CHAT ABOUT STYLES.

FASHION PERMITS THE SAME MATERIAL FOR MOTHER AND CHILD.

An Economy In Three Ways—Some Dainty Fancies For Young Girls—The New Crepons—Marie Antoinette Fichus—How to Make the New Cheviots.

[Special Correspondence.]

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—It is a wise provision of fashion to permit girls' dresses to be made of the same material as that used for those of the mothers, for it is economical in three ways. First, when in buying herself a gown the wise mother gets a yard or two more than she needs herself, and this with the inevitable cuttings leave enough to make a handsome dress for the child at the saving of at least a yard of wide material, as the pièces left of the mother's gown will make waist and sleeves to that of the child. Besides this the child gets a durable and handsome dress at least one-third less cost.

Then again, when the child's dress and that of the mother are worn out, there will still come enough good material from the back breadth of both to make another nice little frock, by the judicious addition perhaps of a little velutina or surah for guimpe or some other combination. It really takes not over half as much material now to make a child's dress as it did 10 years ago, and those of today are infinitely prettier. Few children wear silks, yet they are quite suitable—that is, the plain and light ones.

Crepons in all their new and lovely colors and weaves are as pretty for children as for their parents, and the colored

STYLES FOR GIRLS.

diagonals in wide wales and ombre stripes are particularly nice for girls. There are new camel's hairs in new shades and closer weaves, so that they are almost as firm as cloth. There are shades in plum, green, blue and brown, and some of these have stripes inwoven of two tones, which make an indistinct but very refined pattern. The rough cheviots and mixtures are, if possible, more excellent than ever, and these are often figured slightly. Plaid cheviots and twills are also shown in just the same patterns as those made for the mothers.

In the colors of the new smooth cheviots there is a mixture of brown and white almost as firm as covert coat cloth. In some there are two or three tones of blue. Faience blue mingled with maroon makes another handsome pattern, and there is no end of herringbone weaves in solid colors. All these make suitable gowns for little girls.

One way of making them that has long been popular is a loose frock plaited on a yoke, and with a little ribbon as a finish, or perhaps some one of the castle braids now so generally worn. A close weave cheviot in light brown, with an underweave of darker shade, was made with a plain hemmed skirt and a plain waist, open V shape in front to let in a gathered vest of pale blue faille. The bertha was braided in narrow soutache in seal brown.

A handsome dress for a larger girl was of tan colored cheviot in quite wide diagonal wales. The skirt was made quite plain. The waist was bebe style, with a shirring at the waist in form of belt. Around the bottom, on the sleeves and to form a bertha were frills of white point de paris. The whole dress was a model of girlish grace.

Some very dainty fancies for young girls are shown in the full pierrot collar. The most of these collars are made of silk muslin, accordion plaited and then box plaited very full at the neck. Above that the same plaiting is set, but

DAINTY FANCIES.

plaited in the middle, leaving both edges to set out in a double ruff. This in white, pink maize or blue is extremely pretty for wear over plain dresses. Another collarette is of black faille lined with pale blue and plaited in front in jabot style and finished with a ruffle of lace and with a bow of blue ribbon.

The Marie Antoinette fichu for girls and their mothers is made of silk muslin, mull or black lace, or with some material or color to match a costume edged with lace, either black or white. One for a grown person might be of black silk edged with lace, and for a young one mull with lace. The fichu crosses in front and ties in the back. This is very easy and becoming. Dotted net with lace is also very dainty.

OLIVE HARPER.

HANDS AND FACES.

HOW THEY ARE MADE IN A LARGE SWISS WATCH FACTORY.

Delicate Operations With Over and Tools Required In Making Dials—Expert Workers on Hands—The Wages Paid Both Men and Women Are Excellent.

A Geneva correspondent in writing of a visit to one of the famous watch manufactories of that city thus describes some of the operations:

Now, about the dialmaking process itself. First, the plain round of purest copper must be heated to a red heat in a furnace to burn off any adhering impurity. Leaving the fire, it is plunged into an acid bath, and in that way it becomes so smooth that it may easily be rubbed into form with a small steel spatula.

The enamel, which comes from France and Switzerland and looks like great lumps of white porcelain, is first reduced to the finest of powders in a powerful crusher. Then it, too, is washed in acid, and finally it is washed again in many renewings of pure water. After this it is made into a sort of paste, which is applied in thin strata to both sides of the copper and then carefully put by to wait the complete evaporation of the water with which it was mixed. As soon as this has been accomplished the dial is placed in an intensely hot gas oven, where the enamel becomes perfectly fused and adheres firmly to the plate. This operation is repeated, with a second and third application of the enamel, and then the dial is ready to receive the painting of the hours. As soon as this has been done it is again put in the oven, a most critical operation, because the fraction of a second overmuch would spoil everything; and then, while yet warm, it is rubbed or redressed with a bit of charcoal and a small metal tool especially made for the purpose. It is this operation that gives the dial the beautiful smoothness, like that of a dainty bit of china. Before that most delicate operation, the piercing for the hands, which is done on an instrument furnished with diamonds fixed on steel, and sometimes even the steel itself, the dial goes to the automatic filer and is rendered absolutely perfect in shape.

The painting of the hours is nearly all done by women and girls. Several women are also employed in the enameling department. The wages paid both men and women are excellent. Some of the employees are time workers, the others work by the piece, many of the latter easily earning 300 francs a month. Naturally these are the most experienced workers, who have finished apprenticeships of at least three years.

In beginning the employees are given simple separate parts to do, but even then they may earn from 100 to 150 francs a month. The women who earn the highest wages, 200 francs, work also by the piece, polishing or rubbing off the second dial.

The firm was organized in 1885, and all the chief employees of today have been connected with it from the beginning. There are 14 divisions of workmen and workwomen, each with a distinct branch of his or her own. Indeed a dial, before complete, passes through at least 20 pairs of hands. Besides the white or simple dials with the usual black figures, there are the colored dials—pink, blue, gray, a delicate shade of green and black. There are also the white or colored dials, with figures in contrasting colors or in metals, as in the very latest fashion in decoration there is an artistic combination with golden dots. This firm sends dials to America by the hundreds of thousands annually, and its rate of supply to the largest Swiss houses is proportional.

The making of watch hands is one of the most fascinating adjuncts in the whole process of watch manufacturing. The chief Swiss handmaking firm has been in existence through three generations. As all its heads have been notably expert artisans and devoted workmen, it is little wonder that the hands now produced by this house have become celebrated. The process is so delicate that the workers must be literally undisturbed in their work, and the pieces are so minute that a rogue, should one enter, could easily carry off a large number unobserved; hence the business is conducted behind locked doors, and all outside communications are through closely barred windows. It is almost incredible, but here, too, a staff of designers is kept busy, for the hands in form as well as the dials in figures and ornamentation must keep pace with fashion's demands. The standard favorite designs, however, are the Louis XV, the fleur-de-luce and the good old fashioned spade and open hands. The steel hands cost quite as much as the ordinary gold hands because they are so much harder in the working.

The price of an ordinary pair of hands is, I believe, about 8 francs, but I have seen hands there initialed and studded with tiny diamonds that cost in the neighborhood of 35 or 40 francs. Every style and every workman has its and his own especially cut die with which the hands are stamped from the thin and very elastic and highly tempered sheet of steel or from the gold or silver of which they are to be formed. There is a wonderful machine in this shop that takes a bar of steel half an inch wide and flattens it again and again until it comes out vibrant, elastic, and of just the thickness desired for the hands.—Boston Herald.

A Public Spirited Woman.

Mrs. Matilda Gross MacConnell has given the city of Pittsburg five squares of ground for a public park. She is the third woman in the city who has given land for park purposes, thus helping to remove from Pittsburg the stigma of being perhaps the only town in the country devoid of open squares, plazas or public lawns. Yet these public spirited women cannot vote.—Pittsburg Letter.

IN OLD OCEAN'S DEPTHS.

Living Lanterns That Are Borne About to Light Up the Darkness.

Away down in the dark depths of the ocean there are living lanterns that are borne about to light up the darkness. A queer fish called the midshipmite carries the brightest and most striking of all these sea torches.

Along its back under it and at the base of its fins there are small disks that glow with a clear phosphorescent light like rows of shining buttons on the young middy's uniform—in this way it gets its name, midshipmite, by which young sailors in the navy are often called.

These disks are exactly like small bullseye lanterns with regular lenses and reflectors.

The lenses gather the rays, and the reflectors throw them out again. There is a layer of phosphorescent cells between the two, and the entire effect is as perfect as if made by some skillful optician.

Many other fish have "reflectors," many have "lenses," but the "midshipmite" is the only kind that has such splendid specimens of both.

The fish is so constructed that when it is frightened by some devouring sea monster it can close its lenses and hide itself in the darkness. It can turn its lantern off and on at will, and then it is always "filled" and ready when wanted.

Another marine animal has a luminous bulb that hangs from its chin, and it throws the light before it to warn it of the approach of enemies. Still another upholds a big light from the extremity of the dorsal fin. Others, again, have constant supplies of a luminous oil that runs down their sides from the fins, making a bright and constant light all around them.

Most of the jellyfish are phosphorescent. These live far down on the very floor of the ocean, where it is always dark and gloomy. The dwellers in those watery depths are provided with lights of their own, shining bodies and fins which illumine their homes with strange though no doubt cheerful glare.—E. A. Mathews.

Chalk Turned to Marble.

The example furnished by nature in the production of marble from chalk by water—the latter percolating gradually and steadily through the chalky deposits, dissolving the chalk, particle by particle, and crystallizing it, mountain pressure effecting its characteristic solidity—it is now found may be the basis of accomplishing similar results by a resort to chemical processes. Slices of chalk are for this purpose dipped into a color bath, staining them with tints that will imitate any kind of marble known, the same mineral stains answering this end as are employed in nature, for instance, to produce the appearance of the well known and popular verde antique, an oxide of copper application is resorted to, and in a similar manner green, pink, black and other colorings are obtained. The slices after this are placed in another bath, where they are hardened and crystallized, coming out to all intents and purposes real marble.—New York Sun.

The Robin Was Grateful.

Miss Cecelia Morse of Morrisania, N. Y., discovered a lame robin hopping on the lawn not long since and bound up its broken leg. It was in the course of an early morning walk that this act of charity was done, and the bird has since made its appearance on the spot where it was found at the identical hour every day. Becoming weary of early walks, Miss Morse abstained from her peregrinations one day and was surprised the next to hear a gentle tapping at her bedroom window, which, on investigation, proved to be the work of the robin.—New York Recorder.

Bending the Knee to Foreigners.

A clever New York woman of assured social position frankly admitted to a horrified Frenchman of rank that nothing of a lower grade than the imperial or republican head of a great nation, in his representative capacity, could win from her a bend of the knee. The princelets, male and female, were but everyday folk in her eyes, quite without social "divinity," and to them she refused to make obeisance. The lady's distinction is self respecting and truly American, and as a rule of conduct it is commended as an antidote for the indiscriminate courtesy craze.—Vogue.

It is from the rootlets or small fibers of a tree or plant that its subsistence is obtained, and in the performance of its duty nature has given these delicate, tender parts wonderful strength and persistence when exerted within rules. In their search for food supply they will sometimes even penetrate soft rock to reach favored spots.

The consumption of tea in England during 1892 reached the highest point ever touched since its use has been generally diffused among the masses, the total quantity used being 207,000,000 pounds.

The largest spider of the world is the migale of Central America, which, with legs extended, is sometimes 15 inches in diameter. It preys upon birds and lizards.

Princess Marie of Greece.

Princess Marie of Greece is the princess whose name has been so frequently mentioned of late as a bride for the Russian czarowitz. She is 16 years of age, belongs to the same religion as the czarowitz and might make him a good wife were it not for the fact that she happens to be his first cousin, her father King George, being brother of the czarina. And there is nothing which the canons of the Greek church more strictly prohibit than matrimonial unions between first cousins. The young princess is round faced and plump of figure, not particularly pretty, but having the vivacity and fresh coloring of early girlhood.—Exchange.

Surprised Her Court.

At her birthday soiree recently the German empress displayed an accomplishment that no one knew she possessed. Among those honored by an invitation from her majesty were the piano teacher of the crown prince, Herr Esner, and his wife. Frau Esner is a Norwegian, and as soon as the empress discovered this she spoke Norwegian to the great delight of Frau Esner and to the surprise of her other guests.

Raising Talking Parrots.

The talking powers of a parrot depend to a great extent on its being taken in hand at a very early age. This would be one advantage of rearing these birds in confinement. Under such conditions also it would be practicable to vastly improve the speaking faculty by mating the best talkers together for generations. Thus would be produced such feathered conversationists as are unknown up to date. It would certainly be profitable to breed and raise the parrots known as Carolina parrakeets. These are rare now and bring high prices, though they used to be very common as far north as Pennsylvania and Illinois. At present the few survivors are almost wholly confined to scattered localities in Florida and the Indian Territory. They have been successfully bred in captivity. The green Australian parrakeets of the sort used by strolling fortune tellers on the streets are among the easiest of birds to rear.—Washington Star.

She Drew the Line.

No, she wouldn't do it. The very idea! Would she sacrifice her womanly dignity? Could she lock the door of her pleasant home and go forth on such a mission with the prattle of her innocent babes sounding in her ears? No, a thousand times no. She could die easier. She never could bring herself down on the level of a vile man and go to the polls and vote. Her bonnet and gloves are tossed in a corner, and as she retires to the back yard to split the wood for the morrow's fire she's heard cheerfully humming, "What Is Home Without a Mother?"—Buffalo Express.

The Boy, the Dog and the Bicycle.

A boy riding a bicycle around Garfield place one day attracted considerable attention by the companion he had on the machine. He had hung a small platform in front of him just backof the handles, and on it sat a small black and tan dog. The animal sat quietly, without any fear of falling.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Copied.

A well known plagiarist brought a poem to a New York editor and requested him to publish it. As the editor hesitated the visitor said:

"This poem is not very legible. Perhaps I had better copy it over."

"What! Again?" asked the editor, with a severe look.—Texas Siftings.

An Admiral by Any Name.

When Admiral de Horsey, who some years ago held command of the British fleet in the Pacific, was admiral of the north Atlantic squadron, he was one evening dining on shore at Port Royal, Jamaica. On returning to his flagship alone after dinner his way to the boat led across the barracks square. A black sentry of one of the West India regiments halted him at the gate with "Who goes dar?" Great was the admiral's annoyance to find that he had neglected to get the password before leaving the ship. "That's all right," he said carelessly, hoping to overcome the man's scruples by indifference. "You know who I am." "Dunno nobody, sar," replied the man pompously. "You can't go in dar." "Why, I'm Admiral de Horsey." "Well, you can't go in. I don' care if you's Admiral de Donkey."—Exchange.

His "Turnout."

Clerkley—Isn't this earlier than your usual time for going home?

Berkley—Yes, but my wife said if I came out by the 3:45 she'd meet me with the carriage.

"I didn't know you kept a horse and carriage."

"Eg—er—it's a baby and carriage."—Boston Globe.

A Louisville Dog That Swears.

A Louisville railroad man has a dog that distinguishes the dagger of the various and different railroad trains. On days when Midget's owner makes his regular trips the dog accompanies him to the station, but never attempts to board the train—just stays on the platform, an interested spectator, and wags his tail cheerfully as the train moves out. On other days and other trains—suburban trains to Parkland or Pewee Valley—he hops aboard without hesitation, evidently aware that the ride in prospect is one that he may share. Midget swears too; swears like a pirate.

The family understand him, but they report that his language is too terrible to be repeated. When things don't go to suit him, he retires under a bed or sofa and lies there rolling off oaths of fearful description for hours. A young man who was attentive to Midget's young mistress unintentionally offended him, but the dog got even. He actually broke off the match. He knew the regular nights on which the youth appeared, and at an early hour would ensconce himself under the parlor sofa, from which coign of vantage he would growl forth such volleys of personal and profane remarks that the prospective lover became intimidated and ceased his attentions. In recognition of these services Midget's master gave him a beautiful silver collar.—Louisville Courier Journal.

The Chicago Fair's Bad Management.

Either the blood sucking parasites at the fair must be dispensed with, the deadhead leak stopped and expenses cut down, or there must be a default on the bonds which the corporation owes. The directors have outstanding five millions of bonds and floating debt, and they have not yet a dollar to apply on the bond payment. They have not yet paid the floating debt by perhaps a million, and from present appearances will not until late in August.

The fair is costing $300,000 a month for operating expenses. The army of deadheads who enter its gates is steadily increasing. Friday more than one-third of those in attendance went in on passes. The deadheads ought to be cut down at least one-half. At least half of the police force at the fair ought to be mustered out and taken off the payrolls. The expenses of operating the fair ought not to be over $300,000 per month at the very outside. The directors must face the music.—Chicago Tribune.

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