

Frills of Fashion.

One Woman's Chat.

A new note in tea gowns is the long, loose coat of brocade or cashmere or soft Liberty fabric, over an underdress of plaited silk or mousseline. The effect is charming, as picturesque as a Watteau frock, but more graceful, with its long, sweeping, clinging draperies.

One beautiful tea gown of this description has an underdress of silvery white chiffon, the front of the bodice draped, the skirt having three ruffles placed at regular intervals from knee to foot. Over this is a loose garment of blue silk with a design of pale rosebuds scattered over its azure surface. The fronts do not meet, and are bordered with lace caught at intervals by rosettes of rose pink chiffon.

The elbow sleeves are finished with frills of lace, and square revers of pleated silk and lace give a sort of collar and epaulet effect.

A case such as could only occur in Japan has been exciting some curiosity in Tokyo. A daily paper, quite up to date in its methods, organized a novel competition. Coupons were printed, and subscribers were asked to vote for the election of the best geisha in Tokyo.

One gentleman bought 6000 copies of the paper containing these coupons; and used the whole number on behalf of a geisha with whose charms he was smitten. Another geisha, however, obtained the coveted honor, and the disappointed lover thereupon brought action against the journal, alleging that the editor had "cooked" the result.

The claim was for 10 yen (£1) the cost of the 6000 papers bought. Popular papers are cheap in Japan.

Pale green promises to have a vogue this winter as an accessory color. Impossible as it may seem, many women are weary of purple and lilac and the once ubiquitous turquoise blue has grown a trifle common since 98 ct. shirt waists and cheap turquoise jewelry of the once beloved tint have come to be the leading features of bargain sales. Pale green and bright blue are decidedly smart and no color looks better with the beaver browns to be seen this year than a fresh, delicate shade of green.

Moorland dress is the suggestive name bestowed upon the pretty individualized costume which will be used in early autumnal visiting in the White Mountains or Adirondacks. They are very smart, quite appropriate to rough walking, and yet distinct from plain tailormade travelling dresses.

It is no secret that some of our fellow townswomen can bring down a deer in the Adirondacks, or that some glory in their fishing or shooting prowess. Whether or not they would do so were it not for the charming little frocks provided especially for the purpose by the tailors no one can truly say.

Scotch tweeds, Irish homespuns, heather and chevot are the prescribed materials. Just now it is the fancy to trim such a frock with leather.

The flocks of color woven in the material usually suggests what shade to use in the waistcoat or collarband, unless such happens to be the tinge of tomato red, which occurs in brown mixtures, probably for our sins.

The new Cuban woman is vastly different from the old. She is beginning to dress well, and she takes her ideas from New York fashions.

She has a pretty figure and some taste in dress, and invariably she wears fashionable hats, imported from Paris or made after Paris models.

She wears a great deal of satin, silk, and velvet, and she has not learned yet to appreciate the beauty and desirability of organdy gowns.

In Cuba, of course, they can be worn the year round, for this is the land of perpetual summer. She has also adopted the shirt waists, and she goes shopping alone now in the morning and the shops along the thoroughfares looks almost American with the laughing beves of rather pretty girls.

There is one cafe on the Prado which seems to have become a meeting place. It is called Helados de Paris, which means Paris ices. Here the young women gather together for ices, and the place is suggestive of a Tremont street confectionery shop on matinee day.

As to the silk and flannel blouses there is little real novelty in their shape, and the enterprise of their wearers seems all centered in the four-in-hand necktie with floating handkerchief ends. There was

never a moment's doubt as to the popularity of these strange violet, damson red, lichen grey and locust green neckhandkerchiefs, with something pretty, but more often curiously bizarre figures embroidered on their asstike ends. A rich red tie of heavy faulle francaise will show a pair of crossed fool's baubles in rainbow colors on one end and a knight's helmet with plumes on the other. A ship under full sail, and banquet of parti-colored flowers decorate another pair of ends, and with further varieties of equally eccentric patterns the autumn girl is proud and happy, and is busy moreover making a collection for wear throughout the winter.

WOMEN AND GLOVES.

The Fair ones Insist Upon Having Them Several Sizes too Small.

An old draper, writing in Draper's Record (London) says that between the growing inclination on the part of the customers to bring back damaged gloves for exchange, and the evident intention of wholesale house to keep returns within as narrow limits as heretofore, the unfortunate retailer seems likely to have a bad time of it. What with extended stock and closer cutting of prices, the department has undergone within recent years a decided change for the worse, and now frequently fails to return a fair profit, while it would generally not be able to bear the loss that more exchanges would bring upon it. Yet it must be admitted that a customer has a right to expect a good and wearable glove when she has paid an adequate price for it and it would be absolute folly to run the risk of losing her future patronage by sending her away dissatisfied and in a huff, rather than replace a pair of which one has ripped without showing marks of rough treatment. What can be done? It has been interesting to follow the methods adopted during recent years by our American cousins for dealing with these difficulties. They have in some cases given away glove-stretchers with every pair above a specified price, and may, probably, in other instances have added packets of chalk as well. They have been ready to mend gloves, and have advocated the instalment of a glove mender in the house by giving one of the young ladies a complete outfit and plenty of encouragement, but apparently without contemplating an increase of her salary. They have tried to promote home-mending by keeping for sale in the department glove-darners in the shape of small sticks with oval balls of different sizes—one for the thumb and the other for the fingers—at either end, and by providing at popular prices dainty haberdashery cases containing special needles, silk and buttons for glove repairs. But the people are not likely to do for themselves what they can get done for them, and so a policy of fitting on gloves before purchase was taken up, and is still fully, but not enthusiastically followed. The plan would work well enough if sweet reasonableness in all customers could be depended upon.

With all deference, it has always seemed to me that this matter is not taken at the right end. It is like commencing a subject in the middle to assume that women generally know how to treat properly a pair of new gloves. By all means let us exchange readily a pair of gloves that, either in the skin or sewing is faulty, but let us try to secure indulgent, and wheeling adaptation of a tender untried skin to the peculiarities of the hand that has to be put within it somehow. It is perhaps, too much to hope that women will ever be brought to wear gloves big enough for them. They will probably always insist upon getting their gloves one or two sizes smaller than they ought to be, in spite of the fact that easy-fitting gloves will wear twice as long and really look infinitely better than when, as a famous academician once said, the fingers are made to look like so many sausages. It would be safe to declare that not one woman in a hundred buys gloves large enough for her, and probably not another out of the remainder will be wise enough and careful enough to give the gloves a fair start in wear. We can fall back on a consular report for the calculation that a raw skin must pass 219 different manipulations before it becomes a glove and the 220 is often a strain like unto the first stages of a hearty meal in a box constrictor. Gloves stretchers and gratuitous powder afford little help, unless they are followed by muscular moderation, and the best way of preventing split gloves is to teach glove wearers what should or should not be done with new gloves. The best way of imparting this instruction would be by prettily printed and (preferably) illustrated leaflets, which might be given away with all purchases, and reprinted, as occasion offered in catalogues or other trade literature.

This suggestion is not put forward as a discovery, nor can it be considered a novelty, for some few years ago an "insert" in the trade list of a leading Exeter firm

put the case for gloves plainly before purchasers, after this fashion: "Manner of Putting on Gloves"—(1). Open and turn back the gloves to the thumb, and powder lightly; (2) Pat the fingers in their places, not the thumb, and carefully work them on with the first finger and thumb of the other hand until they are quite down; never press between the fingers; (3) Pass the thumb into its place with care, and work on as the fingers; (4) Turn back the glove and slide it over the hand and wrist, never pinching the kid, and work the glove into place by means of the lightest pressure, always allowing the kid to slide between the fingers; (5) In finishing care should be taken in fastening the first button." In clearness and directness this leaves nothing to be desired. And with a brief account of the manufacture of gloves, which is full of interest from first to last, even through those 219 processes were not enumerated there might be sent out a dainty little souvenir of the department, which could not fail to arrest attention and insure an excellent advertisement.

NEW STYLES IN FURNITURE.

Red the Great Color and Jacobean Ideas U-ed.

Red running through the gamut of its rich dyes from Morris scarlet to the deepest mulberry, is the favorite color in house decoration this season. The steadily increasing popularity of mahogany in simple colonial forms has brought this color into fashion, and after long dalliance with French styles and a momentary fancy for dellt blues, a lavish use of gilding and white paint, the whole inclination of interior ornamentation is toward the older, darker and severer English modes. Nothing is more fashionable, for instance, than a library, a hall, or even an entire first floor, wholly decorated and furnished after the best Jacobean models left in England, Ireland and Scotland, and one of the charms of a King James room is that it can be done at as lavish or moderate cost as you please, and it is like nothing seen before in American homes.

In one New York house, only recently completed, there is a small Jacobean library that would be a faultless model for one desiring a similar room to copy. The walls hung in murrey colored leather and the woodwork is carved cedar; the floor is stained black, then waxed, highly polished, and on it laid red rugs. All the furniture and this motif in decoration come from an ancient manor house on the border between England and Scotland. Carved fumed oak, so called from being blacked by age and the smoke from slow peat fires, forms the presses that hold the books, and the wooden portion of the quaint, uncomfortable, long legged, low-backed, conversation chairs, the window stools and the settees. Murrey colored leather upholsters these, and in corners against the walls there are carved locked chests for holding valued manuscripts and family papers, and one long tapestry curtain hangs at each deeply recessed window.

The effect of the Jacobean room is in spite of its absence of mirrors, gilt and loose bric-a-brac, is wonderfully rich, stately and cosy, and in these houses where no such liberal expenditure could be indulged the decorators have pursued the King James style with wonderful cheapness and success. They copy the quaint furniture in carved black American walnut, or use an oak to which art has given the worn, dusky tone of great age. Burlap is laid on the walls and painted murrey red, and walnut is used for woodwork or door facings, etc., painted black. Where in any room this early sixteenth century idea of decoration is followed, the bric-a-brac is carefully hoarded up in open fronted cupboards, or shallow presses with half glass doors, and the very newest idea in dining rooms is a great plate sideboard.

When a dinner party is given nowadays, it is in order for the hostess to put on view all her beautiful plate, gold and silver, not so much for actual table use as for display and the ornamentation of her dining room. Now, the ordinary long, low Georgian, or colonial sideboard of mahogany is not well suited for this, so that some women who own splendid silver services, and whose husbands have won with their yachts and received from corporations beautiful gifts of plate, require special sideboards on which to exhibit their glittering hoards. For this purpose in black carved oak Jacobean plate boys, with shelves rising nearly to the ceiling, are being especially built and so placed in handsome dining rooms that the light from a many-branched candelabrum can fall effectively on tiers of silver. One of the first plate boys introduced here was of richly carved fumed oak, a genuine King James or Charles piece, and its top shelf nearly touched the dining room ceiling. Other plate boys are built of any simple wood and then entirely covered in ruby red velvet, against which the plate shows as effectively and certainly

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at much less expense, than on the lofty oak shelves.

Sang de boeuf, or bull's blood red, is the approved tint, in which the drawing rooms are being done over, and the decorators say that it is the most becoming background possible for women of all colorings, and especially when in evening dress. It appears that in drawing-room decoration, as in the feminine wardrobe, fabrics go in and out of fashion about every five years, and now, after the brocades and damasks of the French influence velvet has come to its own again. It is used as a wall hanging, for portieres and curtains, not draped but hanging straight, arras fashion. Modern silk velvet is not approved; V-venetian, Utrecht and Flanders velvet are the kinds employed for hangings and upholstery, and just now, no matter if your hall is colonial, your library Jacobean, and your dining room of another period, your drawing room must not be in any particular cut and-dried fashion. One of the most important features is its chairs, that can be chosen from every period in history if you choose, provided they are all graceful and ornamental.

In the newly-done-over reception salons there is sure to be a carved cedar [gondola chair, inlaid with very pink pearl and bits of coral, and softened in its curved seat by a plump pillow covered with Venetian velvet and having heavy gold tassels at its four corners.—On either side the drawing-room fireplace are also inevitably a pair of lofty backed court chairs. These have gilded frames, perfectly straight, solid wood backs, down the centre of which a strip of red velvet is fastened, velvet seats, and are occupied usually by the hostess and her most honored feminine guest. A deep Dutch easy chair is another one of the new-comers in the American drawing room, and a feature now noticeable is the increasing number of footstools. Women are just beginning to learn again not only that against a crimson velvet cushion their slender, delicately slippered feet show to wonderful advantage, but that there is no better means of resting tired feet than by the use of a footstool and also there is no wiser precaution, when weary or under the weather, for escaping colds and neuralgia than by propping the feet upon a cushion.

The upholsterers are making foot rests of many shapes and materials, stuffing them with feathers, or a fire hair, and covering them with bits of handsome tapestry, bullion embroidered velvet or soft moleanin, doeskin and leather, and hanging tassels at their corners, until they have become essential ornaments in any well-decorated living room.

Furnishes Food and Light.

Gold seekers on the Yukon have been made familiar with many old makeshifts for the ordinary conveniences of civilized life.

A Klondike miner who recently returned from that inhospitable region gave a humorous account of one of these devices.

"There is a kind of fish," he said, "very plentiful in the Dyea river in Alaska, and about the size and shape of a smelt." It is very good eating, and it has the peculiarity of burning like a torch when thorough-

ly dry, so that it is frequently used by the local Indians to furnish a light. In fact, it is known as a Candle Fish.

"One night when our stock of candles ran low, we tried the experiment of lighting up our cabin with one of these fish. As a light-producer, it was all our fancy painted it, for it burnt with a clear and brilliant flame. But merciful heavens, the smell! Have you ever been in a room when cod liver oil has been thrown on the fire? If so, you will gain some idea of the intolerable odour with which our cabin was filled. We had to open the door for fresh air, and eventually we flung our experimental candle out into the snow. Even then the stuvia hung about the place for hours, making our dwelling almost uninhabitable, and depriving us of all appetite for supper.

"Nevertheless we found the fish in frequent use as candles amongst miners with stronger stomachs than ours; and I have often seen one candle fish cooked over the fire furnished by another one."

Knew One Way.

A certain man made a display of dense ignorance the other day when he went into a restaurant and asked the waiter if he had any eggs.

"Yes," said the waiter, "we have."
"Well, bring me some."
"How do you want them cooked?"
"Oh, any old way."
"Sir," said the waiter, "that order will hardly do. We have over five hundred different ways of cooking eggs and you will be pleased to make a suggestion or mention a choice."

This astonishing fact had the effect of paralyzing the customer's tongue for a while and he finally recovered enough to whisper in awe, "Scramble 'em."

"Yes, sir," replied the astute waiter still lingering, "which way?"
"Oh, any old way."
"Sir," said the waiter in a determined voice, "I must insist that you make a choice—there are seventy different ways of scrambling eggs in this establishment."
"Well, then, fry them for me."
"Which way? We have forty different ways of frying eggs here?"
"All right," said the customer slowly as he reached for his hat and arose, "you have one way here that I can find myself, and that is straight out of that door. Good day."

Puzzled Him.

An estate agent is responsible for this tale:

A little while ago a man called at an estate office. He was given keys to a certain house. He called at this house and found it occupied, a family have been in possession of the premises a month or more.

The agent was puzzled, as he knew he had not let the house, and he had entire charge of the property. He noticed there were two houses almost exactly alike, side by side, and he found that the keys to one house would fit the locks next door.

The family had moved into the wrong house by a mistake, and it was not an easy question to decide who was entitled to the rent.

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