

Chat of the Boudoir.

Every season there is some distinguishing feature of dress, some dominating mode which is continually employed until its continual reproduction gives it a prominence above everything else in sight. This year it is the taffeta silk coat and skirt gown, usually black but sometimes dark blue, pale grey, or beige, and so tucked and strapped all over that there is hardly a plain space to be seen.

Such a costume appeals to every woman on account of its usefulness as well as its becoming qualities and because of the fact that she will appear equally well dressed in it in the morning and afternoon. It is a silk gown which is something between a dressy frock and a severe tailor-made cloth costume and it has an air of dignified elegance about it which makes it suitable for women of all ages, an attribute peculiarly attractive to the matron for some mysterious reason.

Gowns especially designed for matrons, are exceptional in these days when age is not determined by any such trifle as a matter of dress, and young women and dowagers have almost equal chances in the field of modes. To be placarded, so to speak, with your accumulated years by a special mode of dress is not at all flattering to feminine vanity and will never obtain favor again now that the subtle line of difference is so lightly and generously drawn. Fashion does not force a woman to look old before her time, and if she does, it is more or less her own fault. She has a boon in this taffeta gown, and is wise enough to appreciate it.

It is both youthful and suitable, a commendation which will assure the success of almost any reasonable fashion, and for morning and afternoon wear, either walking or driving, it is most useful, while for a second travelling gown in the outfit for a European trip there is nothing like it.

There are all grades and conditions in these silk gowns which are more or less dressy as the occasion demands, and some of them are made of peau de soie trimmed with bands of velvet ribbon. A Paquin model of this order shows a gathered skirt with a narrow flat front breadth. Graduated bands of velvet begin at either side of the front, with a loop and a gold buckle, and extend all around the skirt.

The skirt is in the Louis XV style with a long barque laid in groups of flat pleats over the hips and back. Little cross bands of velvet ribbon with small buckles ornament the tucks, buttons decorate the front of the coat, which is short at the waist line only, and the collar and revers are faced with lace and gold embroidery.

This is an extreme style and as yet the grand exception among all the short jackets so generally worn. But the disposition to study the old fashions as a means of giving a new text is very evident in some of the tentative models shown. As for the coat which is at present the reigning mode, the bolero has the lead, especially as the part of the spring suit.

Among the garments which are classified as strictly for outdoor wear there are the long and three-quarter length coats in addition, besides some very fancy shoulder capes. And newer than all others is a loose bolero of taffeta with flowing sleeves and a hood effect draped around the shoulders. To wear over thin gowns, and made of gray taffeta, it is charming. This one of Worth's fancies, and a model is shown in one of the illustrations finished around the edge with a narrow ruche of silk fringed on the edge. The sleeves are tucked down to the elbow, below which the fullness forms the flare.

Some of the new costumes have a loose sacque effect, made by killing the material into a yoke. Graduated bands of stitched taffeta trim this killing, which ends a little above the waist line. Other of the loose jackets are cut straight and plain, either scalloped or cut in square on the edge. This sort of jacket usually fastens at the throat, only rounding out a little below the collar line, and being finished with a broad embroidered batiste collar. The sleeves end a little below the elbow, with a flaring cuff, and are cut in what is called a straight sleeve, which must be rather wide to preserve the proportions.

Another loose bolero has a double effect of the upper part lapsing over the lower, but not covering it. The sleeves have the same finish, all the edges being carried up in square and straight. White, yellow or even lawn or batiste usually forms the broad collar and under sleeves, but an occasional jacket shows a collar of flowered taffeta, which is a feature in the department of longer coats as well, and forms a facing down either side of the front, inside or an entire lining, if you like.

This short loose paletot is decidedly the latest thing in jackets and while it does not define the figure like those which are more closely fitted, it is extremely attractive on a slender woman since it is short enough to show the belt. For summer wear with thin gowns, these coats are made of flowered taffeta with a white, gray or beige ground, and trimmed around the edge with three rows of black velvet ribbon, and it must be remembered that they can be plaited into a yoke, shirred around the shoulders to form a yoke and the fullness all in one, or cut straight and plain without any yoke at all. They are cut out in the neck in different degrees as may be most becoming, sometimes sloping a little down the front, and nearly always being finished with a collar varying in width to suit the wearer.

One little model in flowered taffeta shows the shirred yoke, three rows of velvet ribbon on the edge, a narrow lace collar around the low-cut neck and a rosette bow of black velvet ribbon with ends at one side. The straight plain jackets are sometimes finished with a velvet edged ruff of the silk.

The striking feature of the long, and three-quarter length coats, is the collarless neck, which gives them something of the effect of a Japanese garment. Of course the wide shoulder collar of lace or embroidery is the finish, but this does not fill the place of the high standing collar to which we have become so accustomed. It will require some time for women to become fond of the drooping shoulder effect which these garments give, but all the same they have a certain chicness which is very attractive.

Some of them have an Empire yoke, with vertical tucks below, others are almost straight loose sacques trimmed liberally with stitched bands, and one dressy model shown in the illustration is striped up and down with cream lace insertion, the silk being cut out underneath. Another fancy in this style of coat is closely tucked up and down all round, and the Empire yoke is formed with bands of black velvet ribbon sewn on in a trellis design, fastening on the bust with a bow and long ends. The lace turn down collar and revers are the finish.

The lace coats are the most elaborate wraps in sight, either in black over white, all black or ecru lace over a color. One novel shape in ecru over a soft dark rose-colored silk fits the figure in Empire style, falling a little below the waist at the back, and with long tab ends in front. It is apparently made of a series of lace flounces and chiffon rosettes with ends at the finish in front. All over lace in a heavier quality forms other lace coats with a frill of plaited chiffon for a finish.

Extravagance beyond description is displayed in the long coats, some of which are called 'dust cloaks.' They are variously made of taffeta, pongee and a silky mohair, which is very light in weight. The same broad drooping shoulder effect which is seen in the shorter ones, characterizes these garments, and they are similarly treated with tucks and stitchings.

To return to the inexhaustible subject of boleros once more, there is a very short jaunty little affair made of tacked black taffeta, worn with the thinnest sleeve lawn blouses. It rounds up in the back, and points down in front to the waist line, and small as it is, you see the same quaintly shaped collar of lace or embroidered batiste. The little coat is a great feature of the outfit suits this season, and we see them in bright contrasting colors which make the costume very striking. For example with a white cloth or white mohair skirt, a blue green or red cloth coat is worn. It may have revers of the white trimmed with rows of stitching or braid, but the bright color with the white skirt is wonderfully effective.

Usually there is a finish of white pearl buttons and the sleeves are flowing in shape, showing the shr. sleeves below. Faience blue is one of the new and most attractive colors for this sort of coat, and we see it again among the linen costumes for morning wear.

These, by the way, are a conspicuous element of the new outfit for summer, and blue, dull pink, gray, beige, and white are the fashionable colors. Embroidery tucked batiste and heavy lace are used for trimming them, and yet there are many plain gowns with only tucks or stitched bands for decoration. The blouse waist and the bolero jacket are the two prevailing styles, the latter worn over a sheer white lawn blouse.

White gowns, always popular, will be more numerous than ever, and while there is a great variety of both silk and wool materials which can be used in their construction, we see again the pure white batistes and Porosa lawns made up with flounces of open work embroidery, this kind which resembles the old-fashioned work. As for the lace gowns they are legion, and varied beyond all precedent by

the use of various nets set in with irregular shaped insertions of lace.

A great variety of combinations can be found in the robe dresses, the skirts being made all ready to hang, and with material enough for the bodice and sleeves. Silk Bruges lace in designs faintly colored and arranged in a pale ecru net is one of the novelties, and less expensive are the nets variously trimmed with ruches of narrow gauze ribbon and little plaited frills of the same material.

Renaissance lace robes show more net than formerly, and yet there is no rule about them, for anything and everything in lace is worn, both in black and white. Nets with dots and tiny rings are very much used, especially our old friend, point d'esprit dots of all kinds and in all materials, are favored, a fact which brings the old time dotted swisses into vogue again.

Pretty simple gowns of white point d'esprit are trimmed with stitched bands of thin, white silk, a combination which is both novel and effective. The bands may encircle at rather wide intervals below the knee, a skirt which is tucked vertically above thus forming the flounce effect below. Of course, the bands may be arranged in any form which taste can suggest, but the simpler the design the more suitable it is to the material.

Silk mull forms one of the prettiest of all the thin gowns, and it is puffed, tucked and shirred without limit. One pretty model has three six-inch ruffs around the skirt with three fine tucks in each ruff, at the head of which is another group of five tucks arranged in scallops. This is a clever piece of needle work, but it is impossible these days to baffle the skill in hand work, especially as it applies to tucks.

Other swell gowns are shirred into two-inch puffs from the bust to the knee, and finished at the hem with one, two, or three tiny ruches. A scarf of chiffon covers the joining of the lace yoke and puffed bodice and also finishes the elbow sleeves arranged with a small gold slide and one soft end falling at the back. It is well to remember that all-over lace used for yokes, sleeves, and entire gowns, is always made over chiffon or mousseline de soie to soften the effect.

FRILLS OF FASHION.

Lace motifs are here again, but their renewed popularity is something to be measured later on. They are in lovely Chantilly, are made with a thumb piece and are run through at the top with velvet ribbon which ties just below the elbow.

Very quaint and pretty are the lace fibrous and berthes to wear with thin gowns as a shoulder wrap, and a befitting accompaniment to the becoming picture hats.

White petticoats of sheer fine lawn have resumed their rightful sway in the world of fashion this season, and developed great possibilities in the way of decoration. Exquisite flounces of fine embroidery are edged with lace; lace insertions and motifs are inset in all sorts of designs, and lace frills fall over each other quite as generously as if the garment were to be worn on the outside. In fact, these fancy skirts are very pretty indeed to wear with wash gowns, and then there are dainty petticoats of thin wash silk trimmed prettily with lace.

Gilt crinoline very gauzy in texture makes a charming toque with a few green leaves and a black velvet bow for trimming. The stylish bow of black velvet ribbon is the crowning touch on many of the light fancy strains, even though flowers are used, and nothing else sets them off so prettily. The simple hat is the one which gains distinction just at present, as millinery in general is a bewildering confusion of materials, blossoms and feathers. Plaited hats of mousseline with a straw facing and a wreath of flowers for trimming are charming.

One of the fancies of the day is fastening the belt at one side, instead of directly in front. Buckles are used in the usual way at this point or if the belt is wide it may be laced up at both sides.

The white linen or pique skirt is a necessary article in the summer wardrobe, and the pure white skirt waist is the correct thing to wear with it. It may be plain, tucked or embroidered, but it should be white and worn with a white belt and a white stock. White waists are also worn with the big colored linen skirts, and some of them have the embroidered ecru batiste collar.

A black velvet band fastened with a loop and some odd old-time clasps is worn around the waist.

Fanciful quills are very modish for outlining hats through a bow in front, giving the broad, not the high effect.

Parasols of mirror silk with inch wide

tan tucks around the edge are very chic with carved handles of ivory.

White silk roses with black velvet leave make a lovely trimming on a white straw hat faced with black.

Gray suede gloves have greater favor than any other one kind, and they certainly are as all around suitable with all gowns as any one color can be.

The linen batiste collar with lace applications is favored especially by Parisian dress designers. It is large, drooping well over the shoulder and appears on almost all the gowns.

The vogue for large Gainsborough hats is expected on account of the recovery of lost Daches of Devonshire, but large hats very similar in shape have never really gone out of fashion.

THE HOUSEMAIDS UNION.

Organized at Cincinnati—What are Constitutions and by laws are.

A few months ago a number of servant girls of Cincinnati held a meeting for the purpose of considering how they could best improve their conditions and protect their interests in a general way. One feature of the meeting was the absence of labor leaders, the girls being left entirely to themselves. The girls at that meeting decided to organize themselves into a union, to be known as the Housemaids' Union. Their progress has been very rapid and they now number 500 members and are under the protection of the American Federation of Labor.

At a recent meeting the girls adopted the following constitutions and by laws.

CONSTITUTION.

The motive of this housemaids' Union is to better the condition of girls employed at housework. The word 'servant' shall not be used, as each member has a distinct line of work, and shall be known as cook, housemaid, waitress, laundress, etc.

The qualifications necessary to join the union are ability to do your work, good character, and the payment of \$1 annually. Every infraction of the rules is punishable by a fine of 50 cents. Members when sick or out of work shall receive \$2 a week for not more than six weeks.

Election of officers shall take place annually upon the first of January.

This union being in the nature of an experiment, and absolute secrecy for a time being necessary to its success, any member known to reveal the secrets of the union or to mention the fact of its existence to other than working girls, and then only after ascertaining their willingness to join, will be expelled in disgrace and boycotted by all members.

WHAT THE BY LAWS ARE.

1. Members of this union, when hired for one kind of work, shall confine themselves to the duties for which they are paid. A girl employed as housemaid, found doing a cook's work, or vice versa, shall be warned the first time, fined \$1.00 for the second offence, and expelled from the union on the third offence.

2. Members of this union shall, under no condition, submit to impertinent or irrelevant questions from employers when seeking employment.

3. Members shall ask all useful questions in a business-like way before taking a position, and satisfactorily settle all points of difference with their employers.

4. Members shall look at the rooms they are to occupy before taking new places, and are forbidden to accept a situation unless they are provided with a room fit for a human being to sleep in.

5. Members shall not ask unreasonable favors or give reasons for leaving their places that are not true, nor obtain holidays under false pretences.

6. Members must have an agreement with their employers about receiving company. Every girl is entitled to a beau, else she will never get married, and she owes it to her self respect not to meet him on the corner.

7. Members shall keep themselves clean and suitably dressed for their duties. When the union is stronger it will insist on employers doing likewise.

8. Members shall insist on having proper food and time to eat it without endangering their lives by sleeping on a table.

9. Members shall not work for less than \$2.50 a week, nor take old clothes instead of their wages. (A scale of wages covering all grades of domestic labor will be agreed on as soon as possible.)

10. Members are forbidden to work in any place where the lady of the house goes.

TO THE DEAF.—A rich lady, cured of her Deafness and Noise in the Head by Dr. Nason's Artificial Ear Drums, has sent \$1,000 to his friends, so that deaf people unable to procure the Ear Drums may have them free. Apply to The Institute, 780 Eighth Avenue, New York.

Tonight

If your liver is out of order, causing Biliousness, Sick Headache, Heartburn, or Constipation, take a dose of

Hood's Pills

On retiring, and tomorrow your digestive organs will be regulated and you will be bright, active and ready for any kind of work. This has been the experience of others; it will be yours. HOOD'S PILLS are sold by all medicine dealers. 25 cts.

sips about her employees' affairs, or enters their rooms without their knowledge to pry into their private belongings.

A Telling Motto.

Sippery Sam—Have you heard the motto of the Pickpockets union? Slick Fingered Fail—No; what is it? Slippery Sam—Whoever is worth doing is worth doing well.

One Short Puff Clears the Head.—Does your head ache? Have you pains over your eyes? Is the breath offensive? These are certain symptoms of Catarrh. Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder will cure most stubborn cases in a marvelously short time. If you've had Catarrh a week it's a sure cure. If it's of fifty years' standing it's just as effective. 50 cents.—57

'I have come,' said the Old Subscriber, 'to complain about your report of my daughter's wedding.'

'What was the matter with it?' demanded the editor.

'Well, her name is Gratia, but you printed it 'Grati.'

'That's not so bad. She was given away, wasn't she?'

Bed-ridden 15 years.—'If anybody wants a written guarantee from me personally as to my wonderful cure from Rheumatism by South American Rheumatic Cure I will be the gladdest woman in the world to give it,' says Mrs. John Beaumont, of Elora. 'I had despaired of recovery up to the time of taking this wonderful remedy. It cured completely.'—58

Don't you kinder hanker after respectability now an' den? asked Ploddington Pete.

'Oj, I dunno,' answered Meandering Mike. 'Sometimes I think dat respectability ain' much more dan permission to work hard for what us people gits for nothin.'

Fossil Pills.—The demand is proof of their worth. Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills are beating out many fossil formulas at a quarter a box. They're better medicine, easier doses, and 10 cents a vial. A thousand ailments may arise from a disordered liver. Keep the liver right and you'll not have Sick Headache, Biliousness, Nausea, Constipation and Sallow Skin.—61

Magnetic Pabulum.—Tramp—I ast one of these yere Christian Science wimmen for a cup o' hot coffee.

T other Tramp—What'd she say?

Tramp—She said her fist waz out; but I'd set down off in th' yard under a tree she'd gimm' treatment.

Like Tearing the Heart Strings.—'It is not within the conception of man to measure my great sufferings from heart disease. For years I endured almost constant cutting and tearing pains about my heart, and many a time would have welcomed death. Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart has worked a veritable miracle.'—Thos. Hicks, Perth, Ont.—59

'Why are statues generally placed on such high pedestals?' 'For the reason, maybe, that they are supposed to represent people who should be looked up to.'

Where Doctors do agree!—Physicians no longer consider it catering to 'quackery' in recommending in practice so meritorious a remedy for Indigestion, Dyspepsia and Nervousness as South American Nervine. They realize that it is a step in advance in medical science and a sure and permanent cure for diseases of the stomach. It will cure you.—60

Gladys Gotrox—Since I refused Tom Poorly he has said he will never love again. Elith Wayupp—Well, he won't have to! He has just inherited a million!

Kidney Experiment.—There's no time for experimenting when you've discovered that you are a victim of some one form or another of kidney disease. Lay hold of the treatment that thousands have pinned their faith to and has cured quickly and permanently. South American Kidney Cure stands pre-eminent in the world of medicine as the kidney sufferer's true friend.—62

'Jones, next door, is getting old.' 'What do you go by?' 'He's quit talking baseball and gone to talking garden.'

Dr. Agnew's Ointment Cures Piles.—Itching, Bleeding and Blind Piles. Comfort in one application. It cures in three to six nights. It cures all skin diseases in young and old. A remedy beyond compare, and it never fails. 35 cents.—63

'Don't you think a man has to be well bred to have respect of himself?' 'No; being born lazy will do just as well.'

A Casket of Pearls.—Dr. Von Saw's Pineapple Tablets would prove a great solace to the disheartened dyspeptic if he would but test their potency. They're veritable gems in preventing the seating of stomach disorders, by aiding and stimulating digestion—60 of these health 'pearls' in a box, and they cost 35 cents. Recommended by most eminent physicians.—64