

IN FEMALE FIELDS

DAME FASHION DECREES

— QUEER HATS AND WAISTS —

AS ODDITIES FOR WINTER.

Dame Fashion has decreed that the best thing in headgear for dressy wear this fall and winter, and that this mode will be obeyed by that portion of fair femininity who wishes to be strictly up-to-date in all things pertaining to toilet, goes without saying. Not, however, without decidedly distinctive results in many cases. Youth and beauty and a certain piquancy of expression are necessary to set off these fetching little toques, and if the girl not possessed of these attributes will still insist upon adopting the style, she may expect to see some queer sights during the coming season.

As those toques, or properly speaking, toques set well back on the head, elaborate collures are necessary and the becoming pompadour will have a new lease of life.

Velvet is extensively employed in millinery this autumn and ostrich feathers, the longer and fluffier the better form the chief adornment. Jet is also used to perfection, the pins with large fancy jet knobs at the top being very fashionable. Paradise pheasants and other feathers are greatly in demand, turbans made entirely of feathers of birds being seen in great variety, while silk, lace, fancy aigrettes and even fur are seen on many of the newest modes.

Another pretty way to trim these smart little hats is with the worst velvet and pretty bowknots of velvet and satin. These have a very fair appearance, but indeed are worn in such a strong manner that they can withstand the strongest wind storm.

Charm color is a popular shade in millinery this autumn and makes up characteristically in velvet or felt. Royal blue, all the purple dyes and for evening wear amethyst blue and many delicate shades are also extensively employed. Black, especially when combined with white is in evidence, a lovely mode, made with a full crew of black velvet, covered with applied lace, being trimmed with white ostrich feathers.

After the all-velvet models, hats of pleated chenille and a sort of satin covered straw come next in favor, and as they need very little adornment are decidedly popular with the amateur milliner, a couple of handsome plumes, with a dashing bow of velvet caught with a jeweled or rhinestone buckle, making a dainty and fashionable head-covering.

Many different names are applied to these turbans, but as each one is usually built to suit the individual style and beauty of each patron, there can be no distinguishing title to bestow upon them.

The stuffs displayed at the open-air intended for traveling or walking gowns are bewildering in their array. They come in all shapes and colors and

have a rich appearance all their own. The Alpine model with the brim a little wider and blander than those of former seasons, is popular. And then we have the English walking hat slightly different in shape from last year's model, and for cycling there is a separate department for the display of these lovely creations at all the emporia, and it is safe to say that fair womanhood will not soon relinquish so handy and becoming a fashion.

At a recent opening a very dainty blouse bodice was composed of checked

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OVER THE TEA CUPS.

The Handy Tweed Costume.

Go where the shopper may, tweeds and chevrons, both smooth and shaggy, and of almost every conceivable color, thickness and quality, meet the eye. For utility costumes these materials are in as great demand as ever, and with good reason, for they are at once natty in effect, useful and stylish in pattern, and have the additional advantage of requiring but little trimming. Notwithstanding the rage for elaborate decoration, there is no radical change this season in the style of

Select Winter Gowns Early.

It is a question to many women whether it is advisable to select fabrics for winter gowns as early as this, in view of the fact that new designs and materials are constantly added to the importers' display during the entire autumn season. On the other hand, it is very certain that with so many different weaves put up to the market, the early shopper has an unlimited choice, which is not after all her later on. This has been proved over and over again by women who have bought some stylish or handsome texture when it first appeared, and later on wishing to match these same goods, have been unable to do so. The duplicates are imported in a single lot or year, it is therefore a very good rule to make a purchase of an early and satisfying pattern or weave when one finds it, be it early or late, to negotiate and decide to wait is generally to lose the fabric desired or admired, especially in a city where tons of material are sold in a single day.

Egg Croquettes.

Egg croquettes are a decided novelty taught recently to her class by a cooking-school demo at a small dice about a quarter of an inch in size. With these were mixed a few mushrooms chopped fine. A white sauce made of milk, flour, and butter, with a little onion juice, and leeks provided, and into this the eggs and mushrooms were stirred carefully before being packed into the croquette mold and set on the fire to stiffen. When the mixture was moulded into croquettes, dipped in egg and powdered breadcrumbs and fried in a basket to hot fat. They were served on a folded napkin laid on a platter, and were garnished with parsley and slices of lemon.

An Excellent Tonic.

A furniture-polisher, if it may be made at home, and which is a reliable, needs for a foundation half a pint of linseed oil. This should be boiled and put into a stone pipkin, 1 1/2 ounces of yellow wax, cut in thin shavings, being added. Set the pot in a saucepan of boiling water until the wax is thoroughly melted, then strain through muslin, and stir constantly until cool. Add a quarter of a pint of vinegar, and a quarter of a pint of kerosene, mix thoroughly and bottle.

Fringes and Buttons.

Fringes of every width and buttons in every variety of shape and size are shown with other pet things in the way of dress trimmings, and among the very old-fashioned things is a cape in long shawl-point shape, both front and back finished with a fringe about eight inches deep, with a knotted network at the top—a style in fashion when Queen Victoria was in her teens.

Lovely Red Effects.

Many beautiful reds have been added to the seasons of 1900, and the effective effects to be had already familiar, notable in red, a superb color that will be a great asset for dress accessories and trimmings. The color is neither crimson, cherry, nor a plum. Cranberry jelly, boiled in a clear crystal glass, gives the nearest reflection of its rich, beautiful tone.

Watermelon Salad.

An English butler prepares a watermelon salad by cutting large cubes of the fruit with cinnamon and powdered sugar and a slight dust of nutmeg. A wineglassful of port wine is poured over at the last. The melon should be, of course, thoroughly chilled before being cut up, and be placed on ice after the dressing is added, until sent to the table.

Velvet High in Favor.

Velvets are one of a great success in the seasons of 1900 and 1901, for the making of costumes, entire, for redingotes, skirts, waists, combinations, millinery. Very beautiful plain velvets and changeable ombre, plaided, striped and mottled patterns, are all in great demand in the season's luxurious exhibit.

An Emergency Key Soup.

An emergency key soup that bears no trace of its monger is quickly evolved by adding pepper and salt, and some good beef extract. A dash of lemon juice as helpful, and to secure its best flavor, the tiny cubes of vegetables, turnips, carrots, and onions, stewed tender in a little butter, should be added. With a wineglass of sherry and a dash of cayenne put in the tureen after the soup is there, the hostess may offer her invitation in serene confidence.

A Good Idea.

A woman who calls herself an old-fashioned cook says that the secret of her specially excellent ginger cookies is that she uses cold coffee, instead of water, in their mixing. Half a cup is the allowance, and she says, "If there is not enough left over for breakfast, I pour that much water on the grounds and boil it up."

Protein Coffee.

To vary the café frappé, a little gelatin may be added to make a jelly, and whipped cream lightly beaten in before freezing. Frozen tea and chocolate are further changes that prove acceptable.

CARE FOR YOUR PIANO.

How to Keep the Instrument in Good Order.

It is well to sometimes rub the wires gently with chamolite or a flannel cloth, and to pass a soft muslin over the sounding board by means of a slender point which will slip between the wires and engage the cloth, which may then be carefully moved over the surface, taking off the dust. A steel crocheting hook or a stout knitting needle will answer the purpose. It is advisable to keep a little camphor inside the case, for if the moth has been attracted by the felt used in various parts it will serve as a means of protection against this pest. The temperature of the room should be moderate and as even as possible. Excessive heat that is drying should always be avoided, so a piano should not stand, as is often the case, too near a fire. An instrument should be opened for a short time each day; if it is not much used this is especially desirable. Often there appears a sort of bloom upon the case, or the wood looks dingy and seems to be in need of cleaning. It is, however, very uncertain work to attempt to improve the fine finish of a piano with polish. Instead, the method recommended and used by a professional tuner is one that may be safely tested, with the certainty that it will not injure the means of gathering additional dust, oil and polishes are apt to do. Take the finest toilet soap and lukewarm water and wash a little of the piano at a time, as you would wash a baby's face, using a soft cloth, and working upon a space not larger than your hand. Wipe it off with clear water and rub well with a clean polishing cloth until it is perfectly dry and well polished. The dampness does not affect the original finish in the least, but simply removes that which obscures it, and if rubbed absolutely dry, with a brisk motion, the result is that the piano is cleaned and brightened.

CHESTNUTS GROWN IN AMERICA

It was three-quarters of a century after But Pont's importation of European chestnuts that the American chestnut began to attract attention in this country. Probably the largest grove of American chestnuts in America is situated near Clemons, N. J. Here a tract of land 500 acres in area is given over to the culture of these trees. The tract was originally a forest of native American chestnut trees. They were all cut down, and after the shoots had grown two years they were grafted with the Japanese chestnuts. The first two to three years the grafted trees began to bear, and at the end of ten years they were yielding a bushel of chestnuts to a tree. The orchard, if such it may be called, is cruelly ravaged with a rough haw, and the fallen leaves are permitted to rot and enrich the ground.

The European and the Japanese chestnuts are larger than the American, but by no means so sweet in the raw state. When cooked, however, they are palatable. They are used not only for the entertainment of Halloween parties, but also for the Thanksgiving turkey, and boiled as an ordinary vegetable. The Italians in this country convert them into meal, from which they make a rich and nourishing cake. The Japanese chestnuts ripen about the middle of September, the European chestnuts two or three weeks later.

In view of the new interest in the chestnut as an article of food, and, therefore, of industrial importance, scientific agriculturists are making a careful study of the tree and its fruit. The great enemy of the nut is the unpleasantly familiar worm known as the chestnut weevil. It too, is under scientific investigation, and the best method of destroying it is being made the subject of special study. That is destroying the chestnut leaves is also attracting the attention of scientific agriculturists. In the course of these investigations American men of science have been in correspondence with botanists not only in Japan, Spain and Italy, but even in England.

Appropriately Named.

How the late Professor Cohn of Breslau would have opened his famous lecture on botany, had his name been chosen to be Jones or Jenkins, is left to the imagination of the readers of this story from the New York Tribune. "The four chief constituents of plants," the distinguished biologist was wont to say at the beginning of his course, "are carbon, C; oxygen, O; hydrogen, H; nitrogen, N." Then, writing down these four letters, with apparent carelessness, on a blackboard, COHN, he would smile, as he observed: "It is clear that I ought to know something about botany."

Out of His R reckoning.

The surprising thing about the following story, which the Tribune prints, is that Arkansas did not tell Maine to "guess again." In one of our Southern camps an Arkansas squire, who was talking to a Maine squire, said: "Squire, I can see there ain't much difference between we-us an' you-us, 'cept that we-us reckon an' you-us guess." "That's 'bout all, neighbor," replied the Maine man, with no lack of Yankee impudence, "cept that we guess a plumb sight better than you can reckon!"

World's Wine Production for One Year.

According to the Montreux Vinicole, the world's wine production for 1898 was 3,261,180,320 gallons; for 1897, 3,243,478,920 gallons. The production in the United States was in 1896, 17,565,800 gallons; in 1897, 30,303,740 gallons.



HOW THE NEW SHAPE LOOKS.

the low felt hat with narrow brim and the larger campaign, "Rough Rider" and Dewey hats, all of which are high in favor.

Although the separate waist has been relegated to the background it is still found a very prominent place in my lady's wardrobe, and the large establishments have not apart

making the tailor gown, and good taste is still shown in the conclusion of both skirt and bodice. In the first place, elaborate effects would be out of place on a tailor gown designed for any sort of practical wear, and the same are certain limitations due to the weight of the fabrics composing them, even supposing that trimmings were allowable.

Where Crystals Are Public Benefactors.

It is a strange idea to many folk that this could be so anywhere, but far away in Siam, where bicycling is the pleasure of princes and nobles, it seems likely to have an enormous effect (for the benefit of the country).

Up till now the roads in Siam have been, excepting in the towns, few in number and very bad. It is clearly no good to be an enthusiastic cyclist without the roads on which to ride, and the Siamese aristocracy have fully realized the fact. The result is that new roads are to be made which will be practical for the pneumatic tire, and incidentally of the greatest service commercially for hitherto an immense amount of the produce of the country has been wasted for lack of the means for taking it into the towns for sale. It is hoped that the fashionable bicycling craze may result in a good system of roadways throughout the country.

The Natty Short Jacket.

The Etou and souve jackets continue to appear in suits with very many of the autumn costumes, and an unusually pretty style has the skirt very much more, and opening at the side of the top of the front breast. Such a fashion of the bicycle suit. Old colors are combined in these costumes, blues are lined and faced with green, and heliotropes, browns have military red or yellow vests, etc., and although there are only glimpses to be seen between buttons, and the like, these glimpses give a touch of color which renders the gown smart, or otherwise.

To Clean Piano Keys.

Ordinarily a cloth dipped in cold water will clean piano keys, rubbing the black ones with a little sweet oil, wiping them dry afterwards. Still, there can be made smooth by putting a little gin or spirits of wine in the water, but for actual discolored keys made of gum and waxing is recommended. With a flannel cloth wound around the finger the paste is applied with brisk rubbing. When the wax has rubbed off and polished with a very little dry whitening, finally giving a dry rub with a chamolite.

For Elderly Women.

For elderly women are some new shawl-shaped capes, almost as long as a shawl proper, formed very much like the newest fur capes. These are made of broad, and are trimmed with a deep graduated ruffle of the same, or with rather wide lace. These capes add greatly to the beauty and effect of a black costume, and although only slightly added, have considerable warmth, without being heavy. These capes have not yet been generally displayed in the shops, but leading modistes are making them up, after designs obtained from importers of French patterns, or from models they have themselves brought from the other side.