

## Chat of the Boudoir.

Fashion has set her seal on the use of fur this winter beyond any possibility of a doubt, making it the most conspicuous feature of all the elegant costumes for strictly winter wear, says the New York Sun.

Expensive furs as a part of woman's dress are not at all a new fashion, of course, but it is the treatment of them in the past few years which has brought out such wonderful possibilities and changed so completely their whole appearance in mode of decoration and general adaptability to the figure and style of the woman who wears them.

We are constantly meeting with surprises in the way of embroideries, lace and chiffon frills in combination with fur and there seems to be no limit to the decorative processes which can be applied to them. A fur coat in these days is an edition de luxe of the model we were once so proud to own and is a garment quite as up to date in all that pertains to stylish outline, fit and finish as anything produced by the most artistic dressmaker.

The furriers were not slow in finding out the necessity of some genuinely artistic work in their branch of business and the result is no end of the variety and perfect accord with the general trend of fashion.

The revival of minever, worn so much by our grandmothers, is a speciality of the season, chiefly because it is white probably, as all white furs are very much in demand. Minever has been a popular fur for children always, but now it is adopted by grown ups for trimming waistcoats, revers, collars and cuffs.

Moleskins seem to be used again, too, as they respond very prettily to the fashion of embroidery on fur. The French seem to have found a process of dyeing furs, which is very superior to anything heretofore accomplished in London, and they work out wonders in imitation sables and sealskin.

Contrasting two furs seems to be indispensible to style this season, and your coat is often of one fur and a very assertive collar and cuffs of another, or the division as to quantity in the small jacket is almost equal. It is either this combination of two furs or the application of embroidery and lace, for contrast there must be.

The use of fancy buttons is another feature of furs, and they may be mosaic specimens or large cabochon sapphires set in gold.

Baby lamb is the fur most generally liked for the greatest variety of garments, as the soft felt surface is so well adapted for any style of coat. A short coat of this fur, bloused in front, is a favorite style, with or without a basque frill. It is most becoming to some figures with no basque and worn with one of the new elastic belts, partially covered with embroidery.

A very coquettish little jacket of broad tail is made with coat tails in the back, short on the hips, and rather short stole ends in front. A belt of black silk is fastened with a steel buckle in the back, sash ends fall below, and the cuffs and collar are of silk covered with embroidery. Another peculiarity of this coat is that it is cut away at the neck enough to show the neck band of the bodice, and the embroidered silk collar turns down quite flat.

A coat which represents a small mint of money is the long one-of-baby-lamb, made with a shaped flounce sweeping out into a decided train. The flounce is pointed with a band of guipure lace over the light satin lining.

The lace forms a collar, over one of fur, and the cuffs also. This, like the long ermine coat is indeed a garment fit for an Empress.

Blouse coats of mink in a fine quality are very good style, made with the dark stripes in the fur running around the cuffs and broad collar. You see brown silk passementerie frogs on some of the seal-skin jackets, and again schinobilla pelerine with a set of black silk cords crossing the front.

The Russian coat made in seal, ermine, and broadtail is one of the distinguished styles for fur, and here are two fancy models for chinchilla, Persian moire or sable, decorated with a lace collar, and a bell and sash of silk.

Baby lamb and lace form another style of jacket, and last we have a muff hat and collar of ermine. This latter is shaped and fitted to give it the appearance of being attached to the cloth coat.

In muffs there is every conceivable kind, between the frivolous little confection of tulle and the larger broque muff of fur made in an exact copy of one in the famous Lebrun picture in the Louvre.

It is certain that muffs are larger this

season. They necessarily have to be larger in proportion to the long, high coats that are worn.

The large flat muffs are used, too, and they are sometimes made of two kinds of fur in stripes; for example, ermine and mink, and finished at the ends with charming frills of Venice lace. Large flat ermine muffs finished with lace are also lovely. Tails and heads are used quite as much as ever for a myff finish.

Among the long list of fancy muffs there is one shown made of white chiffon frills edged with black chenille, which is looped into a little flounce effect at short intervals. Another one, of white tulle frills, is edged with pink flower petals and finished with a big bow of pink ribbon. One which is perhaps more effective still is the muff of white ostrich feathers tipped.

### To Reduce the Girth of the Hips.

No figure can be lithe and graceful if there is an excess of circumference below the waist. This is a problem over which many a woman, with an otherwise shapely figure, has worried herself. Inordinately large hips will spoil the effect of an otherwise good figure, to say nothing of disastrous effects to smart gowns, for no perfection of cut will hide the presence of overmuch flesh.

To reduce the girth of the hips, one exercise is suggested which can be taken without any appliances.

It is to stand erect on a slight elevation from the ground, with the weight on the leg.

Relax the other leg, and with the power from the thigh first swing the relaxed leg forward and backward; then swing it in a circle around the strong leg.

During these swinging leg movements keep a steady poise; the body from the hips upward must be quite motionless. The quite interesting statement is made that a woman has reduced the size of her hips no less than four inches by this and similar exercise. Another one may be mentioned.

Bend the knees, and rise on the balls of the feet rapidly half a dozen times or more.

Do not strain or push with the body; it must be easily maintained erect and free from tension. Do not work the arms.

These exercises cannot be practiced too often if reduction of the size of the hips is desired. Too large a waist is also another lion in the path, but rather too large a waist than one too small; rather the generous inches of Venus than a wasp-like waist.

If it is desirable to reduce the size of the waist, or improve its shape, try swaying back and forth as far as possible without losing the balance; the body must be erect, with the arms extended vertically above the head, the hands touching.

For a variation, raise alternately the right and the left foot, holding the knee bent at a small angle.

### The "Footing" Custom.

There exists in the Manchester and other North Country mills a custom known as 'footing,' which compels the girls employed to furnish wine and liquors on holidays and festival occasions for themselves and the men workers. Public attention has just been directed to this custom by Canon Hicks, of Salford, who in his capacity of chaplain to the Salford hospital, has seen the many evils to which it has led, says the London Telegraph.

For the first year, perhaps, after a girl has entered her mill or factory, she will not be asked or expected to join with her elders in one of these 'footings.' Temperance has been strongly advocated among the young in Manchester, as the rolls of Bands of Hope and church and non-conformist schools can show, and numbers make their working start in life as pledged abstainers. But with the first promotion, a birthday or a wedding in the family the unfortunate girl is reminded by those who ought to know better that the 'footing' will be expected to celebrate the event. Her wages at these early stages cannot be large, and to provide the bottle of whisky, the bottle of port and the substantial plum cake which is the orthodox form for this useless imposition to take, she must either deny herself for weeks some infinitely more desired article of dress, and save patiently, or lay upon her poor little shoulders a miserable burden of debt or borrowing.

It is bad enough when she alone has to supply her co-workers with drink, for in such case the quality available will not be followed by serious after consequences. The worst occasions are at Whitsuntide and Christmas or big public holidays, when all the women furnish their 'footing,' upon the same scale, and much drunkenness is the result. A regrettable feature of the evil is that men should be so dead to countenance and encourage it as they do,

by participating in the drink. Indeed, when the 'footing' is bought the idea is that the whisky or rum is for the men who share in it and the wine for women, though now it is not uncommon to purchase spirit only.

In some of the mills and factories efforts have been made to suppress 'footing' by forbidding them absolutely upon the premises. Practically, however, this attempt at remedy has proved almost worse than the disease, as the only result has been that the carouse in such case is transferred to a public house, where even greater excess is indulged in. The more respectable women themselves would have a deliverance with gladness, but at present the system seems too strong for them.

About eighteen months ago the first outside attempt to break down the habit was made, when an 'Anti Footing League' was formed. Its rules were simple, and its members pledged themselves: 'First, to take no intoxicating drink in connection with footing, birthdays and other occasions in the mill or elsewhere; second to try to exclude intoxicating drinks from all such occasions, and, third, to try to induce others to join this league. Efforts on behalf of the sex are very well organized and united in Manchester, through the district branch of the National Union of Women Workers, and this movement was readily supported by the various clubs and societies befriending the class. Among others which took it up was the Girls' Institute, an immense non-sectarian establishment, where hundreds of hot dinners are served daily at the lowest possible cost which has its lodging houses, evening classes and a host of other endeavors at Ancoats, in the very heart of the manufacturing, as well as holiday and convalescent homes elsewhere.

### The Wrong Boy.

A small boy on a railroad train can easily get into trouble. A Detroit man had to leave his little son while he transacted some business with the conductor, says the Free Press, and as was natural enough, he gave the boy careful instructions as to his behavior.

'Now, Willie,' he said, 'I'm going to be away just a few minutes. You sit right where you are, and don't you move a bit. If you do, I'll spank you good and hard. So don't stick your head out of the window. You might have it taken off if you do. Then you wouldn't have any head, and get a spanking besides.'

The man went away to find the conductor. After a few minutes he came back.

There was Willie with just his feet and the seat of his trousers sticking through the window. He seemed to be more out-

side than inside and moreover, whenever a telegraph pole whizzed by and looked especially close, he would make a lunge for it, as if trying to catch it.

The father did not hesitate long. He made a grab for the boy just as the latter was making a lunge for a pole. He pulled him in by the heels, laid him over his knee and began to fulfil his promise. The little fellow yelled and yelled until he almost drowned out the noise of the train; but during a lull in the uproar the father heard a snicker behind him. He laid the boy down and turned around to see what it meant.

There was his son two seats behind and across the aisle, with two fingers stuffed in his mouth to keep his merriment in. The man looked again and rubbed his eyes, but their was no mistake.

He looked at the boy in his lap. Behind the tears was a face he had never seen before. He had spanked some other man's son.

### A Monument.

Near Yarmouth market is St. Nicholas one of the largest of the parish churches of England. One of its old tombs carries an unconsciously droll epitaph:

Sacred to the memory of Joseph Pegg, The affectionate husband of Elizabeth Pegg.

Verbes on a tomb are idly spent, A man's good name is his best monument.

Or was it so unconscious, after all? One cannot help wondering whether the Pegg's were not victims of some Yarmouth humorist.

The Monk—Five baby elk have been born here within the last four weeks.

The Cockatoo—By George! we'll organize a lodge.

## "FRUIT OF THE LOOM."

Men and women of taste and judgment go into ecstasies over the wonderful patterns, textures and colors which are "the fruit of the loom." But there is one they rarely consider, and that is the frail and faded woman, old before her time, because necessity compels her to work under conditions, which send her more favored sister to bed and the doctor's care.

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