

FASHIONS OF THE MOMENT.



BRIDAL dresses are much worn, Easter being responsible for this state of affairs whose truth is vouched for by the latest and most agreeable statistics officially issued, writes our London fashion correspondent.

There is a notable change in the fashion of frocks for the bride, the diaphanous train being banished from her most serious regard, while the straight, long, narrow dress of satin tightly folded round the figure with most of its trimming confined to the upper portion of the corsage, and with silver tassels or rosettes to hold a drapery below the knees, is more generally favored. As well as satin there is also brocade, and many choose this with interwoven patterns of silver, while a few venture upon gold designs. Supple, soft and thin are adjectives well deserved by the newest satins, and it is easy to imagine that these lend themselves amiably to the tunic form of dress which envelops the figure either in straight lines or across from left side to right knee.

A somewhat unusual wedding gown of white satin meteor with a silver lily upon it was fringed with silver and crossed over a petticoat of plain white satin, the train being of very moderate length, while the veil of real lace was worn above a wreath of silver lilies and myrtle, and the bodice was fitted to the neck with lace laid over very fine and transparent silver tissue. Silver shoes completed the effect, while a silver-bound prayer-book took the place of the bridal bouquet of convention. Wedding dresses entirely made of lace are a revival deserving consideration from those who can afford them, but when elevated to such honor the lace should be real and of the most superb description, Brussels and Limerick under their best aspects being alike acceptable; and the foundation of the lace wedding dress must be well draped with chiffon or very fine net.

Satin trains are very narrow, their tails being of the mermaid order of shape, and these are most attractive when hand-embroidered on the extreme edge, no frilling of chiffon or net being allowed beneath. Wider trains look well with an embroidered device at one corner, and the lace or chiffon train may well be hemmed with white satin ribbon.

The tulle veil sewn with a fine silver cord remains in supreme favor, and the wise subject the tulle to some special process which renders it entirely limp, for under these circumstances it is most definitely becoming. The process is known as "wringing," and is adopted with signal success for white crepe fabrics, which do their duty on the stage, for gowns labeled "Classique."

The most popular material for the going-away gown just now is blue serge, brides seeming to imagine that thus clad they may escape the pride or ignominy of detection, and they supplement the blue serge dress when the journey is long and the purse not short with wraps of squirrel or mole-skin. Other acceptable coats are of coarse ribbed serge interwoven with a plain cloth lining, the lining being used for cuffs and collar, dark and light blue being much patronized, as they should be in this merry April time of boat-racing.

The turban is adopted instead of the large picture hat, so becoming and so inconvenient. All brides depart in turbans, the best of those now being of dark chip trimmed either with a rosette of beads or a single flower or a couple of ostrich quills specially prepared to look as if they had been out in the rain. A wing may be used, but wings are not very much in evidence, flowers and flat plumes being supreme on the latest millinery. News comes from abroad of Leghorns covered with blue and pink roses, while here we see the Tagal of our special fancy gay with hollyhocks and stock, and very decorative these flowers are under their artificial aspect.

We are treating the three-quarter coat of our last year's delight with much contumely; every model now appears with a short packet, the rule being to trim this only at the base of the back and front, leaving the portions over the hips undecorated, while the sleeves are small. Broad braids and velvet collars are much in vogue, but in the very near future it is rumored we shall abandon the coat and skirt altogether and give our best attention to the dress, the bodice and skirt being made of like stuff with a turn-down collar at the neck of finest embroidery.

A kimono dressing-gown of cotton crepe is within the reach of most of us, since it may be bought for about \$1.50, and the additions of silk facings can be achieved for about 50 cents by the help of skilful and industrious fingers. Japanese cotton crepe also makes extremely pretty petticoats tight-fitting to the knees, with a broad kilt beyond and one beading threaded with ribbon to hem this, and another to join this to its skirt.

We sometimes wear underskirts in spite of the many allurements of knickers of spun silk and Milanese silk gathered becomingly into an elastic garter below the knee.

Talking of garters, reminds me that I have seen a special pair of alluring gold elastic garters, very wide, and completing a very fine quality pair of black silk stockings. Gold garters should certainly be a distinguishing feature of coronation year. Everything seems to be a distinguishing feature except the plausible possibilities of economy if we remain in town and play our part bravely in all the pomp and circumstance.

In anticipation of the necessity for arriving at great results with little means, I propose that the home-worker should devote herself to the jeweling and beading of any oddment of black and gold lace that she may possess. Under-sleeves and kimono tops of lace well jeweled, are expensive to acquire when hand-embroidered, and extremely cheap to make, while undoubtedly they must be reckoned amongst effective decorations for evening wear. A day-dress of dark blue charmeuse, which has already done duty for one season, I have just seen



brought to a worthy revival by a vest of black and gold lace with the design traced with small pearls and small green and gold beads bought at an Oriental warehouse.

My sketch shows a design which will, I hope, please you, and which, if you copy it carefully, will, I think, ensure your having a very dainty and distinctive muslin dress. That crochet lace you can use for the collar and the cuffs of the undersleeve, while, if you have sufficient left over then, it would be pretty to band it about the under bodice, and there thread it through with ribbons of the faintest possible pink. On the underskirt, too, you could, with advantage, introduce an encircling band of the rosette ribbon, finishing it off with a flatly tied bow at the right side as little details such as these will make your dress distinctly—and delightfully—different from the merely ordinary white muslin. Then, for outward trimming, I would advise, instead of the suggested ribbon threading, a sash of wide and soft satin ribbon, for whose arrangement I would refer you to the sketch, a little tie bow to match being a final and pretty addition.

PLANNING FLOWER GARDEN REQUIRES CAREFUL STUDY

Carpet Bedding Plans Are Only Effective When Certain Kinds of Foliage Are Used—Ribbon Beds Are Easiest of All to Make.

(By EREN E. REXFORD.)

Personally I am not much of an admirer of carpet or ribbon bedding or the "designs" which the enthusiastic amateur gardener frequently attempts, but is pretty sure to abandon later in the season, because he discovers that designs work out unsatisfactorily in annuals.

The fact is, carpet bedding plants are only effective when certain kinds of foliage plants are used because they can be kept within their proper limits by shearing and pruning, while the annuals have too much "sprawl" to be tractable and very few kinds give a sufficient mass of bloom to produce the desired effect.

We are likely to think that because a plant has yellow, red or blue flowers, that it will prove effective wherever these colors are desired, but we lose sight of the fact that the flowers will be so few in number and so far apart that there is seldom any solid color effect such as is necessary in properly working out patterns.

This being the case, only the simpler designs should be attempted with annuals, and only such effects aimed at, as can be produced by contrast in which harmony plays an important part.

Ribbon beds are easiest of all to make. Very pleasing ones can be made with pink, pale yellow, and white phlox, planted in rows. If darker colors are preferred, the scarlet and crimson can be used, always combining them with white to give the necessary contrast and relief.

Do not use the soft, delicate colors

Next to them the circular bed is easiest to make. I would not advise too many colors.

Have the center of one color, say lavender, if asters are used, then a row of pale pink, with white in the outside row.

A very brilliant combination is made by filling the center of a circular bed with calliopsis, rich yellow and maroon, and surrounding it with white and pale yellow phlox.

The contrast between the dark, rich yellow of the calliopsis and the softer shade of the same color in the phlox is charming.

If another color seems advisable use pink phlox. This harmonizes beautifully with the stronger tones of the calliopsis.

The center of a circular bed can be filled with scarlet salvia, with nasturtiums as a border. The contrast between the fiery scarlet and the rich tones of yellow and orange and sulphur found in the latter plant, is exceedingly lovely, while the pea-green foliage of the nasturtium affords just the right amount of that color to bring into strong relief the blossoms of both plants. Such a bed any one can make with very little trouble.

A charming hedge is made by planting scarlet salvia in a row as a background, then a row of white nicotiana, with blue ageratum as a border. Here we have the patriotic colors of our flag effectively combined.

The blue of the ageratum and the scarlet of the salvia would prove a rather violent contrast if planted next each other, but separated by the white of the nicotiana, their aggressiveness is toned down in such a manner as to produce a pleasing effect.

A beautiful hedge is made by using zinnias in the back row, then calliopsis with white phlox as a border.

Ribbon beds can be worked out with good effect by using different colors of the verbena in rows. Such beds are most pleasing when near the house or close to the path, where they can be looked down upon.

But in order to carry out such designs with this flower, it will be necessary to purchase plants of each color from the florist, who grows them from cuttings. Seedlings are quite sure to bring plants of all colors common to the family, therefore, are not to be depended upon where it is absolutely necessary to have each color in its proper place.

Those who have old plants of geranium, which have been kept over the winter in the house, can utilize them in the summer by planting them out. Of course the effect will be most pleasing if the pinks and scarlets and crimsons can be kept by themselves.

Try combining them with such annuals as white phlox, yellow calliopsis, white nicotiana, or, in the case of pink sorts, lavender ageratum.

If you have odd plants of Madam Sallered geranium, break them apart and use the cuttings so secured, for border purposes. Each cutting will be almost sure to take root.

Put them in the ground where they are to grow, about eight inches apart, pinching the soil firmly about the base of each. In six weeks' time, they will have made a fair showing and by midsummer they will have grown together in a most attractive row of green and white. This is one of our best edging plants.



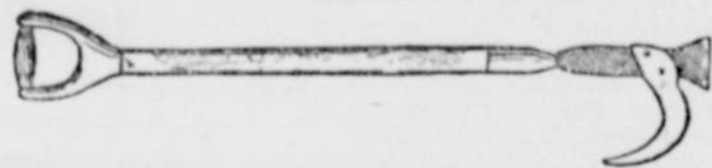
Japan Snowball.

with the stronger tones, as there is a lack of harmony between them.

Asters can be planted in rows of white and lavender, with very pleasing results, provided the same kind is used in each row.

Ribbon beds would become monotonously tiresome if we were to confine ourselves to them, therefore it is advisable to have something else for a change.

PRUNING HOOK IS HOME-MADE



The pain of scratches and picks comes readily to one's imagination as he thinks of pruning the raspberry bushes or other bush fruits, especially where he has not had good tools for performing the job, says the Michigan Farmer. The work is so miserable that it is generally left undone. The illustrated pruning hook will help to overcome many of the undesirable features connected with cleaning out of the hills on these fruits. The hook is used for cutting those canes that can be hooked, and for this purpose the inner edge of the hook is made sharp, while the spud is for amputating such canes as happen to stand close to another that is to be left or is otherwise situated that the hook cannot be used. The spud cuts the cane nearer the ground than can be done with the hook. Both are, however, very necessary for a complete implement. Besides its use in cutting, the hook is convenient in pulling the pruned canes from among the standing ones into the row where they can be gathered and taken from the plantation.

The implement is made of the handle of a short-handled fork and two old files. The files are forged to make the hook and spud and riveted together as shown in the illustration. The end opposite the spud is shaped to fit into the handle where it is firmly secured in order to stand the strain necessary in the work to be done. Armed with such a tool and a good pair of gloves one can go about the canes, cut out the undesirable ones and get them out of the way without suffering the hardships encountered when endeavoring to do the work with a jack knife. The next rainy day go to your own forge, every farmer should have one, or if not provided, to your blacksmith and have a hook made. Then, when the rainy day is over and you can get into the berry patch, see how well the hook does the dreaded job.

Destroy Peach Borers.

Peach borers are best destroyed by digging them out. While it is a slow process there is really no other way.

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The fussy guest looked over the order that had been served him, and then summoned the waiter. "Look here!" he exclaimed. "You have brought me coffee. Did I order coffee?" "No, sir. That isn't coffee, sir—it's tea." "Are you sure that's tea?" "Absolutely, sir." "Well, I ordered tea!"

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Meyerbeer and Rossini, in spite of all their rivalries, were the warmest of friends. Rossini once said: "Meyerbeer and I can never agree." When some one in surprise asked why, he replied: "Meyerbeer likes sauerkraut better than he does macaroni."

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