



FASHIONS FOR WINTRY DAYS



WITH the beginning of the Canadian winter, the fur garment becomes an absolute necessity, and for weeks past the leading furriers have been busy making up coats and wraps to order, for the wise ones who do not wait until the cold weather actually sets in before beginning to think about their furs. While there is a changing fashion in furs, as

in everything else, a really good skin is independent of fashion: and for this, as for other reasons, it is better to purchase as good a fur as one can possibly afford. For those of us who must content ourselves with the cheaper furs, there is the consolation of being able to find these well made in most of the latest designs, so that one can be both comfortable and fashionable even if her furs are not the magnificent skins she would like them to be. Some of the naturally unassuming furs have been scientifically transformed into really astonishing imitations of the elect.

Sable, of course, is always fashionable, and always in demand, by those who can afford it. Persian lamb has increased in price, which is an indication that its popularity is quite as great as ever. For the woman who can have but one fur coat, Persian lamb is eminently satisfactory, as it wears 'forever,' stands any kind of weather, and can be worn with all sorts of suits, from one's oldest tweed to one's dressiest broad-cloth. Whereas, one has to 'live up to' seal-skin or sable. But who doesn't long for these, even while her better judgment forbids her buying them?

Fur coats are made up this season in a greater variety of styles than ever before. Once upon a time a fur coat meant practically one thing, a garment strictly for comfort, either hip length or to the knee, and varying only in the size of the sleeve. Now it may be anything from the frivolous little jacket to the long wrap, the very embodiment of luxury. There is a tendency also to elaborate both garments and sets, although to conservative minds the natural richness and beauty of the fur is quite sufficient, without any adornment.

Caracul is likely to be a very fashionable fur this winter, and is particularly effective in jackets, as it lends itself well to trimming of various kinds. These little coats have vests, collars, cuffs, revers, and even ceintures or belts, in which embroidery is wrought upon velvet, leather, or cloth, for their decoration. Braid is also used to a considerable extent, and fine laces, jewelled and enamelled buttons, and clasps, finish some beautiful garments.

Among the more fanciful models shown in one of the leading fur houses in Montreal, was an Eton coat of Persian lamb reaching scarcely to the waist line, and cut out in broad scallops round the bottom, the scallops being outlined with a fine white and black braid and edged with a narrow lace ruffle. The three-quarter sleeves had turn-back cuffs treated in the same way, a flat collar edged with the lace, and a narrow vest of white cloth over which the coat was fastened with two straps of the fur, held with black and white enamelled buttons. Another was a blouse jacket of seal, brought into a shaped girdle of the fur, fastened with jewelled buttons, the collar and cuffs edged with narrow lace. The 'pony' jacket is reproduced in mink, lamb, squirrel, and other furs. However, all these are for the woman whose purse permits, and whose inclinations are towards the latest and momentary fancies of fashion.

The plainer, more serviceable, and, as many will consider, richer garments, made up on more conservative lines, are as well liked as ever. Among these is the hip-length coat, fitting well to the figure at the back, and partially fitted in front, a style that never seems to lose its popularity. Some smart models are shown with the box back, and the three-quarter length 'top' coat which has been so much worn through the autumn is reproduced in Persian lamb for the winter.

The fashion of the last few winters, of combining different furs is carried out in some handsome jackets and wraps this season. One sees caracul combined with ermine, seal with ermine or chinchilla, Persian lamb with mink or sable, and various other combinations. A very dainty wrap of chinchilla was lined throughout with ermine, and a very elaborate evening coat was of ermine, bordered with black fox, and with a good deal of Irish crochet lace about the shoulders and sleeves.

The variety of victorines, mantelettes, collars, stoles, ties, and everything coming under the general designation of 'neck-piece,' is astonishing. Beautiful sets are shown in



A Mantle of Mink Furs for wear with visiting costumes are quite elaborately trimmed this season. A mink wrap, finished with underfrills of fine lace, is a luxurious garment.

sable, fox, ermine, and mink, and very desirable ones in the less expensive furs. In all, the natural markings of the fur are turned to the best account in the elaboration of the piece.

There is no article of fur in which the fashion changes so often as the muff. This season muffs are all large, and some of them quite enormous to meet the need of the short sleeve. This latter is a rather silly fashion in winter, and, indeed, is not likely to remain a fashion at all so far as out-of-door wraps are concerned. Most of the coats intended for wear through the season have the sleeve of quite reasonable length. The muffs are of the flat, pillow shape, rather than round, and some of the large ones are made without stiffening, so that one can plunge one's arms well into them, or crumple them into smaller compass as one chooses.

Fur-lined coats are to be very fashionable this winter. They are mostly either in three-quarter or seven-eighths length, and are all loose-fitting, or at most only slightly shaped to the figure. The empire effect is simulated on some, and others are after the 'top coat' models. One in a fine, supple beaver cloth of the castor shade, was made on modified Em-

pire lines, and finished with strappings of the cloth, with collar and revers of dark brown fox. A handsome garment was in seven-eighths length, of blue cloth, lined with white and gray squirrel, and having a full collar and cuffs of sable, while blue enamelled buttons rimmed with jet closed the front.

With the fur garment a glimpse of something lacy and delicate gives the finishing touch. The blouse of net, crepe de Chine, or lace, looks particularly well, and is quite warm enough under the fur jacket, while it is also adapted to the atmosphere of the house. There seems always to be some good and sufficient reason for the separate blouse, and new designs are constantly sought for. Something new was noticed the other day, in a clever combination of Dresden bordered ribbon and lace insertion. A cream silk crepe de Chine waist was made with a hand-embroidered yoke in broad, round scallops quite deep in front, and coming out well to the shoulders. The waist was gathered to the yoke and had several horizontal tucks running all the way round, with insertion of eluny lace set in lengthwise on each side of the front to below the tucks, and then continued around the body. The short sleeves were similarly tucked and inserted, and were finished with lace ruffles, the yoke also being outlined with a narrow ruffle.

With teas, receptions, and other entertainments coming close together in the weeks before Christmas, dressy toilettes for afternoon wear are of especial interest. There was, perhaps, never a time when a greater variety of styles prevailed for such occasions.

Among the most graceful and successful afternoon gowns are those of the empire or princess cut, over which are worn any of the little jackets or boleros of fur. Some fashion authorities declare that these graceful styles are going out, but, as a matter of fact, women find them too satisfactory, lending an air of distinction to the wearer, to be put aside.

BOOKS IN THE HOUSEHOLD.

'Books that you may carry to the fire and hold readily in your hands are the most useful after all,' pronounced Dr. Johnson, and every room should have its supply of such books, some as temporary visitors, some as permanent and honored inmates. Even when the house has its library, provision must be made for these literary friends; but in this case, the bulk of one's books having their local habitation definitely fixed, the revolving bookcase, the book trough, so convenient for standing by the

elbow of an easy chair, or, at most, a low bookshelf fitted into some convenient corner, will be all that is necessary in sitting-room.

There should always be books in a bedroom, where so many quiet moments may be spent. What a difference it makes on being ushered into the guests' room at the commencement of a visit if a few well chosen books give a welcome, and how their presence helps toward the desirable sensation of 'feeling one's self at home!' At the same time the books in a bedroom should have a special nook to themselves, and not trespass on the table or wardrobe space. In one bedroom, in an old-fashioned house, a book cupboard was planned which formed an appreciable addition to the furniture of the room. A small, not very useful, cupboard built into the wall, of the kind so often to be found in houses of forty or fifty years ago, was turned to account with the result referred to. The doors were taken away, the shelves fitted more closely together than those of the original cupboard, and a niche provided wherein to enshrine a plentiful supply of literature, both grave and gay. By lucky chance the niche in this instance happened to be between the window and the fireplace, equally well placed for both.