

skirts continue to be given great favour, and a wise young matron, wishing to be economical, can have several fancy bodices, each of different colour and material, to wear with her black skirt, and then by the artistic use of a coloured belt and collar each bodice will seem a different toilette. The very distinguee toilette, especially adapted for a married lady, shown in the above illustration, is another proof of the popularity of the black satin skirt. This one has been entre-deux



FOR A MATRONLY WEARER.

of black lace over a rich rose satin ribbon as a trimming upon the skirt. The bodice, also of satin, is finished with an enormous white guipure collar, spangled with black jet and rose amethyst beads. The sleeves are of black lace over rose, and the belt is of heavy rose satin with a bow at one side and long sash ends.

In a model inclined to plumpness, a black sash would be more appropriate, or one of rose powdered here and there with black lace applications.

I should like to say a word to my bicycling sisters—and is not their name now legion?—concerning this year's fashion in bicycling dress. One thing notable about the fashionable wheelwoman this year is her short skirt, which has been gradually abbreviated until it is about the length of the very short under petticoat which is always worn next the body, and the rather daring innovation in coloured "knickers." The "knickers" are no longer of a sober hue or of the same hue as the skirt. Now it appears to be the style to have them match the stockings rather than the outer garment, as last year. If the stockings are a checked green and blue, or even of louder colours, the "knickers" are also of the same interesting mixture. If the stockings are of tan, green or blue the same colours are continued above.

As everything is military, more or less, this year, of course there had to be a military bicycle girl, and she has appeared be-buttoned, be-striped and be-spangled. She is quite the most attractive thing to be seen just now in the Boulevard, and not infrequently do her saucy cap, her gold braid and buttons call forth an approving cheer from people in the street.

One noticed had the usual skirt and jacket made of dark blue broadcloth, done with narrow gold braid as to skirt and jacket, and a narrow piping of red bordered the jacket, while a military red cloth faced the fronts. A jaunty cap with a colonel's stripe, a pair of dogskin gloves and a tiny flag completed a rarely picturesque 'get up.'

The latest cycling costumes, by the way, show a preference for the dark shades of blue and green, rather than the light fawn and tan shades which have been so much worn.

FANS AND FANCIES.

Fans to match every costume are what the smart woman must now provide. There is an immense variety to choose from, so this should not be a formidable task.

A late fancy is the violet fan. In the shops these are very expensive, but the girl with quick fingers and artistic eye can easily manufacture one at home. The foundation is a white silk or satin fan, with rather long, plain sticks. Medium silk violets are chosen, and are glued carefully

on. They must not look stiff, but as if they had fallen carelessly upon the fan. The fan is laid flat while the violets are fastened on, and is then pressed with a heavy weight until thoroughly dry. It is not intended to close. Other small flowers, forget-me-nots, heather, or lilies of the valley, are used in the same way.

More gorgeous are the lace fans, embroidered with spangles, with jewelled sticks. Fans of this variety are very costly and very frail.

Flies and creeping things are most popular for hairpins. There is a huge humble bee enamelled in its own brilliant colours, with jewelled eyes. Dragon flies, which sparkle in the sunlight, are very pretty as fasteners for dainty summer millinery. Long green lizards, the bodies studded with emeralds, and the eyes of rubies, make costly and coveted hairpins.

Butterflies, too, come in for a good share of popularity. Both in genuine and imitation brilliants they are shown in every conceivable variety.

Very chaste are the pins of huge pearls rising from a chalice of finely cut rhinestones. Jade is a novelty for hairpins, and is being used extensively. The stone is considered as a talisman against evil.

A cheap, flashy hatpin will spoil the appearance of the most expensive hat. The sensible woman buys a solid gold or silver pin with a handsome and substantial head. The purchase proves a good investment in point of looks and durability.

Hairlooms of cameo pins or bracelets are taken from jewel boxes, and are surrounded with a flashing circle of gems.

An effort is being made to revive the popularity of brocade, and it looks as though their day would once more come round. Some of the shops show rich patterns in both black and coloured silks.

Embroidery and jewels are lavishly used upon dressy costumes. A Paris creation has the front of the waist, the front breadth of the skirt, the epaulettes and the upper sides of the sleeves wrought in almost solid embroidery.

CLEVER IDEA THAT WILL PROVE A BOON TO WOMEN.

Everybody notices, with a degree of joy or disappointment dependent upon her own physical perfection, that sleeves are undeniably growing small and beautifully less.

Many women there are who are already wearing really tight sleeves, and among these the old-time complaint is repeating itself like an echo of the far past: 'How these things do stretch and pull out of shape.' This is especially the trouble with unlined sleeves made of thin material, that pretty mode that intensifies the beauty of curves and whiteness of skin beneath.

It is in the pulling on and off that tight sleeves have been torn and spoiled. A new method of adjustment recently concocted by a clever little woman who thinks, and which has been quickly adopted by several of the leading dressmakers' establishments, is designed to do away with this wear and tear and inconvenience. The new sleeve has only one seam, and is made a full inch too loose for the arm. Down the outside of the seam is sewn a very fine cord of silk elastic. This is twisted at intervals of half an inch or less into small raised loops. The elastic must match exactly the colour of the gown. Parallel with the range of loops and separated by an inch from it is a row of tiny buttons. Is it not simple? The sleeve amply large is drawn on with ease; then the wee elastic loops are slipped over the buttons that correspond with them in numbers, and the sleeve becomes tight. In removing the loops are first unbuttoned and the sleeve is saved from stretching.

It is a practical idea and one that can be easily followed, and will be appreciated by any one who has ever ruined fine sleeves in the donning and doffing.

GOOD NEWS FOR LADIES—SPECIAL TO DRESSMAKERS, YOUNG LADIES, MOTHERS, ETC.

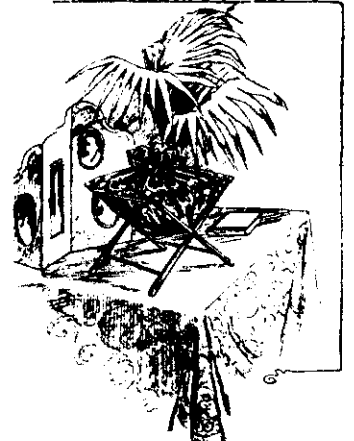
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WORK COLUMN.

It is not too early to begin to talk of preparations for Christmas, for if presents are to be made by hand it is certainly high time that some, at any rate, were commenced. I was talking the matter over the other day with a girl who is very clever with her fingers, and who, having a brother in the Church, was going to make him a new stole, suitable for wearing on Christmas Day. As she began to explain her work it occurred to me that many of the particulars she gave would be of interest to my readers. Being intended for Christmas Day the stole was, of course, white—a thick brocade—the design being worked in exquisitely pale shades of pink, blue, green and gold. In the sketch I have had made of it, you will see there is a lily with a suggestion of the rose form as a central object, and here the colouring may be made most effective. The scroll work takes the old-fashioned form found on so many seals and tombstones belonging to the early centuries of Christianity; this again is surmounted by a lily half open, above which a crown is evolved from the conventionalisation of the lily stem. In every instance the entire design is outlined with untarnishable Japanese thread couched with fine silk to match. And now to proceed to generalities. A preaching stole should reach to the knees, therefore, in order to be correct the length

individual fancy or the materials with which you propose to make the bag. Then instead of the canvas seat a silk bag is inserted, stretched from end to end something as a hammock



A PRETTY CHRISTMAS BOX.

would be, the upper part is drawn up and tied together with a bunch of ribbons, as will be seen in the accompanying sketch. This makes a very nice little present, and is a capital way of using up odds and ends.

Here is another idea that might come in useful for a Christmas giver whose presents have to express more good will than money value. Have you ever stared at a small child's hoop, that its owner has out-grown, with a sense that it must have decorative possibilities if you only knew how to apply them? I did the other day, and evolved the idea of quite a novel rubbish basket, which, hung on a corner of the writing table, was quite a thing of beauty and exceedingly useful into the bargain. In the first place, I covered the hoop by winding an inch-wide velvet ribbon of



AN APPROPRIATE CHRISTMAS STOLE.

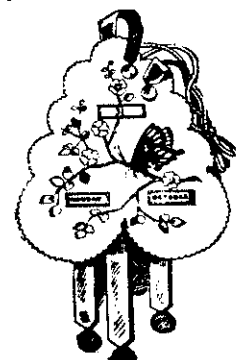
must be varied according to the wearer. It narrows considerably towards the neck, only measuring a little over two inches at the middle. At this point it is decorated by a small cross that goes well in style with the design used for the ends, and these latter should be four inches and a quarter wide. A piece of real lace, or very fine hemstitched lawn about twelve inches long, and an inch and a quarter deep is tacked into the neck and renewed from time to time as it becomes soiled. This keeps the stole from getting rubbed at the edge. Each end is finished with a fringe, in which are intermixed the colours used in the embroidery, and it should be of very thick, heavy silk. The best fringes for this purpose are obtained from some ecclesiastical shop, and should be from three to four inches deep. The slope of the stole is usually cut on one side only, and commences from just above where the embroidery leaves off, unless, as is sometimes the case, the embroidery is carried up very far, when the slope must be gradual on both sides. The stole should be lined with some figured material, which usually wears better than the plain. An interlining should always be placed between—course butcher's linen answers the purpose admirably. No finish is required at the edges, but the slip-stitching must be very neatly done, and the brocade allowed to slightly overlap the lining.



NOVEL WASTE PAPER BASKET.

a dark shade of terra-cotta round and round, then I covered in a portion of the hoop in the shape of a new moon, making it spread outwards by means of whalebone. Then, having embroidered a pretty little floral design on dark green linen, I covered the outside with this; the inside being merely terra-cotta sateen tied up with green bows at each corner, while pompoms, alternately terra-cotta and green, fell from below. You cannot think how successful this idea has proved—at least I imagine so, from the trouble that people have taken to copy it and to proclaim it as their own invention.

Here is something that one of the younger members of the family might employ nimble fingers in constructing



PRETTY HOME WORK.

I wonder if any of my readers have ever made a camp-stool work bag for a Christmas box? They are really remarkably effective, and not very difficult to manufacture. A small child's camp-stool is to be procured very inexpensively. This must then be gilded, bronzed, or enamelled some pretty shade, according to your own