

GOWNS IN SEASON.

WHAT LEAP YEAR IS PRODUCING IN WOMAN'S GARMENTS.

Happy Combinations in Materials for a Basque Waist for Women and a Misses' Norfolk Basque—Cape Collar and Muff.

ILLUMINATED serge in a stylish mixture of golden brown and delft blue is charmingly combined with brown velvet in the two-column illustration. The attractive-looking waist is provided with glove-fitting linings that close in centre front, the fullness of the material being disposed in overlapping plaits of the lower edges on front and back. The fronts are slashed in "V"

The quantity of 44-inch wide material required to make this basque for a miss twelve years old is 3 yards; for a fourteen-year-old size is 3 1/2 yards; for a sixteen-year-old size is 4 yards.

LINING OF SLEEVES.

All sleeves are lined with stiff and crackling material, and when in theatre or opera house, the audience arises to go and a thousand obedient escorts tuck 2000 sleeves into the sleeves of wraps the crackling thereof drowns the orchestra.

LADIES' CAPE COLLAR AND MUFF.

This stylish cape collar and muff, in Marie Antoinette style, is here pictured in ermine fur, but astrakhan, plush, velvet and cloth are the materials usually selected to make up

WEIGHS 715 POUNDS.

Leo Whitton, With a Seven-Foot Waist, Claims to Be the Fattest Man.

"The fattest man in America" is the way in which Leo Whitton announces himself. Up to a year ago Leo had been growing broader, rounder and more uncomfortable for the past thirty-seven years. He weighs 715 pounds. Daniel Lambert, the Norfolk giant, tipped the beam at 729 pounds, scoring the world's record.

Mr. Whitton had only just arrived



LEO WHITTON.

in town when he was met by a Recorder reporter yesterday. In appearance he is remarkably like Grover Cleveland.

Whitton's tremendous girth is not so apparent when he stands, but when he sits he is startling. His measurements are: Height, 5 feet 10 inches; neck, 26 inches; biceps, 28 inches; chest, 6 feet; waist, 7 feet; thigh, 49 inches; calf, 26 inches. He comes of a stock noted for fleshiness. He was born in Northumberland County, Ontario, Canada, of English parents. Up till the age of twenty-one years he worked on the farm at home. Then he went into the butcher business at Brighton, Ont., which he attended to up to three years ago, when his extraordinary girth rendered it impossible for him to handle the chopper.

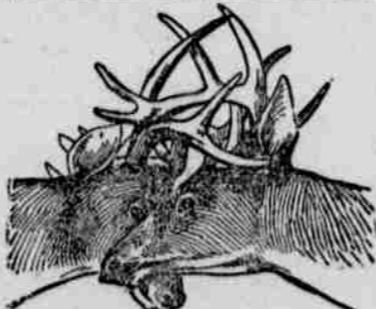
When asked if he had endeavored to avoid growing so fat Mr. Whitton replied that he had tried all remedies. He has never tasted alcoholic drinks in his life. He loses from ten to fifteen pounds during the summer, but does not feel much relief from the loss. In winter he regains the amount that was missing. He is married to an average-sized woman, and has five children, the eldest of whom is seventeen years old. None of them shows any signs of abnormal stoutness.—New York Recorder.

INTERLOCKED ANTLERS.

Curious and Valuable Trophy of a Michigan Hunter.

In a taxidermist's window in Madison street a pair of antlers of deer heads are displayed. The taxidermist says they form the greatest curiosity ever seen in that line. The antlers are interlocked, and, he says, it is the only pair in existence with the heads well preserved. Other pairs of antlers have been found tangled together but he says it was after the animals to which they belonged had long been dead and nothing but the whitened skeletons remained. The theory has always been that the animals had died thus fighting. The deer of which this exhibit originally formed a part were discovered in combat, and with their horns inseparably tangled.

H. L. Brown, of Albion, Mich., was hunting near Bismarck, North Dakota, November 15 last, when he came upon two Virginia deer bucks locked in a mortal tangle. How long they had been thus he could not say, but it must have been some time, because they had plowed up about two acres of ground in their struggle. They could not run away and Mr. Brown ended their



DEER WITH HORNS IN DEADLOCK.

struggle by shooting them. He cut off the heads and sent them to this city to have them mounted as he found them. N. Slotkin, the taxidermist who prepared them, says the horns could only be untangled by breaking them or loosening them from the skull, and this was never done, so they remain as the hunter found them.

The deer were young bucks of about the same age, probably two years old. The taxidermist said if they had been mounted full figure they would have been worth more than \$5000. As they are now, he says, the pair of heads is worth \$500. They belong to the man who killed them, and who will keep them as a trophy of his rare good luck as a sportsman.—Chicago Chronicle.

Deaf and Dumb Couple Converted.

It seems to be a striking compliment to fervent eloquence, or some other peculiar power of persuasion, that among the converts made by a revivalist at Tekonah, Minn., recently, were two deaf and dumb persons, a man and his wife.—New York Sun.

"HEAD, BODY AND LEGS."

A Winter Night's Game That Will Afford Amusement.

Good games, the Washington Pathfinder thinks, are always worth knowing about, especially those innocent winter-night games that, with their funny consequences, offer such real relief from the day's cares. No one wants to make a business of playing games, but the greatest minds are not above simple diversions, nay, they must have them. One of the best pastimes of the kind is the old English game of "Head, Body and Legs," the origin of which is lost in the past.

Get a slip of brown paper about two inches wide and four inches long, say. Let the first player draw at the top of the slip a head, using only the upper third of the paper. This head may be that of any imaginable or unimaginable creature. If its something mongrel and absurd it's all the funnier. The first player then folds the paper down so as to cover up what he has drawn, but leaving the neck extending just below the fold. He then passes the slip on to the next player, who in turn draws a body on the middle third of the paper, joining it to the neck and then folding the paper just so as to leave enough of the body showing to indicate where the legs should join on. A third player then adds legs and feet to the strange being, to suit his fancy. It will add to the fun to have a fourth player name the portrait.

Finally the paper is unfolded. To say the least the company will be surprised at the queer composite. It may be that the head and the legs will disagree over the direction the creature is supposed to be fronting. Oftentimes one of the members will be so out of proportion with the rest as to make the whole effect very ludicrous. The best way to see the possibilities of the game is to try it. You needn't be an artist to make a success of it, since the most awkward hand will frequently produce the most laughable results. The combinations may not always be so comical, but out of half a dozen



TRILET. THE NEW WOMAN.

trials there are sure to be several roaring successes.

When there is quite a company assembled each may be given a piece of paper and a pencil; each draw a head; fold the paper; pass to the next; then each draw a body; fold; pass; then each draw legs; fold; pass, and the next name it. In this way all those present will be occupied in the sport, and the larger variety of portraits will increase the entertainment.

"Respect Old Age."

The Rochester (N. Y.) Union tells of a seven-year-old boy of that city who recently got even with his governor. She was obliged to punish him, after which she administered a solemn sermon for the youngster's benefit. "Now, Willie," she said, in concluding the lecture, "you must remember this—that at all times you should respect your teacher." "Yes'm," sobbed Willie; "I s'pose I'd ought to respect you on account of your age."

Moving a House by Water.

A remarkable feat of engineering has just been successfully accomplished by a Pacific coast firm. An attorney named Ernest Sevier is the owner of a two-story house at Arcata, twelve miles from Eureka. Owing to a decline in the value of property at Arcata Sevier determined to have the house moved to Eureka, where he intended having it set up on some land that he owned.

A firm of contractors undertook to remove the house intact and set it up, uninjured, for the sum of \$1200. In case it was unfit for occupancy upon its arrival they were to receive the dwelling as their compensation.

The trip was made principally by water. To remove the house to the edge of the bay was the first difficulty to be overcome, as it necessitated taking the building over a large dyke and a marsh. This was accomplished satisfactorily and the house was transferred to two railroad lighters that had been lashed together in readiness for the trip.

The journey by water was completed with the aid of a tug without accident, and an immense crowd assembled at Eureka to welcome the strange craft.

Amid the cheers of the spectators and the tooting of steam whistles the



THE HOUSE AFLOAT.

lighters were made fast and the house transferred to land once more. It was a comparatively easy matter to convey it to its new site and the strange engineering feat was accomplished without any more damage being done to the house than a slight cracking of the plaster.

SPONGE FISHING.

A THRIVING INDUSTRY OFF THE FLORIDA COAST.

Hundreds of Men at Work—Searching for the Sponges in a Sailing Vessel—Methods Employed in Other Places.

TIM SCANLAN, with his back to the stove in a warehouse on the river, was telling the group of lake sailors how he had fished for sponges off the Florida Keys.

"You see, boys," said he, "you stick your head in a bucket over the side of the dingy, and you can see the sponges hard fast to the bottom. Then you put down your hook and haul away, and get a beauty."

"How can you see through a bucket, Tim?" asked one of his friends. "Because, d'y'e see, the bucket has a glass bottom to it, and that's no lie. When the light is on the water you can't see below the top, can you, because the water is a sort of a looking-glass, but you can see under water, unless you are blind, if you keep your eyes open. So what do those chaps do but clap a piece of glass in the bottom of a bucket after knocking out the wood, and then they stick their heads in the buckets, with the bails around their necks, and shove the buckets until the glass is under water, and they can see down ten fathoms or more."

"I mind the time when I was sail-



SPONGE FISHING OFF THE FLORIDA COAST.

ing on a frunter in the Mediterranean, seeing some Greeks diving for sponges," said another sailor. "But they dived, they did, and did not fish with hooks. They carried a full diver's outfit with them, pump and all, and the diver was let down over the side and filled his basket with the nasty things."

Then Tim, who had been a sponge fisher for more than a year, spun his yarn. Said he:

"We worked the fishing grounds just off Anclote Keys, moving from there to Cedar Keys, and we worked in from three to six fathoms. Some of the finest sponges in the world come from that coast and hundreds of men are worked there. We coasted up and down in a thirty-ton schooner-rigged craft, with a broad beam and drawing but little water. We carried ten men, including the cook, and four dingies, which, you know, are small yawls. Two men to a dingy was the way we were told off, one to skull and one to hook. The dingies were eighteen feet long and five feet beam, light and strong. They are made light because two men handle them, and they must be strong and seaworthy because we worked sometimes in a heavy sea.

"The sculling notch was to one side of the centre of the stern, and it was cut in the end of a short bit of plank which could be taken off if it was in the way. The sponge hooks are made of iron, have three prongs and are curved. They are about six inches wide, and a long pole fits into the socket. One man, as I said, sculled the boat slowly along, and the other hunted for the sponges. He used the sponge glass and motioned to the man in the stern to go this or that way. When he saw a good sponge he shoved the hook down over it and fastening the prongs of the hook in it pulled it from the bottom and into the boat.

"When we got a boat load we sculled to the schooner, and the sponges were piled up on the deck until the 'gurry' ran out of them. The



LOOKING FOR SPONGES.

dried-up sponges that are sold in the drug stores are the skeletons of the sponges. When they are pulled from the water they are covered with a glue-like stuff and filled with slimy matter. This slimy matter is the gurry and the sponges are kept on the deck until this gurry runs away. Sometimes they are kept aboard two days, and the man who cannot work in a small which is worse than any down at the stock yards will never be able to make a living fishing for sponges.

"But you get used to it in time, and you get so you can tell just when the sponges should be taken to the sponge crawls. A sponge crawl is made by staking out a space about twelve feet square in shallow water. The partly cured sponges are put to soak in the crawl and are beaten with clubs and thus washed out. The water of the crawl is only two or three feet deep,

found, the old method of diving is and the men who wash them use flat clubs. Then they are taken out, strung on strings, packed in bales and sold. Sometimes sponges are bleached. That makes them white, but hurts the sponge.

"The sheep wool sponge is the best sponge. It is soft, just like velvet, and strong. Sheep wool sponges are sold for bath sponges, but most of them are used for washing carriages. The yellow sponge is a good sponge, but it is not so soft and strong as the sheep wool, and the grass sponge is poorest and cheapest."

The sponge belongs to one of the lowest orders of animal life. Its skeleton is a strong fibrous substance, and the animal part of it is a gelatinous matter which fills the pores and covers the entire surface. If this matter is not removed within a few hours after the sponge has been torn from the rock or stones to which it was fastened it is almost impossible to purify it. The hooking or harpooning methods used in the Florida and Cuban fishing grounds are useless when the sponges lie in deep water.

In some parts of the Mediterranean Sea, where very fine sponges are used. The diver fastens a stone to his feet and with a long rope in his hand goes down feet first. Some divers can remain under water for three minutes at a time. They snatch the sponges from the bottom, working rapidly as possible. If lucky the diver fills the little basket he carries, tugs hard at the rope and is drawn to the surface.

Another method employed in sponge-fishing is dredging. The dredge is a strong, heavy net, from six to eight yards long and about one yard high. It is made of hair cords, with the meshes about four inches square. This is dragged along the bottom by a rope attached to the bowsprit of a small sailing vessel. As it passes over the bottom it tears the sponges from their anchorage and they fall into the net.

Of late years divers clad in armor have become common off the Greek coast. They descend in thirty and forty fathoms and bring up the finest surgeon, nursery and toilet sponges and rare cup sponges. After the sponges are brought to the land they are buried in sand and kept there until they are decomposed. Then they are washed in a running stream of fresh water, carefully dried and packed in bales for the market. If the sponges are not perfectly dry when packed they are liable to catch the "cholera," which means that they become heated and are discolored with orange colored blotches.

The demand for fine sponges always exceeds the supply, and some particularly fine cup sponges have brought \$100 a dozen. The prices of Florida sponges have doubled in the last twenty years, and sponge experts declare that they will be still more expensive. As sponges are sold by weight, dishonest dealers frequently fill the sponges with sand to increase the weight, but this practice is dying out. The practical value of the sponge lies in its great absorbing capacity and also is due to the fact that water softens the tissues until they become soft and pliable. Although sponges are found in all tropical or semi-tropical waters, the commercial sponges are confined almost exclusively to the waters of the southern and western coast of Florida, the Bahaman archipelago and to the Mediterranean and Red Seas. The sponges, as they are found in their native waters, vary in form; some are cup or vase shaped, others half round, others globular, some are fan-shaped and some cylindrical.

The Sawdust Industry.

A growing industry in this city is the sawdust business. There are at least five hundred men who make a living selling sawdust. They have invested a capital of over two hundred thousand dollars and are now doing a business of \$2,000,000 annually. Forty years ago the lumber mills here were glad to have sawdust carted away; twenty-five years ago it could be bought for fifty cents a load; now it brings \$3.50 a load at the mills. It is used in hotels, eating houses, groceries and other business places. It is wet and spread over the floor in order to make the sweeping cleaner work. Plumbers use it a great deal about pipes and buildings to deaden the walls and floors. Soda water men and packers of glass and small articles of every kind use it, and dolls are stuffed with it.—New York Advertiser.

The Hammerless Gun.

A corporation to manufacture a new hammerless gun, the invention of a young mechanic, is being formed in Baltimore. The look is the new feature of the invention, and is said to be simple and strong. The gun will also be provided with two sets of barrels, one set choke bored and the other the plain cylinder pattern, with no increase in price.—New York Telegram.



LADIES' BASQUE WAIST.

shape from shoulders to bust, exposing facings of velvet placed on the lining, the edges being finished with the sequin trimming. A long "V"-shaped vest is exposed between the front edges, the vest being sewed to the lining on the right and hooked invisibly over on the left. The stock collar ends in loops at the back, two Paquin points of velvet, edged with sequins, flaring widely apart in front. A roll of velvet with broad tie bow at the back finished the lower edge of basque. The fashionable gigot sleeves have the fullness disposed in close gathers at the top, two burnous loops falling gracefully on each side. Many handsome combinations of different fabrics or coloring can be effected by the mode, ample scope being allowed for decoration, for mourning goods crepe or crepon, dull jet or passementerie furnishing the trimming.

The quantity of 44-inch wide material required to make this basque for a woman having a 33-inch bust measure is 4 yards; for a 33-inch, 3 1/2 yards; for a 34-inch size, 3 1/2 yards.

these comfortable accessories for ordinary wear, an edging of fur being a desirable finish. The cape collar is shaped in eight bored sections, a facing being provided for the inside of the high flaring collar. A stiff, warm interlining is necessary with a pretty silk lining, as the cape ripples in rounded outline over the shoulders, and is of uniform depth, front and back. The round muff and lining are



joined and drawn on their edges with an elastic in a casing, cotton being used to stuff it warmly between the lining and the outside. The pattern will be found of value in remodeling old-fashioned fur capes, and great expense is saved when this can be done at home. These cape collars can be worn over basques, jackets, coats, and will impart a stylish and comfortable air to the plainest top garment.

The quantity of 27-inch wide ma-

MISSSES' NORFOLK BASQUE.

Illustrated serge in brown and tan velvety combined with golden brown velvet, making the stylish basque pictured in the second large cut deservedly popular for school, cycling, best or general wear. The adjustment is glove-fitting to the waist line, below which it falls with a slight ripple to fashionable length over the hips, the box-plaits being graded and

applied from the shoulders and the centre of fronts and back to lower edge of basque. Two styles of collar are provided, a high close-fitting collar and a low-out revers collar, both of which are made of velvet. A belt of velvet is worn around the waist. The fashionable full mandolin sleeves are shaped in three sections, each seam being piped with velvet. The top is gathered and arranged over comfortable linings, the wrists being finished with a velvet piping. Simple in construction and dressy in effect, this style of basque requires neither decoration or trimming, and can be made all of one material, if so desired. Overlaid, serge, camel's hair, vicuna, covert and ladies' cloth and all materials of smooth and rough-faced cuttings in plaid, striped, mixed or checked designs develop stylishly by the mode.



MISSSES' NORFOLK BASQUE OF SERGE AND VELVET.

terial required to make the collar for a medium size is 2 1/2 yards; to make the muff, 1/2 yards.

GOWNS AND EYES.

A famous dressmaker has ventured on a new idea. Let the bright sunlight shine directly in your eyes, and the predominant color discerned therein will be the color to choose for a gown, irrespective of hair or complexion, when you wish to look most bewitchingly and becomingly arrayed. In brown eyes shines a sort of grayish blue, in blue eyes a watery azure, and in certain eyes a greenish shade. However, all the tints are purchasable, and, with the promised results, there is no reason not to be beautiful.

The flake of rock coons is the cake made from the ground seeds.