CONCERNING FASHIONS

FOR THE HOUSEWIFE

THAT ON SUBJECTS ESSENTIALLY FEMININE.

Costume of Mauve Velvet Seen at the New York Horse Show.

Dodge Chine—Some New Ones Worth Trying.

Frocks for the Little Ladies.

Frocks and frills for diminutive folks to wear to parties are fascinating in the extreme and there is an endless variety from which to choose. One of the smartest of this season's modes for little girls reflect the modes worn by grown-up woman, and this is perfectly suitable in the daytime as well as in the evening frock. The wide shoulder cape will prevail, and this is not to be considered at, inasmuch as this model has proved most becoming. To accentuate the length of shoulder lines a plain and drop frill of lace or material are still in vogue. The simple yoke waist gathered top and bottom and bloused either at the front or all round about is a standard mode and a more suitable one cannot be offered for the sheer fabrics of the present mode. Skirts are noted for their abundant fullness and yards and yards of goods are gathered into the belt to flare in an attractive fullness at the hem.

New Style Darning Bag.

A new style darning bag of cretonne is made in two compartments. The large one, or bag proper, is intended for the stockings, and the smaller one for darning cottons. Each compartment has a drawing string of its own. Under a panel of the cretonne, stiffened with cardboard and fastened to the bar at the top, is concealed a pad for needles. The drawing strings are of ribbon.

Boudoir Confidences

Chenille tissue makes very pretty small hats.

Buckles of peacock blue and green are liked.

Black velvet hats for weddings are having a furore.

The new hats seem to call for the high mode of dressing the hair.

The new herringbone suitings, especially in gray tones, are particularly stunning.

Radium, crepe de chine, collenne and chiffon are likely to be leading silks for evening wraps.

Satin finished derbys trimmed with a long curling plume, are among the new headwear shown for women.

One of the new hats has a huge crown of gay-flowered black silk and not a few have scarfs of this antique material.

Velvet a Popular Material.

Not only for evening gowns, but for street and home costumes, velvet is much in demand. Many handsome coat suits are being made up and we shall undoubtedly see as many velvet as cloth gowns this winter. A dark blue velvet street gown was made with a wide circular skirt, with an applied band at the foot. The band, which was about six inches wide, was of dark blue broadcloth and was cut in square scallops on either side. The jacket was a short box coat bordered all around with broadcloth, which in its turn was edged with a fancy black silk braid. There was a collar and short revers of old blue and white embroidery on white satin, a small cuff of the same finishing the sleeve.

Separate Bodices.

Separate bodices—to call them shirt waists would be heresy—are seen in every outfit, and while not permissible for any formal occasion, still may be worn once in a while with a cloth or velvet coat and skirt. White waists can be worn with any color and are therefore most serviceable, but a light tone of the shade of the cloth suit is attractive in chiffon or silk—yellow, for example, with tan or brown, or pale blue with some dark pastel shade. The waist, whatever the texture and whatever the color, is now rendered as nearly fashionable as a separate waist can hope to be, by elaborate trimmings of silk floss, ribbon, or the spangled embroidery. Real embroidery work done in embroidery silk, is popular and, unquestionably attractive in its soft colors.

Seen at the New York Horse Show.

Handsome mauve velvet gown having the skirt shirred twice around the sides; satin bodice with high girdle and pointed yoke collar of embroidery; full elbow sleeves.

Oatmeal Soup.

Melt three tablespoons of butter in a frying pan. In this saute two slices of onion, one-fourth of a carrot, cut in slices, and a sprig of parsley, without allowing them to take color. When the vegetables are so well soft cook add a second quart of water and a cup of oatmeal. Cook until tender, two hours or more, adding water as is needed. Pass through a sieve and return to the fire; thin if needed with white stock, milk or water; let heat to the boiling point, season to taste with salt and pepper, and just before sending to the table stir in two tablespoons of butter, a little at a time.—Philadelphia Record.

Varied Designs in Skirts.

The majority of skirts—particularly the walking skirts—are still elaborately plaited, but there are some few smart models made with a large number of gores cut so as to give extra width at the hem. One of the prettiest skirts seen this autumn is laid about the hips in one inch box plaits, which, opened out, hang gracefully and with good flare. There are an indefinite number of these models, all more or less on the same order. Some are made with very narrow box plaits arranged in groups of three and four, while wide tucks are also used in this same way in clusters of two and three at a time.

New Arm Gloves.

The new arm gloves, consisting of a long, wrinkled portion for the arm and a separate covering for the hand, the joining concealed by the wrinkles and by a bracelet, are winning their way to favor. For a dinner or any other function where the gloves are removed they are obviously superior to the old fashion of tucking the glove in at the wrist. One may now simply remove the short glove from the hand and the arm still remains covered from wrist to shoulder. Of course, while worn these cannot be told from the regulation one-piece glove.

Millinery Matters.

The newest felts are in pale colors, showing trimmings of mirror velvet and the inevitable wing or quill. These are of small jaunty shapes, with a high bandeau. Small shapes in velvet and satin mixed will be very smart. These show a tendency toward the tudor shapes—that is to say, a triple narrow brim of velvet and a round conical crown of satin, with a pouf of ostrich plumes at the side. The favorite Paris color is a golden brown, so bright that it almost becomes a yellow, taking in beautiful autumnal colorings.

Harking to the Empire

The flash and sparkle of the empire are seen in all the trimmings of all the suits and all the dresses, and can be obtained by the use of silver or gold tissue, gilt buttons, tinsel braids and even yellow cloths.

Chocolate Pie.

Try this for a chocolate pie, if you do not wish for a cake pie with chocolate filling: Put one square of best unsweetened chocolate in a saucepan with two tablespoons each of sugar and hot water. Stir and boil until perfectly smooth. Have ready three cups of scalding hot milk, and pour a little of it over the chocolate, until thin enough to pour easily, then add the rest of it. Now beat three eggs slightly, add one tablespoon of sugar (the sugar in the chocolate will be enough for sweetness), one saltspoon of salt, and then pour the milk and chocolate over and strain into a deep custard pie plate lined with paste. Bake slowly and the moment it puffs and a knife blade put into it comes out clean it is done. It looks like a pumpkin or date pie. If you like the vanilla flavor add a teaspoonful.

Never Worn Before.

A strictly new glove is the chevrette, without seams. It comes in three shades—tan, gray and felt. It has two fastenings—the clasp and one large pearl button. The felt shade is particularly attractive, and will be worn extensively, because it is neutral in tone and can be worn with any number of costumes. Dame Fashion takes an economical turn now and then.

How to Set the Color.

It is impossible to tell whether a color is fast before washing, but by far the safest plan is to "set" the color before it goes to the tub for the first time.

One of the best methods of setting delicate colors consists in simply making a strong brine of cold water and salt, and soaking the garment from twelve to twenty-four hours.

Of course this should be done just before going to the laundry, and the salt should not be allowed to dry in it. This is especially good for all shades of pink and green, and colors once set this way will be bright as long as it would be possible to expect it.

A strong solution of alum and water is good, particularly with blues and the more delicate shades of brown; but its effect is not so lasting as that of salt, and it is sometimes necessary to renew the bath after the first three or four washings.

HINTS TO HOUSEWIVES

To polish iron or brass bedsteads go over them with a damp wash leather and then polish with a dry cloth.

When machining hard materials, such as serge or holland, oil the thread. This will prevent it constantly snapping.

To ease a tight screw apply to it a little ordinary vinegar, then use the screwdriver again and see how your task is lightened.

As it is hard to make a few flowers stand as one wants them in a vase or bowl, a little bit of wire crossed and put in the top will serve as a useful holder and make the arranging much easier.

The mica sides of oil stoves, which get so smoked and dirty, may easily be cleaned with a piece of flannel dipped in vinegar.

Contrasting Skirts and Bodices.

It is not necessary for both waist and skirt to be trimmed in the same way, and many of this season's handsomest models the bodice may be of one shade, face trimmed, while the skirt has no lace, is of a contrasting shade, and is trimmed with an elaborate design in paillettes and ribbon. One evening gown made up on this idea had a skirt of blue chiffon, unusually full and finished with a deep band of embroidery of pink, blue, cream and pale green mother of pearl spangles worked in with a pale pink ribbon design. The wide girdle was of blue satin, while the waist was of white lace over pink. The bodice was trimmed with countless ruffles and rechings of the Valenciennes, as the pink showed but faintly and the blue of the skirt and girdle was extremely pale. The whole coloring, therefore, toned in perfectly to make an exquisite ball gown.

HANDSOME WINTER COSTUMES.

The costume at the left is of violet velvet, the plain skirt hanging in soft, rich folds. The long-fitted jacket is double breasted and gathered slightly at the top to a little yoke, which is hardly more than a collar. The narrow collar is of black silk, edged with silver cloth, and the revers are of black striped silk. Inside the collar and revers is an edge of pale blue velvet embroidered in silk, crossed and forming a little waistcoat. The full sleeves are finished at the elbows with cuffs trimmed to correspond. The other costume is in empire style, made over a princess slip of taffeta, which fastens in the back. The five-gored skirt is of dark red, or claret-colored cloth, encircled near the bottom with a wide band of the same, the edges stitched and free. It is plaited just under the bust to the lining in fine plaits, where it is finished with a girdle of the material or velvet to match. The bolero is of velvet of the same shade, plaited at the bottom and finished with a band of the same. The fronts form a sort of plastron ornamented with buttonholes and two large fancy buttons. The waistcoat is of gray cloth, ornamented with silver buttons and furnishes the revers, which are embroidered in metallic colors. The chemisette and cravat are of white lace.

LIVE STOCK

Success in Stock Breeding.

A young farmer who has fallen heir to a handsome sum of money asks us to advise him whether it would be profitable for him to engage in the breeding of pedigreed cattle and wants to know how certain men have achieved such eminent success in the business while others have failed. There are serious considerations and are well worthy of thought and study before embarking in the stock breeding business as a life's work. The men who have made a marked success of the business would doubtless have done equally well in almost any other mercantile branch. Those who have failed would probably have failed as speedily and as badly in most other vocations. It is not so much the business as the man that decides success or failure. Before entering into the business of breeding cattle or any other kind of farm stock the man should know that he loves animals, is content and satisfied to live upon a farm and possessed of an intimate knowledge of animals and farming.

Like every other business that of stock raising requires study and some natural bent or adaptability. Most of the requisite knowledge as to breeding, feeding and management can be acquired from study at an agricultural college, from attendance at fairs and from reading of books as well as observation of the book of nature, but when all of these requisite things have been acquired there still remains a something that cannot be bought, borrowed, stolen or learned. We refer to hard-headed business sense and acumen, which some men inherit and others do not possess. To the degree to which this faculty is present in a man depends the degree of success he will attain in business, other requisites being present. Lack of any one requisite, and especially honesty or integrity, will of course offset business acumen, but possession of honesty and integrity with all of the other requisites will not make up for the lack of business ability such as we have mentioned.

Nevertheless there is a better chance of making a fair amount of money and a fairly good success in the business of stock breeding than in almost any other line of work that has to be done in the city instead of upon the farm. The average breeder who sticks to the business through fair days and foul generally wins out fairly well and at least makes a comfortable living, for his farm insures that, with energy and perseverance devoted to the work. Speculation in stock breeding as in other lines of business is risky, and to this cause we may most often attribute disaster in both city and farm business. Speculation however usually is back of success in the accumulation of large fortunes, and this is partially true of fortunes made in live stock. To speculate is required the particular and peculiar business acumen referred to, and lacking it comes failure. Without it the stock breeder or business man may be able to make a comfortable living, but the other fellow will make the big hits and the large fortune.

Given a fair degree of business ability, the necessary capital, proper training and a suitable farm and love for the work our young friend will however be perfectly safe in embarking in the stock breeding business, and, if he adds to it and is fortunate in procuring efficient help, we see no reason why he should not be able to make it pay a safe and legitimate interest upon the amount of capital invested. To succeed it will be necessary to build up a reputation for good animals and business integrity. To obtain a reputation it will be necessary to exhibit stock at the county and state fairs and also to advertise in the best agricultural and live stock papers. Success at the start brings notoriety and such success wisely advertised brings trade which lasts and augments if handled honestly and promptly. We would advise our correspondent to engage in the business of pedigreed cattle breeding if he is strongly inclined that way for love of the business rather than mere speculation. We would advise him to keep out of it if he has no special liking for animals and country life, or if he merely thinks of engaging in it as a speculation.—A. S. Alexander in Farmers' Review.

The Age of the Profitable Feeding Steer.

It requires about one-half as much grain to produce a hundred pounds of gain on calves as on two-year-olds. The work of the Missouri Agricultural College has definitely demonstrated that the most profitable age to fatten cattle is while they are still young. The older the animal the more food is required to produce a given gain. Other stations have also investigated this question and have arrived at the same result. The Central Experiment Station Farm at Ottawa, Canada, found by comparing one thousand pounds live weight in the case of calves, yearlings, two and three-year olds, that the profit for each one thousand pounds was: Calves, $31.00; yearlings, $27.00; two-year-olds, $19.10; three-year-olds, $12.80. When all of the cattle of all ages were purchased at 4c a pound and sold fat at 5c a pound, the profit on $1,000 invested in feeding cattle was: Calves, $557.50; yearlings, $284.00; two-year-olds, $198.75; three-year-olds, $177.50. Nine-tenths of all the cattle fed in the Middle West are two-year-olds at the beginning of the feeding period. When these cattle are in thin condition at the beginning of the experiment they are often fed with profit; but starting with calves in the same condition it is unquestionably true that the calves return three hundred each thousand dollars invested than the older cattle. —F. B. Mumford.

North of Illinois it pays to cover the strawberry vines in the fall, but this covering should not be done till the ground is frozen.

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