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Many Manifestations of Fashion

The Thousand and One Trifles that Make for Perfection. — Belts Assume New Importance. — The New Corset Lines. — The Return of the Bustle No Longer a Rumor But an Accomplished Fact.

The field of fashion never presented before such fascinating, but somewhat bewildering, variety of styles and each one clashing with the other, but each one in just as good standing as its opponent.

Take for instance the shortwaisted Empire dress, and are doubled the cause of so many failures in the sartorial lines that are dubbed variously as Empire and Princess gowns.

Any really good corsetier, whether she sells her own special made-to-order corset, or vaunts the merits of a ready-made brand, will tell you that to wear either of those two warring models successfully, a special model corset is necessary.

The Princess gown cannot be successfully made and worn over an Empire model corset, and vice versa. For those favored few who can afford to patronize the high-priced corset specialists, who make a separate model for each customer, the matter presents little, if, indeed, any difficulty. It is merely that two sets of corsets—one longwaisted, the other shorter—are ordered where but one was ordered before.

But for the woman who depends upon the ready-to-wear corset saleswoman in her favorite shop, there are a few items of information to be gleaned from this trying situation.

But, first and foremost, be sure that the saleswoman knows corsets. She may be an excellent saleswoman, as a saleswoman, and she may know what her firm keeps in stock, but be sure that she knows corsets and understands figures; and when you have found such a one, grapple her to you and to your interests with hooks of steel.

CHEEKSTOCK STILL POPULAR AND PARADISE LEADS THE STYLE

matter of belts, especially where her shirtwaists, separate blouses and separate skirts are concerned.

Certain lines of figure take certain lines of belt, and that as emphatically as that certain complexions and colorings take certain tints and are compelled to leave some others severely alone.

The waistline that is decreed the fashionable one at the moment is long and slender—we are speaking of belts, be it remembered, and not of Empire or Princess gowns, which do not require this adjunct—and to such a one almost anything in the line of belt, save and except the narrow half-inch strap, is possible.

Indeed, for just this type of figure the corset belt was invented. But there are few who can cut this with the chin and grace that it demands, and as for finding it among the ready-mades, that were a hopeless task.

These elastic belts that are in such high esteem among clever dressers will solve the belt problem for many. Not that they are all cheap, those foreign-made corsets are not at all. They come now in all colors, some of them exquisitely embroidered; others with Dresden and shadow printing that are really artistic, while still others are studded with cabochons in steel, jet and mock jewels.

Perhaps the most flattering shape is that which represents a deep point both top and bottom at the back, extending for several inches both above and below the waistline—this latter to a lesser extent, however—and then slope gently around the sides to meet in a fancy clasp in the front that shall display but a few inches of surface.

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THE NEW FORT OF BELT
Hints and Hintings for the Would-Be Fashion Wise.

Do You Know that shawls are coming into the highest vogue once more? Reports from the many haunts of fashion along the far-famed Riviera denote that shawls of many kinds and characters are bound to flourish as occasional wraps, and that everything from the daintiest and most fragile shoulder covering in filmy lace for the ballroom up to and including the famous and historic Scotch clan tartans are the choice of those who lead rather than follow the fashion.

Quite in line with the foregoing are some charming gowns recently imported in which those exquisitely embroidered Chinese silk shawls are used to delightful effect. One really beautiful example was worn at the opera just after New Year's by a beauty whose family have many Spanish affiliations.

In this instance the shawl was a beautiful clear yellow in tone with embroideries of the same shade. The bodice was somewhat on the belted order, the shawl with its original and intricately knotted fringe was arranged as an overdress for the skirt, the long strands of fringe falling over a foamy and frilly underskirt of chiffon ruffles.

And, by the way, those same ruffles were not of the stiff plissé order, with a bouillon edge that have really been done to death as incidental trimmings, but they were merely of chiffon cut to the bias and shirred double, the raw edges being turned under at the top and concealed by the shirring stitches.

Joining the bodice and skirt was an exquisitely moulded girde, well boned, and with fascinating little straps at both back and front, that crossed at the top of the cuntrue, to catch with little rosettes the full folds of the bodice.

Those Who Are in the know declare that Lina Cavalieri, the opera singer who was heralded with so much eclat at the opening of the opera season, is tremendously disappointed that her social ambitions have not been more successful in New York. In Europe she has been the bid of St. Petersburg and Monte Carlo society for several seasons; and she cannot at all understand why it is that she has failed to score of the stage, and on this side of the ocean.

Some good and kind friend really ought to inform the fascinating Italian that we Americans do not approve of the excess of make-up off the stage that this lady affects. Her appearance at dinner the other evening at a prominent hotel

was simply gawsome, owing to the thick layer of blanc de perle—a white powder with a ghastly bluish tinge which the bluishness of electric lighting intensifies to a most unpleasant degree—and the amount of bluish that surrounded her really fine and expressive eyes.

The intense blue-white of face and neck—the gown was deeply décolleté—the deep blue and black shadows pencilled beneath and around the eyes was relieved by the intense redness, likewise artificial, of the lips. Figure to yourself, as the French say, a low cutture, parted in the centre and waved into two outstanding bushes of face, neck and shoulders; the gown of a vivid green, and the poke bonnet of black velvet, loaded down with shaded yellow ostrich plumes!

A SYMPHONY IN GRAY VELVET, FUR AND HAND EMBROIDERIES

days when the craze for the aesthetic was at its height.

Some charming gowns of the empire order, however, are fashioned in those tones, the green rather than the blue tinge being chosen. For those the double chiffon, or chiffon cloth, as it is more often called, is employed to advantage, and velvet, liberally bedstrewn with silver embroideries or more paillettes, is the usual trimming.

In Evening Gowns the fashion of contrasting sleeves is firmly established, so far as imported models are concerned, at any rate. The American dressmaker, alas, has hardly dared to offer it to her clients yet.

The present fad calls for extremely short sleeves of tulle or of lace where the gown is of velvet or satin or chiffon. One extremely chic little model in black lace, mounted over pale blue satin, had for sleeves just three down-turned ostrich tips in yellow over very fluffy puffs of white tulle. It really presented a most pleasantly interesting contrast, while the headpiece was of pale blue ostrich tips with long paradise plumes that swept the gambut from a deep-burnt orange at the quill to white at the top.

Darned Net is the material that fashions many of the blouses destined to shine at Southern resorts during the Lenten season. The title is lonely and not particularly provocative of extravagant imaginings, but it is far and away the most expensive of all the hand-made affairs that make the fashionable roster at the moment.

A square or octagonal mesh is used, the blouse shape blocked out, and the work darned in heavy silken or linen flosses, after a pattern already determined before-hand. Floral designs are in strong favor, while ostrich plumes, conventionalized somewhat, of course, are perhaps next in choice.

One beauty, wrought in pearl gowns and silver, on a square-meshed gray net, followed a bolero outline, coming to within some four inches of the waistline in the back and sloping down most becomingly in front. The entire was of the plain and fitted variety, also of the stout mesh of thickly embroidered, and really resembled a corset, rather than a centure; a fact that is apparent in many recent models from French houses.

The headpiece is becoming quite an important part of the evening toilette. No longer is it enough to stick a velvet or ribbon bow, an artificial flower or a pair of jetted wings in the coiffure and consider it complete. The newest head-dresses call for many artificial flowers, knots of velvet and huge upstanding agrettes, all to make one piece; or else the long and low-sweeping paradise plume is used in conjunction with a hussar pompon of ostrich, three or four tips, or a thick and substantial wreath of flowers.



OSTRICH AND PARADISE PLUMES FOR EVENING HEADDRESS



THE COLLAR OF PEARLS WITH PENDANT NECKLACE

ON THE TOILET TABLE

One so often hears of peroxide blondes as they term those women whose hair tresses owe their golden sheen to art rather than to nature, that in the distance which such references and revelations bring about the many beneficial uses of this same agent are often lost sight of.

To bleach a skin that has been neglected until it has become blotchy and muddy there is nothing to equal a medicinal hydrogen peroxide and the juice of a lemon. Be sure to get the medicinal quality and to keep it in a cool, dark place; then rub a cut lemon over the face, the neck, hands and arms. Follow this with a liberal sponging of the peroxide, being careful not to get it on the eyebrows and lashes, and let this dry on the skin. Try this alternate days for a week or ten days, and then see the difference in your skin.

Your family physician will tell you that there is no better mouth wash and gargle than this same bleaching agent, for it is a highly potent bactericide and detergent. For teeth, too, that have become dark and discolored, a brisk brushing and rinsing with peroxide will work wonders; and the combination of a bottle of peroxide and liberal supply of lemons is one that should never be omitted from the list of toilet agents.

Almond, or olive oil, is another aid to beauty and good looks that is not sufficiently appreciated. Some women prefer the one and some the other, but a really good olive oil is thinner, spreads better, and, finally, takes a trifle of perfume better than does the almond extract. The very pale green olive oils are far and away the best. Have your druggist put a single drop of atar of rose or a few drops of oil of geranium or bergamot, if you like the color, and use this nightly.

In using oils the one thing is not to use too much. The skin, the hair and the scalp will absorb but so much, and that much is a mere trifle; any more makes the skin greasy and unattractive looking.

When the hair is beginning to get a little thin on the temples, in front of and immediately behind the ears, a little oil, or even some vasoline, will prove delightfully efficient. Take a teaspoonful of the oil and heat it ever so slightly. Then just barely dip the tips of the fingers in this and massage in circles from the chin up, having first steamed the face over a bowl of boiling water and cleared the skin of spots. Pay especial attention to the points noted, and then continue the rubbing until the entire scalp has been covered. The hair line all around, the place where the first begins to show, will soon show good results in the small hair that will begin to sprout. While excellent for the hair, there is not the slightest danger of a good olive oil ever fostering a growth of superfluous hair on the cheeks or the chin where one does not want it at any price at any cost.

With the extreme attention that both dressmakers and corsetiers are lavishing upon the waistline of the moment, the matter of belts becomes one of equal importance. The long and slender waistline is still in vogue, and the figures of modes of First Empire persuasion seem to conceal rather than reveal the swell curves of figure that are supposed to present themselves. However, the vogue that attends the separate blouse, and especially that of dressy character, makes the matter of centure a study for the fastidious dresser.

Those elastic affairs, studied with care, bodices of steel or jet, are a long way from being cheap; but they are so entirely satisfactory, both in shape and wearing qualities—to say nothing at all of their flattering effect upon the figure—that their purchase is anything but prove one of those economical extravaganzas which the women of good taste but slender purses feel impelled to from time to time, to the much betterment of her gowns, be it understood.

DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIONS

A SYMPHONY IN GRAY VELVET, FUR AND HAND EMBROIDERIES.

One hears so often of symphonies in color that this article seems so reason why any phonies in clothes should not receive as deep and respectful appreciation. Indeed, so gown one's self that the entire effect is harmony demands an artistic perception, an appreciation of modes and materials, and the possibilities of one's self as to form, line, color, and—last, but by no means least—social situation that it takes as artist of unusual qualities to achieve success in this line.

A success of this character is presented in the picture, wherein a dainty cloak of gray chiffon velvet is admirably supplemented by hands of soft, thick chinchilla fur, and exquisite embroideries wrought in heavy silver strands upon a foundation of blue net. The little dinner frock is of frothy white silk net and lace, while the champagne gray velvet, combined with sapphire blue, and adorned with creamy white ostrich plumes.

DOG COLLAR OF PEARLS WITH PENDANT NECKLACE OF DIAMONDS.

In the English category of charms feminine and the European countries as well as a long and slender neck is one of the first desiderata. The head small, the neck slender and the throat a trifle full, the shoulders broad but sloping, is the ideal conformation for the woman most of whose social hours are signified by a very décolleté costume. The deep, dog collar, as we call it over here, is far and away the most attractive, has come to be a perfect fad with the women whose jewel caskets are insured oftentimes for a goodly fraction of a million dollars. Pearls have risen so enormously in value the last few years that a well-matched string will fetch four times what it used. The deep ravine usually employs stones all of a size, with a medallion, round, oblong or square, in the centre front, and just merely a slide clasp at the back.

THOSE DEEP RIVERS COLLARS, TOO, AFFORD ONE DELIGHTFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE WEARING OF PENDANT NECKLACES OF JEWELS BENEATH. A FAD THAT IS EMPLOYED IN THE PICTURE.

CHECKS ARE MODISH AND MARABOUT LEADS THE STYLE.

It really seems as though those little checks that have been with us for so long were to continue indefinitely. They have brought out in the latest of the most distracting pretty colorings, and perhaps it is the novelty of material that is responsible, in a measure, for their continued enjoyment of popularity.

A brown and creamy yellow check is used in the smart little street gown of the picture, a short and snappy Blon bolero making the jacket, while the skirt is one of those puffed umbrella shapes that fit smoothly over the hips or ripple into the deep folds at the bottom. In this instance the bias fold of the velvet makes the sole trimming, and the extreme cachet of color and color being belied upon to produce the requisite impression of style.

THE EVENING HEAD-DRESS—OSTRICH AND PARADISE PLUMES.
Time was when a brightly colored ribbon bow or a knot of velvet, or even a single artificial rose or poppy stuck in the hair was supposed to be sufficiently dressy to mark a formal occasion. In the trend of things elaborate, however, this once simple custom has been raised to a more elaborate one, the elaborate coiffure the occasion, and the elaborate head-dress the better the degree of style achieved.

The vogue of the high and stiff French coiffure, the parade plume, and above and beyond all, the ostrich plume, has been transcended by nothing this season. Special forms of plumes, special droop and curl to the flues, have come to be accepted as quite the correct thing, and departure from the accepted mode is as much to be shunned in this as in other departments of dress.