

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

TOO MANY PLAYTHINGS.

Never let the chicks have many or very elaborate playthings. A child's interest is so easily aroused that a large stock of playthings proves confusing and wearisome, besides which you are only making him blasé by giving him the best of everything while he is small. For the same reason all amusements should be of the simplest.

THE FADDISH GIRL.

The more animals the faddish girl can carry about her the better. She wears a silver head at her belt, the head of an animal; she carries a carved cat upon her parasol handle; a her pocket there reposes a carved ivory elephant; at her throat there is a tiny black dog; her shirtwaist set is in the shape of animal heads; and, upon her bag, there is fastened a silver ornament which resembles an animal of Jungland. Truly, she does not move about unprotected.

A HOMEELY HINT.

"I believe that good cooking on the home table will keep many men away from over-indulgence in intoxicants," says a prominent American woman. "Therefore girls in domestic service are fitting themselves for marriage and a more useful life. The evil of bad cooking is displayed in a still sadder way by the great number of crippled children among the families of the poor. Any physician will tell you that this curse has been brought upon the little ones by malnutrition."

BLACK AND WHITE GOWNS.

Very beautiful black and white transparent gowns are being worn. Black lace on white gauze, or black nets overlaid with white lace motives are very desirable. Of course there is an under-dress of black or white chiffon, and the effect is delicate and fragile beyond description. At several weddings lately elderly matrons wore such black and white creations. They were distinguished far above the customary satins and velvets worn on such occasions by the older women.

A VERSATILE WOMAN.

To have been a lady of great estate, a traveler around the world for pleasure, a model for a Parisian dressmaker's establishment, a traveling sales-lady of art wares, and a politician in no usual number of experiences for a young lady just turned her twenty-fourth year. But to Miss Estelle Whitaker, at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, all of these and even more comprise the history of her occupations since leaving an Eastern college. Miss Whitaker was left a large fortune when quite young. For three years she traveled through Europe with her parents. She is a young woman, of spirit, however, and was not content to continue a life of idleness and ease. She gave a large amount of money to a charitable institution, and then she became active in Colorado politics, where women have the say. She made the race for assistant clerk of the General Assembly and won. Miss Whitaker is one of the most famous models in America. She is known in her Western country as the "Colorado American Beauty." She is a tall, striking brunette, of excellent carriage and intelligent conversation.

THE WOMEN OF JAPAN.

The women of Japan do not go out and fight to-day as they have done on rare occasions in the past. We had an Empress once who led an army into Korea and fought at the head of her soldiers. And even in the last century, when the Shogun made his last stand against the Mikado, nearly a thousand women and girls belonging to families attached to the Shogun fought "behind and upon the castle walls, and many were killed," says a writer in Harper's Weekly.

It is different now. Only the men go out. But there is much left for the women to do, and there is not a woman in Japan who will shrink her duty. Not only must she take care of the family while the men are away, but she must work for the soldiers. Our Empress herself is the patron of the Japanese Red Cross Society, whose President is always a prince of the royal house. With her own hands the Empress prepares bandages and clothing for the men in the field; and so great was her personal interest in the men who fought in the war with China that at the close of the war she gave an artificial limb to every man who had lost one on the battlefield.

The women who act as nurses must wear aside their kimonos and wear the regular dress of a hospital nurse. Both before and since the war with China the women of Japan have attended the hospital training schools, where instruction is given by American and European nurses, and there are now no better nurses in the world than those of Japan.

FIRST WOMAN TO CROSS ABYSSINIA.

Mrs. W. N. MacMillan is a St. Louis woman who bears the distinction of being the first American of her sex to cross Abyssinia at the head of her own caravan.

"We really started from Cairo," said

Mrs. MacMillan, "but as the stretch from there to Khartoum was made by sail or boat, we started our start from the time we left the latter place on January 25. With my husband and self were Sir John Harrigan, C. W. L. Bulpoint, Dr. Singer and several servants. Sir John Harrigan is the British Minister to Abyssinia, and through his influence we secured Government launches to tow our boats to Nassa. From there we continued alone and at Pakena, at the foot of the Abyssinia Mountains, my husband and I separated, he going to explore the country around Lake Tadpoth, while I continued on toward Adis Abeba, the capital of King Menelik's kingdom.

"For a week Sir John Harrigan accompanied me, but he was suddenly called back to Nassa, and I was left with only Dr. Singer and the servants. We were over four weeks making the trip by mule train. At Adis Abeba I was received by King Menelik. He was very cordial and seemed interested in our trip. The King speaks no English, though, and all our conversation had to be carried on through an interpreter.

"The homeward journey was much easier, as we went directly to the town of Biri Dama, thence to Djibouti by rail, and then home by way of the Red Sea."—New Haven Register.

DAINTY FASHION ACCESSORIES.

Fashions this season are surely the liveliest seen for many years, and they are the ideas of many brilliant women of both this time and those of other days. The most charming effects are seen, and the accessories, which are of the most elaborate conception, are those which could not be improved upon. They are very fussy, and those which are not are extremely simple and elegant in their designing.

Parasols are fit examples for the exquisiteness of things this season, and nothing more beautiful is on sale. Simplicity seems to be the one strong point of them, and the new Dresden parasols with the tiny dainty handle are all that could be wished for, even for the most elaborate gowning. Those of chiffon are a trifle passe, and few are to be seen, while the white, grey and blue ones dot the horizon wherever the feminine sex is in evidence. Striped ones are pretty, and most peculiar effects may be achieved by a parasol of striped silk with large dots below. Of course, we must not pass over the embroidered parasols, and those, with the trim gown and embroidered to match, are extremely chic. The quaint Dresden silk ones remind one of the painting of a beautiful shepherdess, with her dainty gown studded with tiny sprays of flowers, and these are used expressly for that purpose. Large bows are being used extensively on the handles, and for the smart woman who can afford such luxury the handles are studded with precious stones. Lace coverings are used on many of the plain ones, and when one wants a different parasol a good scheme is to cover the old one with a lace cover, which gives a soft and dainty effect.

Other parasols have long chiffon streamers which flow from the handles and are perhaps a yard or two long.

FASHION NOTES.

Great swirling patterns in braid are applied to the front box part of the new linen shirt waists.

Broadtail velvet, which is really a crushed velvet, is one of the coming stuffs for outer wraps.

Beautiful squares of ceru lace, showing a heraldic design, are applied upon the right sleeve of the handsomest cloth gowns.

Braided designs in wash silk braid are upon the cuffs of linen gowns and upon the cuffs of silk dresses as well, for braid is very fashionable.

Deep lace cuffs are stiffened with wire and slipped on over the cuffs of silk shirt waists and overcoat cuffs and the cuffs of wash dresses.

For the lingerie dress and the separate blouse, to wear with a taffeta gown, the finest of linen, known as handkerchief linen, is most swaggar.

Very beautiful effects are achieved by making up an attractive gauze or net gown over two, or perhaps three, chiffon skirts, each of a different shade.

Japanese peach blossoms, in three shades of pink, harmoniously blended, form one of the most attractive of the season's favored flowered designs of organdy.

Brown, which has held its own so well all summer, is to be a still more popular shade for winter, and both sea-brown and navy blue will lead in fashion's march.

Lovely lace styles, for instance, are fastened around the neck of little silk bolero coats, with the lace ends hanging well down in front, and a beautiful silk rosette adorning the neck.

A blackberry wreath, the berries being variegated from green to black, with some ruddy tints mingled with the pretty white blossoms of the plant, are very smart and out-of-the-ordinary hat garnitures.

Girdles are made of silk which is stiffened and cut to a point in the middle of the front. This girdle is hand embroidered, and shows the loveliest of green flowers to match the green trimmings of "at and gown.

Fashion Notes

New York City.—Full waists that are shirred and draped to form soft and graceful folds are among the latest features of fashion and are exceedingly



DRAPED WAIST.

attractive in the many pliable materials of the season. This one is particularly smart and includes a point at the front and the new sleeves, shirred to form two lengthwise puffs

least a girle effect, are being shown in gowns for reception and evening wear this season. Another kind of ornament is the blond lace, which simply defines description. It's neither cream, nor pure white, nor yellow, nor any particular shade, but blond, and the most popular trimming shown for the fall season. Without a broad girle no reception gown is complete. These may be of the same material and shade as the gown or of bright ribbons, with long streamers, or bows at the back.—New York Press.

Blouse of Shirt Waist.

Plain shirt waists always are in demand and always fill a need. This one shows the new sleeves, that are full at the shoulders, and includes a wide box pleat at the centre front. The model is made of Russian blue steiffen mohair, stitched with corded silk, and is worn with a belt and tie of black laffeta. All waisting materials are, however, equally appropriate, the many mercerized cottons as well as wool and silk.

The waist consists of the fitted lining, which is optional, fronts and back. The back is plain across the shoulders, drawn down in gathers at the waist line, but the fronts are gathered at their upper edges, also, so forming becoming folds. The sleeves are in shirt style, gathered into straight cuffs, and at the neck is a regulation stock.

A LATE DESIGN BY MAY MANTON.



above the elbows. The material chosen for the model is willow green nesseline satin with cream colored lace for chemisette and cuffs, banding and bows of darker velvet, but there are many wool as well as silk materials that can be treated in the same manner with equal success, and when liked, the deep cuffs can be omitted and the sleeves made in three-quarter length.

The waist is made with the fitted lining, on which the full fronts and backs are arranged, and is finished at the neck with a hollow collar under which the chemisette is attached. The sleeves are made over fitted linings, which are faced to form cuffs, and are full above the elbows, finished with circular frills below which fall over the gathered ones of the lace. The closing is made invisibly at the centre front.

The quantity of material required for the medium size is four and three-fourth yards twenty-one inches wide, four and one-half yards twenty-seven inches wide, or two and three-fourth yards forty-four inches wide, with seven-eighth yard of all-over lace, three-fourth yards of bias velvet and two and one-half yards of lace to make as illustrated.

That New Shade of Blue.

Tucking and smocking, not alone in small sections, but in whole pieces, large enough to make a waist, or at



BLOUSE OR SHIRT WAIST.

three and one-half yards twenty-seven inches wide, or two yards forty-four inches wide.

ORCHARD and GARDEN

About Unfruitfulness.

The cause of unfruitfulness in the orchard will usually be found to be one of two conditions: That is, either poverty of the soil or so much top as to exhaust all the vitality of the tree; or both these unfavorable conditions may exist.

The Perfect Lawn.

The requisites of a perfect lawn are: A deep, rich soil with a carefully prepared sodbed; a proper selection of grasses, thorough mulching of the ground after seeding, frequent watering and harrowing, weeding when necessary.

Seeding Hints.

It is always an advantage in seeding down land for pasture to sow several different varieties of seeds, and those which ripen at different times, so that a succession of green and fresh pasture may be enjoyed by the stock through the season.

For Rooting the Plant.

For rooting the best cutting of a plant is a shoot of new growth, just before it grows woody at all or fibrous, but will snap off clean without strings. They should have three buds if possible, though one leaf and leaf bud will start with good care.

Early Cultivation.

With all crops it is the early cultivation that is the most important. Keep the soil clean and in a little while the plants are young and tender, giving them every opportunity to make a good start to grow, and it will be a much easier matter to maintain a good growth until maturity.

Destroying Hardhack.

Not long ago I had occasion to cross the adjoining pastures of two large dairy farms with natural conditions about alike says E. R. Towle in the Massachusetts Ploughman. On one there was a large amount of hardhack, while on the other there was only an occasionally small shrub to be seen.

On the first there had been no attempt made to check or destroy the growth, but I found on inquiry that on the other through work had been made in pulling up the bushes in the fall a few years since. It must have been pretty thorough, too, and effectual to hardly leave a trace behind. Perhaps the fall pulling was what did the business, similar to that of cutting. It is well worth trying anyway.

Getting the Top Price for Eggs.

A Washington man who holds a government position has a little flock, and sells from two to six dozen eggs a week besides what his family consumes. He asks from two to four cents more for his eggs than the store price, according to the season. He gets it and he could sell twice as many eggs right among his fellow clerks. Why? Because they all know that these eggs are absolutely fresh, and only the city dweller, who has to eat stale and limed eggs, knows how to appreciate fresh ones. If this can be done on a small scale by personal contact between the producer and the consumer, it can be done on a commercial basis by any farmer or poultry grower, providing he takes the same care which the Washington government clerk does.—Indiana Farmer.

Grape Quality Pays.

Grape growers who will persist in growing the Champion grape and al-luring by its earliness the consumer into buying a few of his early shipments, is continually inviting disaster to the best interests of grape culture.

The consumer whose teeth have been set on edge, remembering the tough, indigestible pulp of the Champion, and the sting of its foxiness upon his palate, quickly drops the price from ten cents a pound to two, and thereby fixes and establishes the price he will pay for all grapes that are to follow. The sooner grape growers pull out the black of Champions in their vineyards, and cease to force upon consumers annually a disappointment in their first purchases of grapes, the sooner will they be able to command better value for their varieties of high quality.—G. F. Powell, in the Massachusetts Ploughman.

Experience with Cement Floor.

Five years ago, when I built over an old barn, I put in cement floors throughout the whole barn, but at the same time put on the stable floor one-inch pine boarding. Three years ago I built another barn, and in that I put in the cement floor, because it was suggested to me that plank was not quite so sanitary. Having a quantity of planing mill shavings at my disposal, I thought I could overcome the trouble, so I put them with some straw on the cement floor. My cows go out for some time in the middle of the day, but most of the time stay in the stable. I have noticed that they will occasionally get the shavings out from under them and get the udders down onto the cement floor. I put the boards on the top of the cement, and I like it better. Put them on in sections, so they are easily taken up, and the place cleaned out.—W. L. Carlyle, in the Massachusetts Ploughman.

Keep the Tools in Order.

What a mistake it is for farmers to neglect to keep their tools in order. On some farms will be seen plows, harrows, cultivators, horse rake and mower, scattered about the farm and backward, the paint is off and rust covers the metal parts, bolts are loose and some parts are broken. Can satisfactory work be performed with such implements, think you? To keep tools in this way is very expensive and no farmer can afford to do so. It is very annoying to a good plowman to have anything about the plow loose; he wants to feel the firmness of the plow in his hands.

Even the hand hoe needs attention; a file should be used to keep it sharp, and when put away for the day all dirt should be cleaned from it and a little oil rubbed over it that no rust may gather on it. Such a hoe does much better work when next taken out than if left wet and dirty. Why not give a little attention to this matter and keep the tools in condition to do their best? It is somewhat astonishing to see so many farmers neglect this important factor in making the farm pay. Tools out of order make hard work for operator and for team, and besides the job is not nearly as well done.

How to Pack Apples.

Country shippers and packers of apples should make it a point to pack their fruit honestly; that is, have the fruit run alike all through the barrel. Do not endeavor to cause deception by placing good, sound, large fruit on the top and bottom of the barrel, and fill in the middle with a lot of gnarly, wormy and decayed fruit. It does not pay. The deception is easily detected upon investigation, and merchants do not care to have fraud practiced upon them, neither do they care to practice it upon their customers.

Full regulation sized barrels should be used. Take the barrel, one head out, nail the hoops, and break off the end of the nails at the inside; place a layer or tier of apples, good and uniform size, smooth, bright, healthy, as closely as possible, stems downward, on the lower end, then fill up a basket full at a time, throwing out small, wormy, gnarly and windfall apples, and shaking the barrel well after each deposit until it is full up to the top of the rim or two inches above the rim, depending on variety and tenderness of fruit; place the head squarely on the apples, and with a screw or level-pressure force fit into place and nail securely. Turn over the barrel and mark name of apple with red or black lead or stencil. Bear in mind that, to shipped safely, fruit must be packed tight, to prevent rattling or bruising.—Daily Trade Bulletin.

Floral Notes.

A beautiful new hydrangea, Superba, has made its debut in Boston. Copper beeches contrast gorgeously with the trees clothed in green.

Seeds for Easter cinerarias should be sown the first week in September.

Dainty little ferns are nearly ready for the big demand that begins in early fall. Large stacks of Easter lily bulbs from Bermuda are already at the docks and ready for shipping.

"Experience meetings" were the feature of the August convention of the American Park and Outdoor association.

Many a seedsman and nurseryman makes his home grounds so lovely that the surrounding countryside simply can't resist doing likewise.

When chrysanthemums turn yellow and lose their lower leaves you have a sure sign that they've been overwatered. Amateurs water too little and too often.

Rice a Health Food.

Considerable attention has been directed toward rice as a health food since the fighting qualities of the Japanese are being so widely discussed. It has always been commonly believed that rice lacks the ingredients that help make muscle for the human body. However, the most important article of diet of the Japanese is rice, and we have recently if not before had occasion to particularly note the physical strength of these small people of Japan. The Philadelphia Vegetarian society has lately been paying special attention to this subject, and has made investigations through Prof. S. Knapp, who has a simple explanation of this supposed inconsistency. Rice, as it is eaten in America, is not a muscle-making food simply because in American mills the outer husk and bran of the rice kernel are removed by polishing, and thus is removed that part of the rice which contains the protein, and which is the most nutritious part of the rice. In Japan the outside coating of the rice kernel is retained, and hence great strength of muscle is developed in the Japanese.—American Cultivator.

German Asparagus.

The raising of asparagus for export, as well as for domestic use, is an industry of considerable importance in parts of Germany. It is confined chiefly to certain localities of North Germany and parts of Baden.

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MARKETS.

PITTSBURG.	
Grain, Flour and Feed.	
Wheat—No. 2 red	\$1.05 1/8
Rye—No. 2	85 3/4
Corn—No. 2 yellow, ear	66 3/4
No. 2 white	66 3/4
Mixed ear	59 3/4
Oats—No. 2 white	34 3/4
No. 3 white	34 3/4
Flour—Winter patent	61 3/4
Straight winter	59 3/4
Hay—No. 1 timothy	12 50 10 00
Clver No. 1	11 50 10 50
Feed—No. 1 white mid. ton	21 50 20 00
Bran, bulk	10 00 10 50
Straw—Wheat	7 50 7 50
Oat	7 00 7 00

Dairy Products.	
Butter—Eggs creamery	22 25
Ohio creamery	18 25
Fancy country roll	15 14
Cheese—Ohio, new	9 10
New York, new	9 10

Poultry, Etc.	
Hens—per lb.	12 1/2
Chickens—dressed	10 1/2
Turkeys, live	20 3/4
Eggs—Pa. and Ohio, fresh	22 3/4

Fruits and Vegetables.	
Potatoes—New per bu.	47 50
Cabbage—per barrel	27 1/2
Onions—per barrel	175 1/2
Apples—per barrel	151 00

BALTIMORE.	
Flour—Winter patent	\$1.05 5/8
Wheat—No. 2 red	1.10 1/4
Corn—mixed	66 3/4
Oats—No. 2 white	34 3/4
Butter—Creamery, extra	22 3/4
Eggs—Pennysylvania firsts	21 3/4

PHILADELPHIA.	
Flour—Winter Patent	\$1.11 5/8
Wheat—No. 2 red	1.11 1/4
Corn—No. 2 mixed	65 3/4
Oats—No. 2 white	34 3/4
Butter—Creamery, extra	22 3/4
Eggs—Pennysylvania firsts	21 3/4

NEW YORK.	
Flour—Patent	\$1.09 3/8
Wheat—No. 2 red	1.11 1/4
Corn—No. 2 mixed	65 3/4
Oats—No. 2 White	34 3/4
Butter—Creamery	22 3/4
Eggs	19 3/4

LIVE STOCK.	
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Union Stock Yards, Pittsburg. Cattle.	
Prime heavy, 1600 to 1800 lbs.	\$5.25 5.30
Prime, 1400 to 1600 lbs.	5.00 5.15
Medium, 1200 to 1400 lbs.	4.50 4.65
Butcher, 800 to 1000 lbs.	3.00 3.25
Common to fair	2.00 2.25
Open, common to fat	2.00 2.00
Common to good fat bulls and cows	2.50 2.50
Mixed cows, each	10.00 40.00

Hogs.	
Prime heavy hogs	\$4.25 5.30
Prime medium weights	4.00 5.30
Best heavy Yorkers and market	4.00 5.30
Good pigs and light Yorkers	3.50 4.50
Pigs, common to good	4.75 4.50
Stags	4.00 4.25
Stags	3.50 4.25

Sheep.	
Extra, medium wethers	\$4.10 4.25
Good to choice	3.75 4.00
Medium	3.50 3.75
Common to fair	3.00 3.25
Spring Lambs	3.50 3.50

Calves.	
Veal, extra	\$3.00 3.25
Veal, good to choice	2.75 3.00
Veal, common heavy	3.00 3.50

A Sounding Device.

One of the inventions which makes one wonder why it was not thought of before is a continuous sounding device. At present the only way to survey the bottom of a body of water is by "heaving the lead." This is slow and tiresome work, and only gives the depth at the points at which the lead is heaved, and can not indicate anything between them. There may be a great rock or a piece of a sunken wreck which would do much damage. A device has been patented by which a graduated rod runs freely up and down the side of a boat and terminates in a wheel running along the bottom of the river. The rod is about 30 feet long, and as the boat moves it indicates every unevenness in the floor of the stream.

How many bands are there in America? A well-known bandmaster estimates that there are at least 20,000.