

Our Letter From Paris

PARIS, June 2.

THE Parisian tailor has been very lucky this season, for the weather has been inclement in the extreme, and the charming spring frocks usually worn at this time of year by the elegantes had to be saved for some future occasion. Costumes of cloth and serge have been, up to date, the only ones worn, and even dark colors are favored; but these tailored suits are interesting because they are quite different from any production of former years.

There are skirts of largely checked black and white linage, accompanied by jackets of fine black satin-faced cloth, cut swallow-tail and worn over a white satin vest and an old lace jabot. Sometimes they are trimmed with soutache and sometimes with passementerie. The tailors, too, have launched skirts of materials that have hitherto never been seen. They show alternating stripes of patterned and plain stuff exactly matching each other. This material is pleated, and with each motion, it produces an iridescent effect which is most original and chic. With these skirts a plain silk or cloth jacket is worn. The revers and vestings are embroidered and braided.

The tailors are combining novelties of great elegance, and nowadays the so-called classical tailor-made is never seen in a close-fitting version. There are curved backs on tailored coats.

White serge suits are shown in the shops, although it has been too cold for them to be seen on the street as yet. These are made on the inimitable style, heavily trimmed and bound with white soutache braid. When there are others where the jackets are cutaway. These, too, are bound in soutache. The skirts for these suits are made walking length, and they are either circular or gored.

A jacket seen of a new shape, by Doucet, is loose at the waist and cut round in front. Its originality consists in a kind of draped front, so arranged as to form three deep folds fastened with three pearl buttons.

The tailors have certainly made the most of their popularity, for they have launched also new fashions for men, which have become instantly the rage among the beaux of Paris. According to the present fashion a man's coat must be cut tight at the waist and finished with wide skirts, while two pockets are cut across. The most fashionable colors are dark green, violet and brown. The vests are almost always made of a light material and bound all around, pockets and all, with the same material in a much darker shade.

But to return to the costumes of the ladies. Pleated skirts, except for very light materials, seem to have gone out of fashion, but, if they are no longer pleated, they are trimmed with braid and many small buttons. The plainest skirts have now a wide fold at the back. They are higher at the waist line and looser, but very tight over the hips. With skirts cut on this plan very little trimming is used. When soutache is used as trimming it is in a small design; the Greek key is a favorite for a simple skirt. When skirts are long any kind of trimming can be used, and covered buttons are again in fashion—they look well on fancy tailor-made dresses. Buttons, too, like those used on men's trousers, are original and new.

A particularly elegant tailor-made costume, seen at the Cafe Madrid the other afternoon, was made with brown, green and gray mixed woolen material, trimmed with black silk soutache, finished down the front with a cambric ruche edged with valencienne. The green straw toque was trimmed with a torse of velvet and three or four bright green quills.

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Elvira

COSTUMES FOR SUMMER WEATHER



To Help You Make a Shirtwaist

MANY women make their own shirtwaists and blouses who would never think of cutting out and sewing up a skirt of the simplest variety. One reason for this is, I suppose, because the waist is in small sections and may be easily handled and conveniently tucked away in the workbag, while the skirt is bulky, refusing to be readily disposed of, and can, by no stretch of the imagination, be called "fancy work."

The very best of patterns needs to be adjusted to the individual wearer. Did it ever occur to you how unreasonable we are in what we require of a pattern? Every woman who buys a pattern expects it to fit her—and just think how many women buy the same pattern! If these same women tried on one another's clothes, how well do you suppose they would fit?

It is well worth knowing where to make alterations so as not to disturb the lines and style of the pattern.

The line of the neck and the line of the arm-size should never be cut close to the pattern, for these are places where frequently alterations are made.

Collars are often hard to fit because the neck has been cut out too much. To adjust the collar properly to the neck, the waist should be tried on and the neck, which has been cut high, clipped little by little, and gently stretched until it settles into place without a wrinkle. Then the collar may be pinned about the neck, fitting it comfortably and smoothly, then pin its lower edge carefully to the waist neck. The very best collars are straight strips of material, curved gradually at the top to measure one-quarter to one-half of an inch higher in the back than in the front. It is possible to fit these straight collars smoothly, provided the waist is cut high enough at the neck. A collar with a wide curve at its lower edge, which sets down below the throat line, gives the neck a thick look and robs it of all slender, column-like grace.

A common fault is to cut out the arm-size too much under the arm. This done and the sleeve sewed in, the arm is pinned to the side and loses all freedom of motion; whereas, if the waist is cut under the arm, the sleeve may be tight, yet the arm may be raised above the head with no disaster to the waist.

When the shoulder seams must be altered care should be taken to keep the line true and the position right—neither too far to the front nor to the back. At the base of the collar the neck line should be divided into three equal parts; the line from shoulder seam to shoulder seam across the front should measure exactly twice as much as the line from shoulder seam to shoulder seam across the back.

The shoulder seam must not be too long, else the sleeve cannot be fitted with the necessary trim, square look.

To adjust the waist at the belt line a narrow belt should be pinned about the waist line, and to this the fulness should be pinned, keeping the seams and line of fulness as perpendicular as possible. Let the under-arm seam fall straight and let it be an easy fit from the arm-size to the belt line.

Gather the fulness into about a seven-inch space at the belt line in front, three and a half inches each side of the center front if the shirt closes in the front. A five-inch space will hold the fulness of the back at the waist line.

COSTUMES for summer weather must not only include light dresses of silks and cottons, but also a few gowns that may be worn on cooler days at seashore and mountains, and for these there are no better materials than wool voile and light cashmere. There is no reason, however, why the gowns—no matter how warm they may be—should be either stiff or unbecoming, and there are a few suggestions on the page today for the making of such frocks.

In the first place, they should not be too short. Wool voile is a material that needs a little sweep to give the appearance of grace that belongs to it. Then the material is so elastic that it will not hold without a belt line, so it is not the sort of thing that may be made in one piece to hang from the shoulders.

A wool voile in a soft shade of brown is made in pleats, while the veer effect is obtained by two bands of embroidery crossed in the front. These are edged with a narrow ruche of lace and fastened by four satiny covered buttons in black. The circle is of black satin, while a band of the same finishes the collar at the top. This gown is most attractive, and might be worn in the afternoon if the occasion be not too formal.

A pretty model, which would be good for linen as well as voile, is in a shade of grayish blue. The long

line from the right shoulder across to the left side is good, and the little vest-like front is becoming. The gumpie itself is of tucked sheer linen, while the cravat is of black satin with a wide ruche of lace, which should match that used for the vest. The band around the gumpie line should be of taffeta; if made of the material it would not hold in place. If linen be used, the band may be of the same, and should be stitched. The gown is really charming, and it is so simple that it could not fail to be satisfactory.

A striped wool voile is worn over a gumpie of shiny lace. The neck and sleeve edging, as well as the band down the front, are of brown taffeta, which material also covers the buttons.

This frock would also be very attractive made of linen, gingham or cotton voile. In fact, any of these dresses may be made of other materials, although voile and cashmere are so soft and wear so long that they are very desirable. The first gown with the crossed vest would be beautiful of silk cashmere in a soft shade of champagne, and it would then be appropriate for quite dressy occasions.

Of course, a variation in the color of the wash will do wonders toward helping the costume from plainness to dressiness, and when really handsome dresses are needed cotton cloth is the ideal material.

SEEN IN THE SHOPS

Waterproof Silk
PARASOLS which may serve in all kinds of weather are becoming more and more recognized, and they may be found in all the gay colors. There are some even with knife-pleated ruffles around the edge. These last will deceive every one, for they look just like the lightest of sunshades, but they are really waterproof and will protect one from the rain.

One parasol handle and frame will now do as a foundation for several parasols, for the newest ones have separate covers of different colored silks to simply stretch over the one frame. Think how convenient this would be for traveling, for it would be necessary only to carry a stick and frame covered with a somber waterproof cover, which would be quite appropriate in case of rain or shine, and then, when one has reached her destination, the parasol could be turned into a light and airy thing that would suit any dress.

There are, too, some afternoon coats made of waterproof silk to wear with summer gowns for driving and motor-ing. It seems as though in time we will all wear waterproof clothes entirely; and indeed it would be a clever idea, for it would save a great deal of the anxiety caused by the ever-fickle weather.

Important Accessory
GIRDLES with sash ends are becoming more popular than ever and they are shown in a large variety of styles—some of them tied in front, some in the back and some on the sides. They are made in all shades and widths of ribbon. There are many shops, too, which make a specialty of building girdles to exactly fit the person desiring them. Girdles are an important feature of the costume, and good fit and good style in this little accessory is worthy consideration.

Fluffy Neckwear
HUGE bows and frills of net have lace-trimmed or embroidered edges, and are worn with stocks of tucked net. Some of the newest neckties are made of finest silk mousseline or mull, fully eight inches in width, with deep embroidered edge. They are tied in two loops and two wide ends.

Novelties in Jewelry
IN JEWELRY the best houses are showing all sorts of little odds and ends which help make the toilet complete. Little watch charms in the form of telegrams have a message engraved inside and one has merely to open the envelope to find it. They are made in enamel and gold. Then there are

Children's Frocks Easily Ironed



CHILDREN'S clothes must be washed! That is a statement which allows of no argument. In fact, it is an axiom. So, when selecting models for children, wise mothers have found that the most satisfactory are those which are easy to iron. This year the designers have realized the importance of the laundering qualities, and they have put on the market several styles of frocks that may be laid flat upon the ironing board on Tuesday morning. These are open from top to bottom on both sides, directly in front or directly in the back. If the dress is pleated, it is obvious that it simplifies matters greatly if the buttons are on either side, for it may then be laid flat on a large table; otherwise it is necessary to baste in the pleats so they will keep their shape. The buttonholes are covered with a flap, so that when the dress is on the child, there is no visible opening. This greatly aids to the style of the dress.

A little frock fastened on one shoulder is so arranged that, by unbuttoning it, it may be slipped over the board to iron directly in front or directly in the back. Some are made in one piece, with a kind of square hole cut out for the neck, which is filled up by a dainty cambric gumpie. If fulness is needed in the skirt, the frock is laid in pleats, with the upper part stitched whole to the waist line, while the skirt is allowed to fly; this is a very satisfactory way to make such a dress, and when the neck is trimmed with Hamburg it is very effective.

Other little dresses are made of plain gingham piped with bright tartan plaids, and still others are piped with white. Dresses for little boys are made of stripes and trimmed with checks. While bordered lawns make fascinating "frocks" for little girls, these may be guiltless of trimming. The gumpie must, of course, be separate, but it is not necessary for it to extend all the way to the waist, for it may be held in place by a few large loops.

Narrow Ties

NECKWEAR is interesting to talk about, for there is always a new style or finishing touch which is quite worthy of consideration. There are narrow ties of velvet ribbon or striped taffeta, made into a smart bow in front with ends several inches long, finished with a gold tassel or with a fringe of colored beads. Another new fad is a band of tiny beads knitted into a design and decorated with fringe; this barbaric necklace passes once round the neck and ties in front in a loose knot over a jabot.

A New Color

"RUST" is the very latest creation in the color line, and it is—as the name implies—a sort of reddish brown. At present it is said to be rather a popular shade for dress materials, because it allows of almost any color but—violet, green, pink or blue will harmonize with it equally well.

Decorative Hatpins

HUGE hatpins are still in vogue, and there are some new ones of pearl, which are stuck through the hair at the side, just above the ear, and this gives the effect of a rather barbarous adornment. Some of these large pins are very handsome, for they are made of jade, ivory or finest jet.

Popularity of the Ruche

RUCHING is as popular as ever, and is worn at the top of the collar. Some of it is two inches in width and made of four thicknesses of material. This is somewhat exaggerated, but it really does make an attractive finish to the top of the new frocks. Some of the ruching is hand-embroidered; other sorts are plain white, finished with the little ruffling of valenciennes lace edging.