

## Chat of the Boudoir.

A very pretty feature of the latest skirts is the elaborate use of open work, cross-stitching, joining groups of vertical tucking down to the hem, which is also attached in the same manner. Thus a skirt may have a very simple effect and embody a great amount of labor. The sun plaited skirt has appeared again made of black crepe de chine cut out in points around the hem where it falls over a shaped flounce of black taffeta striped around with black velvet ribbon. The same plaiting is used for the bodice below a deep yoke of guipure, the plaits expanding toward the bust and giving a very slender appearance to the waist. Flounced skirts, when the flounces are of lace, are among the new fashions. The flounces are sewn on net with tiny ruffles of black tulle for a heading whether the lace is ecru, cream or white. A deep flounce, the ruching forming Van Dyke points at the top, is very effective, and again narrower flounces are arranged to point down in front, the slant at the side being much more becoming to the figure than the straight around ruffles.

Many women still cling to skirts fitting closely around the hips. The skirt may and usually does, have some tucks or plaits either with or without a yoke, but it is close fitting all the same in many instances. Not least in importance among the summer gowns are the evening dresses which can be very simply made of point d'esprit, organdie, satin mousseline and lace. Artificial flowers and foliage are a special feature of trimming. Lace dresses are more than ever popular for the young and older matrons, but it is the simple mousseline and organdie gowns for young women which are so attractive. Cluny lace and imitation Venetian point are very much in demand for both evening and afternoon gowns, and imitation Irish Point is also used.

Among the latest styles is a gown of white organdie trimmed with insertions and edgings of valenciennes lace. Pale pink mousseline forms another shirred in small puffs at the head of the flounce, the skirt being laid in plaits above. Shirrings adorn the waist below a lace insertion around the neck, and pink roses with leaves are the finish. A lace bolero joined with straps of black velvet is the feature of a white silk muslin trimmed with lace insertion and narrow edging. Something dressy in a high-necked gown of white mousseline de soie shows a gathered skirt gauged around below a yoke of guipure lace. Fine Chantilly lace in the same tint of the guipure forms the sleeves and insertions in the yoke below which is an arrangement of guipure with a blue chiffon scarf between. Another gown with a shirred skirt is of foulard; trimmed with lace and has a shirred yoke of white chiffon. A pretty skirt model for nuns' veiling shows one of the yoke effects extending into a tablier front with three tucks down either side and around the back which fits closely. This is joined to the linen portion, also tucked with an open work stitch in silk. The yoke is of tucked chiffon and lace and panne velvet are the trimming. An idea for a box-plaited skirt is to tuck the plaits on the top a little way down from the waist line as shown in the cut.

A stylish model for foulard shows a trellis design in black ribbon velvet surrounded by applique lace. Cloth and mohair are the materials employed in the next two models, one in Sevres blue with ecru lace and black velvet for a finish, the other with collar, revers, and wide waist belt of Irish guipure over white satin. Both of these skirts are in stitched down tucks flaring loose a little about the hem which is also finished with rows of stitching. A unique blouse model of navy blue silk shows piping, belt and collar of blue and white spotted foulard. Black and white silk cord with applique lace trim another bodice of pearl gray silk.

### FRILLS OF FASHION.

Yachting suits of dark-blue chevrot made with a bolero jacket and trimmed with gold

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braids are very fetching when worn with a blouse of ecru linen lawn embroidered in red or yellow and blue.

A novelty in thin summer gowns is a white organdie trimmed with ecru lace insertion.

Taffeta silk is used as a trimming on a blue foulard spotted with white. It is in a lighter shade than the gown and applied in a 2-inch band around the hem of the skirt, and on the edge of the bolero in a narrower width, this being worn over a blouse of embroidered lace and lace insertion in alternation. It also forms a wide belt.

Khaki and beige tints of all kinds and degrees are very much worn.

Twine-colored batiste, decorated with guipure lace applique of the same color, is used for fancy collar and revers on cloth jackets as a substitute for satin covered with lace and for detached collars as well.

A flat, round, broad, plait-like sort of hat is worn in Paris, poised well back on the head. It is a revival of the Louis Seize period and made of crinoline straw, with flowers and rosettes of chiffon or soft ribbon underneath the brim.

A V shaped neck, filled in with transparent lace, is a pretty accompaniment for the lace undersleeve.

Among the new robe gowns for summer wear are the white pique skirts elaborately trimmed with embroidery all ready to hang, and zephyr robes in ecru color, decorated with bands of embroidery of the same color.

So much talk about a new style of coiffure ought to bring some results. Certainly the stuffed pompadour has lost every title to distinction since its use has become so common, and now the coil low on the nape of the neck is in contemplation; in fact, it is seen here and there. The hair is parted in the middle and brushed low over the forehead in a soft loop at either side and back from the temples with a partially curled fluffiness which gives a broad effect to the face.

The latest think in a fancy wrap for carriage and evening wear in summer is a long coat sort of garment, with a side box plait in the back, and a side pleat on either side of the front. It is in the Louis XV. style, made of brocade silk, panne velvet, lace or painted muslins, and usually unlined except with plaited chiffon. The sleeves are large and flowing in shape, sloping up quite short at the inside of the arm and falling over a full bishop sleeve of lace or gauze.

There is a great variety in this sort of garment, which is also made of cloth. Some of these wraps are finished with a ruche of chiffon around the neck, tied with long scarf ends. Others have a high flaring collar.

There are shorter coats of fancy silk which reach only to the knees, but they have the same style of flowing sleeve.

In honor of the Queen's visit to Ireland, malachite green is a very fashionable color in England.

Organdies on which the design is painted on the under side are the prettiest examples of pastel colorings.

Demi-decollete bodices will be very generally worn for house gowns in mid-summer; some of these have the elbow sleeves.

The neck band on our gowns are high and straight around, and very simply trimmed, a result no doubt, of the tendency to crowd so much decoration on this one small portion of the bodice.

Black net, well covered with applications of black taffeta, makes a very pretty short cape, finished with frills of lace and chiffon. This sort of garment is made in cream tints as well, and also in gray and beige.

## COSTLY UMBRELLAS.

A Great Variety of Them, Ranging in Price Up to Hundreds of Dollars Each.

You can buy an umbrella for 50 cents or you may pay \$50 or a great deal more for one if you wish to. In one retail stock in the city the umbrellas range in price from \$5 up to hundreds of dollars apiece. Here for \$5 may be bought a silk umbrella with a natural wood handle. Umbrellas of this sort for men and women range in price up to \$12.50. Above that price the value of the umbrella depends upon the mountings, which are made of many materials and in very great variety. Some of them are comparatively inexpensive and some very costly.

Of the more costly umbrellas some are made for men's use, the greater number of them for women's use. There are, of course, handles in many forms of gold and silver, and these at all sorts of prices—\$15, \$20, \$25 and \$30, and on up. For instance, one mounting with gold top might cost \$24; mountings of gold or silver enamel might cost \$19. One gold mounting with platinum ornamentation cost \$70. In fact, umbrellas with mountings of gold or silver may be bought in one form and another at practically any price. A man's umbrella with a handle of stained ivory, carved, is valued at \$50. Another umbrella with a Malacca handle and mounting of silver and stained ivory costs \$34.

A woman's umbrella, the handle mounted with gold and enamel and set with a large garnet, cost \$150. The price of one mounted with a head of gold set with a large amethyst is \$340. The amethyst in this handle is set in a rim of gold which is hinged on one side and held down by a spring catch on the other. The end of the gold handle is hollowed out, forming a box of which the amethyst serves as the lid, in which may be carried bonbons, or whatever else might be desired.

Umbrella mountings are now made in very considerable variety of gun metal and many of these heads are set with diamonds. A gun-metal umbrella handle may be in the form of a little ball, or globe, with a belt formed of a single line of small diamonds running around it, this belt encircling the globe in some cases in a horizontal line and in others diagonally. Some of these gun-metal heads are sprinkled over with diamonds, more or less closely set, these diamonds being sometimes of uniform size, and sometimes of different sizes. Sometimes the diamonds are set in the metal in some sort of design; as a little horseshoe made of tiny diamonds, this being the handle's only ornament. Gun-metal mountings are made in various other shapes as well as in the spherical form. It might seem that a diamond studded umbrella handle would be a very elaborate-appearing affair, but as a matter of fact many of them are at once simple and beautiful. Umbrellas with gun-metal mountings, most of them, if not all with some sort of diamond ornamentation, sell from \$14.50 to \$240 each.

There are umbrellas with handles of rock crystal, cut in various forms; there are mountings of jade; there are mountings in whole or in part of various fine minerals: there are mountings of rhinoceros horn; and the combinations used are many. Here for example is an umbrella mounting that presents a handle of shark skin and gold, with a sapphire in the end of it, this umbrella costing \$275; and here is an umbrella with a handle of jade, with diamond and amethyst ornamentation, price \$165; and here with a Malacca stick mounted with stained ivory and jade with a band of Russian enamel for \$62.

Whatever their means may be, not very many people pay more than \$30 for an umbrella for ordinary use; by far the greater number of those sold at higher prices are bought to give away. The sale of these costly umbrellas is of course comparatively limited, but they are in demand, and may be found in stock in mountings of hundreds of varieties, with new things all the time being added.

## NEW FIELD FOR WOMEN.

It is Shoe Stretching and is not of Flowery Name for Those who try it.

When the woman said she wanted a pair of shoes the hollow eyed clerk did not ask, 'What size, madam?' but said, instead, 'New or second-hand?'

The woman hesitated, not quite grasping the significance of the question. 'Why, new, of course,' she said at length.

'The reason I asked,' said the clerk, 'was that we have several pairs of shoes of different sizes that have been worn a little, just enough to stretch them, and I didn't know but that you would like a pair that your feet would slip right into and that you'd never have any trouble with.'

The woman's interest had plainly got started by that time. 'Have you any such?' she asked. 'A few pairs, as I just said,' replied the clerk. 'They have been worn long enough by professional shoe stretchers to take the stiffness and newness away.

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Real Irish Linen Sheet, fully bleached, two yards wide, 46cts. per yard; 2 1/2 yards wide, 57cts. per yard; Roller Towelling, 18 in. wide, 6cts. per yard. Surplice Linen, 14cts. per yard. Dusters from 78cts. per doz. Linen Glass Cloths, \$1.14 per dozen. Fine Linens and Linen Diaper, 17cts. per yard. Our Special Soft Finished Long Cloth from 6cts. per yard.

Irish Damask Table Linen: Fish Napkins, 70cts. per doz. Diaper Napkins, 2 1/2 yards by 3 yards, \$1.32 each. Kitchen Table Cloths, 23cts. each. Strong Hackback Towels, \$1.08 per doz. Monogram, Crests, Coat of Arms, Initials, &c., woven or embroidered. (Special attention to Club, Hotel or Mess Orders).

Matchless Shirts: Fine quality Longcloth Bodies, with 4-fold pure linen fronts and cuffs, \$3.52 the half doz. (to measure 48cts. extra). New Designs in our Special Indiana Gauze, Oxford and Unbreakable Flanne for the Season. Old Shirts made good as new, with best materials in Neckbands, Cuffs, and Fronts, for \$3.36 the half doz.

Irish Cambric Pocket-Handkerchiefs: 'The Cambrics of Robinson and Cleaver have a world-wide fame.'—The Queen. 'Cheapest Handkerchiefs I have ever seen.'—Sydney's Home Journal. Children's, 30cts. per doz.; Ladies', 54cts. per doz.; Gentlemen's, 78cts. per doz. HEM-STITCHED.—Ladies', 66cts. per doz.; Gentlemen's, 94cts. per doz.

Irish Linen Collars and Cuffs: COLLARS.—Ladies', from 84cts. per doz.; Gentlemen's, 4-fold, all newest shapes, \$1.18 per doz. CUFFS.—For Ladies or Gentlemen, from \$1.42 per doz. 'Surprise Makers to Westminster Abbey' and the Cathedral and Churches in the Kingdom. 'Their Irish Linen Collars, Cuffs, Shirts, &c., have the merits of excellence and cheapness.'—Court Circular.

Irish Underclothing: A luxury now within the reach of all L-dies! Chemises, trimmed Embroidery, 47cts. Nightdresses, 84cts. Combinations, 94cts. India or Colonial Outfits, \$40.32 Bridal Trousseaux, \$25.80 Infants' Layettes \$12.00 (see list).

N.B.—To prevent delay all Letters, Orders and Inquiries for Samples should be addressed

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BELFAST, IRELAND.

We are thinking of making these stretched shoes a permanent and prominent feature of our stock. Why, do you know? he continued with increased earnestness; 'I had a foot that I could expand or contract at will, according to circumstances. I could make a pile of money by just trying on shoes. Anybody who has ever endured the torment incident to stretching a new pair of shoes would be willing to pay 50 cents more a pair in order to be relieved of the discomfort of getting them set to the foot. The custom of offering stretched shoes to patrons has already been introduced into several stores in town and it certainly ought to become very popular judging by present indications, it will not be long until every shoe store of any pretensions will employ people with feet of the standard sizes to wear new shoes for a day or so to break them in. It will certainly be a good investment, for patrons will buy shoes oftener when the horror of setting them has been removed, and thus more money will accrue to the dealer. Shoe stretching is a calling that will not permit its followers to tread on flowery paths of ease, but the possibility of buying shoes that are comfortable from the start opens up a view of elysium for the wearer.'

## THE ETIQUETTE OF THE HAT.

It Plays a Greater Part in the Interchange of Others Than of Americans.

'Walking up Fifteenth street recently' said a Washingtonian who had travelled extensively. 'I observed Secretary Hay remove his hat to two gentlemen, who returned the salutation in the same manner. They were members of the Diplomatic Corps.'

'As we all know, the American style of salutation when two or more gentlemen meet is an inclination of the head or a wave of the hand. The hat is doffed to the gentler sex only. On the Continent it would be an insult for a gentleman to pass an acquaintance without removing the hat. If they are friends the salutation is even more formal and includes a shake of the hand and the exchange of a few complimentary remarks.'

'The French are accounted the most punctilious and ceremonial of people. I think the Belgians are even more so. Their customs are French however. They have a language of their own, but the names of the streets in Brussels are in both French and 'Beige' on the same sign board.'

'I spent a week in the Belgian capital, where a member of the American Legation piloted me about. I made the acquaintance of many Belgian gentlemen, and the salutation between my diplomatic friend and those he met was something like this:

'Ah, Count, I am delighted to greet you' (A cordial smile, a ceremonial lifting of the hat, a hearty shake of the hand and an inclination of the body in a polite bow.) 'My dear Col., the pleasure is wholly mine. I am rejoiced to see you. I trust you are very well.' (Same formula.) 'My friend, Mr. — of Washington.' (Same formula on my part and that of the Count.)

'After an interchange of mutually complimentary remarks the ceremonies attending the introduction were repeated as we

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EVANS & SONS, L.F.O., Montreal and  
Toronto, Canada. Victoria, B.C. or  
Martin Pharmaceutical Chemist, Southampton, Eng.

respectively said 'au revoir,' and replaced our silk hats for the last time upon our heads. It was a novelty at first, but when I repeated it eighteen times an hour I experienced a crick in the small of my back. 'My friend explained to me that continental gentlemen of high social position were not pressed by political and financial affairs as are Americans in similar walks of walk, and the hurry and haste we display is unknown to them.'

## Statistics Show.

That more people die of consumption than from any other cause. Slight colds are the true seeds of consumption. Beware of the slightest cough. Adamson's Botanic Cough Balsam stands without a peer. 25c. all Druggists.

## General Back-Acher.

The Birmingham Post, in quoting from a correspondent in British India, relates an amusing anecdote apropos of General Gatacre's rigorous methods in matters of drill and discipline. There had been a field-day of his command, and he had worked the men to the last point of endurance.

There was long marching, forced marching and mimic hill warfare in full field order, and Tommy sweated for hours. How many miles had been covered I will not attempt to say. Some of the men allege twenty, others a hundred and twenty, but anyhow the long day was at an end, and dishevelled and footsore, the troops marched back into camp. 'Twas then that I heard this delightful little dialogue:

'Tired Bill?' said a private to a comrade. 'No,' unblushingly came the reply. 'Well, Bill, seeing as how it's all over, I think I shall just drop into the canteen and have some beer. What are you going to do, Bill?'

There was a pause. 'Do, 'Enery?' said the dust-begrimed Tommy. 'Well, 'Enery, I shall just go and have a bit of a wash, and then I think I'll go for a walk.'

The tale went round many a table in the land of exile, and no one who knew Gatacre failed to laugh outright when they heard it. Tommy thinks the world of Sir William, however; his only objection is that 'he does make 'em work'—wherefore hath he been named 'Back-acher' by his men.

Mr. Gimp—Did you tell Judge Dwigg that I was waiting to see him?

Office Boy—Yes, sir.

Mr. Gimp—Did he seem pleased?

Office Boy—Oh, yes, sir; he said:—'The dickens he is!'

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