

FOR THE HOME DRESSMAKER

Current Events are Apt to be Reflected
in the Fashions of Any Given Time
By May Manton

The Party Frock in Its Newest Styles

EVERY student of fashions knows that styles are colored, if not largely influenced by current events and sometimes by events that are scarcely national not alone international importance. Before the horrors of the war the theatre was the potent element in Paris, and in spite of conditions there is a tendency to turn in that direction for suggestions and for ideas. On this side of the sea we have been hearing considerable talk about the barrel skirt. It is not a graceful garment, it has a great many objections. It has been tried in previous seasons and it has not been found satisfactory. The attempt at revival is easily traceable to the Revue, now running at one of the Paris theatres. Evidently, it is something of an extravaganza as plays of the sort are sure to be, and, as a matter of course, tendencies are to be exaggerated. In the shortage of other inspirations, the Paris designers have seized upon the very extraordinary barrel effects that are to be noted in the costumes seen upon that stage, and many of the advanced models seen here give evidence of the idea. How far they will succeed is an open question. They are not being met with enthusiasm as yet, and, as already stated, assuredly they are not beautiful. Better by far are the skirts that are broadened at the hips by means of bones or by trimming or by treatments of some such sort without giving that extreme hooped

effect at the lower edge that always suggests the awkward walk. We may have something of the barrel suggestion later, but it is doubtful if it will take any considerable hold and for the moment at least we may look only for modifications of the idea. In the hands of the expert designers, the effect can, of course, be made attractive to a certain extent. A very beautiful gown from a noted Parisian house is, for example, of grey crêpe de chine with a guimpe of grey chiffon. The skirt is full and slightly draped to suggest the barrel idea. The over bodice is made with big arm-holes and is prettily full over a little vestee. The sleeves are quite novel at the wrists, forming loose plaits that are weighted with silver tassels. The collar of the guimpe which is of the chiffon is embroidered with silver and the silver reappears at the front at the neck edge. The girdle which is wound twice around the figure and simply knotted is of grey faille embroidered with dull gold motifs. It is a very beautiful gown, not even the suspicion of the barrel idea can rob it of its grace, but the idea is one that must be handled by an expert to get a good result.

The Empire City Sees Costumes of Various Sorts.

With large parties going South to enjoy the balmy suns of Florida and equally large ones going North to seek the snappy cold of the Adirondacks, extremes meet here in old Gotham. We have seen silk sports costumes until we are a bit weary and the wool which is, perhaps, designed for the North and the early days of the Spring in intermediate climates, makes a greater appeal from the standpoint of elegance. Very beautiful coats of the loose sports order are made of soft wooly

cloth in plaids, showing such rich colors as black and orange and worn over skirts of plain color. They are exceedingly beautiful and they are in every way distinctive. Unquestionably, the silks are attractive, they are dainty and they are summer-like, but perhaps the fact that there is a nip of frost in the air here, makes the wool appear a little more suitable at this writing. A very beautiful costume shows a plaited skirt of plain white wool gabardine with a typical sports coat of rose colored khaki kool with collar and cuffs of the skirting material. It is exceedingly handsome and it is brilliant enough to satisfy the most exacting taste.

In Season and Out of Season.

The one great drawback to this sports idea, which seems to have taken the world of dress by storm, is the tendency to overdo, and to wear out of season as well as in season. If the brilliant colors could be reserved for the handsome materials all might be well, but they are duplicated in cotton and they are cheapened and here in this big city at least, we will see imitations of the handsome costumes worn upon the streets for shopping, for walking and for all sorts of occasions where they do not belong. As a matter of course, they cannot be attractive. The fact of their brilliant coloring renders them suited only to the background of open spaces of the seashore or of the mountains or to the country club for which they are designed. Worn upon the crowded street with one jostling another and in the shops and in places of the sort they are simply bizarre. Let us hope that the lesson of suitability will be taken to heart.

Utility Costumes Modelled After Those Designed for Sports.

What are to be known as the utility

costumes are made much on the lines of those designed for sports, but of wool jersey in plain colors and of gabardine and of similar materials. They really are ideal for travel, for shopping and for the general business of life, and they give all the simplicity of the sports idea without the brilliant coloring. A most attractive one is of warm grey wool jersey with just a touch of white on the collar to give relief. Jersey cloth is constantly extending its usefulness. It is a very attractive material, it takes beautiful lines and folds and some of the cleverest designers are using it for simple afternoon gowns as well as for street costumes.



Latest Accessories

Muff chains of two inch velvet ribbon with discs embroidered in brilliantly colored beads serving as slides.

Hat bands of ribbon painted, some in flower effects, some in country scenes.

Hosiery for wear with sports costumes of white silk with narrow vertical stripes embroidered in green.

Shoes with colored vamps and uppers of white kid painted in pink roses and other flower effects.

Boudoir caps of Paisley crêpe with frills of white lace that are dainty and attractive.

Chemisette of net and of organdie that are cut in one with stock collars, the sections necessary for it held together by tiny lace entre deux. The upper edges of the collars are scalloped and finished with narrow lace frills.

Sports hats of Panama straw, the crowns of which are embroidered in scattered motifs worked with heavy silk floss in bright colors.

Draw string bags of soft grey crêpe de chine with a two-inch band of Oriental embroidery at the center of each.

Gloves that extend well over the wrists of white kid faced with black and laced together at the outer edges from the wrist upward.

Neck girdles of black velvet ribbon with small flowers embroidered in beads, some steel, some jet, some white, some colored.

French nudes for the boudoir made of Japanese silk.

Sports coats of white Angora cloth with borders of brilliant colors, a orange and green and blue, each strip approximately two and one-half inches in width.

Silk stockings for wear with evening costumes that are inset with net richly embroidered in beads.

Hair garnitures of black tulle in the form of Spanish fans that are designed to be arranged at the back of the head to make the best effect.

Middy blouses that reserve their name only because of the middy closing. They are made of fine French crêpe, they are open over the hips below the belt and the lower edges are finished with dainty embroidery.

Veils that are of comparatively simple, plain mesh over the face, but are finished with elaborate borders of soutache or other narrow braid and arranged over the hats.

Automobile foot muffs of leather lined with sheep-skin and finished at their edges with bands of nutria.

Hats of straw with convertible brims, that is, with outer brims of crêpe or silk or other material that can be attached or detached as occasion requires. Of necessity the change from the narrow brim to the wider means a complete transformation.

Exceedingly smart shoes that are made with leather vamps but with cloth tops, also low shoes with toes of kid and sides of cloth.



The Party Frock in Its Newest Styles

NO MATTER what the season of the year a new party frock is likely to be needed for the younger contingent dances as freely and as often as does the older contingent and dancing can be relied upon to create a demand for fresh tolets as promptly if not more promptly than any other exercise known. There are very charming ones shown in the illustration, some for the older girls and some for the younger girls, and they give suggestions for materials and for treatments that will be helpful.

All Forms of Embroidery are Fashionable.

Unquestionably, embroidery is to continue its favor through this and into the coming season. The advanced models show very free use of the finish and beads and metal threads and threads of silk and of wool all are to be noted. Simple stitches seem to be the preferred ones and a great many gowns are simply finished with designs carried out in what we know as the running stitch or the simple plain stitches that are used for seams, taken evenly, and that stitch can be used in plain lines or over a braiding design, but as a matter of course, if a braiding pattern is used the dressmaker must be clever enough to work over tissue, not to transfer the design to the cloth otherwise there will be transfer lines apparent to spoil the effect. It often astonishes one how much effect can be obtained by the very simplest little bit of embroidery, just running stitch, for example, makes the most marvelous effects and repeated rows of machins stitching have been utilized to make a really distinctive finish for a tailored costume. Exquisitely dainty gowns show the edges outlined with embroidery and it is notable that there are almost no fine stitches used for this work upon gowns. The fine needlework is largely reserved for underwear. An attractive costume of chiffon shows a border, for example, of little daisies and their leaves. They are worked in what we know as lazy daisy stitch, but a really individual touch is obtained by using threads of floss for the stitches and putting a single long stitch of heavy silk at the center of each leaf. Soutache braid is largely used not alone upon gowns but upon hats. One sees very charming hats for wear with the summer costumes made of crêpe de chine with the crown and brims richly braided with soutache and straw braid is applied over similar patterns to make a pretty trimming. In every way is the shortage of usual garnitures overcome and in fact obscured, for it is only those on the inside, those who have occasion to study such things, who realize what lies behind these simple embroideries and braidings and the like.

Before long we shall be thinking of commencement frocks and these same dresses will be good for that use. The pointed tunic that is shown on one dress is made of taffeta and the over-bodice is made of the same material, while the under-bodice and under-skirt are of a pretty net, and you could hardly find a more charming costume for the girl of sixteen or eighteen. You could copy it in any color that you may like but in the illustration the material is rose color with white and with little silk roses used as garnitures. Flowers of the kind are greatly used, they are very pretty and they give a color note that often makes the distinction of the costume. They are found in silk and in ribbon and in chiffon. You can use lace flouncing for this dress just as it is on the figure but the net is very dainty and the edge of ribbon weights it just sufficiently while it makes a durable finish. Taffeta and simple lace makes as pretty a dress as any that could be offered, but you could, of course, vary the silk, or you could use a crêpe if you like a lighter effect. Crêpe meteor is good for it gives a satin finish and is not very lustrous. It is essentially youthful and a little more brilliant than the duller crêpe.

The two little girls' dresses are suggested for quite different needs. The very dainty little frock shown at the right is adapted to crêpe de chine and to Georgette crêpe and to chiffon and also to soft finished taffeta and it is pretty for dancing school and for parties. The more severe dress is designed for afternoon wear.

The Needs of the Family are Considered Here

THIS is a season at which new designs are sure to appear. Women who appreciate such matters are on the keen outlook to learn just what will and what will not be fashionable for the coming season. Tunics are to be extensively worn both for afternoon and for evening costumes and usually they are worn over simple circular or semi-circular skirts of moderate fullness, the idea being to make a contrast between the width of the skirt and the width of the tunic.

Crêpe de chine is a pronounced favorite for afternoon gowns and it is combined with satin and with silk and with various materials of such sort. For evening occasions, lace is liked and net and all the diaphanous materials over the richest silks and satins and sometimes over brocaded silks. The evening gown that is shown in the illustration is made of lace over a heavy satin, but the same model would be good for silk net over a brocaded silk or over a silver lace or over any material of such sort. The metal brocades and the metal laces are greatly in vogue and are very beautiful. The bodice of this gown is especially noteworthy.

The afternoon gown that is shown away up in the right hand corner exemplifies the favor shown charm. The entire gown is made of that material with trimming of a wonderful Paisley crêpe that makes a very fascinating contrast.

The young girls frock shows a tunic of still another sort for it is open at the front suggesting the favorite Redingote idea. The frock is made with the skirt of straight embroidered net flouncing and with the under-bodice to match while the tunic and the over-bodice are of tulle through the meshes of which the design of the lace appears. The frock is all white but the girdle is in a bright shade of cerise.

Straight skirts are always pretty for the younger girls and sometimes they are made all in one, sometimes in sections or flounces joined one to the other. Of course they always can be used for flouncing or bordered materials and there are simple embroidered nets that are beautiful. A plain net could be finished with picot edge and worn over a colored slip to be very charming and dainty, or it could be embroidered with a little design run in and out of the meshes.