

THE ST. JOHN STAR



For the Home Dressmaker

Coats for the Girl on a Small Allowance

THE PROBLEM of an evening coat for the girl who must dress on next to nothing is a comparatively easy one this season.

The loose, flowing, almost the old dolman-shaped lines of the newest wraps require so little fitting that they can easily be fashioned at home with the aid of a good pattern, either with the assistance of a dressmaker or by the girl who makes her own clothes. Taste and clever fingers can work wonders in the way of inexpensive, yet really charming, coats.

Few people, for instance, would think of cotton flannel in this connection, yet one young woman, who depends largely on her wits for her good appearance, has just made a striking three-quarter length cape out of a rich shade of red cotton flannel, lined with an old white china silk skirt, and finished with a rolling collar of black lynx from a worn-out fur-lined circular.

One of these circulars, by the way, is a goddess, when a new evening wrap is to be evolved. Use the squirrel as a lining for some pretty outer covering—say, one of the bangelines now so popular, or an inexpensive Pompadour silk—

and finish with the fur collar. A very inexpensive cape or coat may be made of the soft furniture felt to be found in upholstery shops. It comes in lovely shades of blue, tan, red, gray and pink. This material is so warm and thick no lining is necessary, though, if a cheap white silk is used, it is, naturally, much handsomer.

An old Paisley shawl, with a colored border, can be turned into a very stylish cloak, on the order of the dolman-shaped wrap shown today. Use the border to edge the fronts and the flowing sleeves; or, if there is enough, turn it into a pointed cape collar. Or it can be finished with the chenille fringe seen so much this season. Fasten with passementerie ornaments.

Lucky is the girl who owns one of the big lace shawls, black or white, such as are handed down in many a family that has seen better, or, at least, richer, days. A fascinating wrap was made recently of a black lace shawl lined with white taffeta. One of the points was caught in a jaunty little hood, and the entire cape was edged with a double ruffle of white and black chiffon, the black on the outside.

Then the girl who can afford to pay a little more for her materials—which she can easily manage, if she is her own dressmaker—can copy some of the most costly evening coats seen in the stores.

Only the other day a young girl, just out of school, had made at home a really beautiful coat of a lightweight champagne-colored broadcloth, lined with white tulle, bought at a bargain sale. This coat was finished with a shaped collar effect—of blue chiffon velvet, edged with a narrow pointed passementerie in blue, white and gold. Below the collar were strappings of the broadcloth, piped with the blue velvet. The sleeves were three-quarter length, softened at the hands by a full drape.

Most of the sleeves this season are of this length and shape; that is, where they are not a regular angel sleeve. The wisdom of this style is doubtful, and scarcely to be advised for an evening coat, as, coming from a heated theatre or ballroom, the lower part of the arm needs protection.

Chiffon velvet and bengaline silk are both more popular for evening coats this winter than broadcloth, and very little more expensive.

A charming combination, modelled on the dainty coat of the central figure, is of red bengaline, lined with white and finished with a facing of black lynx over a deep-point collar of the bengaline, with black silk tassels and buckles.

It is wiser for the girl who must use cheap materials to confine herself to capes, as the quality of the material is less noticeable than in a coat. The latter, moreover, requires skill in cutting and pressing to look well. Fortunately for her, the vogue for capes is steadily on the increase.

The cheap Pompadour silks are especially lovely for such a wrap; while many inexpensive Japanese silks can be picked up for the new kimono-shaped cloaks which are frequently seen this winter.



It must be confessed that latter style has more of novelty than becomingness or real attractiveness to recommend it. In choosing an evening coat this winter be sure to select one of the pale pastel shades—orchid, mauve and a faint tone of violet and pink are especially good. These light shades are more in favor than the all-white coat. An order—white broadcloth, brightened with borders of silver velvet, is, however, really lovely.

A very dainty and inexpensive gray cloth coat is given quite an air by braiding it in a rather elaborate design in different widths of gold braid. A touch of fur on collar and sleeves is seen on many of the evening coats. This is an excellent way to freshen up an old coat. If, besides, the buttons are removed, and the new passementerie fastenings are substituted, it is surprising how up to date it will look. If the debutante really cannot

get a new evening coat, but owns, instead, one of the loose three-quarter black ones worn so much last winter, let her not despair. Rip off the trimming and thoroughly clean the cloth; line it with a cheap silk and add a vest of chiffon velvet or broadcloth in some light color. Put several bands of the cloth, piped in the velvet, around the neck and sleeves. These vests have turn-down collars, buttoning close to the throat. A very attractive coat of this style had a

vest of light blue velvet, embroidered in loops of narrow black satin ribbon, stuffed with a thick cord and couched in gold. The cloth was cut slightly double breasted and so arranged that it could be worn either open or closed. The lining was a pretty blue-and-white figured silk, finished down each side of the front with bands of passementerie. As this latter was quite beyond the buying power of the owner, she chose a narrow, but very pretty, fancy silk banding at 10 cents a

yard, and ran it together with gilt braid, using it on the edges as well. The collarless neck was trimmed with three shaped bands of the cloth, piped in the velvet and finished with a blue and gold paste button at each point. Of course, all the lighter-weight coats must be interlined. An excellent material for this is the new lamb's wool, carded on cheesecloth. This costs but 40 cents a yard, and is light and warm, without being bulky.

What is Newest in Accessories of Dress

BOOTS are higher this season than they have been for several years, and the fad is a very sensible one for cold weather. What is known as the "seven-inch boot" is extremely popular.

Buttons and cloth tops are a very important part of most of the new boots. The cloth tops come, of course, in the plain colors, but the invisible plaids are rather better when one does not stick to black. Many women are having boot tops made to match their tailored gowns.

Another feature of the new boots is the wooden Cuban heel. This makes the shoe much lighter for walking than when the heel was built of leather.

The up-to-date woman will have her hat trimming on the right side instead of on the left. If she cares for flowers in winter millinery she is apt to choose roses or, perhaps, fuchsias. The latter are decidedly new. She will also be careful in the selection and adjustment of her veil, for it gives the finishing touch to her hat.

Black veils must not be worn with very light hats or gowns unless there is a touch of black somewhere about the costume. Match the hat in the veil whenever it is possible, but don't make a fright of yourself in doing it. For instance, a blue veil is apt to make a woman with a bright color look purple, especially if the mesh is small.

Since many of the winter suits and coats are made with elbow sleeves, long gloves are as much in demand as ever. Some of the very newest are fleece lined, which must add greatly to the wearer's comfort.

Separate armlets are still sold, and one dealer is showing a pair built of black suede and ornamented with exquisite embroidery. The price asked for this novelty is naturally a big one, but even if it were not, it is hardly probable that the notion would meet with wide favor.

Brown and green and the smoke tints that were promised such vogue at the beginning of the season still hold their own, but several new colors are creeping into favor. There is a dull mingling of brown and rose which is called rosewood; there are coppery browns that are almost red, and there are many shades of bronze.

Blue is worn a great deal, too. It is a satisfactory color and becoming to so many people. Royal and sapphire blue and what are known as the ecclesiastical shades are among the popular blues. There is also a Nattier blue (which takes its name from the color used in some of Nattier's pictures) that is very much liked.

Check or plaid suits have vests and collars of black moire, braided in soutache braid. Many of the plain colored suits have these moire vests and the collars either in self-color or in black.

Vests are seen on a great many of the new gowns. One in a black-and-white striped cloth had a vest of coral chiffon broadcloth.

Many black costumes in the handsomer materials are heavily braided, and have just a glimpse of color introduced into them somewhere. A touch of blue is pretty. Brown and black are being combined a great deal this year.

Ribbon is being used a great deal. Many of the hair ornaments are made of it. So are some of the ever-popular rosettes for slippers. Pompadour ribbons are seen everywhere.

Colored umbrellas are coming into favor. They are in brown and green and their varying shades to match the new winter costumes. Some of the most striking of the umbrellas have a border of a contrasting or harmonizing color.

Muffs continue to be big and fast. One of the newest was shaped like a crescent, and had two fur heads and a cluster of tails by way of a finish.

Some of the full sleeves are kept in shape by little lawn puffs, which are put in between the lining and the outside material. Sometimes little puffs of lawn or taffeta are used to keep blouse fronts in place.

