

FOR THE HOME DRESSMAKER

For Balmy Days at the Southern Resorts—By May Manton



THESE are chic models designed especially to be worn at the Southern resorts. As a matter of course they forecast the coming of the Spring fashions. What the fortunate few wear in the South during the Winter, the majority of womanhood will wear all over the country when Summer is at its height. For the younger contingent there is a notable

tendency toward simplicity that is charming. Fabrics are very beautiful, colors are exquisite and even bright and it is only by such simple designs that such effects can be utilized of their best. For morning occasions when one may motor or play tennis or golf or ride the wheel or indulge in any fancy of the sort there are a great many

attractive designs. On the one hand one sees the coat suit of pongee or its counterpart of glove silk or perhaps of a thinner washable fabric. On the other, the daintiest little lingerie frocks

that are really fascinating. They are essentially girl-like and they make a very pleasant contrast to the coat suits that have become so generally accepted. Girls who like to tramp the country whatever the season find the simple one-piece frocks desirable, and serge, linen and cotton gabardine are favorite materials.

WE are living in an exceedingly interesting period in spite of its tragedies. Nearly, if not quite, unprecedented conditions exist. There are inevitable shortages in certain directions, yet, to the casual observer everything is beautiful, everything is abundant, there is every opportunity for the making of handsome and satisfactory costumes.

Simple Embroideries are Used with Good Effects.

It has been stated again and again that days are scarce and the supply of fabrics more or less curtailed, but a trip through the shops would hardly suggest any such condition. There are really wonderfully beautiful materials and there is a certain splendid color apparent that is noticeable. Whatever we lack for the Spring, we do not lack color. There is a certain shortage in applied trimmings, but it is being more than compensated for in the clever way in which embroideries are handled. If the necessity for such finish has done nothing else, it has unquestionably established the needlewoman's art. It is astonishing what beautiful effects a few simple stitches can produce. A very lovely afternoon gown that is to make part of a February trousseau of Georgette crepe in a wonderful shade of yellow that has depth and quality and at the same time is light in tone. The skirt is finely plaited and just below the hips to give a suggestion of a yoke line, there is a little embroidery across the front and back that shows a design of a conventionalized wild rose with leaves. The petals of the roses are all outlined with black, within this outline they are darned with rose color and occasional gold threads and the leaves are darned with green. It makes a most attractive finish, it gives a very beautiful color effect and the work is sketchy, it is so slight. The very newest blouses, too, are of the Georgette crepe that seems to fit the purpose as nothing else quite does, braided with a little straw braid used just as soutache would be, and if readers, any of them, have hidden away in the treasure houses of the past, costumes that belong to the middle of the last century, these straw trimmed gowns will be found. They were regarded as very chic in those days and some of the effects that can be produced are charming. Today we use the straw on Georgette crepe. Our grandmothers and great grandmothers used it upon taffeta, and the taffeta of that day was a heavier silk than the taffeta of the present, but nevertheless, the color effects remain.

Spanish Influence is Apparent in the Bolero.

Verily is there nothing new under the sun in the world of dress at least, for what we take to be novel is apt to be an old idea put forth in new form. The braid of today is quite a different braid from that of old and the effects are different, but the idea emanates from the past, nevertheless. There are two notable features to be found on the costumes that are being made for the Summer trousseaux and for the various functions of the mid-Winter. The Spanish influence is apparent in the Bolero idea and the simple chemise gown is little by little, step by step, being evolved into a modification of the princess gown. We shall not have the tight princess gown for a long time, perhaps we never shall have them again. It is to be hoped that we will not. They are apt to be trying, they are fit only for women of ideal figures and they really are not becoming even to the best formed women of today. The semi-fitted models seem better adapted to the modern conditions and among the costumes to be noted are some very attractive designs made on these lines. The Bolero effects crop up in a great many different ways. A very charming little costume that is to go South this week is made with a simple full skirt and little bolero-like jacket hanging in straight lines, open at the front and again at the side seams. There are various details and features that give it smartness and crocheted, but perhaps the most interesting feature is the soft girle of Oriental silk that is arranged around the figure and that falls in long ends at one side and is knotted under the arms, just where the open seam referred to falls. The suit in question is of soft blue serge and this bit of Oriental silk is exceedingly smart. The sleeves, by the way, are finished with bell-shaped cuffs. Bell shaping makes another notable feature of the newest models and undoubtedly we are to have bell sleeves. The bell-shaped cuffs are already established facts. In the bolero we can trace certain of the Spanish influences and the sash is distinctly Oriental, but really designers do not seem to be much concerned as to the source from which these suggestions are taken. They mainly are interested in producing attractive results, and, as attractive results are what women desire, they can well afford to be indulgent in the matter of suggestion. They may come from where they will so long as the result is good, so long as they suit modern needs, are pretty and becoming.

Only the Modified Barrel Skirts are Likely to Succeed.

We hear a great deal of talk about the barrel skirt, but very few real barrel skirts have been seen at all. By some strange perversion of terms, a great many of the fashion writers and designers both are talking of the skirt that is draped over the hips as the barrel skirt. Really that wonderful creation is distended by means of hoops and is drawn in again at the ankles, otherwise it does not deserve its name. It is not a pretty line, it is not a becoming line and it is hardly likely to succeed, on this side of the sea at least. American women are justly proud of their figures. They have been willing to sacrifice a good deal to keep the ideal lines, and they will not conceal it by any such ugly garment as the barrel skirt.

Rare Old Laces are Revived.

Afternoon functions are many at this season and afternoon dress has taken on some very interesting features. Lace is scarce, also are other trimmings. Paris has solved the problem by making simple gowns and wearing with them laces that have been lying away in the family treasure house, fichues and collars and what not to relieve the simplicity. At a notable function of the week was seen a straight chemise dress, simple as could be, of violet panne velvet with beautiful lace at the neck and sleeves the only trimming. Heavy lace is being used for waistcoats with the bolero gowns and fancy coats. That it is old lace only adds to its beauty and charm and the hint may be worth reading to women who have treasures hidden away. Oriental embroideries continue all their vogue. For the waistcoats already mentioned, the rich Chinese embroideries are much liked and are exceedingly handsome.

A Season of Contrasts.

Very long blouses that really form tunics are handsome and are generally becoming, and are to make a feature of the Mid-winter afternoon dress. A most attractive one met at a hotel tea is of soft grey velvet over a skirt of pale blue crepe de chine, the skirt being plaited. A grey ninon was made much on the lines of a lengthened middie blouse, finished around the lower edge with stenciling in a Greek design of red and blue and narrow stenciling finishing the round neck line. It was worn over a satin foundation of the same shade and just the little bit of bright color in the stenciling gave the only relief.

A Dainty Night Gown and How It can be Made and How Embroidered -- By May Manton

THE hand-made underwear is always the daintiest, the most attractive and the most in demand. This little night gown is so simple that it involves very little labor while it gives charming and becoming lines, and if you use the pretty, simple embroidered design you can get a wonderfully dainty effect with very small expenditure of time and of labor. You will notice that there are two quite different shapes, but the one pattern provides both. The gown is made with the sleeves and body portion in one or in kimono style, consequently, there are only two seams to sew up. In whichever way you finish the neck, it is designed to be slipped over the head. There is no opening, consequently, there are no



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buttons and buttonholes to be made. The sleeveless gown with the V-shaped opening and the Empire ribbon is very charming and very dainty for warm weather wear. For the colder nights, the round neck with the sleeves will undoubtedly be preferred. For that gown, lace insertion is applied over the lines in the pattern on which the gown with the V-shaped neck is cut out. The gown is cut all in one piece, on the fold of the material, and if that material is not wide enough you will of necessity be compelled to join selvaged edges to obtain the width. The best plan to follow is to make the gown before the embroidery is done. To do this, sew the seams with fine stitches, taking what is known as a back stitch and two running stitches at one time, then trim off one edge of the seam. Turn the other edge under and hem down onto the gown itself to make a flat fell finish, which is the simplest and pleasantest and the prettiest for garments of the sort. You could make the French fell or the double seams, but it is scarcely less labor and it does not make as pretty or as attractive a finish. In the illus-

tration, the neck and the sleeve edges of the V-shaped gown are underfaced and finished with machine hemstitching that is very pretty, but instead of that hemstitching, they could be scalloped using very fine scallops, or you could underface and use a tiny little insertion as finish in place of the hemstitching, or you could underface and attach the facing with some fine fancy stitchery, as a briar stitch or a succession of French knots. The slashes for the ribbon require to be worked as eyelets, that is to say, cut the slit, then push the material up on the wrong side and work closely over and over using a fine embroidery thread for the purpose. Now you will be ready for the figures on each side of the front.

Transfer these to the material, using an iron that is hot but not scorching. Outline the stems and work the remainder of the design either solidly or as eyelets, or partly solidly and partly as eyelets as you prefer. A pretty effect can be obtained by making the daisies and the leaves as eyelets and the dots all in solid work, but each individual will like to decide just how that design should be treated, and it is possible to make a number of variations, simple as it is.

To make eyelets, punch with a stiletto then push the material back and work closely over and over. For solid work, darn backward and forward lengthwise of the figure and work over and over in the opposite direction. When the embroidery is completed, press and for the purpose use a turkish towel folded several times.

To make the gown with round neck and the sleeves, the edges are to be scalloped and the designs arranged one on the front and one at each side. For the scallops, work a chain stitch between the lines, heavy at the centers and lighter at the points, or cut a skein of thread and apply two or more strands over the design, tacking here and there in couching style and draw closely together at each point, then buttonhole closely over the padding. Mark on the garment the perforations in the pattern that indicates the lines for the V-shaped neck and the sleeveless arm-holes. Apply lace insertion over these lines. Baste carefully and firmly into place, then whip each edge firmly to the material with tiny close stitches and when you have done this, cut the fabric away beneath the lace to meet the transparent effect.

Smart Simplicity Marks the Latest Fashions --- By May Manton



PRESENT fashions seem especially designed in the interests of the home dressmaker. The models are simple, there are no intricacies and no special difficulties in the making of any garment. What is needed is a certain sense of color and of fitness and an eye to get the correct lines. If you

have these, you can make your own gowns with certain success. Among the costumes shown here, for example, there is not one that is in any way difficult or elaborate. Coat suits seem planned with simplicity in mind. Any woman who can cut and sew should be able to make them. The two frocks designed for young girls give evidence of different effects, but both are plaited and plaits make a notable feature of the incoming fashions. You may have a straight skirt that is all plaited or you may have a skirt that combines plaits with plain

spaces or you may have a frock that shows either box plaits or side plaits attractively used, but you must have plaits found somewhere in your wardrobe if you will be quite up-to-date. The box plaited frock illustrated shows a pretty new monk's collar and draped pockets that make very smart features, and they seem especially well adapted to the younger contingent. Slightly open necks with long sleeves are shown in the greater number of new frocks and unquestionably the combination will make a feature of the incoming season.

Without doubt there is a certain fascination to be found in what we know as the outdoor or sports costume, but the afternoon gowns this season are so charming that they are close rivals. The one that is shown here gives especially good lines and can appropriately be copied in a great

many different materials. It is a pretty and graceful gown and is very handsome in the satin and crepe de chine illustrated. Crepe de chine is to be much worn throughout the coming season and it always is beautiful in contrast with satin.