FASHIONS of the MOMENT

NEW YORK—Harbingers of spring have been scented in splendid exhibits of next season's materials now being shown at leading shops. First and foremost among the smart new fabrics are the border materials which come both in cottons and silks. Everything seems to be finished with a sumptuous border, and more often than not there is a deep fringe of self material falling from the lower edge. Even linens have taken on this finish. Sometimes the fringe is formed of the same threads as the body material; then again it will be set on with a woven heading that resembles the sort employed on upholstery fringe.

One of the newest fabrics is cotton ratine with ever so many rows of drawn work in the border. This unusual material is shown in white only, but it is probable that the same weave will later appear in colors. A striking pattern in cotton ratine has heavy black threads drawn through through the Grecian border which has the effect of having been darned in. Other attractive designs have invisible stripes running lengthwise of the surface. Everything that is patterned at all is in stripes or crossbars, though the perennial liking for dots and flecks may develop as the season advances.

Sheer Voiles Are Beautiful.

The sheer voiles that are among the best fabrics for early spring are shown with all sorts of lovely borders that combine designs and colors that one would hardly expect to see in a gown. An odd pattern that is attracting much attention at one of the avenue shops is in cream colored voile with a ten-inch border depicting the

fall of the Roman empire. The colors are identical with those shown in the pictorial reproductions at museums, and no doubt the figures are as faithfully copied as are the colors. In many instances even the jewel effects are simulated in semi-precious stones. To say the effect is bizarre is putting it mildly—it is little less than barbarous; but then that is what the average society woman fancies, and the creators of fashions are wise.

Among the new blouses for spring, crepe de chine composes the majority of the better models. Since the fabric has had a long rest from this particular use, there is no doubt it will enjoy an exceptional season or seasons; for crepe de chine is a material that is washable, though few women appreciate this fact. The appealing feature is that it requires no ironing, and when combined with lace the latter may be pulled out to look, as the little dressmaker would express it, almost as "good as new." Blouses of crepe de chine in all the tender shades are found at the representative shops, and the laces that decorate them are more or less heavy in design—imitation point Venise being the most admired pattern.

Material for Blouses.

For more elabcrate blouses with less durability than crepe de chine offers, gaze de ninon is perhaps next in favor. Fancy blouses of this delicate material are made on a lining of the same fabric, and the effect is wonderfully soft and rich. But while it is exquisite as to material, the gaze is not thin, and cannot, therefore, be treated in the same manner as crepe de chine.

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The prettiest blouses of this material that so resembles crepe de chine are ornamented in various ways, the most effective being the heavy work done with chenille and gold or silver metallic threads. Often chenille stitches are employed to emphasize the character of the hand work.

Of the colors noticed in some of the smartest spring exhibitions, aubergine, or egg plant, occupies first place in gowns designed for matrons, while watermelon pink and American Beauty rose follow in the wake for young girls and debutantes. These colors have recently appeared in gauze and chiffon, the result being a delightful combination of transparencies over cream or white with trimmings that corresponded. The wonderful iridescents that were brought out this season are all that one could wish to make the evening gown perfect. And if one knows how to buy, they are not prohibitive in price.

Odd Blends for Spring.

In advance spring fashions there are many odd blends of materials, trimmings and colors. Take for example the evening gown of sheerest texture and its elaborate garnishments of furs of one kind or another. A wonderful creation that suggests mid-winter rather than early spring has a wide band of skunks for bordering the tunic and another band at the bottom of the narrow skirt. The bodice is cut V-shape and is finished with the same fur and gold galon. Apple green satin forms the foundation, and the gauze is of striped gauze, the stripes being outlined with gold threads. A becoming little gold lace cap trimmed with fur tails and pink roses accompanies this striking little frock, which is intended for a debutante with the most remarkable olive complexion and brown hair.

The inexpensive little gowns made of silk and cotton voile are a blessing to the woman who likes a variety of dresses. The exquisite colors and combinations of color that are found in these new fabrics enable one to have almost any desired shade. The prophets predict that this is going to be a great linen season, and the new suitings in various textures are charming in the extreme. A good many dark colors are shown among the new linens. Red raspberry and American Beauty rose hues have a fair chance of becoming prime favorites. There are also several new shades in greens that the manufacturers are putting in smart models for the great southern exodus.

Rich Colors Mingled.

There are so many pretty little touches and smart accessories and colors blended together that one stops to wonder what another season will offer. A striking cotton frock of cherry red ratine has a long panel of black satin elaborately embroided in harmonious shades of rich tone. The deep girdle is of the satin and the upper part of the bodice and the sleeves are also embroidered to correspond with the work on the panel. The shallow yoke is of fine net flecked with red threads, as are also the lower parts of the sleeves. Black satin piping finishes the top of the neck and edges of the lace undersleeves.

The dainty flowered chiffons and mousselines continue to occupy a prominent place in the fashionable world, and they make up fascinating gowns over plain satin and shot silk. A perfect love of a little frock was sent to its owner this week. The front panel of the narrow short skirt is of mousseline flowered on cream color with pink and lilac blossoms. The bottom of the gown all around is finished with a deep flounce of lace, and over this, at sides and back, there falls an oddly draped tunic which is gathered directly above the top of the flounce and falls over it in a sort of ruffle effect.

A very effective costume in mulberry red cloth is pictured. The skirt has a panel in front, and is prettily cut at the lower part of sides, the added piece being continued straight across the back. The coat has a panel effect both front and back, the lower part of sides being cut to match. Buttons form the only trimming. The collar is faced with satin to within half an inch of edge.

The hat is of Tagel, trimmed with gray ostrich feathers.

New Crepe Is Shown.

Cotton crepe, in any number of new guises, is going to be conspicuous among the frocks down south this winter and those that will begin to be made for local wear in a few months. The crepe is not the old thick, all-over crinkled, unwashed looking stuff that figured under that name for so long, but is a new and fascinating fabric capable of many treatments.

The best of the crepes are bordered, as are all the new cotton materials. They may even be bordered in color, in which case the color is applied to a smooth surface, as a rule, trailed over or bordered in its turn with a delicate design in "crepey" lines that resemble embroidery. The body of the fabric may be mainly smith with crinkly lines to show its crepe nature. It is very sheer and the coloring in the borders is delicate—lavender, pink, maize, etc.

Rolled Hem.

To whip on the edge of a frill or as trimming for an undergarment without rolling the edge of the material, place the lace one-fourth of an inch from the edge of the material and whip it closely; then roll the material into a neat and even hem.

This is particularly satisfactory for bias materials or circular edges, and will iron without wrinkling.

Better Keep the Boy.

At nightfall the junior partner's exultation of the day changed to chagrin and he clamored noisily for the errand boy's dismissal.

"Better think it over," the senior partner advised.

"Why waste time in thinking," the junior retorted, "when he's got to go? Here I am, lying awake every night for a week planning an effective window decoration, which is turned into a laughing stock the first day by the stupidity of that boy, who leaves three yards of blue woolen dust rag draped around silver tankards and trays of diamonds."

"Well," said the elder jeweler, "people stopped and looked, didn't they?"

"Yes, but what of it? That dust rag?" growled the junior.

"That's why I advise you to keep the boy," advised the senior mildly. "If it hadn't been for him I am afraid nobody would have looked at all."

In Praise of Courage.

Certain virtues are divided from vices by so narrow a line that we must discern very clearly to see the difference. Few men can distinguish pride from vanity; perseverance from stubbornness; economy from avarice. The same is true of courage as distinguished from effrontery. The courageous man must have ambition, not merely dream of what he would like to have. The audacious have been found fault with for their brutality in overcoming all obstacles—but force is necessary to accomplish any real purpose.—Chicago American.

Planning Home Orchards.

A farm orchard for home use only should differ as to varieties from a commercial orchard.

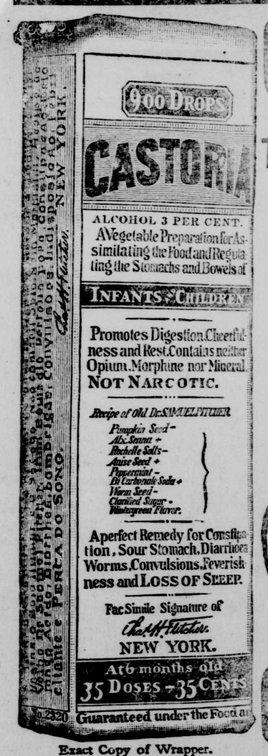
In the latter three or four varieties is enough no matter how many acres you may plant and you select these for proved bearing qualities and size and keeping.

For the home orchard you aim for variety, something for all seasons. You want a few trees of the earliest. Some of the choicest dessert fruit, even if tender in tree and not very productive.

Before selecting consult with your nearest fruit grower. Take his advice rather than that of the traveling salesman.

Fasten Wire to Tree.

Never fasten fencing wire directly to growing trees. If you do, in a few years the wire will have become imbedded in the tree, and do it permanent injury. When you wish to use a tree for this purpose spike a strip of sound board securely to the tree and fasten the wire to that.



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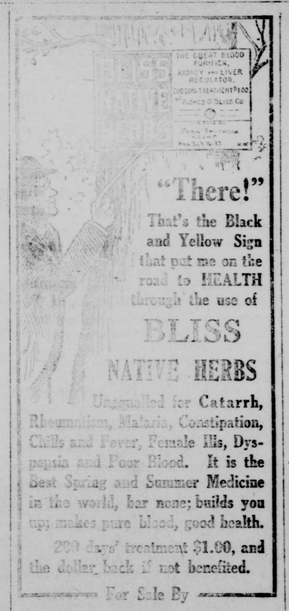

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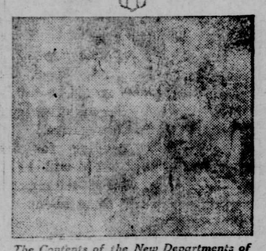

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