THE LADIES' COLUMN.

Latest Fashion Notes.

Entire dresses of English crape are made for widows.

The tournure is neither greater nor less —it remains stationary.

Skirts are short for the street, demi-trained for evening and full trained for dinners and receptions.

The black-and-white striped silks are used for basques and demi-trained skirts, and make striking toilets. They are combined with black satin, velvet, jet or lace.

The shape of wrappings changes little and innovations would be difficult, since all shapes are being worn now, the sling sleeve being seen on most of them, whether long or short.

Pointed gimp above a band of astrakhan or of the long-waved Russian lamb skin is a fashionable trimming for cheviot dresses. White cheviot dresses are worn in the house.

The square-meshed Russian net, point d'esprit and tulle are now made up in mauve and heliotrope shades for those about laying aside mourning. Mauve and purple velvet dresses, with trimmings of black lace, are worn by older ladies.

Corsages are extremely varied, as well for day as for evening dresses. Corselets are much worn, the waist below the shoulders being plain and tight, and shirred on the front with soft puffings or folds over the bust; these, however, are best adapted to slim figures.

The fashion of low inner bodices, with the outer waist of transparent material, high in the neck and with half-easy sleeves, is returning and promises to be popular. This is worn at informal dinners and those occasions in the evening where decollete would seem more than the occasion required.

The fancy for wearing ribbons in the neck and sleeves instead of linen finds a prompt response in the shops where ruchings are shown on the edge of which is sewn narrow ribbons of all colors. The taste for colored ruching grows and it is shown in all shades, to contrast with or exactly match the costume.

The dresses get more and more voluminous, and these full skirts, unless draped by the hand of an experienced modiste, are apt to have a bunchy and awkward effect. Almost all the smart, short frocks, not only ball gowns, are fulled right around the waist, and when they are of very rich material the effect is beautiful.

A beautiful new plush is just out for carriage wraps that is exactly the shade of the blue fox fur which is so much worn this winter. Ruby and heliotrope plush are much worn and the blue fox looks very well on ruby. A very handsome and new little mantle, just imported from England, is made of heliotrope velvet, trimmed richly with gold and green Egyptian passementerie.

China crape without lustre is made up into handsome dinner dresses for ladies in mourning, which are trimmed with passementerie and pendants of dull jet, and if lace is admissible the point d'esprit is used with fine dots and feather-edges like those on ribbons, or else with scollops; entire dresses are made of the piece lace with these fine dots, which is preferred by many to the beaded nets.

For wear with black lace skirts are corsages of black velvet veiled by another corsage, almost high, which consists of a trellis of very narrow gold galloon. Sometimes this corsage covers only the shoulders and neck and the upper part of the arm, and terminates in pampilles which drape on the upper edge of the low corsage. Sometimes the network veiling the skin is of jet nstead of gold.

Black lace dresses continue to fill their useful function in the toilet, being as they are at once elegant, capable of being worn on the most diverse occasions and suitable for all ages. Only for evening receptions they are a little sombre, and to remedy this defect the outlines of the lace are run with gold thread, which is charming in effect, very rich and yet quite in good taste. Black lace dresses are not worn over black only, but over an underdress of any color, *ciel* blue, old rose, *tilleul* green and red of all shades.

Useful Recipes.

Madelins.—Cream one cup of butter with one cup and three-quarters of sugar; add three eggs, two cups of sugar, one-half cup of corn starch, three teaspoonfuls of baking-powder, and one teaspoonful of extract of vanilla. Bake in patty pans in a quick oven.

Celery Croquettes.—Mince the white part of the celery and mix well with an equal quantity of bread crumbs; to a quart of the mixture add the yolks of two eggs, a heaping saltspoonful of salt and a pinch of cayenne; moisten with a little milk if the moisture from the celery is not sufficient. Shape in cones, dip in eggs and crumbs and fry in a liberal quantity of fat.

Snow Cake.—Three-fourths of a cup of butter, two cups of sugar, one cup of milk, one cup of corn starch, two cups of flour, one and one-half teaspoonfuls of baking powder; mix corn starch, flour and baking powder together; add the butter and sugar alternately with the milk; lastly add the whites of seven eggs; flavor to taste.

Marble Cake—For white part: One cup of butter, three cups of sugar, five cups of flour, one-half cup of sweet milk, one-half teaspoonful of soda, whites of eight eggs; flavor with lemon. Dark part: One-half cup of butter, two cups of brown sugar, one cup of molasses, one cup of sour milk, four cups of flour, one teaspoonful of soda, yelks of eight eggs, one whole egg, spices of all kinds, put in a pan first a layer of dark, then a layer of light, and finish with a dark layer.

Rich Coffee Cake—Two cups of butter, three of sugar, one of molasses, one of very strong coffee, one of cream of rich milk, the yelks of eight eggs, one pound each of raisins and currants, one-half pound of citron, the same of figs, and five cups of brown flour after it is sifted. Put the flour in the oven until a rich brown, being careful not to burn it. When cold sift with it three tablespoonfuls of good baking powder and a little salt. Cut the figs in long strips, dredge all the fruit with flour, beat the cake well up, and bake in moderate oven from four to five hours.

Lemon Rice.—Pick and wash one cupful of rice, put it into a deep earthen dish; with one quart of water and a little salt cover tightly and place on the back of the range or stove, where it may gradually cook without danger of burning. If the water should be consumed before the rice is done, add enough to swell it out tender. Care has to be taken that the grains remain whole. When the rice has become tender put in a colander and pour cold water over it until the grains appear to separate; drain it well and replace in the dish. Then add white sugar to taste—it needs to be very sweet—the grated rind of one and the juice of two lemons; set back on the stove and let it simmer ten or twelve minutes; then pour it into a wet mould, and when cooled off put on ice until wanted. Turn out like a blanc mange.

A Hen Story From the East.

Last Christmas morning Mrs. Peter Boudreau, of Saulnierville, Digby County, went to the barn as usual and got a mess of oats which she gave to her fowls. Later in the forenoon she noticed very strange actions amongst them, and the rooster was stretched on the ground apparently dead. Mrs. B., to make the best of it, plucked him slick and clean, with the exception of a few tail and wing feathers and consigned his remains to the manure heap, feeling convinced that he had been poisoned. Towards noon to the great surprise of the whole family he was up again, strutting about as gay as ever, though deprived of his costly and necessary apparel. But our good lady, being equal to the emergency, took him in the house and fitted him with a fine suit of overalls, and at last accounts he was doing as well as could be expected under the distressing circumstances. Mrs. B., determined to find out the cause of this strange phenomenon, went to her oat-barrel and found that a bottle of liquor had been placed in the barrel and the liquor had leaked out in the grain which explained the whole mystery. The rooster was drunk, as many other bipeds in bigger communities were on Christmas day.

What Four Sparrows Can Do.

Two pairs of sparrows were watched by an observant naturalist feeding their young in their nests in only one half hour with the larvæ of the bluebottle fly from a dead cat. They fetched these in all 104 times, and one of the birds also caught 14 flies on the wing. Now the common house fly is computed to produce in one season, so prolific is its progeny after progeny, no less than 20,900,000, say, in round numbers, 21,000,000, and thus were prevented by these two pairs of birds no fewer than 280,000,000 by the capture of 14 flies and 2,800,000 by the destruction of the 104 larvæ. Again, there figured in the parish accounts of one parish in Gloucestershire a charge for 17 dozen of (so-called) tomtits heads; in another parish, Melbourne, in Derbyshire, a sparrow club destroyed in one year 4,577 small birds, and in yet another 3,500. Take the smaller of these two last numbers, and multiply it by the number of flies just calculated as prevented by the two pairs of sparrows, and it gives what we may very well call a grand total of 7,280,000,000,000.—*London Times.*

Trying to Get Her.

A telegraph operator in Milwaukee was one day trying to call up an office in a small town in the interior of the State, where the instrument was presided over by a woman.

He was about giving up in despair when the operator in another small town a few miles distant from the first ticked out the query:

"What in heaven's name do you want?"

"I want Miss Brown at Burgville," replied the Milwaukee man. "I have been trying to get her for the last half hour."

"That is nothing," came the reply. "There is a young fellow clerking in a dry-goods store there who has been trying to get her for the last three gears and he has not succeeded yet. Do not get discouraged.' —*The Rambler.*

The Value of Crying.

A French physician contends that groaning and crying are two operations by which nature allays anguish, and that those patients who give way to their natural feelings more speedily recover than those who suppose it unworthy to betray such symptoms of feeling. He tells of a man who reduced his pulse from 126 to 60 in the course of a few hours by giving full vent to his emotion. If people are unhappy about anything let them go into their rooms and comfort themselves with a loud boo-hoo and they will feel 100 per cent better afterward.—*American Homeopathic.*

Sorry He spoke!

A gentleman went home a few evenings ago and casually remarked as he hung up his hat: "I see women are sold at actual value in Indianapolis. A wife was bought there this week for five cents." "Well, I know a woman, about the time I was married, who was sold for nothing," replied his wife. Then the man put on his hat and came down town.

Looking to the Future.

Father (to daughter)—Have you accepted the addresses of Mr. Moneybags?

Daughter—Yes, papa.

Father—Well, isn't he very old, my dear?

Daughter—Yes, papa; but he isn't nearly as old as I wish he was.—*New York Sun.*

The First Lesson of Life.

"Well, how do you like school, Tom?"

"I don't like it. They make you do things you don't want to do."

Babies and Mice.

"Now, my dear," said mamma to little Helen, "baby is going to sleep. You must keep just as still as a little mouse." "Well, but mamma," objected Helen, "mice squeak sometimes, don't they?"

Contingent Prospects.

Young man—I love your daughter, sir, and would like to make her my wife.

Father—What are your prospects?

Young man—I think they'll be pretty good if you'll say yes.—*Tid Bits.*

The long iron bridge at Bismarck, D. T. contracts and expands eleven inches by the heat and cold.

The public debt of the United States was decreased $9,750,000 during January.

PREPARING FOR THE FIELD.

The New Uniform for the French Infantry.

Gen. Boulanger, just now the idol of the French fire eaters, is making many changes in the French army designed to increase its effectiveness.

He proposes to change the dress of the soldier. For one thing, he has recommended the wearing of a beard—a full beard—close cropped. He has set the example by cultivating one upon his own chin and cheeks. Since Napoleon III. the Frenchman has worn a moustache and imperial in the fashion set by the late Emperor. But Gen. Boulanger knows the weakness of his fellow countrymen, which is their vanity. A Frenchman would prefer to go without his bath rather than to leave his moustache without being waxed till its two ends stuck out like steel pens. But this operation takes time, far too much time; so does the elaborate shaving and trimming around the moustache. Therefore, says Boulanger, let the soldier wear a full beard and save all this time.

The changes in uniform proposed by the Minister of War have been carefully looked into by a military board, and recommended. They were ordered to be submitted to the French Assembly for approval.

The recommendations were that the round jacket be abolished altogether, and the tunic serve for all occasions. The new tunic is large and loose, rendering movements and respiration easy. It will be roomy enough to permit a woolen waistcoat to be worn underneath. It has pockets interior and exterior. The belt is of black leather, as it has been heretofore.

The infantry are to wear epaulettes. Cartridges are to be carried in an outside pocket of the tunic, thus doing away with the cartridge box.

The Wheelbarrow Pedestrian.

James Gordon, the Dundee porter, who undertook to wheel a barrow from his native city to London and back in 60 days, reached the Royal Aquarium, London, on Nov. 29th, and thus completed the first half of his journey. He left Dundee on Nov. 2nd, and travelled along the Great Northern Road, taking care to let the course of his journey be known beforehand, which had the effect of bringing crowds into the streets of all the towns and villages through which he passed, and everywhere, he says, he was well greeted by the people. So far as the money result of the journey is concerned, Gordon does not seem to have been particularly fortunate. In walking through Scotland by Stirling, Falkirk, Edinburgh, Alnwick and Newcastle, to Darlington, he got on very well, was lodged and fed well, and gathered sufficient money to send his wife weekly remittances, but between Darlington and London he does not seem to have fared so well; though he anticipates that his engagement at the Aquarium and the sale of a pamphlet about his adventures may put in his pockets a good round sum. Questioned as to the manner of his reception he stated that men and women everywhere encouraged him to go on, but in Newcastle he was rather roughly treated. The streets through which he passed were densely crowded, and he was kicked accidentally, of course, several times, but a rotten egg or two were thrown at him, and that, he judged, could not have been accidental, but he bears no malice to the lusty men of Newcastle, and hopes upon his return that he will have a different greeting. In all the big towns of England he "got a good clearance, and the people were pleased to see me walk so clean. I was never in the least out of 'joint.'" From Darlington his route lay through York, Huntington, Royston, to Waltham Cross. In due time he had reached Dalton, and from that point through Bell's Pond, along Essex Road, by the Angel, over Pentonville Hill, through Euston, along Oxford street, and Regent street by Charing Cross. He was greeted with immense cheering by great crowds of people, many hundreds of whom followed him until he reached the Aquarium. The distance traversed he calculates was 507 miles, and besides that he went about 30 miles altogether out of his way by being misdirected in the villages through which he passed. He never began his work before half-past 8 in the morning, and always finished about 5 o'clock. He ate moderately during the day, and drank—no spirits, but at night, after the day's work was done, he confessed to having bathed his joints in "pure whiskey, and then taken a wee drap in the inside of me." People about the streets of London called out, "Well done, old Scotty," and "Bravo, old man." Sometimes in the villages the people shouted, "Here comes General Gordon," which he mentioned with very great pride. Gordon was introduced to a crowded house at the Aquarium soon after his arrival, and exhibited his light cart or wheelbarrow.

Gen. Middleton Wounded.

An Ottawa despatch says: Whilst a spirited contest was in progress last night at an exhibition of the fencing club, the foil of one of the competitors snapped and a bit of the steel flew across the room, grazing the chin of Major-General Fred Middleton in no gentle manner. The cut bled freely and a little excitement followed until the exact extent of the wound was learned and the bleeding stopped. Sir Frederick sat out the entertainment.

Not to Be Accounted For.

De Baggs—Bagley, I want to ask you a delicate question. What was my condition when we parted last night?

Bagley—You were largely loaded, my friend.

"Sure of that?"

"Quite. Why do you ask?"

"Because my wife never mentioned it this morning. I thought perhaps I might have gone home sober by mistake."—*Philadelphia Call.*

THE fact has been satisfactorily established by various scientific researches that many substances absorb luminous rays during the day, and at night emit these rays in such a manner as to impress photographic plates, although they may not be perceptible to the unaided eye. Artists have not only succeeded in photographing the visible night phosphor essence of Mont Blanc's summit, but have even secured an impression of a midnight landscape—invisible to the eye—on the terrace of the observatory at Prague.

NEW USES FOR IRON AND STEEL

Suggestions Regarding the Making of Roadways and Pavements Out of Metal.

The production of iron and steel in Europe and the United States is now so large and the surplus stocks in the country are so heavy that there is urgent need for the invention of new uses to which these metals in their various forms may be applied, says the London *Ironmonger*. Every now and then we hear of some departure in the direction just indicated, but in a general way it is to be feared that the producers of iron and steel allow others to lead the way instead of doing so themselves. This ought not to be the case. Manufacturers should exercise their wits and devise new methods of using up the materials they turn out in such large quantities. In some instances this has been done with excellent results. Steel sleepers, for example, are excellent and economical substitutes for wood. Their manufacture has been most serviceable to the steel concerns during the late severe depression, and it is quite within the bounds of probability that they will entirely replace the wood sleepers at home as well as abroad. What has been done in that respect may very well be effected in others, particularly in the substitution of iron or steel for wood. Timber is gradually growing scarcer all over the world, owing to the recklessness with which North America and other parts of the world have been disafforested. Climatic and economic considerations will sooner or later put a stop to this wholesale destruction of trees, and timber will become scarcer and more valuable as a natural consequence. There are many purposes for which wood is used for which iron is equally well suited, and it should be the function of those interested in the metal to formulate the substitution and educate the public up to it. For building and structural purposes there appear to be many openings for the more extended use of iron and steel, especially for ornamental exteriors, while more could be done with the metal for roofing and similar uses. It might be possible also to substitute iron for stone in pavements and roadways, in which case the consumption would be enormous. Reliable paving-stones are high in price, and it might be worth while working out the comparative costs and durability, etc., of the two materials. Surveyors would no doubt make all sorts of objections on the point of slipperiness in frosty or wet weather, difficulty of repairs, rust, and so on; but by properly roughing the surface, and proceeding on the basis of slabs or pieces of moderate sizes, the objections might be met, always provided the first cost did not prove absolutely prohibitive. In the rolled or otherwise manufactured forms iron or steel would seem to be applicable to a much greater variety of uses than are on record at present. Both metals are capable of artistic or utilitarian treatment to any extent.

Some Odd Things in Life.

A Brooklyn burglar was recently captured by the police while attired in three suits of clothes and two overcoats.

Alphonso King, of Buffalo, is preparing to walk across the Niagara River below the falls on a pair of "winged shoes."

A 10-year-old boy living near Marion, Ind., has been rendered insane, it is said, by the use of tobacco, he having taken to the weed when under 5 years of age.

In a history of thimbles it is related that the cult of the thimble reached its height when, in 1586, a firm of rich Nurnberg tailors presented a magnificent silver drinking-vessel in the shape of a thimble to the tailors' guild of that town. Sometimes the top of the thimble was ornamented with a hollow lid filled with perfume.

An ingenious smuggling system has just been discovered in San Francisco. Opium, which the incoming Chinese steamers brought over, was arranged in metallic cases, and, as the steamer approached the coast, these were dropped overboard and immediately sunk. After the lapse of a few hours the cases would rise to the surface, and then could be picked up by small boats off the coast.

Frightful Ravages of Cholera.

Though the cholera has subsided at Buenos Ayres, it would seem to be making frightful havoc in the interior provinces of the River Plate country, though for some reason or other the cable has said little or nothing about it. The Buenos Ayres *Standard* of the 17th ult. has a column of despatches on the subject, of which the following is an example:

MENDOZA, Friday 17.—Half the houses of the city are vacant, the inmates having perished miserably or fled under the influence of the prevalent panic. So numerous are the cases, fresh and fatal, that even the most zealous activity on the Government cannot tender the necessary assistance, medical or otherwise, to the victims. The inhabitants of the suburban districts and environs have been decimated. Affrighted, the survivors fly over the plains, abandoning children and wives. Dead children, dead women, dead men, are found scattered over the plains and fields, overtaken in their flights by the terrible scourge. And the Government, the municipality, the very doctors are helpless.

Why Baby is so Small.

"Why don't baby grow faster, love?" asked a young father of the partner of his joys. "It seems to me she isn't nearly so big as Smith's baby, and that is two months younger."

"Doctor says Birdie is a fine, healthy child, and what more do you want?"

"That may be, but she is small. Do you give her enough to eat?"

"That's it, Harry! We feed her on condensed milk. Of course she'd be small!" —*Chicago Ledger.*

Bill Arp says: "More than one-fifth of our white population in Georgia are illiterate, and yet Massachusetts, with all her education and refinement, has fourteen times as many criminals in proportion to population."

A tract of land on the western shore of Cayuga Lake, near Canoga, has been leased to Rochester parties for the cultivation of frogs. The raising of frogs for the New York market has come to be a recognized industry. There is a large frog farm in the neighborhood of Waterloo and several in Canada, and still the demand is greater than the supply.

DO BIRDS FLY DOWN?

The Way the Winged Creatures "Slide Down Hill" in Air.

I see in a back number of "St. Nicholas" that one of our young correspondents appeals partly to me in regard to birds flying down. But all who have written seem so well posted that I doubt if I can add anything to their knowledge. However, I have seen a California quail, a wood dove and a humming-bird flying downward; but in slow flyers, with large wings and heavy bodies, the wings are used more or less as parachutes in going down; in other words, the birds spread their wings and rely upon gravity. This I have noticed in the sand-hill cranes in their migrations along the Sierra Madres. A flock of say 100 will mount upward in a beautiful spiral flashing in the sunlight, all the while uttering loud, discordant notes, until they attain an altitude of nearly a mile above the sea level. Then they form in regular lines and soar away at an angle that in five miles or so will bring them within 1,000 feet of the earth. Then they will stop and begin the spiral upward movement again until a high elevation is reached, when away they go again sliding down hill in the air toward their winter home. It is very evident that a vast amount of muscular exertion is saved in this way. In some of these slides that I have watched through a glass birds would pass from three to four miles, I should judge, without flapping their wings.—"*St. Nicholas*" *for February.*

Unvarying Trade-Marks.

American Wife (in palace car)—I supposed that nice-looking couple at the other end of the car were Americans, but I see now they are English.

American Husband—What have you noticed?

American Wife—The man drinks liquor at his meals.

At the other end. English Wife—I wish we could make the acquaintance of those two at the further end of the carriage. I am sure they are English.

English Husband—No, they are Americans.

"How did you ascertain?"

"The man drinks between meals."—*Omaha World.*

Deep Sea Wonders

exist in thousands of forms, but are surpassed by the marvels of invention. Those who are in need of profitable work that can be done while living at home should at once send their address to Hallett & Co., Portland, Maine, and receive free, full information how either sex, of all ages, can earn from $5 to $25 a day and upwards wherever they live. You are started free. Capital not required. Some have made $50 in a single day at this work. All succeed.

There were 32 business failures in Canada and 229 in the United States during the past week.

Don't do it. Do Not Wait,

If suffering from pain, but go at once to the nearest drug store and buy a sample bottle of Polson's NERVILINE, the great pain cure. Never fails to give immediate relief. Nerviline is endorsed by medical men everywhere. Don't wait a single hour without trying Nerviline. The best medicine in the world to keep in the house in an emergency. Ten and 25 cents a bottle.

Citizenes of Monrovia Cal., who wished to hear Patti but could not stand the $5 admission, offered her the use of a hall free, entertainment at the hotel free, deeds to two town lots, and $100 in cash if she would sing there. She refused.

WHEN not complicated with other diseases, sciatica, lumbago and rheumatism are promptly cured by taking McCallom's Rheumatic Repellant. Sold by wholesale druggists of Toronto, Hamilton, London, Winnipeg, and by retail druggists generally.

"Look here," said a man this morning, going into his grocer's, "those eggs you sold me New Year's were bad." "Well, that wasn't my fault." "Whose was it, then?" "Blamed if I know. How should I tell what was inside of them? I'm a groceryman; I'm no mind reader."

A new and excellent soap advertisement appears in the Chicago newspapers. It is the picture of a very dirty and disreputable tramp sitting at a table writing. On the table and wall are portraits of Patti Langtry, Beecher and other well-known soap puffers. The tramp is writing: "I used your soap two years ago and have not used any other since."

IT is said since the opening of the Canadian Pacific Railway salmon are deserting the Fraser River. Formerly the salmon in the spawning season ascended the river by the million, and they could be scooped out of the water by the barrelful with any kind of a vessel large enough. The noise of the engine and the vibration imparted to the water by the trains running along the banks are supposed to have scared them, and therefore caused their departure.

Marvellous Memory DISCOVERY.

Wholly unlike Artificial Systems—Cure of Mind Wandering—Any book learned in one reading. Heavy reductions for postal classes. Prospectus, with opinions of Mr. PROCTOR, the Astronomer, Hons. W. W. ASTOR, JUDAH P. BENJAMIN, Drs. MINOR, WOOD and others, sent post FREE, by

PROF. LOISETTE,
237 Fifth Avenue, New York.

CONSUMPTION.

I have a positive remedy for the above disease; by its use thousands of cases of the worst kind and of long standing have been cured. Indeed, so strong is my faith in its efficacy, that I will send TWO BOTTLES FREE, together with a VALUABLE TREATISE on this disease to any sufferer. Give express and P. O. address.

DR. T. A. SLOCUM,
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DUNN'S BAKING POWDER

THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND