FACTS FEATURES and FANCIES for WOMEN

CHICAGO.—Madame Fashion's unconquerable appetite for frills is being satisfied now by making overskirts clinging and flounces flat. Silhouettes are as slim as ever, despite the draperies and the triple flounces which distinguish late winter costumes and, secure in the consciousness that she is looking attractively smart, Dame Fashion is plunging headlong into the midwinter festivities and having a very busy time indeed. So gay is this initial month of 1912 that every woman in the social swim rarely has leisure to change her garb between noontime and dinner time, but hurries from a luncheon to a "bridge" and then on to a reception or to a tea.

Fortunately all of the new afternoon costumes, whether worn by Madame Fashion or her friends, are a delight to the eyes. Their designs become the figure, their colors accord with the hair, and many of them are picturesque. Some of the utmost appealing models bearing a haunting resemblance to a familiar picture and, after a bit, Madame Fashion exclaims:

"Why, the fur-bordered, crossover fronts of that bodice; the long, tight sleeves; the straight little skirt with its scallop-edged, three-tier flounces and the huge muff—all of violet-shot taffeta—are the replica of grand-

mother's tinted daguerreotype! How charming she must have looked a half century ago when Chicago was merely a lusty infant village instead of a gigantic city, and she could do up all her calls in a single afternoon—even if she walked."

Single Lapel Retained.

The single lapel, always covering the left front from the top edge of the arm's eye to the waist line, persists upon afternoon costumes of handsome materials, but notably so on the "bridge" gowns of satin cloth and heavy lace. The mesh, dyed beige or taupe or tan to match the shade of the cloth, appears in the underskirt and occasionally forms all of the bodice with the exception of its sleeve and single lapel. They are of satin surfaced fabric, and not infrequently with both trimmings. The one-sided effect of the fur banded lapel is sometimes balanced by one of the square-backed fur hood collars. These are a feature of visiting toilets, which are made with hip-long, short-waisted coats and fur banded narrow skirts which touch the floor evenly all round, although below the knees at back and front considerable extra length is gathered into the side seams. The hat and muff are trimmed with fur matching that used upon the costume, but the coat is never lined. It is worn as though it were a bodice. The wrap which actually furnishes warmth when out of doors is left in the carriage or in the ante-room of the hostess' house.

Because genuine Irish, Venise and point lace in enormous quantities are used with black silk velvet, the magpie combination continues to be ultra-fashionable for costumes intended for afternoon and evening festivities. It is most prominent among dinner gowns and is worn by matrons of any age, although tabooed for the debutante, who vainly tries to duplicate the strong contrast by trimming her dark brown, green, blue or wine velvet afternoon visiting suit with white lace, cloth or fur.

Color Combinations.

Oddly contrasting color combinations are used for theater and restaurant gowns. Shades which never before have been blended—in the memory of the present generation—are seen in the popular half-long frocks of pale green or apricot satin veiled with violet chiffon, of taupe brown with pale pink or yellow, of light blue with purple and of shell pink with dark blue. Any of these combinations are smarter than black or white with a primary shade. But the coloring of these gowns is as "moonlight unto sunlight" when compared with those which Madame Fashion reserves for balls and those entertainments when all society is en grande tenue. Gorgeous effects are produced by combining mandarin orange panne with gold Venetian laces, rose chiffon velvet with silver tissue and white satin with dull green-gold metallic embroideries. The brocaded satins in white with silver, or black with gold, are in high favor—with those who can afford to buy them—and on some of these are seen the two-tier sleeves of metallic embroidered net that cling to the arms as far as the elbow and from there fall away in long, sharp points.

Wraps and caps are dominated by salient oriental features, the swathing draperies and faintly defined sleeve and the turban shapes with "jewel" trimmings, chiffon velvet in rose, blue and soft green tones prevail among the loose, long cloaks whose trimming consist chiefly of a long, pointed collar and wide cuffs of ermine or sable, while the caps (which have entirely replaced the head scarf) are en suite—the crown, whether round or square, matching the wrap and its banding the neck and wrist finishings.

Coiffure Easily Arranged.

Madame Fashion's coiffure is now so simply arranged that having once mastered the art of doing it so that the ears and the brow are concealed, she can manage without the attendance of a hairdresser, but the money thus saved is needed for another important detail of the toilet. The edict has gone forth that for every festal gown there must be an equally festal looking pair of buttoned shoes or slippers. This means that if there are a half dozen new costumes ordered for late winter dinners and dances and receptions an equal number of dressings for the feet must be broken in and a search inaugurated for hosiery of a matching shade.

Gray satin having the soft brown undertone is the material of a smart, yet practical wrap for afternoon festivities of the late winter. The long and very full sleeves, cut in one with the garment, have clearly defined upper seams that are a continuation of the ones crossing the shoulders, and below the elbows is a deep tuck which merges into the lapped over side form of the coat. Natural blue fox bands the wrists, the neck and the long, loose fronts of the garment.

A carriage cloak of heavy crepe de chine is closely brocaded with golden foliage and bordered with a deep fringe of white silk and gold bead strands. To render the white and gold of the crepe still more prominent, the wrists and throat of this garment are bordered with pointed black fox and there is a Quaker bonnet (such as no orthodox Quakeress would dream of wearing) of white satin veiled with gold net and trimmed and faced with black satin.

One-Piece Afternoon Gown.

Right for almost every afternoon occasion is a one-piece gown of black satin-surfaced cloth pictured, made with a scarf-draped overdress knotted just above the ankles and with a bodice cut out at the neck and off above the elbows to reveal a guimpe of pearl beaded white jet. The stole and muff of white fox are lined with white satin and the roll brimmed sailor hat of black panne velvet is trimmed with a broad band of white fox.

Skirts are narrower than ever in Paris when they are narrow. But there are skirts decidedly full about the feet—a fullness accomplished by means of an accordian-plaited flounce, or simply by a deep-gathered one. The narrow skirts are not tight, however, and the full ones are close-clinging. The body, resolutely kept slender, is tightly corseted below the waist line and all undergarments are suppressed. But this matter of tight skirts, full ones, high chokers and sleeves uncomfortably dropping over the hands and cumbering the arms with thick folds, so plentifully presented to us by all the great designers, women will settle for themselves. The designers cheerfully acknowledge that they themselves do not know what will be the prevailing mode two months hence.

Two Styles in Sleeves.

Next to the triple sleve comes the long one that fits very snugly and has a slash from the shoulder to the hand, where a row of buttons makes an attractive finish. The long slash is filled in with soft frills of lace or malines puffed to scanty fullness. Now and then a touch of bright color is introduced with a dark tone, the color note appearing under the lace in the slash.

A simple afternoon gown of nattier blue charmeuse and ninon is pictured. The swathed sash and buttons are in a deeper shade of satin.

Crops for Cut-Over Lands.

In the northern part of the states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota there are large areas of cut-over land, which only now are being brought under cultivation. Much of this land is sandy, and the ordinary methods practiced on loam and clay soils result in failure. A careful study has been made of the experience of hundreds of men who have attempted to farm these sandy soils, and the information obtained by the department of agriculture in this study indicates quite clearly the method by which certain types of farming can be made successful in the region. Hairy vetch has been found to be eminently adapted to these soils and promises to become important as a seed crop. The department has also ascertained the methods by which red clover can be profit[illegible] grown. The sandy soil[illegible] also proved to be adapted to potato growing when proper methods are followed.

Breed of Capons.

The question usually comes up, What is the best breed for capons? All breeds, says a writer in an exchange. That is, whatever variety of fowls one has, by all means caponize your surplus cockerels; but for market purposes the larger breeds are of course preferable. The Plymouth Rock, for instance, is as good as the best; I, at least, am perfectly satisfied with them, and come to this conclusion after trying several other breeds. But the best results in this, as well as in any other line of work, are attainable only by persistent effort, and doing it all in a thorough, businesslike way, having perfection as our goal and watchword, and then strive to win it.

Fat Chickens.

It is not necessary to keep chickens fat, especially while growing, but it is very important to keep them in a good thrifty condition.

Two Pickerel on One Line.

A humble and honest fisherman who set his traps for pickerel on a Maine pond the other day is ready to make affidavit as follows: "I hereby declare on oath that I did catch two pickerel on one hook. The first pickerel swallowed the bait and didn't like it. Apparently he tried to cough it up. At any rate he spewed the hook out under his gills and it floated off in the water to be grabbed by a second pickerel. Thus there came up two pickerel, all strung on a line.—Lewiston Journal.

Part Played by Heredity.

Heredity plays an important part not only in tuberculosis and cancerous affection, but likewise in diabetes, rheumatism, gout and many other diseases. We do not inherit tuberculosis, but we do inherit a lessened vitality, or a tendency to contract tuberculosis infection. Underweights are usually people who have inherited such a lessened vitality, and they run the further risk of infection from their underweight brothers or sisters who are apt to be infected.

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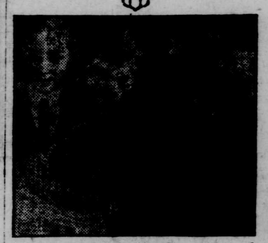

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