

## Chat of the Boudoir.

The New Materials.

The autumn materials which are beginning to put in an appearance in many cases show a resurrection rather than a novelty. Cashmere is in high favor once more, and women should be devoutly thankful, for never did they have a more faithful friend. None of the substitutes has stood the wear and tear as cashmere did, without wrinkling, rubbing shiny or catching the dust; but, with the reign of rough surface goods, cashmere went out, and, only now when lightness of weight and smoothness of texture are the qualities more desirable in dress material, does it once more appear. No material will be more used for simple fall gowns; and the latest importations show both plain and embroidered cashmeres in a bewildering variety of exquisite shades.

Silk canvas is another material that the importers are buying in large quantities, but although wiry, it musses more easily than the cashmere.

Cloths are, of course, to be in vogue for the fall and winter, but the buyers say that never have they confined themselves to the finest and most supple of cloth as they do this year. The cheaper qualities of broad-cloth are too stiff and unpliant for the present modes, and unless one buys broad-cloth of the most expensive and pliable quality, one of the lighter-weight modes is a better investment.

Camel's hair Venetian and chevrot will be popular in street costumes and for more elaborate occasions come to the light-weight wools, silks and velvets.

Everything points to a triumphal season for velvet, the new coats and bolero opening up limitless possibilities for a fabric always rich and becoming. Plain velvets, velvet brocades and satin gold or silver, grenadine overwrought with velvet design, robes of cashmere and nun's veiling with velvet borders, to be made up with coats of velvets matching the border—all these are shown, or rather will be shown when the imported goods are displayed in the shops.

The silks, too, are more beautiful than they have been before in years, and the woman to whom sweet simplicity doesn't appeal may be as gorgeous as she pleases. Louis XV and Louis XVI brocades in ravishing tints and designs, with interwoven threads of gold or silver, go cheek by jowl with soft Indian and Louisiane weaves of delicate hues and shadowy motifs. Oriental patterns—Moorish, Persian, East Indian—figure largely, and silks in old-fashioned chintz patterns suggest the day of Watteau and his bergeres.

Liberty satin, panne, foulard ondoyant—anything that will cling and fall in artistic folds—is in order; and many of the new silks come in forty-six inch widths, which is a welcome innovation, doubtless brought about by the prevailing tendency to obliterate marked and sharp figure lines and seams, and swathe the figure in long, clinging folds.

The confirmed lover of shirt waists will have an orgy in the fall if present indications continue. All the prophets honored in the fashion world have been denouncing the shirt waist, but the devotees, like the 'tar baby' of blessed memory. 'Kep on sayin' nuffin' and bought more shirt waists. The flannel waists of last season are to appear in brighter and more attractive guise. The patterns and colors of the new flannels offer a variety and beauty never before attained in that material. All the fashionable shades appear, in combinations as attractive as those of the silks. The Persian designs are particularly effective, and conventionalized lotus flowers and leaves on delicate grounds of iris, pastel blue, silver green &c., are beautiful, both in the flannels and silks, while dots, big, little, rim circled, varying in sizes, in two colors on one background, every variety of dot imaginable is represented in the shirt-waist stuffs. It is said that tabata separate waists are to give way almost entirely to more serviceable and pliable silks—preferably satin souple of a dull finish. Lace waists are to be still the

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correct thing, and a lace waist dyed to some soft tint, made over cream and worn with a cloth skirt of the same color is all that there is of the most chic.

Of laces the end is not yet. Winter is to be a season of lace, as was summer, with cluny guipure and Irish point well in the lead. The ever popular Renaissance still holds its place and most exquisite robes are shown, in fine cream net, sprinkled over with bontons of Renaissance lace, while a deep border of Renaissance edges one side of the material. Nothing could be more charming for an evening gown and the rather heavy and pretentious effect of an all-over lace is successfully avoided. Buyers say that the demand for lace has amounted to a mania and that it has been almost an impossibility to procure it in the quantities desired.

## LOOSE SLEEVES AGAIN.

Indications That This Comfortable Form is Again Coming Into Favor.

The tight sleeve has had but a brief existence in its last revival. All rumors hint that larger sleeves are on the way, and, already there is a distinct fullness at the shoulder. The elbow sleeves flare more and more and are in many cases slashed almost to the shoulder on the outer side, over a full soft undersleeve. The loose dust cloaks with their voluminous sleeves, which will be seen on the fall and winter coats.

Panne velvet is the milliner's decree to be the most popular material for autumn and winter hats; and French makers are showing wonderfully beautiful velvet flowers, as a hint of what is to be expected later. A model hat sent home by a Fifth avenue milliner is of panne velvet in Jacqueminot color, trimmed with Renaissance lace and a mass of velvet roses, shading from darkest Jacqueminot to La France pink.

Necktie clasps are very much in evidence on the fall street costumes. The fashionable cravat appears upon at least three out of every five of these gowns and is most frequently of black velvet or soft black satin, is much more effective when drawn through such a clasp, than when tied, and the touch of gold harmonizes with the gold buttons and braid which are tolerably sure to lurk somewhere about the gown. Flat and heavy dead gold, dull silver or gun metal rings are perhaps the most knowing of these clasps; but the jewellers, in response to the demand, are now bringing them out in jewelled designs and in an antique gold work that is a present fad. The latter are good in style and a single cabuchon gem set deeply in the gold and agreeing with the color scheme of the gown adds to the effect, but the heavily jewelled clasps are a trifle too pronounced and rob the cravat of distinction.

## Infantile Allments.

One of the reasons why so many little children are wearing spectacles is said to be due to the fact that in infancy they are often so placed in cribs or carriages that they sleep or awaken with the little lenses in their eyes exposed too much to the sunlight.

The baby should not be allowed to awaken with its eyes to a sunlit window. The retina, the darkened chamber behind the pupil, receives the light, and this little chamber is the most delicate piece of mechanism in our anatomy. Older people suffer from the glare, and if babies could speak they would rebel at the carelessness of some mothers and nurses.

One of the most dreaded maladies to the mother is croup. It is of two kinds—simple and membranous. The first may often be treated by home remedies, the second never. Simple croup is rarely dangerous even though the symptoms seem very alarming.

It may come on gradually with a cold in the head, with wheezing and hoarseness, or the child may be awakened in the night by sudden shortness of breath and violent choking. The child should be propped up with pillows and then kept quiet. Avoid everything that will excite coughing and crying. Keep the room warm. Hot clothes or poultices can be applied to the throat, and either a croup kettle, which

can be bought at any drug store, or an ordinary tea kettle kept boiling in the room.

The steam from a boiling tea kettle may be introduced into the crib by placing a sheet over an umbrella raised in the crib, and the steam can then be introduced beneath the tent. If the symptoms are urgent 10 drops of the syrup of ipecac should be given every 15 minutes until free vomiting occurs.

A very simply made remedy is lemon on sugar. This will cut the mucus. This is usually liked by children, and it is easy to give. Membranous croup is entirely beyond the care of the mother, as it is really diphtheria of the larynx.

## WHAT A WOMAN DID.

A Famous Cattle Ranch in Texas the Result of her Work.

What is called the 'largest cattle-ranch in the world' is situated in the Panhandle district, Texas. The ranch has other claims to notice, however, besides the number of its acres. It is famous throughout the state for the number and fine breed of its cattle, for its unexcelled equipments, for its cowboys,—peculiar to itself,—for its exemplary management, and especially for its manager—a woman.

She came into possession of the ranch after the death of her husband, and the conditions she had to face were not encouraging. The ranch had been permitted to 'run down,' the cattle were few and of poor quality, and the cowboys were careless and improvident.

Nothing discouraged, however she began the work of renewal and reformation. It was not easy, but she persevered. Little by little much needed improvements were effected in the ranch itself and in the breed of its cattle, till, in the end, evidences of prosperity supplanted signs of shittleness and decay.

Then the new owner had time for attention to other matters. A feud, intensified by whiskey, had long existed between the cowboys of the ranch and the adjacent settlers, who sometimes trespassed upon the range. By means of her womanly tact and influence, a reconciliation was brought about, and there was an end to many evils that had troubled the past.

She did not rest satisfied with this, however. She had another cherished plan, and proceeded to develop it, with results that have made many Texan cowboys of the Panhandle district happier and better men.

His methods were shrewd and eminently practical. She made it evident that a job on her ranch was more desirable than her rivals, and in addition, made it known that those of her men who desired to invest their wages in cattle could have that privilege; and, as a further inducement to that, she proposed that their stock should run with hers on her ranges, free of charge.

In return for this she made certain requirements, to be strictly fulfilled on pain of her displeasure, or worse. No man in her employ should bring, or be the cause of bringing, intoxicating liquors into the ranch, and card-playing, with all other forms of gambling, was prohibited.

The rules were strictly observed, and worked admirably. The men were always in condition for work, and as they no longer wasted hours in gambling, they always had time to do it. As a result, they have learned the value of self-restraint in promoting self respect, and habits of industry have brought their natural reward. Many of the men, it is said, own large herds of cattle.

Of course, as is but right, the owner of the ranch has profited also. She has made the men's interest theirs. They are grateful for what she has enabled them to do, and for the happy change she has wrought in their lives.

## A Woman War Reporter.

In spite of the much-talked-about woman's rifle corps, regiments of amazons and the army of nurses, the Transvaal war can boast of only one war correspondent. She is Miss Bateman. An English newspaper describes her as 'very petite and frail,' and wonders how she 'stood the hardships of going to the front.' Before going to South Africa Miss Bateman was not a 'journalist.' She had written a novel and a volume of poems, and she was a protegee of Mr. Ruskin.

When she arrived at Cape Town, three months ago, an order had just been issued that no more women were to be allowed to go up to Kimberly. With perseverance and energy Miss Bateman obtained permission to proceed, and started off at less than eight hours' notice, getting her pass at the castle barracks at 11.30 a. m. one morning and leaving Wynberg for Cape Town, en route for Kimberly, at 7 the

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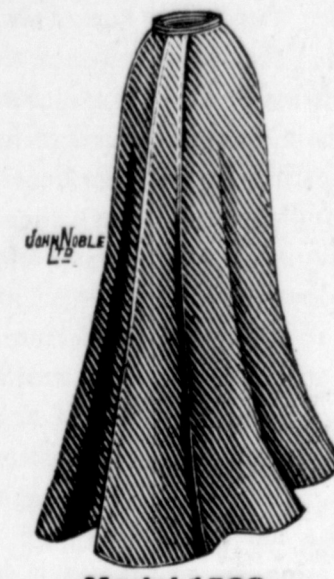
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same evening, a journey in all of 656 1/4 miles.

She arrived at Kimberly, travelling two nights and a day on end, after a journey through the Karroo, Modder River, Graupan, and Be'mont. While in Kimberly she spent any spare time she had in the hospitals and convalescent homes. There was much to do in the way of writing letters for the men. Nazareth House was her 'special' place, and here Boers as well as British were taken in and nursed. On May 8 she went to Warrenton camp, where she heard rumors there was to be a fight on the 4th or 5th. The provost marshal refused to give her a pass beyond Content, but a railway staff officer en route allowed her to go as far as the train went, nearly into Warrenton camp itself.

At Warrenton village, three miles away, sniping went on all day, and it was expected during the whole journey of 44 miles from Kimberly. The train crawled from Windsorton road, from which point Miss Bateman was the only woman traveler. She photographed the war balloon and graves of two men who had been killed in the trenches, and stood about 50 yards from the point where the last shell had struck.

She spent the night at Windsorton road, and at night, when dining in camp with friends, she heard a sharp volley in the westerly direction along which the column had moved. The big fight at Roidam was on the 5th, and two of the many wounded who were brought into Nazareth House arrived in blankets with not a rag of clothing.

## The Bounds of Hospitality.

Even the old-time hospitality of the South was not more cordial than the welcome accorded to a friend in a prosperous Irish household. Many writers have declared that an Irish gentleman's hospitality is unlimited, but this is a slight exaggeration, as is shown by a story borrowed from a recent book of Irish memories.

Jerry McCartie was often the guest of friends who, on account of his pleasant ways, extended to him that sort of old Irish hospitality which enabled a visitor in my own family who came for a fortnight to stay for six years.

In McCartie's case, the visit stretched to nearly double that time. After eight or nine years, however, his kinsman got a little tired of his guest, and let him know of his old mansion's proposed renovation, and that he had signed a contract for having it repainted from garret to cellar.

'By George,' said Jerry, it's fortunate that I don't object to the smell of paint, and it will be well to have some one to keep an eye on the painters, now that the wall fruit is ripening!

Some months passed. Then his host informed him that he was going to be married, adding: 'I thought I'd tell you in good time, so that you could make leisurely preparations to go, as the lady

and you may not hit it off as well as you and I do.'

With tearful eyes, Jerry grasped his cousin's hand, saying: 'O Dan, dear, you have my hearty thanks for your consideration; but dear, dear boy, surely if you can put up with her, I can.'

## With a Difference.

The person who remembers a thing 'rightmost and not quite' has recently been portrayed in the Philadelphia Record.

'Here's a puzzle for you,' said Mary to Annie. 'This can be made into a complete sentence:

"B B B B B

Dewey

624918

348632

973550

Limbarger Cheese.

Annie puzzled over it a long time before she gave it up.

'Why it's easy!' said her friend. 'Sigsbee sent Dewey some Limbarger cheese.

'But where's the 'sent'?

'In the cheese!'

Then everybody laughed, and Annie resolved to be funny in her turn. So that evening she showed her brother the paper.

'I give it up,' said he. 'What's the answer?

'Sigsbee gave Dewey some Limbarger cheese!'

'Where's the 'gave'?

'In the cheese!'

And nobody laughed.

## Caught a Tartar.

The burglar had entered the house as quietly as possible, but his shoes were not padded, and they made some noise.

He had just reached the door of the bedroom when he heard someone moving in the bed as if about to get up, and he paused.

The sound of a woman's voice floated to his ears.

'If you don't take off your boots when you come into this house,' it said, there's going to be trouble and a whole lot of it. Here it's been raining for three hours, and you have to tramp over my carpets with your muddy boots on. Go down stairs and take them off this minute!

He went downstairs without a word, but he didn't take off his boots. Instead he went straight out into the night again, and the 'pal' who was waiting for him saw a tear glisten in his eye.

'I can't rob that house,' he said. 'It reminds me of home.'

'Hello! Have you started smoking once more?

'Yep. I want to get solid with my best girl by swearing off again.

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