

FACTS AND FANCIES FOR THE FAIR



New York City.—Dainty waists, with square yoke effects and narrow open fronts, are much in vogue and are charming, both as odd bodices and

To cut this gown for a woman of medium size eleven yards of material twenty-one inches wide, nine and one-half yards twenty-seven inches wide, seven and one-quarter yards thirty-two inches wide or five and one-half yards forty-four inches wide will be required, with one-half yard tucking for yoke and one and three-quarter yards twenty-one inches wide, two and seven-eighths yards forty-four inches wide for trim.



Selvage Strappings. Slazgy zibelines and camel's hair cloth are made up for "day suits." If you are a trifle weary of starchings as a decoration, the alternative is at hand. The selvages are torn off carefully to serve as strappings and are far more stylish than any other piece of slazgy material could possibly be. It can be used vertically to emphasize skirt seams, or as a heading for the fitted flounce. The selvage strips are often covered with several rows of material stitching, but they are quite as handsome when plain. If used as a strapping.

Something Lovely in Fur. Could anything in furs be lovelier than a bolero of seal with waistcoat and undersleeves of ermine? The bolero is rather long, even in the back, and in front extends in tabs a little below the waist line. The ermine waistcoat is slightly bloused over a fitted belt of black panne velvet with wrought steel clasp.

A Timely Tip. A tip for you. An inch-wide stitched band like the bodice is much more becoming when a contrasting waist and skirt are worn, as a belt to match the skirt makes one look so much shorter-waisted.

Colors of the New Waists. The newest waist in an amethyst, cedar green, Pompeian red, mahogany, russet, oyster and amber.

Woman's Shirt Waist or Blouse. Tasteful shirt waists are in constant demand. Each new design finds its place and creates its own vogue. This extremely pretty model by May Manton is one of the latest and includes several novel features. As shown it is of French grey dog-skin flannel with the narrow front of white, but both plain and figured flannels, all waist cloths and silks are appropriate.



STYLISH TEA GOWN.

face, but these may be omitted and the sleeves made plain when preferred as shown in the small view of back. To cut this waist for a woman of medium size three and five-eighths yards of material twenty-one inches wide, two and five-eighths yards twenty-seven inches wide, or one and five-eighths yards forty-four inches wide will be required, with one and one-eighth yards of all-over lace for plastron, collar and puffs.

while the design is suited also to the unbuttoned waist lengths. The fitted lining closes at the centre front and terminates at the waist line. On it are arranged the portions of the waist proper. The fronts are laid in two tucks at each shoulder, that extend to yoke depth and are then left free to form soft fulness over the bust. The narrow vest portion is plain and is caught by the buttons to the right side and buttoned into place at the left. The backs are tucked from shoulders to waist and give the desired effect but are arranged overdrifted lining, the lower edges of which are flared to form cuffs. At the neck is a stock composed of the grey with front of white that closes, with the front at the left side. To cut this waist for a woman of medium size three and five-eighths yards of material twenty-one inches wide, three and one-half yards twenty-seven inches wide or one and seven-eighths yards forty-four inches wide will be required, with five-eighths yard of narrow front, cuffs and front of collar when contrasting color is used.



FASTEFUL SHIRT WAIST.

The foundation is a fitted lining that extends to the waist line only, onto which the yoke is faced and to which the portions of the gown are attached. The gown itself is cut with loose, flowing fronts, under-arm gores that outline the figure and a back that is laid in inverted pleats to give a Watteau effect. The upper edges of the back are finished with revers. Bolero fronts that are softly draped from the under-arm seam to the centre-front have revers that roll over at the upper edge and meet those of the back at the shoulders. The sleeves are in bishop style with deep pointed bell cuffs, and at the neck is a turn-over collar.

FARM AND GARDEN.

Results of Careful Selection of Seed. The importance of good seed cannot be too strongly urged. A grower of wheat in several years' experiments found that it paid well to hand-pick his seed wheat. The first year he planted seven and a half pounds of hand-picked wheat on one acre in rows eighteen inches apart, and at harvest he threshed out sixty-seven bushels. The next year the yield was seventy-two bushels, using a little more seed. On a trial row he planted seventy-six extra fine kernels of seed (weighing forty-five grains), and the product was ten and a quarter pounds, or at the rate of 100 bushels of wheat per acre. The experiments were made many years ago by Professor Blount, of the Colorado Experiment Station, the seed being in rows eighteen inches apart, and twelve inches apart in the rows, a wheel hoe being used for cultivating between the rows. In Belgium all seeds are carefully hand-picked and the wheat crop cultivated, with the result that from sixty to seventy-five bushels of wheat per acre may be found on nearly all farms.



When the Buckle is Gone. The accompanying illustrations show how to join the ends of the driving reins together when the buckle has been lost. With a pocket knife cut the end of each rein, as shown at a, then by slipping the extreme end of each through the tack-shaped opening of the other, a reasonably firm union is effected. The necessity of always keeping the reins fastened together cannot be too strongly emphasized. If a horse becomes frightened, and on rein is dropped, there is no possible way of recovering it, if it is not fastened to the other. Many a runaway has resulted from a failure to observe this precaution.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Best Time to Move Bees. The best time to move bees is in the early winter before the weather has been cold enough to make the combs brittle so that they will break in handling, or in a warm day near the spring before the bees begin to fly out. Thus it follows that one who buys bees should have those times to move them. If they are moved in the summer the combs are liable to melt down, and if in the honey season, unless taken several miles, the old bees are likely to return to the old location when they take their first flight. Some claim to prevent this by keeping them in the hive about twenty-four hours after moving and then demitting on the hive before the entrance is opened, and thus leading them to fly out and around the hive before they take a longer flight, thus noting the hive and its surroundings while in search for the one who disturbed them. The closing of the entrance is best done with wire netting which allows of ventilation. Move with as little jar or shaking of the hive as possible.

Added Stable Room. The illustrations show the elevation of the ordinary farm barn, and also the floor plan, as it appears when the addition that is shown has been built to give increased room for the accommodation of cow, or other stalls. The addition is across one end of the barn, each end projecting to form an open manure shed. The shed on the left hand can be boarded in and used for calves or other young stock, or for a place to store tools and farm machines if desired. The shed on the right is convenient to both lines of stalls, the manure being hauled out to the shed each day. Such an addition costs but little, having a simple shed roof, and furnishes added room that is often exceedingly valuable—the extra stalls, and the covered place in which to store the manure.—American Agriculturist.



ELEVATION OF THE BARN. The illustrations show the elevation of the ordinary farm barn, and also the floor plan, as it appears when the addition that is shown has been built to give increased room for the accommodation of cow, or other stalls. The addition is across one end of the barn, each end projecting to form an open manure shed. The shed on the left hand can be boarded in and used for calves or other young stock, or for a place to store tools and farm machines if desired. The shed on the right is convenient to both lines of stalls, the manure being hauled out to the shed each day. Such an addition costs but little, having a simple shed roof, and furnishes added room that is often exceedingly valuable—the extra stalls, and the covered place in which to store the manure.—American Agriculturist.

Use and Value of Cut Green Bones. What the silo has done for the dairyman the green-bone cutter is doing for the poultryman. Each in his field has solved the problem of supplying a food that will be eagerly relished, and will force production at a season when nature is against us, and at a minimum of cost. The important constituent of animal food for poultry is protein, which produces flesh and feathers and the albumen of the egg. When given a free range the fowls will supply themselves with animal food by catching bugs and worms when they are obtainable. The trouble is, nature does not always supply this food in sufficient quantities even in summer, and during the winter months it is not to be had at all. Some seasons there will be plenty of grasshoppers and crickets, and after a shower the ground will be covered with angle-worms, but during a dry season worms are scarce, and if the grasshoppers fail to appear, the poultryman must supply something to take their place. Nothing answers this purpose as well as green bone.

Fresh bones contain a large percentage of protein. The same can be said of the several brands of meat meal on the market, but the fresh product is more palatable, more wholesome, easier to feed and cheaper. Hens have to acquire a taste for meat meal. It sometimes takes several days to get them accustomed to eating the mixed feed containing it. In all my experience as a poultry-raiser I never saw the hen or chick that looked twice before eating fresh-cut bone. Meat meal is liable to become tainted before use, especially in hot weather. It is sometimes made of scraps and refuse that have reached such a stage of ripeness that no poultryman who caters to first-class trade would think of feeding it. If fed in too large quantities, the strong odor which always accompanies it is likely to impart a disagreeable odor to the eggs or flesh. There are several good, pure brands of meat meal on the market, and they are certainly better than no animal food at all, but are to fresh green bone waste dried beef is to beefsteak. Feed the meat when you cannot get bones.

Fresh bone is easier to feed. It does not have to be mixed with ground feed and stirred up with water, but can be fed just as it comes from the mill, and may be scattered in the litter, thus affording exercise for the hens in searching for it. Every year more poultrymen are giving up the use of ground feed and are giving a whole grain diet, reducing the work of feeding considerably. The green bone can be cut in less time than it takes to mix soft feed.

The cost of bones for a small flock is generally nothing; the butcher will supply them. When a large quantity is used they can be obtained from the large butcher shops and slaughter houses at a very moderate price. No matter what the price is, nothing will start hens laying and keep them at it, or make young chicks grow large frames and feather out well, hasten the moult or fit a bird for the show pen, like fresh-cut green bone, when fed in conjunction with a proper grain, grit and green-fool ration.—J. Franklin Hillier, in The County Gentleman.

Progress in Farming. Farmers are becoming more progressive and are also beginning to work on more scientific lines. At many of the experiment stations the sons of farmers are taking special courses in agriculture, with the result that they become largely instrumental in improving farm methods in their communities when they return to their homes. The period has passed for the expressions of contempt for the theoretical farmer, as theory and practice have demonstrated by actual tests that no advance can be made by practical effort alone. The theoretical farmer may have been lacking in skill when handling the plow or in the use of other implements, and his theories may also have failed, but he aimed for something better and became an educator of others. The most progressive agriculturists are those who are not satisfied with present methods. They are willing to experiment, to learn and to teach, and they bring into the community better breeds, improved fruits and superior varieties of grasses, grains and vegetables. Some of them have gone into bankruptcy because of unwise expenditure in their efforts to do more than others, but they left their neighbors better off and also better supplied with live stock and more fertile farms.

No farmer can progress unless he is willing to study and learn. In all occupations education is considered essential to success. The farmer of to-day who maintains that only practical farming is worthy of his consideration, and who believes that his sons can learn all that is necessary about farming on the farm itself, daily witnesses the sons of those outside of farming deriving knowledge at institutes in which instruction in mechanics is imparted. The best engineers, machinists and wood workers endeavor to enter their sons in schools or colleges at which they can be taught all that is possible from a theoretical standpoint. The farmer has kept himself back by his opposition to theoretical farming, the "book farmer" being, to him, one utterly destitute of knowing anything except to expend his money foolishly in the effort to accomplish an impossibility. The farmer, however, is a close observer of operations, for, while he will not become a pioneer and give no encouragement to those working outside of practical lines, he quickly secures the benefits derived through the efforts of the experimenter. Of course all farmers are not alike, for many of them are progressive, but many prefer to wait for developments, and when they become convinced that a change in their methods of farming is necessary will accept the inevitable and endeavor to improve.

The class known as "breeders" has made many sacrifices in the effort to improve the breeds of live stock, the greatest obstacle to progress being the indifference of farmers. But the breeders went on with their work, every year witnessing an advance in the improvement of horses, cattle, sheep and swine. Records were made and live stock went up in prices. Where before an animal was sold at only a nominal sum prices rose ten or a hundred fold. While the farmers were oblivious to the work of the breeders the latter class was making rapid headway. To-day hundreds of farmers are breeders, and their farms are operated on the most scientific methods known. The result of the combination of practice and theory has increased the value of live stock in the United States to thousands where formerly the figures were given in hundreds, while the increase in the yields of crops has been very marked. What is more important, however, is that the fertility of the farms is now much greater than before. "Abandoned" farms are fewer, "worn out" soils are brought again under cultivation, a larger and more selected variety of fruits has been introduced and the general condition of the farmer has been greatly improved.

Much of the advance made by the farming class is due to the heretofore despised theoretical farmer, who has always led the way, even if years were required after his decease to demonstrate that he was right, though during his time unsuccessful and unfortunate.—Philadelphia Record.

WOMAN'S REALM. The grandmother may not have disappeared altogether, but her outward and visible signs have changed enough to make her very different from what she used to be. The woman of fifty today looks as little like the ideas formerly entertained of that age as she wants to. If the ideal of thirty years ago is in her mind she may look like an old woman. If she prefers to follow the mode of the day she may look as young as the dressmakers and her own natural condition will enable her to appear. And this youthfulness will not attract the least attention. If her hair be without a suspicion of gray and her figure slim that will be no more unexpected than the youthfulness of her dress; and the woman of fifty may now dress like the woman of thirty and still observe the best standards of taste. She may even dye her hair without committing any such transgression of the laws of taste as she would have been guilty of several years ago. Even if she dyes it yellow she will be criticised no more sharply than the woman of thirty would if she did the same thing. Now middle age has the privileges of youth and is at liberty to keep itself as attractive looking as possible. The woman of fifty is not to be put among the aged nowadays because she happens to have accumulated a certain number of years and has become a grandmother. She is not for that reason to be counted among the women who are forbidden to think of their looks or to attend to their appearances further than to see to it that their white caps are coquetishly trimmed with ribbons and their black dresses free from wrinkles. It used to be a foregone conclusion that they would be wrinkled themselves whether their gowns were or not. The woman of fifty enjoys her present privileges so much that it is a wonder that she could ever have reconciled herself to the old ideas. Whether the liberality that is shown now toward the woman of this age will be extended to those still her senior remains to be seen. It is certain that nobody supposed twenty years ago that the women of fifty would ever look as they do to-day, or would be able to dress with taste and propriety in the styles that they adopt to-day. So this new view may be extended to take another and older class.



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which was the simplification of turquoise. Mourning rings were the modish thing, and carnelian ones had fine favor with the masses, while carnelian seals, together with padlocks in gold and silver, swung from watch chains and ribbons, and so did much-wrought watch keys. Children born with gold spoons in their mouths were decked out with watches and chains and lockets—in one case to the number of six lockets set with pearls and emeralds.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Women as Inventors. As inventors women have long been to the fore, and numerous instances could be given of women who have invented articles which have placed them in comfortable circumstances. Women inventors occupy all ranks of society, from the poor, struggling working women to the Empress of the French, who invented the dress improver which years since developed into the then fashionable crinolines. The woman who patented the improved baby carriage made \$50,000, while a young girl living at Port Elizabeth, South Africa, devised a simple toilet requisite from which she derived an income of \$500 a year. The wife of a clergyman invented an improved corset, which was the means of making her independently rich. It was a woman's inventive power that produced the paper bag making machine. Another clever woman is responsible for the wonderful device for deadening the sound of car wheels on the overhead railway. Women have perhaps more often figured as the instigators of inventions than as inventors. The machine by which the Brothers Morely made their great fortune was invented by Rev. William Lee, who was an eminent fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, England. The story of his life is pathetic. He fell in love with an innkeeper's daughter and married her, which action soon deprived him of his fellowship. He was soon reduced to extreme poverty. His wife halted stockings for a living, and Lee, sitting by her side as she worked, watched the intricate movements of her hands, and was thus led to speculate on the possibility of constructing a machine which would do the work more expeditiously. Lee, however, unfortunately came to grief, owing to the machine being regarded as a device for throwing people out of work, and he died poor and friendless, a broken-hearted man.—Chicago Record-Herald.

In Black and Gold. A shoulder collar of silk or velvet is apt to show the latest touch of daintiness in the border of tiny, hand-embroidered black and gold stars. The stars are small and not very close together. Therefore they are more conspicuous than if arranged close together. The same decoration is applied to the border of the neat taller cuffs, but not elsewhere on empacements of the costume, unless you reckon the tiny cluster of three hand-embroidered stars placed rather low down on the stock collar, beneath the chin.

Tabs in Variety. Keeping tabs on modern customs is quite a task, since tabs in some form are likely to appear in any of them. Little tabs of velvet may peep coquetically down over big ones of lace. Buttons hold them down on street dresses, while the tailor-mades give no chance for duty shirking by simply stitching them down all round. As already noted, even hat-brims are held up by the ubiquitous tab, and the equally ubiquitous button.

Tell the Cook. That the fresh color of green vegetables may be retained by cooking them in an uncovered saucepan. That a little vinegar added to the water in which salt fish are cooked will improve their flavor. That croquettes will go to pieces unless the fat in which they are cooked is positively boiling. That the fat for frying doughnuts, etc., may be tested by dropping in it a piece of bread. If the bread browns instantly the fat is of the proper temperature. That the success of economical cooking depends greatly upon the seasoning and flavoring of the dish.

Handsomest Hat Plus are of enamel. Plaid strappings on zibeline are considered chic. Buttons and buckles of gun metal and steel are used on the newest traveling coats. Panned velvet is frequently to be seen on children's coats. It is soft and youthful in effect. Large flowered velvets in bright colors are used in some stocks, which are very attractive. An English fancy is the pleated quilt, either plain, embossed or picked out in brown lace yokes work. The low collared collure is much more generally adopted in Paris and London than on this side of the water. More stylish cloth skirts are made with a separate drop skirt of silk than with a lining sewed in with the outside fabric. Slippers are pretty with buckles of double circles of gems or dull gold, through which the ribbon is run twice and tied in a bow above. On some coats of fur jeweled belts are to be seen, but without exception they are ugly and tawdry. The more simple the lines of a fur garment the better as a rule. More attractive than the leaves is a spray of orchids for the same purpose. There is a cluster of the mauve orchids, to place, say, on the shoulder, and a spray of gray-green leaves and more orchids to carry down the front of the bodice. One of the most charming of stocks has the red chiffon covering it without a fold, and around the lower edge is the tie which forms a bow with broad ends at the front. The ends to this tie are finished with dots in the shade of diamonds in black. Jeweled trimmings afford opportunity for new effects. A dinner gown which has the top of the corage finished with jeweled trimming is worn with a jeweled dog collar, while a couple of jeweled chains are draped from the collar in front to the corage. Muffs are taking to themselves additional ornaments, and one in black chiffon has two bunches of violets, with the foliage, upon it. One cluster of the flowers is at the top on the right side of the muff, and at the lower edge on the left side, at the beginning of the deep end fringe.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS:



TIPS ON FURNISHING. The Newest Ideas That Make For the Beautification of the Home. Oriental effects have been in vogue for house furnishings so long that there has been several attempts to relegate them to obscurity and substitute something else. With little success, however, as far as couches and their furnishings are concerned, and from present indications Oriental divans, couches, pillows, etc., will be in style for some time to come. The usual height for a screen has hitherto been five feet, but the newest ones shown are six feet. These new six-footers have had a very favorable reception, and are the correct thing at present. A new idea in curtains shows an effect that has not been seen in this field for many a long year. This new stuff has a mercurized mesh, with a raised figure of chenille upon it. The effect is quite striking and attractive. A recent oddity in divans was draped entirely in pyro-etched leather, showing scenes from history and famous plays. It was too costly and not proportionately attractive to become generally popular. The fad for brass candlesticks for ornamental purposes seems to have no end. Those best liked are very exact reproductions of old-time shapes and when their tall slenderness appears in a pair arranged on mantel or dressing case suggests most effectively the taste and days of our great grandmothers. For polishing old mahogany or oak furniture one "in the know" suggests the palm of the hand and so-called "elbow grease" as the very best polisher, the natural warmth and oil of the hand being quite sufficient to produce a smooth and as shining a surface as fashion decrees now. The open-beam ceiling is growing more and more the proper thing for living room, den, dining room, etc. These beams are usually stained or painted like the woodwork of the room. An awfully effective color scheme used by one of our most exclusive decorators for the living room of the house of one of our smart set had dark green wainscoting, doors, etc., and yellow walls, and then the beams were painted green. Far better to remove objectionable pieces of furniture and have a sparsely furnished room than to retain pieces out of keeping and that offend the eye. Counter-panes of cretonne or old-time flowered glazed clintz, with bolster rolls to match, are very smart, but many women still adhere to the pure white bed in spite of fashion. Pillow shams are quite out of date as a bed dressing, pillows now being out of sight during the day.—Philadelphia Record.

NEWEST FASHIONS. The handsomest hat plus are of enamel. Plaid strappings on zibeline are considered chic. Buttons and buckles of gun metal and steel are used on the newest traveling coats. Panned velvet is frequently to be seen on children's coats. It is soft and youthful in effect. Large flowered velvets in bright colors are used in some stocks, which are very attractive. An English fancy is the pleated quilt, either plain, embossed or picked out in brown lace yokes work. The low collared collure is much more generally adopted in Paris and London than on this side of the water. More stylish cloth skirts are made with a separate drop skirt of silk than with a lining sewed in with the outside fabric. Slippers are pretty with buckles of double circles of gems or dull gold, through which the ribbon is run twice and tied in a bow above. On some coats of fur jeweled belts are to be seen, but without exception they are ugly and tawdry. The more simple the lines of a fur garment the better as a rule. More attractive than the leaves is a spray of orchids for the same purpose. There is a cluster of the mauve orchids, to place, say, on the shoulder, and a spray of gray-green leaves and more orchids to carry down the front of the bodice. One of the most charming of stocks has the red chiffon covering it without a fold, and around the lower edge is the tie which forms a bow with broad ends at the front. The ends to this tie are finished with dots in the shade of diamonds in black. Jeweled trimmings afford opportunity for new effects. A dinner gown which has the top of the corage finished with jeweled trimming is worn with a jeweled dog collar, while a couple of jeweled chains are draped from the collar in front to the corage. Muffs are taking to themselves additional ornaments, and one in black chiffon has two bunches of violets, with the foliage, upon it. One cluster of the flowers is at the top on the right side of the muff, and at the lower edge on the left side, at the beginning of the deep end fringe.

HOUSEHOLD RECIPES. Grape Pickle—Pick sound grapes from the stems without breaking them and put them in a jar. For every seven pounds of the fruit allow a quart of vinegar, three pounds of brown sugar and a tablespoonful of whole cloves and stick cinnamon, boil together for a few minutes, and when cold enough to bear putting the finger in pour over the uncooked grapes. Cover jar with a saucer and do not disturb for two or three weeks. Fried Corn Meal Muffins—Mix one pint of sifted Indian meal with one-half teaspoonful of salt and one tablespoonful of sugar; pour upon this gradually one pint of boiling water, beat well, cover and set away till morning. In the morning add two well beaten eggs and beat the mixture thoroughly; dip a tablespoonful in cold milk and with the wet spoon dip the batter by the spoonful and fry in boiling lard. Turn each only once while cooking. Rough Rider Pie—Take a large cupful of chopped cooked meat, any kind, a small egg of boiled rice, one hard boiled egg chopped fine, a tablespoonful of melted butter, one teaspoonful of dry mustard, half-teaspoonful of salt, a dash of cayenne pepper, a teaspoonful of celery salt, a tablespoonful of cracked crumbs, add a supply of stock or warm water; mix thoroughly. Put in a well greased baking dish, cover the top with slices of cornbread that have been soaked in cracked crumbs, dot each slice with butter and bake thirty-five minutes. This recipe is original and is splendid.