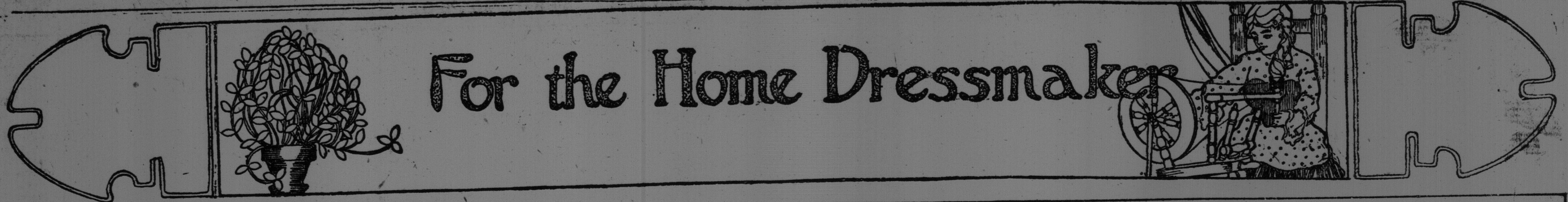


THE ST. JOHN STAR



For the Home Dressmaker

FASHIONS FOR THE SWEET GIRL GRADUATE

IF FOR no other reason, woman is needed on School Boards because she recognizes the futility of regulation commencement frocks. Every now and then a set of School Directors decrees that every High School girl graduate must wear a cap and gown at the graduating exercises of her class. Perhaps some of those men were fathers, and were moved to this innovation by an ulterior regard for the privy purse; but it's safe to say their pronouncements on extravagance do so little good as to scarcely make it worth while to deprive girlhood of one of its time-honored privileges—a fluffy, becoming commencement frock.

Undoubtedly, there is justice in the criticism that the dressing at graduation has been carried to excess, and that some of the class, perhaps, face the alternative of an uncomfortable feeling of shabbiness or an expense they can ill afford. But things have changed much for the better from the days when a commencement gown meant heavy silks and rich laces and chiffons. Now the flimsy lingerie frock is the only one considered for such an occasion, and it is surprising how cheaply a really charming gown may be made.

Of course, it must be white. Who ever heard of girlhood making her first bow to the work-a-day world of grown-upness in pink or blue or lavender? Such white, lovely fabrics there are to choose from, too, for this all-important commencement gown. As it does duty for a best dress all summer and for many an informal affair next winter, it is not such an extravagance after all. Mull, handkerchief linen, embroidered muslin, dotted batistes and swiss are the favorite materials; but equally fresh, dainty costumes can be evolved from plain India linen, dimity or Persian lawn. A very lovely soft sheer dress can be made of Paris muslin, which is wide and can be had in a really nice quality for 35 cents a yard.

When it comes to trimmings, naturally the cost of a gown may be extended indefinitely, but, after all, the prime requisite of a commencement frock is freshness and girlishness, and this desirable result may quite as often be gained by tiny thread tucks, fluffy ruffles of the material and a bit of lace at neck and sleeve as by the most elaborate motifs of lace and embroidery and the intricate frillings of an imported model. One of the daintiest and prettiest of the lin-

gerie insertion and the fine lace pleatings which are now so much the rage. The double stole-like ends of the yoke, with the added effect to give an extended shoulder effect, is particularly becoming to youthful slimness. Quite new is the arrangement of the soft bow tied through the hair, and very pretty and girlish is it.

Of fine handkerchief linen is the next gown, with its bands of baby Irish insertion edged with valenciennes lace ruffles on the waist. Vertical thread tucks between two bands of insertion form a shallow yoke below the French neck, while a design of hand embroidery is worked on the lower panel of the blouse.

If one owns a wide cluny lace collar, it could be used on a model like the next gown of dotted swiss, trimmed with bands of broad cluny lace insertion to simulate the stylish bretelle effect here shown. A soft sash of liberty satin has a short bow and ends falling to the hem of the dress.

A new idea, and very girlish and pretty is it, is shown in the last little frock of soft, creamy batiste, which is marked by its absolute simplicity. Broad bands of swiss insertion edged with full ruffles of valenciennes lace are crossed in front and carried around the waist, giving an Empire effect in the back.

The blouse is merely a plain, somewhat full Gretchen waist, with two horizontal tucks beneath the crossed bands, and the skirt is straight and full, with its only trimming six overlapping two and a half inch tucks.

Paris Notes

CHARMING models in hats are shown for little girls in the cloche shape so much in favor for her big sister. Very lovely they are, trimmed with quaint bunches of field flowers of soft lousine ribbon in pale shades of pink and blue.

Little capes which can hardly be distinguished from a bolero at first sight are much in favor, and are smart made in white cloth.

Tulle combined with lace is popular for the yoke and sleeves of the silk voile gown. Liberty satin also trims these frocks; a favorite method is to have a broad band of it around the bottom of the skirt.

Every variety of flowered pompadour materials is seen.

Sashes fastened high in the back to give the desired Empire effect are much used. Square buckles take the place of the



gerie gowns this year has no other trimming than multitudinous tiny tucks and the seams joined by a narrow beading.

This beading, by the way, is specially pronounced this season; sometimes it is of tiny crochet work, again of handwork, often of narrow cluny insertion. Not only is it used to outline seams, but all the lace is set in by it. It is seen in connection with laces, fine and heavy, cluny, valenciennes or Irish, or with lace and embroidery combined, but quite as often a gown has no other trimming but the beading, save, perhaps, some hand embroidery.

The new lingerie frocks are generally unlined. While the blouse and skirt are cut separately, these are frequently united by inset waistbands of lace in a modification of the princess idea. This is known as the Gabrielle princess effect, and may be worn over any slip. Generally the belts are extremely narrow bands of embroidery or lace, often raised a little in the back to

give the Empire lines. The regular tight-fitting princess style is also seen; but, after all, the two-piece dress is probably more used than anything, especially as sashes of soft ribbon are quite as much a feature of the new summer gowns as are the little pleated frills of fine lace and skirts of deep flouncing.

Sleeves are short, either just above or below the elbow, as is most becoming, but the long shoulder seam is usually in evidence. Collars are quite high, especially at the back of the ears, from which there is a slight slope to the front. Many yokes are seen, not very deep, however, and generally of one or more kinds of lace, as a baby Irish yoke with valenciennes trimmings.

A commencement gown may be worn either over a silk or a lawn slip. The former is generally a closely fitting princess slip of liberty or some other thin silk. Lawn, however, especially if daintily trimmed, really gives a gown a much more flimsy and summery look. It

is not sufficient, however, to utilize a petticoat, but a specially fitted slip skirt exactly the length of the outside one is provided, unless an unseemly gap is desired at the bottom of the dress. Though most of the elaborate lingerie gowns are made to train, many of the young girls' commencement gowns just touch.

Very simple and girlish are the pretty models sent us from Paris this week by Jeannette Hope, who so well understands the art of showing fashions that may be copied. The first model to the left is of soft mull, trimmed with valen-