

THE ST. JOHN STAR



TAFFETA FROCKS ARE AGAIN IN GREAT FAVOR



THE day when the silk gown was considered one's "very best" and religiously kept for high days and holidays, is quite past. We have discovered its usefulness when adapted to morning wear, for traveling and church, and intend to make the most of it.

Not for years has there been such a silk season ahead as this coming spring promises. Silks of every kind and color, of every conceivable weave and design will be extensively worn for all occasions.

There will be the simple shirt-waist frock of silk, which, by the way, has this season lost much of its simplicity; the silk coat-suit, also much be-trimmed, and the even more elaborate costume for afternoon wear, or for cool evenings at summer resorts. Silk will also be used for motor cloaks and for the short, dressy wraps which will be much in evidence.

The new silks are many, and most of them very lovely in coloring and texture. As a rule, the color schemes are not pronounced; indeed, there is a harmonious softness among the newer and better class silk materials which is really delightful.

While many fancy silks and radiums, messelines and louisines are

seen, popular favor has declared quite strongly for taffeta, rajah and foulard, with, of course, the omnipresent pongee.

Taffetas seem to have taken an entirely new lease of life, possibly because, with the softer finishes, some prospect of endurance is held out. The chronic objection of most women of moderate means to the ordinary crisp taffetas is that they will cut—worse yet, cut just as much whether they are worn hard or carefully hung in the closet.

The popular supple chiffon taffetas, besides being free from this objection, lend themselves to graceful draping and to the long, easy lines so much in demand. For the home dressmaker, especially, are they preferable, as the stiff taffeta is distinctly hard to handle well.

There are many new and beautiful effects shown among the soft taffetas. Stripes, checks, plaids of every imaginable kind are seen; sometimes even combinations of two or more of them in the same material. Black-and-white effects are particularly popular; or very often they have an underlying note of soft color introduced, as a tiny dot or design sprinkled over the surface of a check or plaid.

Many plain taffetas are seen in this soft chiffon texture, or often

there is a changeable look given by a skilful blending of self-tones.

All the colorings, by the way, are uncommonly beautiful, and far from being as crude and glaring as they were even last season.

The women—and there are many of them—who feel that nothing quite takes the place of a blue silk, either plain or figured, will be glad to know that blues of every description, from indigo to electric, with a wide range of blues with a leaning toward gray, delft tones, Japanese blue and a rich, bright navy, called matelot, will be among the choicest shades of the year.

Greens are also good when on the almond and reseda tones, while browns, especially in soft ecater

shades and in a very warm, bright brown, without a trace either of the usual chestnut red or mustard tones that spoil so many browns, will be equally in favor.

Grays in both light and dark shades are much used, while even in taffetas the rather strange but decidedly popular combination of gray and brown, either in stripes, plaids or changeable tones, are seen.

As said before, the taffeta shirt-waist gown is less strictly tailored than for several seasons past. This is probably due to the vogue of the guimpe idea, which is to more than retain its favor of the last winter, despite the fact that it has been much overdone. New ideas in it are constantly being brought out, how-

ever, and the ordinary bretelle, or strap effect, is less seen than a blouse cut down some graceful way to show a guimpe and lingerie sleeves underneath. The prevailing sleeve is the sleeve cap either slashed or plain on kimono lines.

The models which come to us today straight from Paris show charming and very practical ideas for making these soft taffetas at home. Most of them, moreover, are equally adapted for the colored and white linens which will be widely worn.

The first frock to the left is a specially simple but stylish design for a dark-blue taffeta. It has no trimming, but stitched bias bands, machine stitching and large buttons

covered with the silk. With it is worn a yoke and under-sleeves of sheer linen tucked by hand. A stiff little cravat of brightest green gives a French touch to the whole gown, which, by the way, would look very smart made walking length. A second yoke and sleeves of lace might be made to make the gown more dressy. The hat is of coarse natural-colored leghorn, trimmed with many loops of bright green ribbon.

For calling and more formal occasions is the next gown, of apricot taffeta, with its graceful tucked sleeves and its long yoke effect of a deep cream-colored embroidery. The skirt is plain and long. Choux of black taffeta form a pleasant color contrast. The hat of deep cream chip, with long apricot-colored plumes and ribbon to match the gown, finishes a very striking costume.

Very becoming to a woman with a graceful figure is the next model, which has a princess effect. It is in the new parma shade of violet, and is trimmed with shaped bands of the silk. The yoke and sleeves are of an all-over point de Venise lace, and the collar is outlined by a cravat of a deeper tone of violet.

Very easy to make, yet extremely good looking, is the last gown, which is equally good in China blue or in a green with a narrow black stripe.

The blouse is made of cream-colored all-over lace, and the buttons on the girdle are antique silver ones. If wished, the skirt may have the lace bands omitted, being trimmed instead with graduated tucks. All-over embroidery or batiste would make a good substitute for the lace. This is a particularly good model for linen. The hat is of blue or green coarse straw in the popular mushroom shape, and is trimmed with a long black velvet bow and ends and a wreath of small dark-red roses.

Fashion Notes

FAVORITE colors for spring will be pale gray, beige, and a new rose for afternoon gowns. For street wear there is a new sapphire blue that is bright, but cool looking and very becoming.

Pale covert cloth with touches of black satin in trimmings is popular for the tailor suit.

Fine linen with pale colored or black stripes is shown for the spring tailor-made waist.

Irish lace is enjoying renewed popularity. It is often used in combination with sheerer laces on the same blouse.