

DRESS ACCESSORIES.

PRETTY nearly all of the beautiful street and theatre dresses are braided. If the color of the cloth is not particularly pleasing against the face, the whole basque is striped with a darker or contrasting shade. There are braids and braids in trade, and if the buyer wants to make sure of the beauty of her gown the braids used on military uniforms should be procured as they will not shrink. The infantry tubular braid is made in a criss-cross pattern of mohair and silk and wears well. The artillery braid is another excellent trimming and for both there are netted frogs and olivettes as ornaments.

Among dainty adjuncts of the toilet are full under sleeves of mull dotted with red polka dots and finished at the waist with full frills of pointed embroidery in red.

Ribbon sashes, varying from a wide sash ribbon to a narrower width, in delicate color or tartan plaids, will encircle the waist of young ladies' house gowns.

At one or two recent weddings it was observed that dainty muffs, all but covered with rare and odorous blooms, have been affected by some of the smartest dressed guests. And I hear that these are but the forerunners of muffs to be almost entirely made of real and artificial flowers for summer wear. The idea is, of course, not a new one, as it is not long since that these pretty fancies were in vogue, but doubtless we shall find some way of improving upon the old idea; at all events, we shall certainly discover some means of making them more costly. That is a characteristic of latter-day fashions of all kinds. The craze for flowers is a very pardonable one, and the floral muffs ought to be very popular. It is certainly a charming way of carrying a posy, and the effect of spring gowns will be greatly enhanced by these beautiful accessories.

Flower panels are a new form of decoration, and flower borders still ornament dainty dresses of gauzy materials. A white satin skirt has a panel of poinsettias gleaming through its two tulle overskirts of different shades of crimson.

Flowers, despite rumors to the contrary, bid fair to be more worn than ever, both with evening and morning dress. Spring blossoms are just now greatly in request, and the leading modistes are using them in profusion on young girls' gowns. The floral border is still popular, but the newest way of all of trimming ball gowns with flowers is to arrange a trail from the left shoulder across the bodice and dress to the bottom of the opposite side of the skirt. Huge floral epaulettes of upstanding blooms, such as lilies of the valley, mimosa, and lilac, are very much used, and even necklaces of real sweet-smelling flowers are making their appearance. These are charming, especially if the wearer be very young and her gown simple. I saw the other evening a charming fair haired *debutante* in a gown of white silk gauze with soft silk pendant sleeves of lime green. Huge bunches of real lilies of the valley were scattered over the skirt and bodice, and round her neck she wore a thick fringe of the same fragrant little flower. It was the most delicate, reposeful looking gown I have seen for some time.

The butterfly bodice is quite the latest invention, and consists of a single large butterfly in front made of passementerie and beads so skilfully fashioned that it adapts itself exactly to the lines of the figure. A small butterfly decorates each shoulder and larger ones embellish the skirt. One handsome bodice of this kind is of ruby velvet, with the butterfly worked in gold and terra cotta, with a suspicion of turquoise blue, and another of black has the butterflies worked in jet. The same fertile inventive brain which evolved this marvel has designed a gown which promises to produce a sensation in the near future. It is of dahlia-colored velvet, with an elaborate train of the same material falling from the one shoulder, and lined with the richest Ottoman silk in a lighter shade. The entire front of the dress

is of pearl-colored corded silk, embroidered in the most beautiful flowers in silk and beads, and garnished with pearl and crystal pendants at intervals.

A lady not long since attempted to wear a dress with no trimmings, no pleats, no ruffles of any kind. The fad was not an entire success, it is recorded. Men and women stared at her with a sort of wondering pity, evidently taking her for a sister of the lady of whom we are told:—

Melissa Melinda McCann
Projected a laudable plan
To reform woman's dress
On a standard no less
Than the models affected by man.

Never a trimming she had;
For her no chimerical,
Cheap, millinerical,
Passementerical fad.

No doubt such an absence from frills and frivolities is admirable in its way, but I fear that it is as yet far from being admired—a distinction *with* a difference.

Kid gloves rival the long-famed Suedes in popularity in London, and four buttons are quite as correct as six. They are more easily fastened and more comfortable to wear under a close sleeve. There are no new colors, but lighter shades of the colors worn during the winter are employed. For street wear heavy kid gloves, with overlapped seams stitched with a contrasting color and fastened with heavy metal buttons, are very much used. Silk gloves are shown in fine French sewing silk, woven in one piece so that they fit perfectly to the fingers, and in the strong English glove which is made with seams. For evening wear Suede mitts are the newest thing, and they will be adopted by the women that have pretty hands and handsome rings, though they are rather ugly in themselves. The backs of some evening gloves are elaborately embroidered with steel and gold beads.

I spoke in a former letter of the growing favor of white cloth in Paris. It is considered the extreme of elegance for carriage and home toilettes. Of course white cloth is not used for street dresses, but it begins to appear in combination with other colors for such dresses, and while still exclusive and confined to a few, promises to become more popular for cool days as summer advances. Thus a brown cloth dress is made with a flat front of white cloth, buttoned at each side by numbers of small gilt buttons. The wrap of this dress is a double or triple cape of the brown cloth, edged with white. In another costume the entire front of white cloth in corsage and skirt is cut in small rounded points at the edges, and each point fastened down with a metal button. Another way in which white cloth is combined is the following: this costume has a skirt of gray bengaline, bordered with a thick pinked ruche of gray taffeta; the bodice and the inner part of the sleeve are of white cloth covered with beading of steel beads; in the front of the corsage are crossed draperies of bengaline, the outer part of the sleeve the same, and the deep cuffs are of beaded cloth. Young ladies are fond of wearing a Breton plastron or vest of white cloth embroidered in red, yellow, and green silks. Young ladies are also using much white woolen braid for trimming their spring and summer dresses. It is employed in one or several widths, and in a great variety of ways. Several rows border the skirt, or the three sides of a square tablier. On the bodice it outlines a square or round yoke, while on the sleeves it frames a puff or forms a deep cuff.

CRUEL.—Old gentleman (calling from the head of the stairs at a late hour)—“Susan! I wish you'd tell that young man down there that he'd do us a favor by telling the milkman to leave an extra quart if he meets him on his way home.”