

NEW LACE PROCKS.

Substitution Costumes That Are at Present in High Favor with Smart Dressers.

For evening and dinner costumes this season crepe de chine, in combination with oriental, Cluny or Russian laces, is in high favor.

The newest color is a deep cream, almost yellow, and the effect of the combination with dainty shades of gray, pink and blue is soft and satisfying.

This style is close fitting about the hips. A prevailing form is made of lace applique or embroidery, so as to give a yoke effect, the flare of the skirt beginning at the bottom of the yoke.

Points of all sizes are to be used in skirt decoration. These are seen in lace, as garatura, and again as a finish to the skirt itself.

Entire dresses of point applique are made with two deep flounces effectively finished with Bruges edging.

More gorgeous effects are seen in embroidery with chenille and ribbon upon gowns of crepe de chine and Chantilly lace.

These skillfully fashioned robes come in separate pieces, ready to be finished by the purchaser or her dressmaker.

Point d'esprit in every color will be popular for simpler evening gowns.

INACCURATELY SIZED UP.

The Man who the Touch to a Trade of Faith in Estimating His Chances.

"I think I find you feeling in better spirits, far better," he began as he softly entered an office on Griswold street, released the Detroit Free Press.

"I fail to comprehend," replied the occupant as he looked up.

"Why, I was in here a few weeks ago to ask you if you could spare me a dime, and you replied that you expected your wife and children to freeze to death this winter on account of the coal strike.

"I held out the hope that the government might exercise the right of eminent domain and seize and work the coal mines you could not rally.

"I felt sorry to leave you, and I have worried considerably for fear you might decide to end all. You do feel better, don't you?"

"I feel well enough," grudgingly admitted the man at the desk.

"Your family won't freeze for want of coal?"

"No."

"And you will go ahead with new hopes and ambitions? You will realize that life is worth the living now that the coal strike is settled? In fact, there has been such a change in your feelings that should I now proffer a request for the loan of the trifling sum of—"

"If would be refused," finished the office man as the other hung on the word.

"Positively and unqualifiedly refused?"

"Just so."

"Even if the request was reduced to a nickel?"

"Even then."

"Then, there is no more to be said and I will take advantage of the occasion to wish you good-day. I did think it would make a difference in your feelings, and that there would be no hesitation on your part in complying with my request, but I find I have been mistaken, and the dignified course is to withdraw. I do withdraw. I am withdrawing. I have withdrawn. Being now on the outside of the door I will add that the inextinguishability of your inconsistent benevolence finds no words in the English language for proper portrayal."

Southern Corn Muffins.

Measure two cups of sifted meal, add a tablespoonful of salt, a well-beaten egg, one pint of sour milk in which you have dissolved a teaspoonful of soda.

Then add a tablespoonful of melted butter, stir thoroughly, pour into hot, well-greased pans and bake in a quick oven until brown.

This may be used for corn bread also. The bread should not be more than an inch thick when done and the crust should be brown and crispy on both sides.—Washington Star.

Not a Full Meal.

"Of course you're seeking fame," they said to the literary man.

"Yes," he replied with unexpected wisdom, "but only as an excuse. I'm wise enough to know that there's not a full meal in it, although it is palatable as a side dish."—Brooklyn Eagle.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

Japan's foreign trade has in 20 years increased from less than \$200 million to nearly seven billions per capita per annum.

In the new Desoille process of copper plating, the cleansed metallic articles, first subjected to an electric current in a preparatory "adhesion bath," are placed in the usual plating bath, and the latter is driven forcibly in jets against the articles and the anodes.

A German motor wagon for military use, known as the Keller wagon, has the novel feature of a movable railway track under its wheels. The wheels are two feet in diameter, and each is surrounded by a rail in the form of a hoop seven feet in diameter, with a broad and flat outer surface.

Non-explosive celluloid is among the important products of the new artificial camphor—hydrochlorate of turpentine—of Callenberg. Celluloid is a mixture of camphor and gun-cotton, and the use of the artificial camphor—a white, transparent material, costing less than the natural substance—greatly increases the stability and lessens the inflammability.

The artificial camphor has another curious advantage in making all gun-cottons soluble, so that it is no longer necessary to select for celluloid a gun-cotton of special degree of nitration.

Spectroscopic observations prove that auroras occur much more frequently than has been supposed. At a new observatory near Gottlingen the auroral line was distinctly seen from the northern sky by E. Wiechert from November 1 to 9, and he was led at first to suspect that the phenomenon is always with us.

The line again appeared in all parts of the sky on February 28 and March 3, and it was calculated that if the aurora's height was not less than 30 miles, the same method should detect it as far as the south of Italy.

In all these observations the naked eye showed nothing but a faint general luminosity of the sky, not half as bright as the Milky Way.

FACING THE SURGEON.

Immigrants Must Have a Clean Bill of Health When They Start for America.

It was a lesson to watch the first man who had to face the surgeon. We, who have never lived in a country from which we are longing to escape, might not feel as did this man, to whom pretty nearly everything of moment in the world was at stake just then.

There might be something wrong with his eyes or hair, or with some part of him inside—he did not know. He had never before been examined in this way by a doctor, and how was he to know? And so many had come back, too. Think what it meant to him if he was sent back.

The money for his passage had come from a relative in America—probably all the relatives for whom he cared were already in America. Think what this meant to him, says a writer in Scribner's Magazine.

And so he faced the surgeon, while 30 others fixed distressful eyes upon him as the indicator in a measure of their fortunes. As he was served, so too would they be served. As a brave conscript might face his first battle, so did this man arise and walk toward the surgeon. It is a deep breath, and a tautening of the sinews. He draws nearer. The eyes begin to set and the lips to tighten. He stands rigid before the man who is to decide his fate.

The surgeon's hand draws his head forward, and the man quivers. The surgeon's voice, with the fingers rolling back the lids of his eyes, commands his eyebrows to the light, and the man shivers. The surgeon drops him and his chest flattens and his shoulders droop; but quickly the chest rounds out and the shoulders are squared when the professional hand again reaches for him, now to tap him over the heart and sound his lungs.

Another look at the hair, and he is motioned on. He is not yet through, but he has passed thus far, and the shadow of tears leaves him. And around the room runs a wistful sigh of confidence. As it has been with him, so it may be with them.

Had Tried Them All.

One useful element of a literary style is suggestion. The author does not tell a laborious story. He presents a picture in as few words as possible, allowing the reader to fill in the details for himself.

Foreigners Coming In.

Immigrants into the United States during the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1902, according to the report of the commissioner of immigration, numbered 730,798.

"Annie," said she, "don't you want some of my almonds?"

"Thank you, dear," was the prompt reply. "I will take one or two. Sugared almonds are favorites of mine."

"Well, which is the most favorite, the pink ones or the white ones?"

"I will take the white ones, please; that is, if you don't mind."

"That'll be just right, Annie. You take the white ones, and I will keep the pink ones. They were all pink at first."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Love.

Nell—He loves her for all he is worth, doesn't he?  
Bell—Yes; and for all she is worth.—Somerville Journal.

HAVE A ROUGH ROAD

New Signers Coming to America Have Their Troubles.

Innumerable Set-Backs in the Western Provinces for Women Who Come Here for Fame and Fortune.

"A favorite subject with writers on both sides of the Atlantic is the tribulations of American girls who go to Europe to study music," said a woman who has had long experience in all grades of musical life, both here and abroad, according to the New York Times.

"Many of the articles written on this theme doubtless serve a good purpose, and an occasional diatribe on the woes of foreign musicians who come to America to earn a living would be equally pertinent.

"Only those who get to the core of the life lived by these people have any idea of the hardships many of them undergo. Their immediate set-backs seem all the harder to endure because they come to this country with the belief that Americans lie awake nights yearning to study music under the tutelage of instructors possessing a foreign-sounding name and a few medals and diplomas from continental schools.

In return for the gratification of this laudible desire the visitors expect to pick up dollars, and when they find neither the artistic longing nor the money their disappointment is pitiful.

"The fact of the matter is, the opinion of most sensible Americans in regard to the professional merits of imported musicians has undergone a decided change. Time was when the aspirant for concert, church, or operatic honors, and even the applicant for a position as accompanist or teacher of class or private lessons, stood a much better chance of securing a hearing and incidentally a situation, if her name wound up with 'T' or 'owski' or some other European termination.

Nowadays a girl who signs herself 'Sarah Jones' has as good a show as Madam Signora that the heads of families who wish their children to have a musical education are now quite willing to trust them to a well-equipped American woman

who can prove herself capable of imparting thorough instruction. This increased patriotism is a fine thing for home talent, but it has been a death blow to the hopes of many a sanguine artist from abroad.

"In church work the home-grown musician has the advantage of the foreigner. I don't suppose church-goers are a bit more religious than they were 20 years ago, but they are still able to understand English, and they like the words of hymns and anthems to ring out clear-cut and distinguishable. All these evolutions in sentiment have made the life of the small-city foreign musician pretty hard.

The submerged ones are living on the imperishable hope of the artistic temperament and the charity of their friends. The small economies and makeshifts practiced by these unfortunates would make their friends and relations who sent them over here to sow a few musical notes and reap barrels of money weep aloud. It may be argued that their fate is in nowise more lamentable than that of girls from the west, south and north who have come to New York and are experiencing the same bitter trials, but it is worse because they of the latter class have been inspired with less exalted ambitions, and their disappointment is relatively less poignant.

"The worst of it is, these additions to our musical population continue to pour in in large numbers. In spite of all the woes that have befallen their predecessors, they are still dazzled by the tales of fortunes accumulated by the really big folks in the profession, and are cheated into the belief that they can come and do likewise. The market is overrun, and no matter in what capacity they offer to work, or how low the terms at which they offer their services there is no room for them."

All Were Shrewd.

Some peasants in a village in Burgundy, France, filled with a desire to show their cure their appreciation of his services, decided to fill a large cask lying empty in his yard with wine. It is presented with an address of thanks. Each grateful peasant stole to the cask at night, and emptied into his tribute of affection and respect for his pastor. Next morning the cask was rolled into the presence of the cure, after a moving speech had been delivered; but when it was found that the cask yielded nothing but pure and limpid water, the peasants looked uncomfortable. Each of them had wanted to save his own pocket at the expense of his neighbors.—London Mail.

World's Oldest City.

Damascus is undoubtedly the oldest existing city in the world; Heneira and Constantinople, exclusive of Chinese towns, come next in point of age.—Albany Argus.

RELICS OF ST. PIERRE.

Collection of Household Utensils from the Destroyed City for Boston Museum.

Dr. Thomas A. Jagger, of the Harvard department of geology, who has been engaged in scientific researches at St. Pierre, among the still smoking ruins of the demolished city, will be the means of placing on exhibition at the Agassiz museum over 300 relics of the great volcanic calamity, says a Boston report.

This collection is made up of knives, forks, spoons, coins, glassware, plates, platters, and many other objects of daily utility, some of which Dr. Jagger picked up in the ruins. However, the greater number of these souvenirs were received as a gift from the French government to the Harvard museum, and were selected by Dr. Jagger from a mass of similar material collected immediately following the full horrors of the catastrophe, and stored for safe keeping in the government vaults at Fort de France.

To those viewing this collection the personal character of the different objects gathered renders it of more than ordinary interest. In it are many strange freaks caused by the action of the molten lava and the different gases upon the different utensils gathered after the eruption.

Some of the knives, forks, and spoons are melted together by the tremendous heat, and many are stained in various colors by the oxidation of iron, silver and copper and by the overflow of the lava stream in which all the elements were combined. Glass vessels, pitchers, fruit jars, and other objects, which can only be guessed at, are run together by the heat.

Half melted candlesticks, coins welded together in indiscriminate chunks of metal, metal pitchers, sugar bowls, jars and platters are all in evidence among this strange collection. Many of these household utensils bear the monogram of their former owners, who were lost in the awful destruction following the eruption of Mount Pelée.

In the collection are plates still covered with fine gray dust, some melted into almost unrecognizable masses, others separate and still unbroken. Added to these articles is a cross fallen from a private shrine and two American gold pieces.

Nearly every article collected shows evidences of the tremendous heat which brought death to every living thing within the vicinity of the destructive mountain. Much of the metal in the collection has been changed from its customary coloring to an appearance of great age. One of the most interesting and unique articles of this collection is a copy of the last issue of Les Colonies, presented to Dr. Jagger by a French planter. This copy is a most valuable accession to the collection which the Harvard scientist obtained.

THE NICKEL HABIT.

When Acquired by a Woman It Is Apt to Lead Her Into Extravagance.

"Sow a habit and you reap a harvest." Get a nickel telephone and you acquire the nickel habit. The nickel habit consists in never parting from a five cent piece if you can help it, and planning every thinkable subterfuge to come into possession of the precious bits, says the Chicago Tribune.

Women are more addicted to the habit than men. That's because their pocket space is so limited that they can lay in only a limited supply at a time, and so must needs be at it persistently. You can tell the woman who has this trouble by watching her in a street car. She never gives the conductor a nickel. She will, if she can, present him with a dime. She is then sure of one five cents at least. If she hasn't a dime she will produce a quarter. This is greater risk for possibly greater gains. In the shuffle she may draw four nickels, which sets her up for some time to come. The alternative is, of course, two dimes, which mean only one nickel, even after changing for carfare. Fifty cent pieces and dollars are a lottery the nickel woman may or may not get what she wants.

The nickel habit leads to extravagance. The addicted one will spend any amount in order to save her nickel. She gladly gives ten pennies to pay something which one five cent piece would have compassed. It leads to deceit, too, for the possessor of a nickel will cheerfully deny possession of it rather than let anyone borrow the coin to use for the telephoning or other purposes. Lastly, it leads to avarice, for the nickel woman argues with herself for many minutes before depositing this hard earned coin in the maw of the five cent telephone.

Whether any new Keeley will undertake to study out a cure for this bad habit is yet to be seen. The telephone company suggests one by asking the nickel subscriber to pay a hundred a year and do away with the nickel box, but that is found to be a stern remedy, after one has suffered from a stern case of nickellism. Certainly, for the sake of home life in America some philanthropist ought to see what can be done to save this rapid degeneration and the sad refrain so often heard in afflicted families, "Has anyone got a nickel?"

And the other mournful command sounding over the wires like the irresistible voice of fate, "Nickel, please."

Prepared for Emergencies.

The German war department actually keeps in stock duplicates of all the bridges in the empire considered likely to be damaged or destroyed in case of war; and what is more, it has duplicates of a good many French bridges and of other countries in which it is interested.—N. Y. Sun.

WOMEN NOT WANTED

Government Departments Now Generally Requiring Men.

Prejudice Against Their Appointment Among the Department Heads and the Civil Service Commission Given Head.

While it is true that more women than men successfully pass the civil service examination, fewer of them are appointed than formerly. In the past year or two a prejudice against the appointment of women as clerks has grown up among the several heads of the departments. No particular reason or cause for this prejudice is assigned by the civil service commission, but it exists and seems to be growing, says the Washington Times.

When a vacancy occurs in any division of a department the civil service commission is notified and three names are certified from the eligible list. The names do not include a woman's because the chief of the division has requested that only men be submitted and the commission complies with the request.

Last year out of 10,361 persons certified for appointment through the civil service, and who received appointments, only 793 were women, and this in face of the fact that the women on the average made a higher percentage in the examination than the men.

Not long ago the civil service commission was called upon for ten stenographers and typewriters. This meant the submission of 80 names of successful applicants, who after much study, had passed the examination and were on the eligible list. There were many women on the eligible list of stenographers and typewriters who stood near the top, but not one had her name submitted because only men were asked for.

This discrimination against the women applicants for appointments in the government service through the competitive system of the civil service is not confined to any particular department, but seems to be general, although, it is said, the feeling has been more pronounced in the post office department.

An official of one of the departments in talking about this movement against the appointment of women as clerks said: "It is in the interest of the service, and also the women themselves. Every time a woman is appointed to a clerkship in one of the departments she lessens the chance of marriage for herself and deprives some worthy man of the chance to take unto himself a wife and raise a family. And in addition to that the men make far better clerks. They can overtime less, do more work, and work over time if need be without grumbling."

When it becomes generally known that the women do not stand as much chance as formerly in the matter of securing a government position through the medium of a civil service examination it is believed that there will be a perceptible falling off in the number of women applicants and a corresponding increase among the men applicants. Figures furnished by the civil service commission show a gradual falling off in the number of women appointed in the classified service during the past ten years, and if this continues at the present rate it will be but a few years when no woman will be certified for appointment to any position in the classified service except those to which no men are appointed.

WOMEN DEER HUNTERS.

Luxurious Shooting Camps More Conducive to Lounging Than the Pursuit of Game.

Deer hunting in the Adirondacks is said to be on the decrease among women. The building of camp, or shooting boxes, as the English would call them, after plan more elaborate and with fittings and furnishings more luxurious, goes on, but this indicates the conversion of the woods into a fashionable lounging place, rather than any increase in the hunting cult among women, states the New York Tribune. The modern sportswoman who enters the woods is apt to come with big trunks and many of them, and to derive satisfaction from gathering at the clubhouses and adding color and life to the hunting lodges in the private parks. Before such a display of fashion the genuine woodswoman grows timid of appearing in short hunting skirts and high boots.

The various amendments to the game laws have left only one lawful method of hunting deer, and that is walking, or still hunting. When "floating" was permitted in the Adirondacks, women hunted much more than they do now.

Many of these modern Dianas who have entered the Adirondacks this year have had success. One was singularly fortunate in the Fulton Chain country. While following an old log road she saw a deer, with branching antlers, moving apparently with little concern. Suddenly he stopped, straining sight, ears and nostrils to detect the presence of the intruder. Before he gratified his curiosity the crack of a rifle broke upon the air, and the woman hunter became the possessor of a deer's head as a proof of her prowess and aim.

Candid, at Least.

"I suppose," said she, sarcastically, when he came back to her after the intermission, "that all you men went out merely to get your opera glasses."

"No," he replied, promptly. "I think most of us went out for our eye glasses."—Philadelphia Press.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The record price for a clock is \$108,000 paid for the clock made by Louis XVI. of France. It was purchased by one of the Rothschilds.

It is estimated by the bureau of forestry in the department of agriculture that 60 lives on an average are lost every year in this country in consequence of forest fires.

Many of the most wonderful feats of magic were known centuries ago. There is the famous trick of making a plant grow instantaneously, for example, which was described in a French paper of the year 1663, but the secret of it was not given.

An egg shell emptied through a small hole drilled in one end has been found by Mr. A. F. Gray to withstand an external pressure of 875 pounds per square inch, and an internal pressure of 65 pounds per square inch. The pressure was applied with an air pump, the shell's porosity being overcome by a thin rubber balloon, which for the requisite tests was slipped over the outside of the shell and pushed into the interior through a small opening.

Some peculiar and interesting geological characteristics have been encountered in constructing the grade of the extension of a Texas railroad. In some places the roadbed is cut through solid marble, while traces of valuable minerals have been struck at several points in excavating through the stone formation. At one point a few days ago the diamond drill struck a large cavern and dropped out of sight. It was found necessary to blast into the cave and then fill it up with earth and rock in order to make the grade substantial.

While the cause of right-handedness is a subject of dispute, artists and others often work with the two hands alternately, and the idea is gaining ground that ambidexterity is an accomplishment that should be cultivated. Physicians are even contending that it aids the general health. Children in Japan are early taught to write and draw with both hands, and German schools are now making left-hand work during a part of the time compulsory. But little practice is necessary to give the left hand proficiency in the use of saw, plane, hammer, etc., as well as in writing.

DOMESTIC INFORMATION.

Various Kinds of Household Lard Which May Be of Value to the Housewife.

A little lime juice added to a cupful of hot of cold tea is considered by many to be an improvement over the juice of lemon.

A new sandwich filling is made of preserved ginger, chopped fine and moistened with rich cream.

The housewife who lives in a city with a Chinese quarter will find it to her advantage to buy her preserved ginger by the pound at the Chinese grocer's. It may be bought in bulk for 50 cents a pound.

When a stylographic pen sticks and refuses to uncap, hold it over a lighted match for a moment and it will unloosen, says the Washington Star.

Half a pound of dry bread, one-quarter pound nut kernels and one pound of raw fruit furnish a dinner, it is said, that will give good staying power for six or eight hours.

If one has a toothache and can't reach the dentist, try this method of temporarily delaying the pain: Cleanse and dry the hollow tooth with a bit of cotton. Then put in a small cotton plug dipped in creosote or oil of cloves. Cover this with another bit of dry cotton, or, still better, a little beewax and cotton kneaded together. This keeps out the air and dries the "miserly" until the dentist can be reached.

While the habits and customs of the untutored savage are not always to be commended to his white brother, there are some things that bear the impress of good, sound, common sense. For instance, among the Hopis and Marjols, who stand at the head of all the Indian tribes for their feats of strength and endurance, it is the custom to leave an opening in all their garments just under the arm. Instead of covering up the armpit with extra shields, a slit about six inches long is cut in the under waist and arm seams. This gives the air free access to that part of the body, when perspiration is most profuse.

In New York city one of the best known professors of the "beautifier" oil as a hair restorer and wrinkle eradicator and preventative. The pores of the scalp and skin, she declares, drink the oil with avidity, and thick, glossy hair and well-rounded contours follow its persistent application.

In shampooing white hair, the up-to-date hair dresser uses a little laundry blue in the last rinsing water. This gives the hair a clear whiteness, much more beautiful than the yellow cast, which is common to the uninitiated.

If you have a basement dining-room or rather dark bedroom where long curtains shut out too much of the light, try the effect of the linen Anne Hathaway curtains, copied from the old house at Stratford-on-Avon. These are simply scrim or dotted swiss, made about three-eighths of a yard in length, finished with a finger and a half hem at the bottom and a two-inch hem at the top, shirred very full upon a brass rod or cord and hung across the top of the window casement.

These do not cut off the light, but give an artistic finish to the windows, which shades alone leave too severely plain.