

THE BLOUSE BEAUTIFUL.

THERE is to be no perceptible abatement of the blouse this season—in its many forms; the Louis Quinze bodices make that almost a certainty; since the temptation is to make of the former a coat which may be thrown aside, carried aboard a boat, or fastened in the leather straps of the wheel, while we rejoice in the fresh, cool blouse of silk linen or muslin.

Certainly waists of the dress proper are more in favour, but for every day uses the 'blouse blessed' will remain.

A bewilderingly pretty supply are shown in the big shops, and no woman's wardrobe is complete without three or four of delicate silk or shimmery stuffs.

We show some of the latest—two of which are to be found in the trousseau of our bride. No. 1 is of rich satin in combination of old rose and black. The bodice is covered with jetted net. It has a handsome jet yoke. Long ends of wide black satin ribbon form a sash at the back of the waist, while a big bow knot finishes the collar. The sleeves are edged with heavy jet passementerie, and long frills of Valenciennes lace fall over the hand, giving delicate effect to the latter.

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We also show, in No. 2, a very handsome jacket blouse of chameleon silk. The front and stock collar are of embroidered mouseline de soie. The old English jacket effect is emphasised by large miniature buttons set with rhinestones, which fasten across the bodice with Bedford lace insertion. The gauntlet cuffs and revers are also garnished with the Bedford lace.

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No. 3, is of blue chambrey, with cuffs and collar of white cambric. It has a pretty front of narrow bands of shirred cambric alternating with half a dozen narrow tucks of the chambrey. This blouse is a popular type for summer wear.

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In black and white check silk—a fashionable combination

A few minutes' chat with a well-known modiste gave us hints concerning what is being made up for summer wear, and the latest possibilities as revealed in Parisian art books.

We were shown a charming gown, just ready to go out. It was of Dresden silk in brown shades. The green silk bodice front was veiled with black net, dotted with iridescent sequins. The bodice was Louis XV. effect, markedly pointed both front and back, and falling in ripple on the hips. The silk revers were also pointed and veiled with the sequin trimming.

"A few tight sleeves are being made," said Miss Paton. "They are certainly coming; but we are making the change as unmarked as possible by large bows of the material being draped upon the shoulder, giving almost bare arm effect to the tight sleeve beneath. See," and she turned rapidly over a number of the latest art cuts. "The material is draped about the

plique work. We sent out a pretty costume to-day of blue and gold brocade; the revers and cuffs were braided.



"The neck finish, you notice, is very high, — quite up to the ears. The collar is finished with tabs, as many as you choose.

We wire them to make them stand out. But a prettier finish is the lace ruffle.

We cover our wire with baby ribbon and then run it through the lace edge;

when, of course, it does not show. These high lace ruffs and tabs are very becoming, although they make women look like ruffled hens.

"We have several princess dresses under order just now,—and they are not intended for house gowns. Ladies weary of the skirt and bodice are having them—just for a change. And, as you know, princess gowns are exceedingly becoming to many.

"For those who can afford it, we are lining skirts throughout with moreen. It is stiff and of excellent wear. Too heavy? No; I hardly think so. We put in nothing else except a narrow lining of net crepon. We get the latter straight from New York."

MADAM.

DETROIT, April 20, '96.

DEAR MADAM,—You ask for a fashion chat. The windows here seem to be full of those short reefer coats. The blazer evidently has had its day. The reefer, I think, is much prettier. The most fashionable one has two buttons down the front. Some suits are to be seen with the simulated blazer, with fancy vest of silk or chiffon; but the single blazers will not be worn at all.

The new shirt waists have all white collars and cuffs, made adjustable; one waist can soil out two sets of the latter. The front of the shirt waists do not appear as stiff as they were last year, but are fuller, and fall in softer folds.

The collars here are chiefly of the high turn-over variety, and the cuffs are small and round.

The complete rage in Detroit is for Persian silk and ribbon. I have seen some perfectly stunning dresses made of it. They are even made up in walking style, with jacket basque, and worn with a feather boa on the street. They look "swell."

I will write again when the May styles are out.

Your loving coz,
NANNIE.



for the season—we show, No. 4, a dainty soft effect, made with the bishop sleeve and black satin collar and cuffs.

sleeve top and caught up in a knot, or bow, to preserve some semblance of shoulder fullness. I should advise anyone to have

sleeves made in such fashion; since it is easily removed if the perfectly tight sleeve suddenly becomes acceptable. Then there are epaulet and cape effects over the tight sleeve;—anything to preserve the semblance of fullness.

Yet no one will be out of date who chooses a full sleeve, since they will be worn more or less all summer.

"All the sleeves shown are flared at the wrist and finished with deep frills of lace falling over the hands. Capes are to be worn—shoulder capes, made as full as possible.

"We are making skirts nine gores, and occasionally eleven gores, and are sending out many tailor-made costumes.

"Braiding effects, in one form or another, are shown; we have also embroidered panels, lappels and cuffs, after the fashion of ap-