

FASHION TOPICS



HE fashions for late Spring and early summer are now fairly settled, although the Horse Show in May will, no doubt, bring out some new ideas in dress, or further developments of the prevailing ideas. In materials for the tailored costume,

the prevalence of striped effects is notable. Most of these striped goods are in black and white, gray and white, or in different tones of a color. The smartest costumes made from striped materials are self trimmed. A great deal of ingenuity is shown in the designing of these costumes, in some of which the stripes run simply up and down, in others diagonally, and in still others they are made to meet in points at the seams. In one costume of light gray cloth, striped with lines of black and white, made up with the stripes tending downward, the trimming consisted of a wide band of the material with the stripes running horizontally, bordered by narrower bands in which the lines showed on the diagonal. Only a skilled dressmaker or tailor is competent to deal with striped materials to advantage. Checks large and small, visible and—what is called—invisible, are very popular again this spring, particularly in grays, black and white, but also in a wide range of color combinations. Along with the fancy materials are shown any number of fine weaves in plain colors and shadings, which many women prefer, and which are always a safe choice.

Coat and skirt suits, and the two-piece dress are both fashionable. If one cannot have many changes, it will be found economical to have both jacket and waist matching the one skirt. Suppose one of the light weight cloths is chosen for the spring costume, and made with skirt, jacket, and waist of some kind, perhaps a 'jumper,' a shirt-waist with chemisette, or simply a sort of girder arrangement with bretelles widening into sleeve caps at the shoulders. The skirt and jacket can be worn with a separate blouse through the spring, and later, when the jacket is left off, the waist portion will be of excellent service. There is no radical change in the skirts this season. They still fit closely about the hips, and widen into much fulness at the feet. Skirts for wear on any sort of formal occasion, even the least ceremonious, are long and sweeping. Among the shorter ones for general wear, the plaited models are favored. Some are laid in plaits all round, starting from a panel in the front, but more have groups of inverted or side plaits at each of the gores. A modification of the old 'bell' skirt is predicted.

The distinguishing feature of the new jackets and bodices is the long shoulder seam. The kimono sleeve, cut in one piece with the bodice, is noticed on many of the more elaborate gowns and wraps, the suggestion of Orientalism being in some cases carried still further in the garniture of characteristic Eastern embroideries. Sleeves of 'dressy' gowns and waists are mostly short, but they either cover the elbows or, if shorter, end in frills which conceal that all-too-often unlovely point. Quite a number of the tailored jackets have full length sleeves, others have the half or three-quarter length. There is a great variety in these little jackets. Etons, boleros, the pony coat, the jaunty little half-military jacket, and the close-fitting coat with vest fronts, are all to the fore. A separate coat is a useful garment, made of light weight cloth, in some neutral color which can be worn with anything. Such a coat does duty with afternoon or calling gowns now, and will come in very useful for evenings later on. A good model is of tan or bisque cloth made loose and in three-quarter length, with the fashionable big sleeve set in the exaggeratedly large arm-hole, the joining hidden by a wide fold over the shoulder, giving the long,

drooping effect. A coat of this description, made up for wear at the Horse Show, is of bisque cashmere, simply finished with enamelled buttons down the front and on the deep turn-back cuffs, and with a flat collar of pale blue satin over-laid with lace.

Shirt-waist suits, in plain and in 'glorified' designs, are already shown in numbers that presage another summer of popularity for this practical dress. They are developed in many materials, striped ginghams, plain and embroidered linens, silky mohairs, cotton voiles,



A Visiting Gown

This is made of biscuit-colored material, decorated black cloth and Russian braid. The sleeveless coat is one of the new features.

and silks of different kinds. The separate lingerie blouses are very dainty this year. They are made of handkerchief linen, batiste, Persian lawn, and all sorts of sheer materials, ornamented with hand embroidery and insertions of lace. A good model has the front plain, the fulness provided by tucks, and an underlaid plait at the shoulders. On the plain space is lavished the decoration, which is carried up on to the collar, and is reproduced on the cuffs when there are any. A beautiful shirt-waist dress of white handkerchief linen had the plain part of the waist front embroidered in a design of chrysanthemums and leaves—all in white, of course. The seven-gored skirt was laid in groups of plaits at the gores, and the front panel was embroidered in the chrysanthemums, the design widening gradually from its starting point a foot or so below the belt, to the hem. An embroidered linen parasol and a white hat trimmed with roses completed a charming costume.

White will be worn a great deal again this coming summer. Among white costumes, one of serge is very serviceable, as it will go through almost the whole season without cleaning, and can be worn on occasions where an ordinary linen or lawn would be out of place. The coat and skirt model is the best for a white serge costume, and if one of the medium length, loose designs is chosen for the coat, it will give good service with the sheer white frocks when there is 'a cool spell.' Colored linens are made into smart suits, only second to the white ones in popularity.

Silk costumes are worn now on almost all occasions. Of course, the silk is a very different kind from that of the 'best black silk' which lasted our grandmothers for years and years, for all state occasions,—and only state occasions. The new weaves are not required to wear so long or look so stately, but they are lighter, more pliable, cooler and more comfortable. Tussore, rajah, shantung, and chiffon taffetas are all favored for coat-and-skirt costumes, shirt-waist suits for street wear or travelling, and dresses for afternoons in the house. For the last-mentioned purpose, some of the foulards are excellent. The good old stand-by, white coin spots or polka dots on a blue ground, makes up very prettily with a 'jumper' waist over a cream lace guimpe with sleeves formed of a series of lace ruffles. Bands of plain blue taffeta make an effective trimming. A suit of golden brown pongee looks very smart trimmed with bands of the material braided with soutache in a darker brown.

Marquissette is a favorite new material. It is a refined order of silk grenadine, and drapes beautifully. Voile, liberty silk, crepe, and all the sheer silky materials, are made up elaborately for ceremonious occasions.



Putting Away Furs

The fur garments should be put carefully away as soon as the weather permits, before the moth has a chance to deposit her eggs among them. If the furs are perfectly clean when they are put away, the danger to them through the summer is minimized. Choose a day when there is both sunshine and wind.

Take each fur article and beat, shake, and brush it until it is entirely free of dust, blow the fur apart and see that there are no suspicious particles hidden, then hang it on a line to air for two or three hours. It will be seen that this must be done before the moth is on the wing. There are two ways of safe-guarding the furs. One is to hang them in a clean closet where they can easily be got at to be taken out once a week, examined and aired out of doors, but few care to take so much

trouble. An effective plan is to sprinkle the furs with pepper, or place among them camphor balls, cedar, shavings of Russian leather, or any substance with a pungent odor, which moths abhor. Then enclose each article in a newspaper, as printer's ink is obnoxious to the insects, and put the furs in a cedar chest, if you are fortunate enough to have one—such a chest in itself is a good protection—or in a large pasteboard box, sealing the cover down by pasting on strips of newspaper. Unless there is plenty of room to lay out full length, a fur coat should be placed in a roomy cotton sack, the coat being first sealed up with moth preventive and newspapers, and hung in a closet.

Grease spots or soiled places on furs can usually be removed by rubbing in handfuls of heated bran or corn meal—the latter for light furs—and letting it remain for twenty-four hours, then brushing it out thoroughly. French magnesia can be used on white furs.