Amongst the elelents of evening dress must be mentioned the large collarettes of lace, which are mounted on coloured plush and edged with chenille fringes. Gathered cumber of pale-blue and new, and much worn by young girls; and one of the novelties which may be prepared by clever fingers at home is one of the square stiffly-lined collars in blue, which is powdered all over with white dusties or some other tiny flower. Round this may be placed a border of white silk or cashmere, also embroidered, and cuffs: may be made to match. Pleats, fringes, and deep moqueuse cuffs to match, are also useful aids to the dress of the evening, and turn a dingy old dress into something brighter and more suitable. It should not be forgotten that the tired eyes of husbands, fathers, and brothers may be soothed and please a little change of dress, and an appearance of pleasant and homely welcome.

Our large illustration shows most accurately the newest dresses. The first figure on the left wears a dress of brown Vigoine and a striped material, which is introduced between the box-plaitings of the deep kiltings, and forms the scarf round the top. The bodice is a plain one. The centre figure shows a pretty evening dress for a young girl. The skirt may have a foundation of any colour; the flounces are of Spanish lace, or of embroidered cashmere; the bodice is of moire, and may be of black, white, or of any colour selected. The cloak worn by the third figure is of cloth, with a thick chenille fringe and a bow of moire at the back.

The three smaller illustrations are a sleeve, with a shapely flounce and a feather ruching; and two children's dresses—a house dress and an out-of-door palelot. The latter is of cloth, with trimmings of moire, and the former, of cashmere or French merino, and trimmings of silk, moire, or the same material.

USEFUL HINTS.

SHERBURY CAKES.—Take lb. of flour, lb. of lump sugar, lb. butter, an egg, and oz. of currany seeds. Mix into a paste, roll out, and cut into round cakes with the top of a glass. Bake in a hot oven.

To REMOVE HAIR AND THREADS FROM A CARPET.—A washrubber dipped in hard water and wrung out, rubbed over the surface, will remove hairs, threads, and dust, and will brighten up the carpet.

PEARLS.—The colour of pearls may be improved and preserved by keeping a bit of the root of an ash tree in the box where they are kept.

A NIXOR COOK S RECIPES FOR BOILING RICE.—Wash him well; much wash in cold water, the rice flour; make him stick. Water boil all ready very fast. Throw him in rice—can't burn water—shake him out, throw him in hot water, leave him too much. Boil up and down, a little more; rub rice in thumb and finger; if all rub away, him quite done. Put rice in colander, hot water run away; pour cup of cold water over it; are also no trace in saucepan: keep him covered near the fire; then rice all ready. Then eat him up!

JACK, THE RAILWAY DOG.

TRAVELLED DOG.—Few people who travel on the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway know what a distinctive character has a free pass on every branch of the line, of which for several years he has had a daily advantage. It is between two and three years ago that a fox-terrier, big in bone, and not over well- bred, jumped into a train that was leaving Brighton for Horsham, and settled himself in the guard's carriage. Little notice was taken of him at first, but after a while he began to be a person of great interest. No one knew where he came from or to whom he belonged; but every day he was ready for an early train, and sometimes he went to Portsmouth, sometimes to Horsham, sometimes only to nearer stations; but the most remarkable part of his arrangements was that he always had time to go by the last train to Lewes, where he always slept, leaving again by the first train in the morning. When the friend from whom I first heard this story (who vouches for the truth of it) last heard of Jack he still continued this practice, and always spent the night at Lewes Station. About a year and a half ago the London, Brighton, and South Coast Company began to look upon him as one of their regular servants, and presented him with a collar bearing this inscription: "Jack—London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway." My friend told me that on one occasion, some months ago, he traced Jack's movements on one special day, and probably it was a good sample of many another. He arrived at Brighton by a train reaching Steyning at 10.45; there he got out for a minute, but went on by the same train to Henfield. Here he left the train and went to a public house near the station, where he had his dinner; and after a short walk, took a later train to West Grinsted, where he spent the afternoon, returning to Brighton in time to catch the last train to Lewes. He was either fond of the Portsmouth line, but never, I believe, has come so far as London. He generally takes his place on or by the guard's wheel, and, looking out of the window, it would be very interesting to know in what fashion of this perpetually busy railway travelling consists. It certainly shows an immense amount of instinct, and observation, and the punctuality of Jack's daily life are a lesson to many a two-legged traveller. Whether he considers himself a guard, or director, or general overseer, no one can tell, but the fact is, it seems, an idea of duty in his movements; what he has to do (or thinks he has to do) he does faithfully, and far is a telling example to his fellow travellers on the line between Brighton, and South Coast Railway. The last piece of information received about Jack is that he has presented him with a silver-mounted collar, with which he seems much pleased. On it is inscribed:—"I am Jack, the L. B. and S. C. Railway Dog. Please give me a drink, and I will then go home to Lewes. The collar was presented by Mrs. J. F. Knight, Broxbourne." On the day Jack sat for his portrait he left Lewes by the first train for Brighton, and then found that he had business in Portmouth, whither he travelled. Leaving that train by the 1.30 p.m. train, which arrives at Ford Junction at 2.25, he proceeded to Littlehampton. He and the guard then determined to take a run in the town, and Mr. White, the photographer, of 32, High-street, kindly invited Jack to stop and have his photograph taken. Jack found that he had no engagement before 5.5, when he wanted to leave the town, and so gave an engraving of the result of his visit to Mr. White. Jack's head-quarters are at Lewes, but he does not always go home, and frequently passes his nights in the waste-paper baskets at different booking offices.—Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News.

A SIMPLE WAY TO BIND A BOOK.

OTHERS are not, as a rule, given to compliments, so that I think, when I tell you that my brothers say the results of my book keeping are "very decent," you will be inclined to believe that they are so; especially as the boys, both at school and at the 'Varnish,' seem to be agreed in the exhaustive article on book-binding in the number for February, 1884, and I shall be very glad if my experience in that line is any good to them.

I took to book-binding, in the first instance, because I am very fond of collecting all kinds of cuttings from newspapers and pasting them into old copy-books, and then binding them, sometimes two or three together, at other times, which is easier, in one large book. They make quite an interesting book, and you can't think how handy they sometimes are. I have all sorts of accounts of attainments—athletic (i) and intellectual (ii) for "the boys," both at school and at the 'Varnish'; then, there are accounts of new books and new inventions, which one finds only in newspapers. I know I was very proud of being able to supply from my collection of cuttings an account of the photophone, which a scientific girl I know wanted to help her to write an essay on the subject, and which she naturally could not find at the time in a book, on account of its recent invention.

As I have bound more of these newspaper cutting books than any other, I can tell you the same plan do equally well for binding music or mending a torn book, with a little judicious variation to suit the different constitutions of books. My binding was done after all the extracts were pasted in, thereby avoiding that stultified and juteous look of the books bought for the same purpose get after a certain period of use.

Take your book, supposing it to be an ordinary-sized book or exercise-book; paste down the back of it, over the cover, a stout strip of unbleached calico or holland; when dry open it at the centre page, make three holes right through the leaves and the calico—one in the middle, the other two about
A is for Alice, with glossy brown curls,
The pet of the schoolroom, a jewel of girls.

B is for Beatrice, stately and tall,
In work or in play she is first of us all.

C is for Catharine, name famed of old,
And still of our Catharines much may be told.

D is for Daisy, sweet flower of the home,
Contented and happy, she seeks not to roam.

E is for Edith, the sprightly and fair;
Where'er there's frolic gay Edith is there.

F is for Fanny, with rose-tinted cheek,
A bright little fairy, though some think her mock.

G is for Grizel—you don't like the name?—
In song and in story Grizel has fame.

H is for Helen, the home-circle's joy,
Though her name is mixed up with old legends of Troy.

I for Irene, with thoughtful dark eyes;
Some call her studious—most think her wise.

J is Jemima, oft honored in ditty,
A lively young lass, though her name is not pretty.

K is for Kitty, the bonnie, the dear!
Away flies all discord when Kitty is near.

L—shall L be? We call on Lenore.
Despite all the ravens that croak "nevermore."

M is for Marianne, doleful and strange,
Who lingers for aye in an "moated grange."

N is for Nellie, whose eyes kind and bright
Now sparkle with mirth, now glow with delight.

O is for Olive, how blooming is she!
As fair as the roses that blush on the tree.

P is for Patience, but "what's in a name?"
Unless she has qualities matching the same.

Q is for Queenie, name fitted for song;
To the loved and the petted it needs must belong.

R is for Ruth, and now as of yore
Her friendship and loyalty all must adore.

S is for Sarah, an old-fashioned name,
But we like it and honour it always the same.

T is for Topsy, and over the sea
Shine black faces saying, "Your sisters are we."

U is for Una, let us like her be strong,
To subdue all the "beams" of folly and wrong.

V is for Violet, "tender and true,"
With hair like a sunbeam, eyes loving and blue.

W for Wilfred—a name of romance;
What hearts she would conquer if she had the chance!

X is for Xenophon—boy's name 'tis true;
Can we not change it, my lasses, for you?

Y is for Yakko—a pet name, alas!
But as there's no other we may let it pass.

Z is for Zephyra; put one in mind
Of girls that are changeable, just like the wind.

And now with the wish that the fickle prove true,
Sweet bevy of fair ones, I bid you adieu.

M. M. Pollard.