

# Simple Fashions

New York City.—Blouse coats take precedence of almost every other sort for the more elaborate costumes of soft materials and are most charming



SHIRRED BLOUSE COAT.

in effect. This one, after a design by May Manton, includes a yoke and pointed collar that are in every way desirable and allows of many combinations, but is shown in champagne colored velvet with collar and bands of brown chiffon velvet enriched with medallions of lace. The yoke is stitched with corded silk and over it the points of velvet are exceedingly handsome, while the full puffed sleeves with the flaring cuffs and lace frills are essentially elegant and smart and the draped girdle makes a most appropriate finish.

The blouse is made over a smoothly fitted lining on which the yoke and shirred portions are arranged, but which can be omitted whenever desirable, the shirring being stitched to the yoke. The sleeves are wide and graceful as well as comfortable and when lined can still be kept loose and ample by leaving the outer seams of the foundation open. At their lower edges are the shaped cuffs and from these cuffs fall the full frills. The belt is draped and is arranged over the

made to look like an inner garment by the outline of dark fur which borders the cloth part of the waist. The band of fur extends down the side of the waist to the belt, as on a Russian blouse, and there are four large rhinestone buttons that appear to close the gown. A ripple bertha, edged with fur, falls over the shoulders, shawl fashion. Leg of mutton sleeves with a bit of lace insertion, outlined with fur, are tight at the wrist and show a tiny ruffling of white crape.

### The Epaulet Effect.

The epaulet effect is much in evidence on many of the new blouse waists, and the deep collar is also to be seen. Detached collars and yokes are much used, and add a touch of distinction to a dark blouse.

### A Favorite Trimming.

A favorite trimming will be the open cut work, or old English embroidery, a showy but elegant form of needlework, popular in early Victorian days, before machine embroidery destroyed the taste for simple things.

### The Round Skirt.

For evening wear the trained skirt is entirely replaced with the round skirt, gathered at the waist.

### Box Pleated Yoke Waist.

White with cream makes a favorite combination of the season and is always satisfactory. The stylish May Manton waist shown is made of crepe de Chine, with the yoke of deep cream colored point de Venise over white mousseline and bands of taffeta ruffling, and is well suited to theatre and informal dinner wear. It is to be made available for evening also by omitting the yoke as shown in the small cut; or, again, can be rendered convertible, so serving a double use. When made low it requires elbow sleeves, but these also are in vogue with high waists so that by adding or removing the yoke, which is separate, the waist becomes quite different in effect.

## A Late Design by May Manton.



lower edge, closing with the blouse at the centre front.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is four and three-eighths yards twenty-one inches wide, four yards twenty-seven inches wide or two and a quarter yards forty-four inches wide, with one and five-eighths yards of velvet and four yards of lace to make as illustrated.

### Flowers.

Flowers are seen in profusion in the garnishing of the new models. Again roses seem to have the lead. Tiny button roses, in single and double garlands, edge the brims of hats, and double, triple and quadruple garlands encircle crowns and otherwise trim hats, and laid flat they cover crowns. Small and medium small roses appear as garniture in single and double garlands; large roses are employed singly and in couples, and small green roses border brims. Rivaling roses and used for covering crowns and other effects in millinery decoration, as seen in the Paris models, were small field poppies, scarlet anemones, field daisies, violets, cowslips, lilies of the valley and other of the small blossoms. Much favor has been shown by the French milliners so simulated small grapes and other small fruits—huckleberries, in great, dense clusters, in their gray dusted bloom, trimming hats most attractively.—Millinery Trade Review.

### Violet Cloth For Afternoon.

A light shade of violet broadcloth is used for a lovely afternoon gown. The skirt is long and has a circular dounce finished with four wide folds in tuck effect. The waist has a yoke of cream lace over white chiffon, and the

The waist is made over a smoothly fitted lining and on this are arranged the box pleated front and back. When a simple yoke waist is desired it can be made high, the drop yoke arranged over it and all finished together at the neck, but when either a low or a convertible waist is desired it can be cut out on indicated lines. The sleeves are wide below the elbows, but fit snugly below and are pleated for about half the distance from the shoulders to the cuffs.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is three and seven-eighths yards twenty-one inches wide, three and one-quarter yards twenty-seven inches wide or two yards forty-



BOX PLEATED YOKE WAIST.

four inches wide, with one and five-eighths yards of all-over lace for yoke and cuffs and four yards of ruffling to trim as illustrated.



### The Farmer's Pork Barrel.

The farmer who raises a few pigs for his pork barrel may count the cost and affirm that pigs do not pay, but where a few pigs are raised they will consume a large amount of material that would be of no value except for their use. When the pork barrel is full the farmer is at least fortified for the winter with meat, and in many cases where no pigs are kept there is a waste of material that could be utilized with the aid of at least one or two porkers.

### Small Orchards.

There are locations where it is more profitable to grow general farm crops than to engage in fruit growing, and under such circumstances the size of the orchard may well be limited to the supply of fruit needed for family use. If, however, fruit is grown for commercial purposes, it is a mistake to have a small orchard. Under modern methods of care the expense attending a small orchard is much greater in proportion to the number of trees than for a large orchard. Of course, the intelligent man will investigate market conditions before setting large orchards, and will know pretty well what may be expected from his soil, but when these things are well understood and seem favorable, then the profitable orchard will be the large one. Once set then the care must be all required or the large orchard will be a greater loss than the small one would have been.

### Ducklings and Their Quarters.

Damp quarters will prove fatal to success with ducks, for although aquatic birds are usually well endowed with a quantity of feathers and down, still portions of their bodies are liable to become frostbitten, especially the feet. As long as a goose or a duck can keep its feet in water it is safe, but when the water is ice cold, and they have to rest on the ice, harm results. A small patch of straw near the pond will induce them to roost thereon and so save the feet. Both geese and ducks need generous feeding if they are to lay early, and of course this is the great desideratum. The earlier they commence to lay the earlier they may be expected to increase, and it is the early duckling that pays. Warm quarters will be necessary for inducing early laying. Some ducks begin to lay in January and the entire flock should be well under way during February or March.

### Better Methods.

There is ample room for improvement in dairying and general farming. With all that has been written and urged in favor of better breeds and superior methods of management the scrub cow is still the queen on the farm and holds her position despite all efforts to dislodge her, but she entails a fearful loss on the farmers who depend her. With the use of breeds that are capable of producing at least twice as much milk and butter the increase of the annual product of butter alone would equal that already given—\$200,000,000—which is much more than would be required to purchase every pure bred cow in the United States. The prices obtained for choice butter show that there is always a brisk demand, and that the farmers who will turn their attention to the production of the best in the market, and who will also endeavor to double their production by the use of the same number of butter cows are sure of larger profits because the expense will be relatively much less.

### Selecting Good Layers.

An old country poultryman suggests the following rules for selection of good layers: There are certain individual characteristics, one of which is the shape of the bird. If a straight line be drawn from the back of the head to the toes, the hen which is likely to be a good layer will usually have the hinder half of her body largest, while a hen which may be suspected of being a poor layer will show more in the front; the reason being that a poor layer makes a better table bird and has a larger, longer breast, whilst a good layer makes a poor table bird, and has a comparatively small breast, whilst the egg organs are more fully developed. Birds which are good layers are usually very active. They always look healthy, and in most cases their combs are usually fully developed, particularly if they belong to the long-combed varieties, which are reputed to be the best layers. A hen with a long comb may usually be regarded as a good layer, and if she is not there must be some special reason for the contrary.

### Planting an Orchard.

In laying out an orchard plant the trees as closely as they will stand to fruit well—say 10 by 10 feet—then take out a part, later another part, till the trees stand 40 by 40. This means four times as many apples at the start, then twice as many. So with peaches, I believe in close planting, but many planters have not the sand to take out the superfluous trees when the time comes. I have some plum trees set with peaches 9 by 9 feet, which will bear well next season.

Prepare the land thoroughly, still it all through the season, and use cover crops, if nothing more than weeds and grass. Don't plant other crops; let the orchard have the first and best. The advocacy of orchards in sod is doing harm. On the Bidwell farm, in the Sacramento valley, California, worked with gang plows, the yield of wheat is between bushels an acre. Near

by a woman farmer works her land more thoroughly with the best tools and gets 34 bushels. She does not know enough to vote, but she knows how to handle the land. Prune for shape and a low head. For vigorous growth, prune when trees are dormant.

### More Acres.

Many men have an ambition to own more acres. This is the rock upon which many men have been wrecked. They have owned farms of ordinary size on which they have succeeded. They have ambition to buy other farms, but in most instances the additional acreage does not give proportionate increase in revenue. There is much in having a little farm well tilled. There is a limit to every man's endeavor. There are men who can make one hundred acres pay well who could not make two hundred acres pay as well. Though I own considerable acreage I have always envied the man with ten acres, whose place I often pass. It is wonderful what can be done with ten acres if highly fertilized and kept under the highest cultivation and well managed. Everything this man planted on his ten acres seemed to thrive amazingly. He often grows two crops on the same ground in one season, which is notable at the north. He secures better prices for his product than his neighbors. He gets double the yield per acre secured by most farmers. His house and grounds have a thrifty look, and the owner is happy and prosperous.—Green's Fruit Grove.

### Fattening Hogs.

There is no animal we can grow into money as quickly and easily as the hog, given the right care and the proper food, for this is essential in growing hogs, if we are to get the best results. Have good, dry, warm houses for the sows while farrowing pigs, and a good pen with feeding firs in connection. Select good, lengthy sows well proportioned, and with a good bone and much quality for breeding purposes, and breed to a boar with same good qualities. Give the sows pure, clean water three times daily, and give them whole corn for morning feed, a little cooked oats for noon feed, and corn and oats ground, mixed and well soaked, at night, until pigs are farrowed; then feed them about the same food, except milk in place of water, and a larger quantity of grain. Have a pen, away from sows, where the pigs can get to it, containing a good trough; in it place corn and rye well mixed and cooked, and feed it to them from time to time, as much as they will clean up each time. Let the sows wean the pigs, providing they wean in time to breed, if not, separate to wean. Then feed pigs a little whole corn for morning feed, and give them milk three times a day, and give them corn and rye and a little wheat bran well mixed and cooked, twice a day, noon and night; which will produce for them all the bone and muscle desired.—E. L. Morris in the Epitomist.

### Need of Rotative Crops.

There are those who have lost faith in commercial fertilizers. They claim their farms are growing poorer every day, and lay the loss of fertility to the poor fertilizers. As a matter of fact, few men use enough commercial fertilizer to make good the fertility taken from the soil, so why should not the farms run down? Commercial fertilizers are available plant food, and, as applied, are used up entirely by the growing crop, which also takes more or less of the natural fertility of the soil in addition. We are familiar with the soils of the south, made poor by the growing of the single crop, cotton, upon which chemical fertilizers have been used almost exclusively. Until recently we have thought that our virgin fields of the west could stand almost any cropping. We are learning better and beginning to discover the need for a change.

The farmers of the middle states have learned the lesson the south is beginning to learn, and which the west, sooner or later, learn, and are following some rotation of crops in which a leguminous plant occurs, so that the nitrogen will cost little or nothing and humus be added at the same time, having one of the crops something that demands tillage, so that the stores of potash in the soil may be unlocked, and leaving only phosphoric acid to buy. Think over this question of crop rotation, for you must come to it some time, wherever located, and the sooner the better.—Indianapolis News.

### Poultry Notes.

Cabbage is one of the best green foods that can be grown for fowls. Crude carbolic acid spread on the inside of the nest is said to keep away mites.

Taking everything into consideration the Plymouth Rock is the best fowl for all round use. Charcoal is highly recommended for fowls. Put it where they can get it, and they will do the best.

Cholera can be prevented by putting ten drops of sulphuric acid into a gallon of water twice a week. An abnormally dark comb indicates that the food is disagreeing with the fowl, and that there is indigestion.

Where many eggs are gathered it should be done in the evening and at noon. They should be kept in a cool place.

Inexperienced persons set infertile eggs because they do not test them before setting. Hence they are disappointed.

If corn, oats, buckwheat or any other grain is fed, there should be a mixture of wheat bran, as the grain alone is too heavy.—Poultry Review.

### FIJIAN FIRE WALKERS.

Their Feet Not Blistered by Heat That Melted Solder.

Those who witnessed the coronation processions will doubtless recollect a small group of copper-colored soldiers with bare legs and outstanding hair innocent of covering. These strange people—Fijians—and their ancient ceremony of the Vilavilavevo, or fire walking, were the subject of a paper read by W. L. Allardyce, C. M. G., at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute yesterday. Admiral Sir N. Bowden-Smith presided.

The ceremony of fire walking, Mr. Allardyce explained, is performed by a certain tribe at the Island of Bega, and originated in a legend that in reward for having spared the life of a man he had dug out of the ground, one Tui Qualita was invested with the power of being able to walk over red hot stones without being burned. An earth oven is made and filled with layers of wood and stone. In this a fire is kindled about 12 hours before the fire walking takes place, and when the hot stones have been exposed by brushing away the charcoal, the natives, under the direction of a master of ceremonies, walk over them barefooted.

The temperature at the edge of the oven is about 120 degrees Fahrenheit, while on one occasion, when a thermometer was suspended over the stones, it registered 282 degrees and the solder was melted. Yet, stated Mr. Allardyce, after the ceremony the natives show no signs of the terrific ordeal through which they have gone. By means of a number of views the lecturer gave a realistic idea of the ceremony as performed nowadays.

Vice-Admiral Lewis Beaumont described a fire walking ceremony as witnessed by himself. Although those who took part in it showed no signs of discomfort, he remarked that apparently they did not like it over much.

Replying to questions, Mr. Allardyce said the only explanation he could give of the apparent immunity from harm following on the process was that the soles of the feet of the natives were hardened to an unusual degree through walking on a sandy soil covering coral, which became exceedingly hot under the sun. There was also the element of absolute belief by the natives in the legend that they were proof against fire.—London Standard.

### Future of Panama.

Some persons on the other side of the Atlantic see certain things on this side of the water pretty clear. The London Morning Post, for example, says it is "in the interest of the world and of civilization that Panama declare its independence and hoist its flag under the shelter of the guns of the United States Navy." The London Daily Mail, with prophetic foresight, declares that Panama's independence will be of a "shadowy nature," and that it "must come to depend entirely on the United States, to which it will henceforth be virtually annexed." And it adds: "Thus the United States draws a step nearer to the immense wealth of South America, which must some day fall under its control."

All this, of course, is gospel. Civilization will be benefited by the separation of Panama from Colombia. Panama, in its new status, will virtually be part of the territory of the United States. Theoretically it will be independent, at least for a time. Actually, it will be a dependency of the United States. It will be formally annexed to the United States in time, pass through the territorial status and then be admitted to the Union on an equality with New York, Missouri and the rest of the states. This is prophecy which will soon transmute itself into history.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

### A "Bush" Vagabond.

A strange "human document" has just passed away in an Australian hospital. His pen name was "Scotty, the Wrinkler," and his real one Phillip Henry Mitchell Mowbray. He was in early manhood an officer of the Royal artillery. In Australia he became a professional swagman, "sundowner," or tramp, one of the vagabonds who spend their lives wandering about from one squatter's station to another, and pick up a precarious livelihood by doing odd jobs.

"Scotty" had studied this nomadic population very closely and contributed many realistic stories and sketches of their adventures and habits to the Sydney Bulletin. He might have earned a handsome income with his pen if he could have settled down to regular work, but he could not shake off the roving disposition. Many young fellows who, for one reason or another—generally drink—lose caste in the old country, rise and recover themselves in Australia and develop into successful colonists. Others sink into the army of irreclaimable bush vagabonds.

### The Poor Compositor.

There is trouble between the proprietor of the Daily Trumpet, published in Slowbury Center, and one of the prominent citizens of the town. The citizen is Orlando Vance Jones, who writes occasional verses for the "Poets' Corner" and pays for space in which to advertise his dental surgery. The trouble arose soon after the birth of Mr. Jones's grandson. Being much gratified by the resemblance to him which many of the diplomatic mothers in Slowbury detected in the features of Orlando Vance, third, Mr. Jones composed a tender poem which he entitled, "A Picky Counterpart."

When he opened the paper, of which he had ordered one dozen copies, he saw at the head of the column his poem under the title, "A Pig My Counterpart."

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### COLLEGE NOTES.

Grayson College building, at Dallas, Texas, was recently destroyed by fire, causing a loss of \$60,000.

The new \$300,000 science building of Colorado College, at Colorado Springs, Col., was recently dedicated.

An unknown donor has given to Lawrence University \$8000 to endow a chair of English Bible study.

Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal has given \$20,000 to Manitoba University to enable the faculty to extend its work.

The date of the debate between Bowdoin and Amherst Colleges has been changed from March 13 to Friday, April 22.

A movement is on foot at Yellow Springs, near Xenia, Ohio, to move Berea College from Kentucky to the Ohio town.

Bryn Mawr College has just chosen a design for a seal, the principal feature of which is to be the owl, the symbol of Athena.

According to the report of the bursar of Tufts College, there is a decided falling off in the number of women students at the college.

The dissolution of Palmer University, at Muncie, Ind., has been announced, because of the failure to secure a large bequest.

President Bashford, of Ohio Wesleyan University, has been promised \$10,000 to establish a chair of missions in that institution of learning.

The gift of \$50,000 by John Hays Hammond, of New York, the mining engineer, for a metallurgical laboratory at Yale, has just been increased by him to \$100,000.

Through the generosity of Miss Helen Gould New York University is arranging for a novel exhibit at the St. Louis Fair. The university will send a complete model of its buildings and grounds.

### PROMINENT PEOPLE.

The late Lord Stanley, of Alderley, has left property of the value of \$617,580.

Clara Morris has just finished a story dealing with the life of Illinois pioneers.

Queen Elizabeth of Roumania, known as Carmen Sylvia the world over, recently celebrated her sixtieth birthday.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale, of Massachusetts, is strongly in favor of the proposition to make a natural park in New Hampshire.

Governor Alexander O. Brodie, of Arizona, went to West Point in 1893. He became a mining engineer after serving several years in the army.

W. T. Stead has broken down under the strain of publishing his new daily paper in London, and has started for South Africa for a complete rest.

General Nelson A. Miles is at the head of a syndicate which has secured large tracts of oil lands in the Osage and Cherokee nations in Oklahoma.

Senator Ankeny, of Washington, acted as interpreter the other day when a group of Yakima Indians were presented to the President at the White House.

E. Aubrey Hunt, the American artist, has just returned to Boston after spending a year in England, where he has been busy painting landscapes and portraits.

Sir Cavendish Boyle, Governor of Newfoundland, has sent \$1000 to the Lord Mayor of London, this being Newfoundland's contribution to the imperial memorial to Victoria.

The grave of the German poet Heine, in the Montmartre Cemetery, Paris, is said to be visited by more persons than Zola's, which is quite near it. Of 235 cards found on Heine's grave thirty were left by English and American visitors and over 250 by Germans and Austrians.

Prosperity in the South. While the consumption of cotton by the New England mills has been practically stationary for ten years, the South has increased her business in this line more than 300 per cent.

Railroad construction has been more rapid and general in the South than in any other section of the country, Oklahoma and Indian Territory alone excepted.

Her bank deposits have trebled since 1890 and the number of her banks has been doubled in that time. Southern farmers and planters have paid their debts and now have money in the banks. Business in every line is prosperous almost to the boom point. There is nothing but happiness in present conditions and optimism in all forecasts. The next five years promise a greater development for the South than the last quarter of a century witnessed.

### BUSINESS CARDS.

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Count Tolstol on the War.

Count Leo Tolstol, the Russian reformer, novelist and philosopher, defines his attitude toward the war between his own country and Japan in the following characteristic statement: "I am neither for Russia nor for Japan, but for the laboring people of both countries, deceived by their governments and obliged to fight against their welfare, conscience and religion." It is scarcely necessary to explain that Tolstol's bold declaration will not be published in St. Petersburg and Tokio. When nations are engaged in wholesale murder, they are very sensitive to criticism. Even during our own civil conflict men had to be very guarded in their speech and writings—and yet the United States is pre-eminently the land of the free and the home of the candid and plain-spoken. In time of war governments proceed upon the assumption that every man ought to be for his country—whether the latter be fighting for a good cause or a bad one, whether its motives be noble or ignoble.

A New York Life Insurance company holds \$5,000,000 worth of Russia's railway securities.