and one of the chorists had to sing the solos for her." "What, dear?" said the old lady, looking momentarily distressed. Then her face cleared, and she patted his arm reassuringly. "Never you mind," she said. "We can come again some time; but after all, if she can make me feel that way without singing, I don't know as 'twould be wise for me to hear her, now would it?"—Youth's Companion.

**American Ways in Jamaica.**  
When you arrive at your hotel in Kingston, Jamaica—and here it may be remarked that the town contains but one hotel worthy of the name—you are at once made aware that the establishment is conducted "on the American plan," says a correspondent in the London Daily Mail. The guide book says so, and the inevitable Saturday water confirms the statement. Out side, on Harbor street, the fine system of electric trams makes you as an Englishman blush to the hat brim. Call a "bus"—it is a buggy of the American pattern—and drive to the railway station, and once more the handwork and enterprise of the Americans are in evidence, for the engine is of United States design and the cars are of the same make. One is, therefore, not surprised to learn that an American started the railway business in Jamaica and eventually sold out at a handsome figure to the government of the colony.

**The Biggest Watermelon.**  
Here is the record-breaking watermelon of the United States. It was raised last season in Colorado, in the Rocky Ford region, on the farm of former State Senator Ewenk. It is nearly five feet in length, three feet in circumference, and it weighs 350 pounds. The melon was the giant of a large patch grown for the market. The soil in the Rocky Ford Valley is naturally adapted to the prolific growth of the melon, and when aided by some special fertilizing agent to productiveness is considerably increased, thereby yielding astonishing results. One of the great occasions of the year in Rocky Ford is the annual watermelon day. This occurs in the height of the watermelon season, and is attended by hundreds of cultivators. After the prizes have been awarded the fruit is cut open and a general feast follows.—Kansas City Star.

**An Automatic Ticket Machine.**  
Recent experiments by railway officials in Berne with an automatic ticket machine, invented by a Swiss, have given entire satisfaction, says a Berne correspondent. The machine is similar to the ordinary automatic machines, but the glass cases contain the tickets on which are printed the names of the stations and the price of the ticket. By dropping in the right amount and pulling a handle the "ticket" is set free. The machinery is so well constructed that an insufficient sum of money or any base coins will not work the spring, and there is no danger of the purchaser losing the whole amount.