

Chat of the Boudoir.

To dress well is an art, and all women are not artists, but to dress appropriately to the occasion is a possible acquirement for every one, and according to the old English proverb, "All is fine that is fit." A truly refined woman would rather follow than lead a fashion, and she is not well dressed who seems herself to be secondary to her clothes.

"Full dress," means a gown with low neck and short sleeves irrespective of elegance. It is worn at balls, the opera, at dinners musicales and other entertainments at private houses. Many persons wear full dress in the evenings. After six o'clock it is correct never before.

For a ball the essential quality of a gown is its freshness. Simplicity often gives an added charm if the wearer is youthful. To the married women should be left the silks, satins, brocades and velvets, the spangled laces and embroidered crepes.

Dainty, diaphanous materials are most becoming to young faces. White organza chiffon, mousseline de soie, tulle and China crepe are some of the gossamer fabrics that led one enthusiast to remark that their wearers seemed the connecting link between woman and angels!

Girls wear in their hair natural or artificial flowers, gauze, -ringed butterflies, or tied bows of ribbon chiffon; married women, lilies and ostrich tips.

Long white kid gloves, and patent leather slippers, or satin ones matching the gown, complete the toilette.

Girls wear little jewelry—only a string of pearls, or ribbon about the throat holding a small pendant, while married women exhaust the resources of their jewel-boxes. The only difference between tea dress at a ball and an informal dance is in the degree of elegance.

Dressing for Opera, Theatre and Dinners
At the opera the women in the boxes appear in all the bravery of ball attire with jewels galore.

In England women do not hesitate to wear "decollate" gowns at a theatre, concert or even in a public restaurant, but in America it is thought more seemly to wear a high necked gown, or a guimpe and long sleeve of lace and chiffon to fill in a low bodice, even at the opera, when not within the shelter of a box. White gloves only are worn at the theatre.

Consideration for others has banished hats. Those who wear them upon entering, remove them before the curtain rises.

For large dinners women reserve their finest gowns. They are subject to closer inspection and risk no décolletage at dances. Low neck and short sleeves are worn universally except by elderly or delicate women, who cover neck and arms with some becoming arrangement of lace or chiffon. Patent leather or satin slippers and white gloves are worn. The latter are removed at table and resumed in the drawing room or not as one pleases.

At informal dinners the gowns are often of black tulle jotted or spangled, black satin with low trimmed bodices, or elaborate high waists of chiffon or lace are worn with skirts of silk, satin or velvet.

Young girls make a distinction in their dresses for little dinners by wearing lace or chiffon sleeves with their low necked gowns.

A hostess shows good taste in dressing somewhat more simply than her guests. It is optional whether or not she wears gloves. For luncheons, reception and afternoon teas the guests wear street costumes, removing their wraps in the hall or in an upper room, but retaining their hats. The hostess and those receiving with her may be dressed as elegantly as they please, but high necked gowns only are worn, with out bonnets and often without gloves. In making her debut the young girl generally wears white.

When a Tea-Gown May be Worn.

Tea-gowns, despite the name, are not worn at teas, nor is any semi-loose garment suitable in which to appear in public. They originated at English country houses, and were found convenient to slip on after retreating from ride or drive before dressing for dinner. The house-party would meet for afternoon tea, and if callers dropped in the informality of the occasion excused the neglect. In America they are worn occasionally by ladies who receive every week in the season, or at very small luncheons, and are supposed to indicate great informality.

For "days at home" girls and young married women wear pale shades of cloth with pretty bodices; light silks, China crepes, or light bodices of silk or chiffon, with dark skirts. For older women, Fashion's present edict imposes dressy

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black gowns in all varieties—such as before described for little dinners, but always made with high necked bodices, or simple silk or satin gowns worn with lace fichus.

Dressing for the House and for the Street
At home a woman should be guided in her manner of dressing by an even greater desire to please than elsewhere. Her husband may be the most unobservant of men, but he will know when she looks neat and attractive, with hair newly dressed, and some pretty arrangement about the bodice of her gown. The practice of wearing soiled flannel at home cannot be too strongly deprecated.

It is a reversal of the proprieties when a mother dresses her daughters in a more expensive style than herself. In the street elaborate dressing is in bad taste. The old rule, "dress so as to pass unobserved," seems to have changed to "dress so as to challenge admiration," but a gentleman who can afford to dress expensively would have her carriage to drive in.

A costume of dark cloth, rough or smooth, with a becoming hat, not too large, stout boots, and dogskin gloves, worn rather loose, is the fashionable morning attire for the street in winter. A woman's appearance must suggest that quality expressed in the slang of the day as "well groomed." For shopping, morning classes, charity meetings or informal visiting such dress is appropriate.

Dressing for Driving and Riding
For driving and coaching we now imitate the good sense and practical utility of English women's dress. No guaze parasols, no dainty furbelows, but garments that fear neither sun, rain nor dust. A driving coat, covert jacket or golf cape, a hat without feathers, and which will stay on, defying wind and weather, a small parasol that shades one's eyes without imperiling those of one's neighbor, is an ideal outfit for a drive.

For riding the fashionable habit is of Oxford gray cloth, black, or invisible green, made severely plain. When not mounted the wearer loops the train on a button at the back, which gives the skirt the appearance of an ordinary walking gown. In front it clears the ground by two inches.

A single breasted jacket, long enough over the hips to almost touch the saddle, and cut away in front, is worn over a waistcoat or flannel waist. In summer it is worn over a shirt-waist and left unbuttoned, or discarded altogether. Trousers or black tights are worn under the skirt.

A Derby hat, or a sailor in the country, dogskin gloves and a crop of "Whang-hee" (a flexible reed tipped with silver) complete the costume.

Costumes for Golf and Bicycling
For golf the regulation attire is a cloth skirt, three inches from the ground, flannel waist, jacket of scarlet cloth, and soft felt Alpine hat, trimmed with plaid silk scarf and long quill. For summer a duck skirt and shirt-waist are worn, with Alpine hat of stitched duck, with scarf and quill or pompon or straw sailor, and chamomile gloves buttoned on the back of the hand. Russet shoes with hobnails or bits of rubber on the soles are worn to prevent slipping.

For bicycling a skirt of double-faced cloth requiring no lining, three inches from the ground, with a jacket of covert, is worn with a flannel or shirt waist, according to the season, or the entire costume may be of the same cloth—including the Tyrolean hat—with cock feather at the side. Some prefer skirts of duck or heavy linen in summer.

For rainy days girls are adopting the sensible fashion of wearing their golf suits. For travelling nothing is better than a costume of blue serge or other serviceable woolen goods, tailor-made. The hat should be chosen with discretion. A becoming one gives a woman a distinct moral support. It should be small that the brim may not catch in the wind, and with out feathers that fear dampness, or flowers that change in sunshine.

For the Traveller and the Stay-at-Home
An ulster and soft felt hat are best for steamer wear, with callskin boots or rubber soled russet ones.

At hotel tables a gentleman, when

traveling, dresses so as to attract no attention. At breakfast a cloth or serge gown, with waist to match or a simple silk bodice, would be appropriate, and for dinner a more elaborate bodice with black silk or satin skirt, or a plain gown with pretty lace fichu. Nothing bizarre, no exaggeration of the prevailing mode would be worn.

In summer young women live almost exclusively in shirt waists and duck or pique skirts, with sailor, Panama or Alpine hats. These gowns are varied for the afternoon with those of sheer net, organza, dimity plain or dotted Swiss, toulard and batiste, and when tastefully made are appropriately worn with flower trimmed Leghorn hats for visiting garden parties or lunch soons. White gowns are much worn at church with hats that are tasteful but inconspicuous. Chamomile gloves are popular for ordinary use, but many discard gloves altogether except for church or dressy occasions—comfort versus conventionality.

It is a growing fashion for girls to wear low-necked gowns in the evenings. Comfort commends it. The materials are usually plain or flowered organdies, Swiss muslin worn over different colors, or silk skirts with black chiffon waists. Simple ball gowns have renewed opportunities of usefulness.

Older women wear foulards, canvas, nun's veiling, nainsook and dimity in the morning; grenadine, China crepe, summer silk and black net gowns in the evening. For church and visiting a simple or a dressy hat makes a difference of attire with these same gowns.

FRILLS OF FASHION.

Suede kid slippers in a variety of colors to match the gowns are worn this season. Some of the more fancy kinds show a trimming of gold braid.

The craze for fancy handkerchief squares of silk has assumed a new form since the fad for waists made of these squares broke out in the spring, and they are used as a hat trimming, being draped softly around the crown with the corners falling in short ends over the brim at the back. The centres of these particular handkerchiefs are patterned in Persian designs, scrolls and polka dots, in some rich and rather dark color, and the borders, fully three inches wide are in plain white or a contrasting color. Their use is confined chiefly to outing hats for golfing and morning wear.

White corselet belts of plaid ribbon are worn with either black or white gowns and are finished with cash ends or not, as you like.

A novel feature of parasol handles in England is the head of some General fighting in South Africa, either carved in wood or wrought out in silver or gold.

Handsomely embroidered ecru batiste made up over pink silk constitutes one of the prettiest bridesmaid's gowns seen this season. Insertings of lace may be added for greater elegance.

Black and white lace gowns are coming rapidly to the front for the matron's full dress, leaving the spangled nets quite out of the race.

Russian linen in the ecru shades is used for yachting and golfing gowns, which are made without any lining. The short skirts have stitched hems, tucks down either side of the front and one box plait in the back, and the jackets are Eton in shape with short bell sleeves, worn over a colored shirt waist.

Canvas sailor hats are trimmed with a folded band of soft silk delfty twisted and looped into a stylish bow in front. A fold of black velvet finishes the brim.

The Psyche knot has appeared again among the fashionable modes of hairdressing, but it is only the woman with a Madonna face who can welcome this special variety.

The pure white shirtwaist is the most universal feature of summer dress. It is worn by women of every social rank, varying in perfection of fit, shape, quality and degree of decoration according to the

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amount of money expended. These shirt waists amount almost to a uniform if you view any number of women in morning attire, but they are decidedly the prettiest of all the shirtwaists. The finest, most sheer and dainty fabrics are used in their construction and no end of expensive embroideries and laces form the trimming.

If you are supplied with dozens of shirtwaists, as fashionable girls are, there is a special shirtwaist trunk which is a charming convenience for travelling.

Miles of narrow black ribbon velvet are used on the muslin gowns.

Linen and pique gowns are trimmed with machine-stitched ribbon bands.

One variety of sporting hat made of coarse but tight white straw has a slightly drooping brim, and a scarf of cream can vye with large moons of some light color in silk scattered over it is twisted around the cone-shaped crown.

A little book filled with leaves of tissue paper covered with face powder is one of the useful toilet accessories imported for summer use. The powder remains fast until the paper is applied to the skin and the fragrance and tonic effects are highly recommended.

Some very swell bathing suits are made of black satin, with a colored linen collar and vest. A square of bright silk is draped around the head over the rubber cap, and the woman with a full figure, who prefers not to wear corsets, has a deep girdle belt can fully house, and wears a bus supporter with straps over the shoulders.

A pretty skirt for cycling is made with a rather deep yoke pointing down in front and at the back, the lower part being box-plaited on to this.

Two-piece linen suits in white or colors are all the rage, but their especial chic quality is in the fact that they are tailor made with exclusive smartness in the finish.

Very pretty fancy belts are made of narrow bands of colored sued leather joined at intervals with gold slides over a satin lining. Velvet ribbon is also used in this way, and then there are narrow belts of perforated leather over satin, fastened with a handsome gold clasp. A gold serpent set with turquoise forms an ornament at the back of some of the ribbon belts, and belt pins are as much worn as ever.

Another little fancy in the way of neck decoration is a black silk soft cord as large as the end of one's little finger covered with fine jet beads, finished at the ends with a jet tassel and worn once around the neck and tied in one knot, the ends falling to the bust. With a white shirtwaist and a

collarband of pink ribbon fastened with short ends in front, it is very effective.

Jewelled neckband brooches, pins for the hair which confine the short locks at the back, neck chains and jewelled or enamelled belts are all very popular.

London at Night.

It is a market night in London and the streets will be a moving mass of men and women buying at the bucketers' stalls. Everything that can be sold at a stall is there—fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, crockery, tinware, children's clothing and cheap toys, boots, shoes and sunbonnets, all in reckless confusion. The vendors cry their wares in stentorian tones, vying with one another to produce excitement and induce patronage, while gas jets are streaming into the air from the roofs and firing from the sides of the stalls, children crying, children dancing to the strains of an accordion, children quarrelling, children scrambling for the refuse fruit. In the midst of this spectacle, this din and uproar the women are chattering and bargaining quite calmly, watching the scales to see that they get their full pennyworth or six-pennyworth of this or that.

To the student of faces, of manner, of voices, of gestures; to the person who sees unwritten and unwearable stories in all these groups of men, women and children, the scene reveals many things; some comedies, many tragedies, a few plain narratives (thank God!) and now and then, only now and then a romance. As to the dark alleys and tenements on the fringe of his glare and brilliant confusion, this Babel of sound and ant bed of moving life, one can only surmise and pity and shudder, close one's eyes and ears to it a little, or one could never sleep for thinking of it, yet not too tightly lest one sleep too soundly, and forget altogether the seamy side of things.

A Poor Listener.

The Chicago Tribune reports the sad instructive experience of a man who was not desirous of hearing his wife talk.

"George, dear."

"Don't bother me, Laura. I am reading, and I'd rather read than talk just now."

An hour dragged its way into the dim, misty past, and the voice of Mr. Ferguson was heard, calling loudly.

"Laura, how much longer have I got to wait for dinner? It ought to have been ready an hour ago!"

"It was, George," responded Mrs. Ferguson, from the dining-room. "That was what I went in to tell you. But you didn't want to hear me talk. We have all finished, and everything is cold, but you needn't wait another minute."

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