

idays and receives a soup ladle will find it difficult to remain gracious while trying to fill a small punch cup from a soup ladle meant to fill a large soup bowl.

Each manufacturer made variations for his own design, so some ladle bowls are plain, while other bowls are decorated, designed, ribbed, or shaped like a shell (see p. 5, SPOONORAMA, Nov. '68, Simpson, Hall, Miller & Co.'s Spoons and Ladles.)

The ladles illustrated here are the GEORGIAN pattern in sterling by Towle Silversmiths, Newburyport, Massachusetts. Illustrations are from a 1906 booklet published for Towle.

## CANES AND UMBRELLAS

(This article is a reprint of one by Julia D. Cowles in a magazine called THE HOUSEKEEPER for May 1902. It was published monthly and referred to as "A practical and up-to-date family magazine." Home base was Minneapolis, Minn. — Ed.)

Ladies' umbrellas of the present season all have straight handles. There are no coils or crooks, except

for old ladies who find the crooked handle more convenient to carry. But a straight handle is fair from meaning a plain handle. The new umbrellas are certainly beauties, and the combination of materials used in the handles is most artistic. A new fancy is the smoked ivory, which is carved into many different forms, and is mounted in gold. The soft yellows and browns of the ivory blend in strict harmony with the brighter yellow of the gold. Another combination is the pearl-topped stick with silver mounting. These are especially beautiful. Less expensive than either of these is the gun-metal handle. This is a modest, but stylish, umbrella, capable of many different forms and developments. Some of these handles are set with small rubies or emeralds. The plainest handle of all is of natural wood.

The usual plain black silk cover is most frequently seen, but the season shows some departures which are novel and attractive. Some of the newest covers have several narrow bands of Persian colors forming a border. Then there are the new gray umbrellas with a border of black and white. These are very stunning



and are intended to wear with the popular Oxford gray suits and wraps.

The white umbrella lined with green is called an umbrella simply on account of its size, which is twenty-six inches. It is for summer use, on the water more particularly, where it affords a very grateful protection from wind and sun. Its size makes it stronger and of more practical use than a parasol, although it is intended as a protection against the sun rather than against rain. The green lining is grateful to the eyes when there is a strong reflection upon the water. It will, of course, be carried with white suits mainly. The stick is of plain wood without ornamentation.

Men's umbrellas have handles of natural wood, smoked ivory or ram's horn. The handles are bent and are much the same as the handles of the popular styles of canes. The smoked or burnt ivory handles are especially popular as they are new this season. They are carved in a great variety of designs, some representing heads of animals, such as dogs' and horses' heads, and also carved figures. Nearly all the finer grades of umbrellas have a band of gold or silver just below the head, and upon this the name or initials are carved.

There are styles in canes, as well as in umbrellas; indeed some men are very particular about having the very latest thing in canes, while their umbrellas are a matter of comparative unimportance. There are men who buy two or three canes at a time, and who buy at frequent intervals. These men are always upon the lookout for something unique, and for something which no one else in the same place can duplicate. For this reason the odd styles in canes are always bought singly by dealers, that they may "protect" their customers.

Most of the cames are made of bamboo or other light wood, and mounted with heads made from burnt ivory, or ram's horn. All of the new handles crook, and many of them, like the umbrella handles, show carved heads or figures. One little novelty was carved in the shape of a horse's hoof, while another represented two horses' heads, side by side and one a little higher than the other. The finer cames, like the fine umbrellas have a band for the name of the owner.

There are different styles of canes for men of different ages, too. The latest thing for a young man is a slender walking stick with a bent handle tipped with silver. The wood in these sticks is of a beautiful quality, and the little cane is a very swell looking affair. But an older man would not think of carrying one of these. His cane is not so slender, has a heavier head, and its style depends altogether upon the general characteristics of the man. If he is a sporting man his cane will be of a different style from that of the solid man of business. Perhaps this difference is not intentional, but is rather the direct outcome of the man's tastes.

Then there are the very slender, willowy cames, with no pretense at ornamentation, which are carried by the college boys, yes, and by the girls, too, when there is a football game. In this case the came is decorated with big ribbon streamers in the college colors.

Of course, there are the stout hickory canes with crooked handles, intended for real service, and used by men who are lame, or by old people when the walking is treacherous.

Almost every man feels an interest in an cane which has some historical value, and some interesting and notable collections have been made.