



THE NEW CAPE COAT.

Very graceful are the various phases of the cape this season. Its combination with the slim undercoat renders the new cape-coat more comfortable and practical than the cape by itself, which used to suggest a somewhat fly-away garment for daytime wear. Never have wraps in general presented such a pleasing appearance; probably the popularity of the shawl and similar graceful models has increased the desire for the more original and unusual kind of wrap. Certainly the cape has a very definite place in this year's wardrobe.

I recently saw a lovely cape-coat which, for some reason or other that I cannot understand, was called "The Ascot Model." Composed of black georgette of finest quality, it is just the correct finish to the lady's racing toilette. The coat of double georgette has revers of moleskin; the cape part is left transparent and is edged with the same summery fur down the fronts. The back of this cape is equally attractive, as it has a long slim effect, the edges being sufficiently weighted with a narrow piping of the fabric. There are certain types who look quite their best in graceful garments of this description, and the skilful alliance of the coat part renders it specially slimming in accordance with the desired silhouette. Another advantage is that this model is no less useful for evening than for smart daytime functions.

Colour in dress this season is most attractive, and so beautifully blended and soft are the shadings that every woman should look her best. Yet the most chic wrap is generally of black. Black is equally fashionable used with white or beige or standing alone on its merits. The monotony is often cleverly broken by the designer using the dull and shining black surfaces in the model. The vogue of fur trimming, too, renders black specially becoming.

A CHARMING FUNCTION.

Devonshire Hill, Rondebosch is known amongst the more discerning as one of those establishments which, while moderate in its charges, yet partakes of the nature of a high-class residential hotel. Situated some little way off the main road it is charmingly placed in some twelve or fifteen acres of ground, beautifully wooded and so provides a haven of rest for the busy when the day's toil is ended and a charming setting for those who have less to do and while away their time. This week it received more than the usual amount of public notice by the occurrence there of one of those charming house dances that are such a feature during the season. The occasion this time was the natal anniversary of the proprietress, Mrs. H. M. Poll, and in honour of the occasion, the residents of the house had been invited to a *diner dansant*, to which with great consideration they had been bidden to bring their friends. The menu presented was both lengthy and varied and the Devonshire Hill chef demonstrated his attachment to his employer by the production of a meal which for excellence of cooking, diversity of dishes and quick service would have done credit to a first-class hotel in any European capital. The magnificent dining-hall had been specially set out for the dance, the

dining tables being arranged right round, while the orchestra were placed upon the platform at the far end. The excellent music supplied by Miss Raye Levin's Ladies' Orchestra was much enjoyed and it is interesting to note in passing that this lady's first engagement, at the inception of her now well-known and much appreciated orchestra, was at the Devonshire Hill Hotel.

The arrangements were excellent and reflected the greatest possible credit upon both the experience and ability of Mr. Alfred Sawkins, the popular manager, while the esteem in which both he and the proprietress are held by the residents was demonstrated by the enthusiastic singing of "For they are jolly good fellows," when the toast to their health was separately proposed.

A noticeable feature of the function was the number of charming young ladies who were present and some very beautiful toilettes were *en evidence*. It would be invidious to mention names and dresses worn by the numerous smart people present on what was undoubtedly an auspicious occasion.

Owing to the occurrence of Sunday the revelries terminated at midnight but it was generally agreed by all those present that a charming occasion had been spent, and one well worthy of the best traditions of a recognised rendezvous.

TASTE IN CAKES.

It is curious how cake fashions change and how they are influenced by home and dress fashions. The elaborate decorations once seen on cakes are seldom used nowadays except for the ceremonial occasions such as a wedding or christening. The modern cake-maker must have an artistic sense, for delicate colourings and simple designs are used to ornament good cakes nowadays. A society woman will often order her cakes to tone with her tea-cloth and service. Yellow, mauve, and pale green iced cakes are frequently chosen to match the hostess's linen and china. Sometimes contrasting shades are introduced in the design of the cake. This idea at least lends a touch of novelty to the modern tea party. Lemon, orange, and pineapple fillings are very popular at present.

Chocolate iced cakes are still far and away the most popular. Men like fruit cakes better than anything else, while, since the fashion for slim figures came in, women have become very small cake eaters. People are not so much inclined to "make a good tea" now that the evening meal is more and more considered the most important of the day. While tea-drinking will never go out of fashion, eating at teatime is often confined nowadays to a scone or a small piece of cake.

FOR A LIVING.

A number of girls are finding in cake and sweet-making a profitable and congenial occupation, but there is a general agreement that, whether it is looked upon in the light of a remunerative hobby or as a livelihood, only women with initiative, business experience, and considerable taste are likely to make a success of it.

Some girls after their training take posts as assistant cake-makers in tea shops. There are excellent opportunities for expert chocolate and sweet-makers, some of whom have opened shops at the seaside or other equally good centres, while many work in their own homes, gradually building up a clientele, and thus saving large overhead expenses. Several enterprising cake-makers have made excellent connections for themselves at private houses, which they visit once or twice a week in order to turn out a useful batch of cakes. This kind of opening will

always exist so long as a good hunk of home-made cake retains its fascination for youngsters.

Unless they possess marked business ability women are well advised to secure their trade by means of private connections, thus avoiding the intense competition into which they would otherwise be plunged. Nevertheless, in learning cake and sweet-making their great ambition usually is to open their own tea-rooms. There is admittedly a good living to be made out of this business. But there have also been a tremendous number of failures owing to the fact that so many little teashops selling home-made cakes open in the same district and spoil each other's trade. The average girl who is just a good cake-maker and nothing more would be unwise to take up this most popular but risky of ventures.

EMPIRE DRIED FRUITS.

I learn from the English papers that new season Empire dried fruits are now being landed, but their food value is not fully appreciated by the public. In the interest of the splendid sun-dried produce of Australia a campaign is being launched at the end of this month with a view to encouraging consumption during the summer. In connection with this campaign 250,000 free cookery books will be given away, the recipes being confined to summer dishes made of dried fruits. No efforts have been spared to make Australian dried fruits the finest the world produces. On the scientific and practical sides close attention has been given to viticulture, prominent among the exhaustive technical work now in progress being that conducted at the Viticultural Research Farm at Merbein, which has been of such value to the Mildura and surrounding areas.

In addition to this fine Australian fruit regular shipments of raisins, sultanas, apricots, and other dried fruits are being received from South Africa, where large districts are regarded as equal to California in respect of viticulture.

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT.

The wise choice of kitchen utensils is made difficult because of the very attractiveness and profusion of the equipment on the market. Construction deserves the first consideration in the choice of any utensils. Smooth surfaces, rounded corners, absence of seams, and well-finished edges should be sought. These not only make for ease in cleaning, but make thorough cleaning possible.

Manufacturers are giving more thought to the shape of utensils than ever before. For many years they stuck to the old shapes. Cooking utensils with the relatively small bottom and flaring side possibly suited the old conditions, but to-day the saucepan or kettle having a comparatively large bottom, with either straight or convex sides, is a better choice, as it heats more quickly and takes up less room on top of the stove.

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SOCIAL AND FASHION.

(Continued from Page 563.)

Handles may seem a minor point, but they can literally make or mar a utensil. One should look for a handle that is well-placed, properly balanced, and that fits the hand. A handle that cuts into the hand is extremely irritating. When a bail handle is desired, a pan with the ear so notched that it catches the handle and prevents it from coming into contact with the utensil should be looked for. This type of handle does not get hot. It is a good idea to examine handles closely, for if they are not comfortable when the pan is empty, it is certain that they will be most uncomfortable in actual use.

The lips of utensils are another point to notice. If properly placed they are a great convenience, but when wrongly placed they are absolutely useless. A double-lipped saucepan is the one to choose, as it makes both right and left-hand pouring convenient.

Less attention is given to covers by the average housekeeper than to any other kitchen article; sometimes it seems that there are more makeshift covers than real covers. A cover with a good handle and with an edge or bead turned up so that no overflowing liquid can get into the crack is a good standard to have in mind. Strainer covers in which the perforation can be opened or closed by moving the slide are especially convenient on utensils used for cooking vegetables.

I shall return to this subject of kitchen equipment another week because there is so much I would like to say about it, but I don't want to weary my readers or lead them to think that I spend all my time "below stairs."

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE.

To-day I am going to give a recipe which should be very useful. The expense and difficulty of obtaining *Pate de foi gras* in this country is well known to most housewives, and so I am going to give them an excellent recipe for so wonderful an imitation that it can hardly be detected.

Take as many livers and gizzards of any kind of fowl as you may have on hand; add to these three table-spoons of chicken or goose fat, a finely chopped onion, one tablespoon of pungent sauce, and salt and white pepper to taste. Boil the livers until quite done and drain; when cold, rub to a smooth paste. Take some of the fat and chopped onion and simmer together slowly for ten minutes. Strain through a thin muslin bag, pressing the bag tightly, turn into a bowl and mix with the seasoning; work all together for a long time, then grease a bowl of cups and press this mixture into them; when soft cut up the gizzards into bits and lay between the mixture. You may season this highly, or to suit taste.

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MINING AND FINANCE.

(Continued from Page 564.)

severe, but the sum mentioned was principally made up to £42,119, the corporation's loss resulting from the failure of the Transvaal Platinum, Ltd., and £29,743 written off the value of the corporation's holding in the Leeuwpoot Tin Mines. On the other hand, the shareholders who attended the meeting were glad to hear that the Corporation's dealings in other platinum concerns, after allowing for the loss on Transvaal Platinums, have resulted in a substantial cash profit, without taking into account the considerable appreciation in the corporation's very large interests in the Eerstegeluk Platinum Mines and the Potgietersrust Platinums, which to-day stand at a higher figure in the market than that at which they were acquired. The £29,743 written off the value of the corporation's holdings in the Leeuwpoot Tin Mines is not regarded by the directors as a loss. The corporation's large interest in that company has been retained in view of the satisfactory dividends received from the company—namely, 80 per cent. since 1917—and also on account of the promising outlook from recent development at the mine.

PROFIT IN SLIMES.

I understand that the directors of the Lonely Reef Company have taken a very important decision with reference to the treatment of the company's accumulated slimes—estimated at about 900,000 tons. The consulting engineer strongly recommended the proposals made by Mr. Maxwell, the consulting metallurgist of the General Mining and Finance Corporation, who had investigated and reported upon the proposition. Orders for the necessary plant, which will cost about £27,364, have been placed, and it should be in operation in about six months' time, when a very important addition will be made to the company's earning capacity. It is estimated that an increased monthly profit of £2,462 will be earned, or a total of approximately £29,000 per annum, which is equal to a dividend of 10 per cent. This profit is based on the treatment of 144,000 tons of accumulated slimes per annum, so that there is about six years' supply ahead for treatment.

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