

Chat of the Boudoir.

Belts are a great feature of the new gowns and they are of every width and kind imaginable. Wide belts of silk or soft ribbon draped around the figure are especially noticeable on the thin gowns, and it is possible to vary one costume very successfully by having a variety of belts.

Almost any combination of gold braid and black velvet is in order. In fact this is one point in the accessories of dress where good taste can run riot and build any sort of belt which fancy can conceive, and not be out of fashion.

Black taffeta silk gowns are very much in vogue, eight tailor-made or in more dressy varieties, one of which is tucked so that the tucks meet in points on the skirt above a deep circular flounce tucked down vertically a few inches from the top, and finished with a fancy silver and black silk braid. Pointed lines of tucks meet at the seams in the Eton jacket, the edges are finished with a stitched band, and the collar and cuffs are trimmed with the braid.

Some of the little silk jackets are slashed from the bust down on either side of the front and laced across with black silk cord. Another feature of the season's jackets is the little cloth bolero to wear with the foulard silk gown. Although it is very short it is considered a sufficient wrap to wear with this kind of gown, and the cloth must match the prevailing color in the gown, if you would not lose the particular chic effect which the jacket is intended to embody.

There are boleros without end, both for indoor and outdoor wear, and some of the latter show the round military collar. Black and white foulard gowns trimmed with lace insertions, are very stunning with either a black or a white cloth bolero.

A pretty bodice for a foulard gown in blue and white has a lace yoke extending down into points both back and front and over the tops of the sleeves. The collar band, also of lace, is threaded with three runs of black velvet ribbon. The blouse below and the sleeves to the elbow are finely tucked, the latter forming a puff over the elbow, which ends in a lace cuff. Bands of the narrow ribbon velvet form the belt in girle shape, but not very wide, extending down one side of the skirt in a succession of looped bows. Lace heads the tucked flounce, and the skirt above is tucked all around.

Evidently pale blue, pink and white Louisiane and taffeta gowns are to be very much worn this season, made up with deep accordion plaited flounces of mousseline de soie around the feet. The silk skirt falls like a tunic over the flounces, but does not cover them and is trimmed in panels with lace between tucks and also around the edge. The bodice is of plaited mousseline de soie with a tucked silk bolero and sleeves trimmed with lace and the indispensable touch of black is accomplished with tulle twisted about the collar and knotted on the bust.

The most elegant laces for trimming these gowns are of the applique order without any foundation net at all, but of course this is entirely a matter of choice, as all kinds are used. An odd feature of decoration which seems to be appropriate for any kind of material from cloth to organdie, is white taffeta silk cut out in varied designs and inset with a finish of embroidery, or gold and white silk braid, whichever suits the better the material to which it is applied.

Mauve crepe de chine forms a pretty gown, tucked and trimmed with lace. The vest is of silver tissue covered with fine lace, and the cravat is of black velvet. A model which is very effective for foulard shows points of lace set in the bodice and skirt, edged with black velvet ribbon. This is not a new idea, as tucked silk waists have been treated in this way all winter, but is a model which is very attractive on some figures. The flounce has a hemstitched hem, but rows of black velvet ribbon may be substitutes if you like.

A pretty white batiste has a pretty decoration of narrow white valenciennes insertion, the flounce being tucked down from the top in groups of three. A collar spreads out on the shoulder and down to the waist in front and turns back from a tucked and lace trimmed vest.

Nothing is much more conspicuous in the season's fashions than the variety in finish of the short jacket, which reigns supreme at the tailor's. One example has a collar of kilted frills of silk, a vest of embroidered silk and revers of twine colored linen. Another model for black taffeta is trimmed with stitched bands of black satin and the collar is of white satin embroidered in colors.

An unusual effects is shown in a tailor

gown of gray cloth, the flounces being stitched all over with steel thread and finished with black panne bands, which also finish the coat and are stitched in the same way. An odd little bodice of black taffeta glaze shows straps fastened with steel buttons, upon the yoke of white glaze. The collarband is of lace and the belt of black studded with steel.

In children's clothes there is nothing especially new, but here are some little models which show the varying details of finish. Collars abound on the girl's gowns and the small boy's coat as well, so that it is hardly possible to go wrong in any kind or shape. Embroidered and tucked batiste collars are quite as pretty as any and you see them in all the eoru tints as well as whites. A pretty shape is a zuna's veiling gown in pale blue with a tucked bodice, tucks down either side of the skirt in front and a hem joined by an open cross stitch.

The same embroidered batiste collars are used in the cloth reefers with pretty effect. Plain batiste, very fine in quality, finely tucked and edged with embroidery makes a pretty collar. In the muslin is another model, tucked and finished with lace yoke and collar, edge around with a band of the muslin hemstitched on. A silk mousseline gown is trimmed with tiny ruches.

The fine white batistes embroidered with a little single flower here and there make most charming gowns for children, and any amount of hemstitching may be applied to the plain batistes. Narrow cream white lace insertions trim the white organdie gowns most effectively, striping the seams down to the straight around rows at the hem, and encircling the hips in the form of a yoke.

FRILLS OF FASHION.

The new foundation skirts of the new "in gowns get the fluffy effect around the feet from a two-inch pinked ruche set on the edge of the plaited ruffle.

The new shirt waists are varied indeed; but the variety is accomplished mostly by the modes of trimming and the great diversity in material used. The bishop sleeve in a modified edition, prevails and the yoke has disappeared altogether. No embroidery is too fine for the dainty white waists, and there are chemisettes, and and vests, undersleeves and frills to make them dressy.

The Aiglon shirt bears out the name quite as well as any, but the material bears out the name quite as well as any, but the material used is so exquisitely fine that it hardly suggests a shirt. Finest white batiste sheer and soft tucked all over in quarter-inch tucks make a very pretty Aiglon shirt. It is full and long in front to give the full blouse effect and ties down from the under arm seam instead of being sewn into a belt. Down one side of the front there are two gathered frills of batiste either with hemstitched or lace edges. If you prefer, one of the frills may be of blue, pink or red batiste, and they are fully three or four inches wide.

Small buckles used as slides on silk bands and velvet ribbon are one feature of dress decoration.

Pretty white gauze corsets dotted over with printed flowers in natural colors add novelty to the department devoted to neckwear. Scarfs of every kind are in demand, and another pretty variety is in thin white silk with chine borders. Others are striped with cashmere designs.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S TALENTS.

She is a Pianist of Merit, Paints Well and is an Expert in Needlework.

Queen Alexandra has once or twice played in public for charity, and she proved then to the very limited public admitted to hear her that she was an uncommonly good amateur, musical and well taught. Sir Charles Halle was one of her teachers and on the piano she is more facile than on any other instrument, although she plays the harp and dulcimer and has been able to entertain herself and her friends on the guitar. She is an enthusiastic Wagnerian in operatic taste and has made repeated pilgrimages to Bayreuth.

One year it was necessary for the sake of the Wagner operas to have at Covent Garden, Jean de Reszke, who was not in the least inclined to come to London that year. The Princess of Wales, as she was then, learned that the tenor might decide not to join the company at Covent Garden, and she knew that that would cause the failure of the Wagner season, if not the complete abandonment of "Tristan and Isolde" and "Siegfried." So she wrote the tenor a personal letter requesting him not to fail to come to Covent Garden for her sake and for that of the many Wagner admirers who had counted on him to lend brilliancy to the season. M. de Reszke then consented to appear, and he was re-

warded with the personal thanks of the present Queen of England. Queen Alexandra is a doctor of music of Dublin University, and the picture of her taken in her mortarboard and gown is one of the best known among her photographers.

The new Queen has other artistic tastes. She embroiders well in the difficult stitch called 'Italian,' and some of her work has been displayed at public exhibitions of needlework. She is an expert worker in embossed leather, and specimens of her skill in this kind of handicraft, so eminently suited to a woman, have been shown at the Albert Hall exhibitions. It was she who introduced this kind of work into the industrial school at Sandringham, named in her honor. Her water color paintings, especially of sea scenes, are described by those who have had the privilege of seeing them as really artistic.

Queen Alexandra shares the devotion to dogs so common to royalty, and one of the presents sent by her husband on his last birthday was a portrait of her two favorites Billee and Puncchie. They are a Japanese and Chinese poodle respectively, and their delicate coloring had been artistically reproduced by the woman artist to whom the commission for the picture was given.

It is confidently expected that the new Queen will support the opera at Covent Garden more loyally than ever in order that it may not languish because of the mourning. It is she who is said to have done everything possible to prevent the continuance of the court mourning and to encourage the resumption of all public amusements. She knew the large number of persons dependent on them for their livelihood, and the opera at Covent Garden counts on her enthusiastic support there for other reasons than her devotion to music.

A LITTLE MAN AND A STOUT WOMAN.

Unexpected Ending of a Suspected Case of Mashing in a Street Car.

A small, neatly dressed man made himself extremely obnoxious to a stout, middle aged woman who sat beside him in a Lexington avenue car yesterday noon. When the little man began his operations there was clear space between them, but he edged over inch by inch until he was almost lost to view behind the ample folds of the stout woman's velvet coat.

At first the stout woman merely glared at him but when he got too close she turned away with such suddenness that her back rammed him forcibly into the man who sat on his other side. The people in that part of the car looked at the little man with disapproval but he seemed no whit discouraged.

He worked forward on his seat and over past the stout woman's defending shoulder until he was again snug beside her. The stout woman glared at him ferociously and gathered her skirts about her with a flirt. In reply the little man gazed at her stony profile with a mild appeal that would have been funny had not the rest of the passengers been so disgusted and indignant. The stout woman looked three-edged snickersneers at the little man for a moment and then moved away from him as far as possible.

Inside of two minutes the little man was cuddled beside her again. In the movement a fold of the stout woman's coat fell over the little man's arm. He glanced at the stout woman and back at his arm, then sat very still for a few moments the picture of guilt.

Finally, with an inexpressibly shy look at the stout woman's face he brought his left hand over and laid it softly on the fold of her coat. The interested passengers could almost hear him purr.

The action, however, attracted the stout woman's attention. She took in the situation at a glance, snatched her coat away and wrapped it closely about her, while the little man shrivelled visible under her gaze. The incident was too much for the rest of the passengers. A big man a few seats away on the opposite side of the car got up and took off his hat to the stout woman. "Madam," he said, "it is this monkey is annoying you I should be delighted to throw him off the car."

The stout woman turned her lightnings from the little man to the big one.

"Sir," she demanded, "how dare you speak to me in that manner of my husband! 'Daniel,' to the little man. 'Are you a man to sit there and see me insulted?'"

"Oh, damn!" choked the big man, making for the door.

The rest of the passengers smiled at things in the street.

Lady "Bobs" and Her Trunks.

There is a story going round about Lady Roberts and her trunks, for the truth of which, says the Westminster Gazette, a man returning from South Africa vouches.

At the height of the transport difficulties, Lady Roberts carried eight large trunks from Cape Town to Bloemfontein in the very teeth of the officers.

Everybody wondered, everybody grumbled. No one but Lady Roberts could have taken the things through. The transport of stores had been stopped for the time, the sick lacked every comfort, and those who were not sick were half-starved and only half clad. Therefore, when a fatigue party was told off to fetch those eight trunks from Bloemfontein station, some rather uncomplimentary things were said about women travellers in general and this latest transgressor in particular.

Next day seven of the eight trunks were unpacked, and their contents distributed among the soldiers. The clever lady had snapped her fingers at red tape, and had smuggled through comforts for the men. One small trunk contained her personal belongings.

And Yet He Could Write.

Among the public servants who are worried by foolish questions the superintendent of mails in the postoffice gets his full share. One of his visitors on a certain occasion was a man who said to the deputy who answered the call at the window:

"I am going out of town today and want to get a letter to my brother, who is on board the Majestic, and she is not due until Wednesday. I don't know where he will stay in New York or where he will go from here. Can you help me?"

"Certainly we can," said the clerk. "A mailboat goes to meet the steamer, and if you address your letter properly and put domestic postage on it it will be delivered all right."

"But how shall I address it—where shall I send it?"

"Address it 'John Smith, passenger on board incoming steamer Majestic, due in New York, Dec. 12.' That will reach him."

"No city? No nothing?"

"That's all—just as I told you."

The man thanked the clerk and went away, and came back a little later with an addressed letter in his hand.

"Say," he said to the clerk, "about that letter. I've addressed it and stamped it all right, but the man's name isn't John Smith. How about that?"

He Certainly Was a Friend.

The stage was rolling along the canyon trail when suddenly the horses reared back on their haunches as a lone highwayman with a Winchester appeared on the scene.

"Step out of the hearse, gentlemen, and hands up!" he ordered.

One by one they climbed out, with elevated hands.

The highwayman relieved the party and several times was forced to remind one nervous little man to keep his hand from his pocket.

"What's the matter with you?" he finally roared. "You make another move like that, and I'll pump the slugs in you!"

"Please let me," pleaded the little man as his hand again slid toward his pocket.

"Please let you!" roared the desperado. "Please let you perforate me? You're imposing on my generosity, sonny. Look out! Look out! Keep your mit away from that pocket, or by the Eternal!"

"But it won't hurt you!" protested the little man. "It won't hurt you at all! Stand just as you are now and keep your rifle leveled. There! That's it!"

And while the highwayman was recovering from his astonishment the little man had flashed his kodak and snapped the button.

AN IMPOSSIBLE thing to find is a plaster equalled to "The D. & L." Menthol, which is being imitated. Get the genuine. For side aches, back-aches, stitches, nothing equals it. Made by Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd.

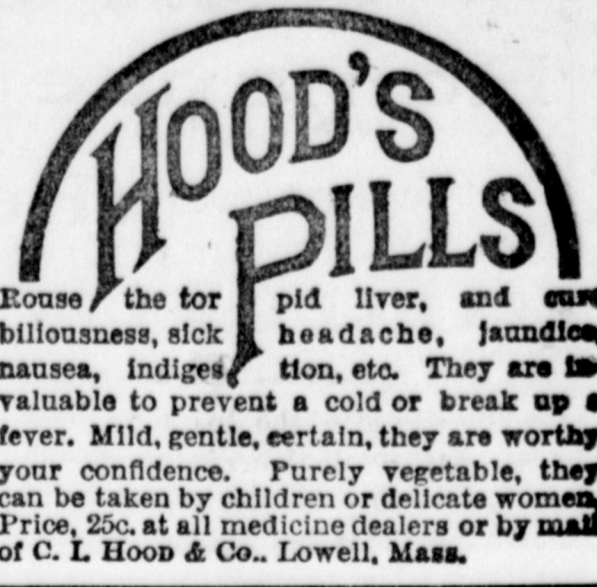
Novel Mouse-Trap.

A newspaper describes the loss of a valuable ring and its very peculiar discovery. It has found a useful place in the world by serving as a mouse-trap.

A lady suddenly discovered that she had lost a diamond ring from her finger; and remembering that she had just washed her hands, she thought it possible that it had slipped from her finger in the operation. A plumber was called in and all the traps opened, with a hope of finding the jewel, but without avail.

Some time later the set bowl in the bath room had to be replaced, and when it was opened the skeleton of a mouse was found crowded in behind the water pipes; and around its neck hung a diamond ring. The mouse had feasted on a box of bran, which the lady used to whiten her hands, and into which she had dropped the ring. By accident the mouse had slipped its head through the ring, and then fled in alarm. In passing between the pipes, the ring was caught and held its wearer.

TO THE DEAF.—A rich lady, cured of her Deafness and Noises in the Head by Dr. Nicolaou Artificial Ear Drums, has sent £1,000 to his Institute, so that deaf people unable to procure the Ear Drums may have them free. Apply to The Institute, 788, Eighth Avenue, New York.



HOOD'S PILLS

Rouse the torpid liver, and cure biliousness, sick headache, jaundice, nausea, indigestion, etc. They are valuable to prevent a cold or break up a fever. Mild, gentle, certain, they are worthy your confidence. Purely vegetable, they can be taken by children or delicate women. Price, 25c. at all medicine dealers or by mail of C. L. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Japanese Courage.

A New York exchange tells of the courage of the Japanese in the late encounter with China. It is seldom that a more striking instance of valor is witnessed.

When the allies lay under fire from the walls of Tientsin, the Japanese held two rows of huts along the south canal. Between these rows was an open space, commanded by the Chinese fire.

A soldier was started with a verbal order across this zone. Within thirty yards he fell dead. Another soldier instantly dashed out with the message, and he fell likewise. Like clockwork a third soldier ran out, and there was a roar of cheers from the allies as the brave Japanese made the trip in safety.

A Pleasant Duty.—"When I know anything worthy of recommendation, I consider it my duty to tell it," says Rev. Jas. Murdock, of Hamburg, Pa. "Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder has cured me of Catarrh of five years standing. It is certainly magical in its effect. The first application benefited me in five minutes. 50 cts.—9"

New Insomnia Cure.

Brown—Say, I've been trying the finest cure for insomnia that I ever heard of. It is for one to count each breath that he exhales while lying in bed.

Smith—Ah! Then you go to sleep.

Brown—No, but after a little while a fellow gets rather interested in the work, and the night passes away so quickly that he doesn't mind lying still so long.

Rheumatic Joints.—Mrs. George Smith, 62 Charron street, Point St. Charles, Que., says: "Rheumatism in my joints caused me sufferings that words cannot describe how terrible. I took four bottles of South American Rheumatic Cure and am a well woman. I have recommended it to others with as good results. Think the treatment nothing short of a wonder."—10

A Writer's Aspirations.

They were looking through the library. "If you had the divine gift what would you rather write?" asked the romantic young woman.

"Checks," replied the sordid young man.

Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart acts directly and quickly, stimulates the heart's action, stops most acute pain, dispels all signs of weakness, fluttering, sinking, smothering, or palpitation. This wonderful cure is the sturdy ship which carries the heart-sick patient into the haven of radiant and perfect health. Gives relief in most acute forms of heart disease in 30 minutes.—11

"I am afraid that you won't be able to explain your attitude in this matter," said the friend doubtfully.

"I'm not going to try to explain," answered Senator Sorghum. "Life is too short to do anything but go ahead and transact business. I can hire people to do my explaining for me."

Nervousness, Dyspepsia, Indigestion, and kindred ailments, take wings before the healing qualities of South American Nerve. Thomas Hoskins, of Durham, Ont., took his preacher's advice, followed directions, and was cured permanently of the worst form of Nervous Prostration and Dyspepsia. He has recommended it to others with gratifying results. It's a great nerve builder.—12

Miss Gush—Isn't Mr. Freshleigh a dear! He told me yesterday that he loves me!

Miss Thrust—I'm not surprised; he wouldn't wound anyone's feelings for the world by telling them the truth.

Take One of Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills after dinner. It will promote digestion and overcome any evil effects of too hearty eating. Safe, prompt, active, painless and pleasant. This effective little pill is supplanting all the old school nauseous purgatives. 40 doses, 10 cents.—13

He (cautiously)—If I should propose, would you say 'yes'?

She (still more cautiously)—If you were sure that I should say 'yes' would you propose?

Kidney Duty.—It is the particular function of the kidneys to filter out poisons which pass through them into the blood. When the kidneys are diseased they cannot do their whole duty, and should have the help and strength that South American Kidney Cure will afford in any and all forms of kidney disorder. It relieves in 6 hours.—14

Chief of Weather Bureau (after dinner)—A first class dinner and a good cigar! Guess I'll prophesy fair weather for the rest of the week!

Those Worrying Piles!—One application of Dr. Agnew's Ointment will give you comfort. Applied every night for three to six nights and a cure is effected in the most stubborn cases of Blind, Bleeding, or Itching Piles. Dr. Agnew's Ointment cures Eczema and all itching and burning skin diseases. It acts like magic. 35 cents.—15