

Evening Dress Inklings.

FASHION

has never been more slow to pronounce the prevailing note of the season. Even at the present date of writing in November it is difficult to say exactly what or which will be the prevailing style for the season's ball gown. But there is plenty of variety in styles, and within broadly defined lines no woman of taste is likely to go far astray.

We have had chats with several leading modistes and the heads of some of Toronto's best known fashion emporiums. We have had news of the daintiest gowns that are making ready for fortune's favorites among Canadian women, and we record the results for our readers.

Skirts of evening gowns are showing a tendency toward trimming. An effort is being put forth to revive the lace flounce, also lace slashings in seams. Whether the effort will be successful this season the first large ball will tell, but the plain skirt will be as hard to dislodge as the sleeve puff.

The bolero, revers, and even double-breasted effects are carried into the evening bodice.

Good lace will be used. It is standard. Pearl trimmings will also be used for bodice trimmings.

The wide folded belt is much in evidence on all bodices, even evening ones. In the latter case it is made of the dress material, and carried up nearly to the armpits, giving a corselet effect. The upper part of the bodice is then usually of chiffon, and forms a baby waist.

We illustrate in No. 1 a bodice of this fashion, just turned out by order from a leading Toronto modiste. The dress is of cream figured taffeta. The skirt, sleeves and deep-folded belt are of the taffeta. The upper part of the waist is of crystallized brussels net over plain satin. The effect of the sparkling net over the satin is very rich. The belt is not straight but lowers toward one side, and is finished with soft rosettes.

The sleeves are small puffs. All evening sleeves are smaller than those of last year.

In No. 2 we show an especially dainty evening bodice, trimmed with pearl pendants reaching to the waist.

We show in No. 4 a remarkably pretty bodice made for the daughter of one of our senators, and

fitted for informal dinner or five o'clocks. It is of silk plaid, a pale blue ground barred with delicate pink and white satin stripes, and woven with rosebuds—a faint dresden effect very charming. The close fitting sleeves wrinkle softly to the shoulder where they finish with a puff. The deep-folded belt reaches up beneath the arm, comes to a point in the centre of the back and slopes to the left side in front as shown in Figure 1. This style is exceedingly becoming to the small slender figure for which it is intended.

Both folded belt and bolero are fashions for the slender.

A charming suit bodice for dress purposes is illustrated in Figure 3. The material is brocaded mixed cloth, black woven with a blue flecking. The bodice is made not with bolero, but zouave jacket of the cloth, slightly pointed at the back and cut with points and pointed revers in front. The revers are faced with blue satin, and the jacket edged with a bead trimming (blue, black and steel beads.) The front of the bodice is of white accordion plated chiffon over blue satin. A deep belt of the satin reaches up to meet the jacket both at front and back. The effect is again to give the baby waist beneath the jacket. It is decidedly stylish and attractive.

The silk shirt waist is in mode for morning and house wear, and it is emphatically a comfortable bodice to wear under the winter coat. We illustrate (No. 5) one of wine colored silk made with the regular shirt sleeve, fold down the front and three deep tucks each headed with three fine tucks, simulating a yoke in front. At

the back the yoke is plain and the silk below gathered slightly. These shirt waists are of every color, and are really almost a repetition of the old-time "garibaldi." They are usually worn with the narrow belt of leather.

Less costly and perhaps more serviceable for the worker are the flannelette waists. The material comes in various pretty colors and stripes, and washes well. Worn with the white cuffs and collar, which promise to endure all winter, the effect is decidedly neat.

Collars suggest ties, and just here, although not upon the topic, we may remark that the clerical collar (fastening at the back), and the short tie are essentially the latest fashion and quite piquant and becoming.

To return to evening gowns, brocades and velvets are the materials most in vogue, but in addition the crepe de chine will be much used, and not a few delicately flowered silks.

Chiffon promises to be again most fashionable for evening bodices, the full waist being made of it, with bolero reliefs of the dress material. Lace boleros are also shown. Spangled net is also extensively used.

Bodice and skirt are of one color this season, waists in decided contrast being avoided. Yellow in various shades from cream to chrysanthemum brown promise to be fashionable, while white and rose color is being made up as a favorite combination. Heliotrope and violet tints also hold their place.

Where old waists are to be made to do a second season's service, the color of the waist must be repeated in some measure in the skirt. Chiffon will veil satin or silk that is a trifle soiled.

A pretty theatre waist of white chiffon over rose pink silk has a bolero jacket of black lisse, with an applique of cream lace on it, and the sleeves and bodice are both trimmed with black velvet ribbon.

The evening sleeves are nearly all very short, and some of the prettiest are made simply of very full frills.

Fig. 9 shows an effective sleeve of this kind, one of the prettiest of the season.

