



Every bit of viment that milady puts on nowadays buttons. Hooks and eyes seem to be a thing of yesterday. Fur coats button up snugly for frosty days, while jainty frocks are buttoned down the back like the wee schoolgirl's. The fashion began in the summer when skirts appeared buttoned all the way down the back. Now more intricate effects are indulged in, and only in a very few cases do the buttons really button.

Very small gilt buttons, or buttons of crochet, enamel or of shaded velvet or silk serve admirably, catching together in the most approved fashion (tabs of cloth), braid or any suitable material or trimming. There's no limit to what one may do, providing the lines show an acquaintance with the rules of fashion and the effect is good.

**A Strapped Costume.**

Some of the most effective tailor-made gowns exhibit elaborate strapings as the sole trimming, usually of cloth of slightly different tint, and texture from that of which the gown is fashioned. For instance, tweed or zibeline costumes are strapped with plain cloth matching the prevailing powder blue line tweed flecked with a lighter shade and strapped with plain powder blue face cloth. The vertical strapping on the skirt is particularly becoming to a short figure, as it increases the apparent height, and the smart little coat has quite short fronts and small semi-circular basques at sides and back, produced by cleverly arranged strapping. The sleeves are strapped in corresponding fashion and are short enough to display the full puffed sleeves of the silk blouse slip worn under the coat.

**When Baby Learns to Walk.**

Babies must not be encouraged to stand upon their feet until nature prompts them to do so, for if trained to walk at too early a stage the weight of the fat little bodies upon legs whose bones are yet comparatively plastic and inefficient in endurance, will have a very ugly and unhealthy result.

While the bones are tender and impressionable, it is highly important that no bad habits should be allowed which are likely to affect the figure afterward. A cot that is too short will induce a child to draw up its legs and maintain its knees in a bent attitude that is afterward hard to overcome. One of the most important gymnastics taught by all teachers of calisthenics is that which has for its object the straightening of the knees. It is a well known gymnastic, the body being bent forward from the waist while the fingers tips endeavor to touch the ground, the knees remaining rigid. Straight knees help to an erect carriage and to affording the figure the full value of its inches.

In the matter of education, the physical as well as the intellectual pursuits should be considered essential, and they should receive special care; but no gymnastics should be taught until the child is five years old. Babies, however, should be allowed to perform any gymnastics that inspire them while lying in their cots, for the more they exercise their little limbs the better, and their beauty in after life is due in a measure to the care they receive during the days of infancy.—American Queen.

**Winter Hats.**

Picturesque in the extreme are the advance styles of winter hats. The only danger is that too much of the picturesque in any fashion may do away with what is really suitable and becoming. Among the new hats it is noticeable that while the favorite style is the shape that is worn down over the face, the hat that shows the hair is becoming more and more in demand all the time, and even the perfectly flat-crowned hats or the hats with very small crowns, which in the hand look quite shapeless, have inside bands that lift them up a little from the head so that the front and side hair is shown. Large hats are still much more fashionable than small ones, so that it is really a difficult matter to get a pretty small hat any more, while the smart little French bonnet, which some women wear almost invariably, now, has to be made to order.

Every season the fashions show more and more that individual tastes and individual looks are to be consulted in head-gear. One shape may be becoming to the majority of faces, and is consequently dubbed the leading style, and is of course copied in various modified designs, all built on the same principles; but each hat is altered to suit each wearer. Those women to whom the large flat hat is becoming have a wide choice this year in felt, velvet, and shaggy beavers, trimmed with rosettes of velvet or satin and ostrich feathers, for ostrich feathers are just as much in favor as ever. The different shades of brown trimmed with dark brown velvet or satin, and brown feathers, are more fashionable than the gray, but the gray is worn also; while for extreme style at the present moment may be noticed the white felt or beaver hat trimmed all in white, thus repeating the craze for white that has prevailed all summer.—Harper's Bazar.

**Women Succeed as Farmers.**

It is an axiom that in America nothing is sacred to man, and especially is

this true in the industrial world. The restless energy of the women has invaded every field of labor; even that monarch of independence, the American farmer, will no more hold undisturbed sway in his dominions. The woman as a farmer began, says the secretary of the national convention of farmers, which has just been held in Georgia, with the athletic girl. And while it is not just the thing any more to be big and husky and brown, to be strong and strenuous is still an aim, and if the lady who runs a farm becomes the fashion, men may look forward to a race of modern Athanasias.

Mrs. Virginia C. Meredith, professor of home economics of the Minnesota School of Agriculture, who has been an active farmer for 20 years, regards the future of the American woman farmer as a brilliant one, and says that a glance at the census statistics already shows hundreds of women listed as farmers.

"The work is ideal, and contrary to the opinion of the uninitiated majority, eminently feminine," says Mrs. Meredith. "Why feminine? Because farming means infinite detail, and every woman, however unintelligent otherwise, possesses a genius for detail. Then it gives her a home, a thing almost impossible to secure in the very start, at least in most fields of feminine labor, and most important of all, she meets not with opposition, but with chivalrous co-operation from the men in the business. Sir Charles Dudley, an eminent Englishman, writing of the American, says that the distinguishing thing about the farmer is their respect for women. We women who have made farming our business can gladly vouch for that."

"Another idea, now nearly exploded, however, is that a woman would find it difficult, if not impossible, to get men to work for her. For my part, I who am both housekeeper and farmer, could sooner and more easily hire 20 farm hands than one servant girl. I think this due partly to the fact that men who work on farms know that they receive better treatment as a rule when in the employ of women."

"As regards the profits in the business, both my friends and myself can testify that farming pays. Other women I know are doing just as well. Some of them are married women, who, having inherited farms, are running them successfully, and without any aid from their husbands, either. Miss Gertrude Norrish, of Hastings, Minn., a cultivated and highly educated woman whom I know, is making a brilliant success as a farmer. Other young women are running farms in partnership with their fathers; and do their advertising under the heading of Mr. and Mrs. Blank."

"The girls here while they are not taking full courses in the agricultural department, are many of them taking courses in dairying and the feeding of cattle, enough to illumine the business of farming at least."

"Of the hundreds of women now working in cities from whom I receive letters asking for information on farming and the kind of farming that pays best, I invariably advise stock farming. It is the most profitable, as well as the highest kind of farming, and women, most of whom possess a germ of the maternal instinct, are especially fitted for it."—Minneapolis Journal.

**FASHION NOTES**

Long drop earrings are in vogue again. Pleat-edged ribbon is once again the vogue. Ribbon flowers decorate both hair and bodice this season.

Perpendicular strapings full over the tucked circular blouse of one pretty chameleon taffeta petticoat.

Fur-lined garments of all kinds are smart, and the light cloth coats lined with fur are to be fashionable this year.

Brocaded silk mixed with gold threads is used for incrustations on velvet gowns and finished around with the silk cord, which is very often pure white.

Dark chiffons are being used for evening dresses made up over light or brocaded silks. The effect is unusual, but pretty, where harmonious colors are chosen.

A jeweled girdle is now part of every well-appointed tea gown, and this is fastened well below the waist, so as to give a most exaggerated long-waisted appearance.

The velvet tailor gown, fashioned from plain or dotted material in black, Czarina blue, moss green or brown, is by far the most attractive street costume of the season.

White broadcloth and white homespun are both made up into the most attractive gowns for theatre wear, and much or little colored embroidery is one of the modes of decoration.

French knots are quite as popular as ever and they appear in a variety of sizes, one of which is a loose, long knot which is made by putting the thread around the needle more times than is usual, and taking the second stitch a little way from the first one so the shape of the knot when finished, is very much like the loop made for hoods.

The triple skirt shows itself more frequently as the season advances. Another skirt considered very smart is made in six sections, each one cut circular and widening to a generous flare in the lower portion, which, with the top one, is richest of all, the four remaining ones being graduated in width. The edges are finished with a stitched band.



**Trenching.**  
Trenching is done in Ireland in this manner: Remove the top soil from a strip one yard wide and a foot deep; then spade the subsoil well and spread plenty of manure over it; throw the top soil from the next row on the surface soil of the first, and sow for seed until the whole plot has been trenched. It will produce heavy crops for several years.

**Care of Small Pigs.**

Let the small, weak pigs of the litter stay with their mother for two weeks after the large ones are weaned. The increased supply of milk will make them grow very rapidly, so that in a few weeks they will often surpass the largest and best of the litter. In this way small weak pigs that would otherwise not pay for their keeping can be made to become large and thrifty hogs.

**The Soring of Milk.**

The soring of milk is caused by bacteria which are in the dirt on the cow's udder, milker's pails, pails, stainer and cans, and in the dust in the air. Under favorable conditions these bacteria double every 20 minutes, and a single germ in a pan of warm milk increases to 8 germs in an hour, 64 in two hours, 4096 in four hours, and at the end of 12 hours, if the growth is unchecked, it will require 11 figures to write the number of bacteria springing from a single germ. With careless milking 500,000 germs have been found in a cubic inch of fresh milk.

**Green Food for Winter Layers.**

It is absolutely essential that hens should have some kind of green food during the winter months. Aside from the food that sustains the physical form, a bulky kind is necessary; and this is supplied by green food, or clover hay.

A succession of grains followed by vegetables will round out the months when natural vegetation is not possible.

Oats sowed in August or September will serve for the month of November, while rye sowed at the same time will furnish the green food until February or March. Oftentimes when snow covers the ground or rain prevents their going out doors, vegetables should be given them—cabbage, beets, potatoes and turnips will all be relished and can be had at practically no cost.

Clover hay is very good for hens and should be given them at least twice a week. Cut it in inch lengths and seal with boiling hot water and stir in corn meal and shorts to make a crumbly mess. When cool feed to the hens, but never until late in the evening. Let the full meal be given after the day's work is done.—Home and Farm.

**Utilizing Water Supply on Farm.**

A farmer in this country makes the best use of his spring that I have ever seen. It lies across the road and below the house. The stream is diverted at the edge of the spring. One-half runs through the springhouse, cooling the milk. The waste runs through the poultry house then flows down a dozen feet to a large box in which cans are set to cool the milk for the creamery. The other half is led to a ram, which feeds as an underground pipe, to a tank in the dwelling for the boiler, bathroom, kitchen and laundry.

A pipe from the house tank carries the overflow to the stable, where the horses are watered without taking them out of doors. From the horse trough it flows underground about 15 feet to a trough under the overshoot of the barn, where the cattle are turned out to drink in the barnyard. Again the overflow goes underground and comes up in a tub in the sheep stable. Here the waste goes underground and is discharged below the barn. There are many farmers in this country who have just as good natural advantages.

When traveling in New Jersey I saw a use made of a stream that I have never seen elsewhere. The road skirted near the base of a long, low, unbroken hill. About every one-quarter mile a farmhouse lay between the road and the hill. At the head of the valley was an exceedingly strong spring, so elevated that the water could be led in a mill race along the side of the hill, above the line of houses. From this race the water is carried to each house by an elevated trough or pipe, and is used instead of a dog to drive the churn. An agreement was made when each family was to use the power. There is many a populous country road where concerted action would furnish similar, or even better power.—J. C. M. Johnston, in New England Homestead.

**Poultry on the Farm.**

There are few farms on which poultry is kept that the fowls receive the attention they should have, therefore the poultry business, when combined with general farming, is too often a failure. A few progressive farmers, however, are beginning to realize that chickens, well selected and cared for, are the best paying stock on the farm. If the farmer thinks it would look "small" for him to turn his attention to poultry raising, then let him encourage some other member of his household to go into the business right—that is, give a little substantial encouragement in the way of funds with which to purchase pure-bred

fowls or eggs from some reliable breeder. Next in order comes the houses. If one begins on a small scale (which is always the best plan) the cost of the houses will be but a trifle if built in an economical manner. Never have chickens and other fowls, such as ducks and geese, in the same house or on the same range. Small chicken houses, built on the colony plan, will cost less and give better satisfaction than a large one. The corner of a pasture field or meadow is an excellent location for the houses, the number to be increased as the flocks increase; built on high, well drained ground and if possible a few rods from a running brook. A house built 10x10 will be large enough for 20 to 25 hens. No males should be kept with them except during the time when eggs are wanted for hatching purposes. The houses may be built 4x6-inch sills, so they can be moved with ease. A 10x10-foot house, seven feet high in front and five feet in the rear, should not cost over \$15 aside from the labor. Rough boards will answer very well for the outside; the inside should be battened and papered with tarred paper. Each house should have three windows and a ventilator on the roof. Felt may be used for roofing, but the writer prefers shingle roofs. Four or five of these houses will accommodate all the fowls a farmer would wish to keep unless he intended going into the poultry business on a large scale. The breeding pen may be built the same as the other houses, but should be nearer the farm buildings. One breeding pen will doubtless supply all the eggs needed for an ordinary farm.—Aldie Gordon, in The Epitomist.

**Business Ways Best.**  
What to plant as a profitable crop for next year requires good judgment and a knowledge of the transactions in farm products for this year. It is possible for farmers who keep a close watch on the markets, compare reports of prices and arrive at a conclusion in regard to the operations for next season, so far as the selection of crops is concerned. The farmer may not be able to anticipate the amount of production of any kind of crop, the acreage, rainfall, etc., but he will know more than the one who puts in his crops blindly, without observing what has been occurring during the year. There are many matters of interest to farmers, which they do not observe, and yet there is no class that should be more careful in being at all times informed than farmers. Business men are always alert. They know the conditions of all the markets in the country, the average prices for the year, the visible supply on hand from the previous year, the yields in other countries, and they even carefully estimate the quantity of any article required for the next year. The one who produces the crops—the farmer—who should be equally as well informed, is negligent in that respect, and does not improve his opportunities. Intelligence is as potent in agriculture as in the mercantile pursuits, the condition of the farmer largely depending upon his management of the farm and the marketing of his crops.

It is a custom among farmers to always attempt to supply that which was in demand the previous year, but which was lacking, and in that respect they work with more unanimity than in any other line. If the potato crop is short one year the area devoted to potatoes will nearly always be increased the following year, and if there is an over production of any particular crop farmers will abandon it for the one that was short. Such a course on the part of the farmers appears as a wise one to pursue, but experience shows that it is where one of the gravest mistakes is made. In the growing of wheat, which has a world-wide market, the farmer has some advantages, but in the growing of perishable crops he must sell quickly or suffer a loss. The policy to be pursued should be to grow those crops which are likely to be short the coming year. An old fruit grower, who nearly always had something to sell when prices were high, gave as his reason for growing so fortunate the following: "I always plant those crops that others reduce or leave off, because, as they lessen the area and the yields, the following crops will be correspondingly smaller." His rule, therefore, when a crop—for instance, strawberries—is abundant and prices low, was to make strawberries his main crop the next year because others will leave them out.

When a crop is heavy one year it is usually much smaller the next, because low prices drive many farmers to the growing of some crop that was scarce, and as nearly all of them will usually be of the same opinion the result will be an over-production. Like a mob, all rush to the point of success willingly, but not being organized or using judgment the very thing that should be avoided is just what happens. But there is one line of action which every farmer can safely follow as an individual, and without regard to what other farmers may do, and that is to grow all products of the best quality, shipping to market in the most attractive form, and gaining, by higher prices for special excellence, that which may be lost by an over-stocked market. There is no such thing as a "fixed price" for any kind of an article, simply because there is such a thing as quality and no two articles are alike. Buyers will seek the best, and willingly pay an extra price therefor, because the "best" never reaches perfection and is always scarce; hence improvements can be made every year. Study the markets and compare prices every year and larger profits will be made.—Philadelphia Record.

**HOUSEHOLD HINTS**



**A Beautiful Screen.**  
A beautiful and not especially expensive screen is one of the attractions in a woman's studio. The frame is plain, dark wood, with a dull finish. The filling is made of India print curtains, stretched plainly, with almost no fullness. The curtains are cut out to fit the spaces, no attention being paid to the patterns, which adds to the quaintness of the effect.

**An Attractive Idea.**

An attractive and utilitarian idea that is a decided addition, besides a saving to any chamber where there isn't a stationary washstand, is a wide banner splasher mounted behind the washstand. These are of sheer white muslin or madras that may be laundered often and easily, shirred on a brass rod, the rod suspended by a ribbon to match the color scheme of the room. It should be sufficiently wide to cover the wall behind both stand and jar and extend fully 18 inches above the stand, falling to the top of the baseboard. The effect of this ample, voluminous drapery is airy and graceful.

**Arrangement of the Parlor.**

The arrangement of a parlor has always seemed to me to involve questions having a certain ethical value since, if a parlor means anything, it means a place in which man's relations with his fellows may be carried on—those relations in which all suggestions of business or of a professional character are for the time being dropped.

Thus you not only want to provide a seat for your neighbor who drops in to see you, but you want to make that seat comfortable. You also want to refresh his eye with agreeable objects as he sits there, shielding it from the glaring lights and so arranging your other belongings that his vision, tempted to roam while he waits, does not come plump upon some ugly object in another room.

You must never, by the way, forget the art of the visual line, as it were. Landscape artists and architects study it, and the mistresses of the household never loses sight of it. Chairs and sofas and tables should be pulled about, tried in one place and another until an effect is reached.

As your possessions increase, too, you must be ready to move things again, even those which until that moment have always seemed to you "exactly right."

The coming of a new picture into an apartment sometimes means the entire rearrangement of all the rooms, since everything else may be thrown out of key. But if your picture be worth anything it is certainly worth the trouble you may take in bringing the rest of your belongings into right relations with it. No one, however, who loves good pictures is unwilling to do this.—New York News.



**HOUSEHOLD RECIPES**

**Pumpkin Pudding**—Stew the pumpkin till tender and quite dry. Rub it perfectly smooth. To one quart of pumpkin add one pound of sugar, a lump of butter, one quart of milk, the beaten yolk of three eggs and cinnamon to flavor. Beat all together thoroughly; line a pudding dish with a rich crust, pour in the pumpkin and bake in a moderately hot oven.

**Scones**—Mix and sift together two cupfuls of sifted flour; level teaspoonful of baking powder, half a teaspoonful of salt, rub in the flour with the tips of the fingers four level tablespoonfuls of butter, then add two beaten eggs and one-third cup of cream; toss on a floured board; roll three-fourths of an inch thick, cut in squares, brush with white of egg; sprinkle with sugar and bake in a hot oven 15 minutes.

**Chocolate Cookies**—One cup of sugar, one-half cup of melted butter, three-fourths cup of sweet milk, two cups flour, one cup raisins, one cup chopped nuts, one egg and one yolk. Put one-half teaspoon of cream of tartar in the flour, and one-quarter teaspoon of soda in the milk. Melt two squares of unsweetened chocolate and put in last. Flavor with vanilla. Drop on pan and bake in moderate oven.

**Rice Fritters**—Wash one cup of rice in several waters and boil 15 minutes in plenty of water; pour off the water, add one pint of milk and one tablespoon of salt, cook until the rice is tender, turn it into a bowl and when cold add three tablespoonfuls of sugar, yolks of three eggs, five tablespoonfuls of flour, one teaspoon of baking powder, then the whites of the eggs well beaten; drop by the spoonful into hot fat and fry a good brown, pile on a platter and serve with vanilla sauce.

**Apple and Nut Salad**—Chop separately and mix together one cupful each of tart, rich-flavored apples and English walnut meats. Serve with a dressing made as follows: Rub two slightly rounded tablespoonfuls of nut butter smooth with two-thirds of a cupful of cold water, and add half a teaspoonful of salt. Let all boil together for a moment; then remove from the fire, and add two tablespoonfuls of lemon juice. Set on ice to get very cold, then pour over the salad. Garnish with celery.



New York City.—Box-pleated waists made with shaped yokes are exceedingly fashionable and have the added merit of being generally becoming.

There is no doubt that on all practical frocks the skirts will be much shorter, but the really short skirt to show the ankles should be kept exclusively for country wear. Town frocks are now cut without a train, but touching the ground all around.



BOX PLEATED WAIST.

This stylish May Manton model is of reseda peau de cygne, with yoke of tucked cream mousseline and shaped bands of reseda broadcloth stitched with corticeil silk, and is worn with a skirt of cloth matching the bands; but the design suits both odd waists and entire gowns and all the season's fabrics.

The foundation lining fits snugly and is closed at the centre front. On to it is faced the back portion of the yoke and over it are arranged the box-pleated back, fronts of the waist proper and the front portion of the

**New Lattice Work.**  
Rather more novel than the usual basket interlacing of broadcloth bands or strips of velvet ribbon is a combination of the two. A cranberry crimson zibeline dress has a blouse with a simulated bolero on the shoulders and breast entirely composed of this new lattice work. The velvet ribbon is black, and the strapping is of crimson zibeline cut in bias folds and covered with machine stitching. Bands are usually more successful when cut of firm broadcloth than of zibeline, which has to be either lined or triple folded to hold it firm. The vertical lines of the lattice come out well in black velvet. There are two or three variations of the basket weaving in these velvet and woolen lattices.

**Short Walking Skirts.**  
The revival of the cameo has brought to life cameo portraits, which provides pleasure to those who delight in the unique and rare.

**A Quaint Brooch.**  
Quaint and fetching is a brooch in the form of a ruby-eyed gold fish that holds a perfect little pearl in its mouth.



THEATRE COAT.

The closing of the waist being effected invisibly beneath the central box pleat and the corresponding tuck in the yoke. The back is smooth and without fulness, but the front blouse slightly and stylishly over the belt. The sleeves are box-pleated at their upper portions, form full, soft puffs below the elbows and are gathered into pointed cuffs at the wrists. At the neck is a novel stock in the fashionable clerical cut. The belt is pointed at the front, and is finished with postillion tabs at the back.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is five yards twenty-one inches wide, four and one-half yards twenty-seven inches wide, or two and three-eighths yards forty-four inches wide, with one-half yard of tucking or lace eighteen inches wide for yoke.

**Woman's Theatre Coat.**

Loose fitting wraps for theatre, evening and reception wear are among the smart features of the season and become necessities when the fashionable waists, with their big sleeves and filmy materials, are worn. The very satisfactory model shown in the large drawing is adapted to all the uses named and can be made elaborate or simple as the material chosen becomes one or the other. The original is of white broadcloth, with revers and bands of heavy linen lace over white silk and is stitched with corticeil silk, but all cloths, zebeline, cashmere, peau de sole and the many cloaking materials of the season are appropriate with lace, embroidery, fur or plain silk for revers.

The coat is in Russian style and is cut with a loose fitting back and loose fronts that close in double-breasted style or turn back to form the revers. The sleeves are circular in shape and fall in graceful folds at the lower edge. The neck can be finished plain or with the strap collar, as shown in the small sketch, and the coat can be worn open or closed and held by buttons and loops.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is eight yards twenty-one inches wide, four and three-fourth yards forty-four inches wide or three and three-fourth yards fifty-two

**Woman's Blouse or Shirt Waist.**  
Pointed straps as trimming are noticeable features of the latest gowns and waists. This very smart May Manton blouse shows them to advantage and includes, as well, the fashionable princess closing tucks at the shoulders, that give soft folds over the bust, and a model stock collar. As illustrated it is of pale blue peau de cygne, and the straps piped with black panne, and stitched with black corticeil silk, but all waisting materials in silk and wool are appropriate.

The waist is made over a fitted lining that closes at the centre front and serves as a foundation for the outside. The blouse consists of a plain back and of fronts that are tucked at their edges and again at the shoulders, where they are so laid as to give the effect of a broad box pleat. Between these tucks, at the centre, and over the shoulder seams are applied the pointed straps that are held by small black buttons. The sleeves are moderately full and are finished with oddly shaped cuffs that match the trimming straps. The stock is in regulation style, with the addition of curved straps cut to give the clerical suggestion.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is four and five-



BLOUSE SHIRT WAIST.

eight yards twenty-one inches wide, three and seven-eighth yards twenty-seven inches wide or two and one-fourth yard forty-four inches wide.