



# PARIS FASHIONS

## Novel Designs in Tussor Voile de Soie and Crêpe de Chine Gowns

BY A. T. ASHMORE.

ASCINATINGLY dainty and smart are the summer gowns now exhibited, and material and coloring alike seem symbolical of the season. It may be the contrast of the diaphanous fabrics with the furs and heavy dark cloths of the winter that makes all summer materials so attractive and so much more in keeping with the light sunshine and warm days.

Never were there so many exquisitely fine light weight materials as are to be seen this spring. Voile de soie, marquisette, lace and net of all kinds and descriptions line the counters of the dry goods shops and gowns made of these materials are in the lead at all the openings at the fashionable dressmakers. There are plain and figured effects and a marvelously wide range of colors, white ingenuity and knowledge of how to combine the colors is taxed to the utmost.



Apricot Crêpe de Chine, with Gold Embroidery.  
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Embroidered Ebru Tussor Gown  
Maison Rouff  
Photo Copyright by Reutlinger  
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Back of Blue and White Voile de Soie Gown Over White Lining  
Maison Rouff  
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Blue and White Voile de Soie Gown Over White Lining  
Maison Rouff  
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Peach Color Voile de Soie Gown, with Pearl and Gold Embroidered Waist  
Maison Rouff  
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coats has been reduced to a minimum, and, in truth, as few undergarments as possible are worn. But all this transparent gowns boast not one but two and sometimes three linings. The foundation is of silk or satin, which is veiled in a contrasting color of finest voile de soie, and over this is sometimes another veiling and then comes the material of the gown itself. Indescribably charming are the effects gained by the use of the different veillings used in this manner. A foundation green lining over which is a purple and then a blue gives a mysterious effect of depth and color impossible to find in any one material. For the shepherd plaids, voile de soie the lining is either white or the color of the darker check.

In the soft, thin fabrics quite different models are fashionable from those to be made in materials like tussor and pongee; the thinner foulards are classed with the voile, but the heavier can be made in almost any style. The return of the kimono sleeve is one of the marked styles of the season, but it is not the same kimono as of old. In some respects it is even more uncomfortable, and it is quite impossible for many of the newest models to raise the arms to the head, but then extending has evidently not been in the minds of the artists who have designed the clothes of this year, for many of the most fashionable skirts are quite too narrow to permit of taking a long step, while the broad stiff band of material that binds the skirt just above the ankle was surely never designed for any woman who was fond of walking. Becoming, intensely so, are the waists with sleeves and folds across the shoulders all in one piece, and

the transparent and soft fabrics can be chosen the summer outfit, as there is draped to perfection in carrying on the design. For the moment the fashion is universally popular, but its very popularity should be considered carefully in that in spite of its apparent simplicity

is most difficult to carry out, and the prices asked for simplicity in dress are generally prohibitory for the great majority of women.

The open neck has again to be discussed. Undoubtedly the fashion of the round or open neck is to be reckoned with and the finish of the embroidered linen or pleated lace collar is considered smart at the moment; but the line between a smart, effective, low cut neck and a vulgar one is so very narrow that conservative people continue to vote against the style and solve the difficulty by the transparent net or lace guimpe with high stitch collar. This is a universally becoming style and does not interfere with the neck of the gown being cut quite low.

All kinds of pongee and tussor gowns are extremely smart this season and are made in all colors and all shades of colors. It may truthfully be said. For a coat and skirt costume there is nothing more practical, and the simplest of waists of net, lace, chiffon or lingerie are worn with them. Then there are the entire gowns with coat to match, high waisted, and on the Empire order, but for practical purposes the skirt and separate waist with coat to match are far more satisfactory. All shades of red, blue, green and purple, especially the darkest shades of purple, are most popular, and every conceivable quality is to be seen. But it also is to be noted that it is not fashionable to have long skirts, the short ones being chosen in preference every time.

Correct Length of Coats.

Coats just long enough to reach below the hips are the smartest, and as a rule are painfully shapeless, with straight, full backs, the fullest belted in front, and the fronts are almost straight and loose. Such is the cleverness of the fashionable designer of the day, however, that these coats, or rather jackets, full and loose as they are, do not make the figure seem large, but on the contrary, slight.

Skirts are decidedly novel. All with straight lines, narrow and, it must be admitted, ungraceful, these skirts have only the element of being quite different from any former styles to recommend them, but they are new. The pleated skirt is far prettier, and is also fashionable, but lack the smart if somewhat conspicuous appearance of the others. Pleated skirts, the new styles, differ materially from those of two years ago; often there is the overskirt effect of a double set of pleats, one falling just a little over the top of the other, as though there were two flounces. This, with the waist in the same size pleats and a patent leather belt, the effect of a blouse coat and in the fabric, more comfortable for summer, when every additional yard of material is to be dreaded.

There is really not enough attention paid to the practical in clothes intended for summer wear. A model that in itself is charming, effective and graceful will require to be lined or made in such a manner that it will be quite too warm for comfort except in cold weather, and yet it will be most casually ordered. Fortunately, of late dressmakers and designers have studied the subject of comfort much more than in years gone by and the heavy linings once considered essential are banished, and if there is a separate lined and fitted lining, it is to perfection, the unlined, or at most chiffon, waist is made up for the heated term.

The question of the lining is all important this season. The number of petti-

to evolve the most extraordinary effects "Scarcely practical" is the first criticism against the sheer materials—too fine and too soft—but like the gowns of old time fiction, so fine that they could be passed through a wedding ring, these gowns often wear far better than those of heavier and apparently stronger fibre. In truth, the amount of wear that can be given without apparently any effect is most surprising, oftentimes far more than to a foulard or satin.

Shepherd Plaids Popular.  
Checks, fine shepherd plaids, checks in black and white, gray and white, and every color and white are deliciously cool in appearance and are most fashionable. Sometimes black satin is used to trim them, but not too much of any such contrast. Laces and embroideries are fashionable trimmings for the figured voile de soie, but are not used too lavishly and are always, as it were, subordinated to the rest of the gown. A band around the skirt is of plain color, lace or embroidery, and a touch of the same is in the broad belt and on the sleeves, but every effort is made to keep the light, cool appearance. This does not apply in every case, for there are one or two models on which a lot of black is to be noticed—a broad grille or band around the skirt and two long each ends of black velvet or satin. But this may be taken as an example that the exception proves the rule, for the majority of the smart gowns are all in the one tone of coloring.

## PRACTICAL FASHIONS FOR HOME DRESSMAKING

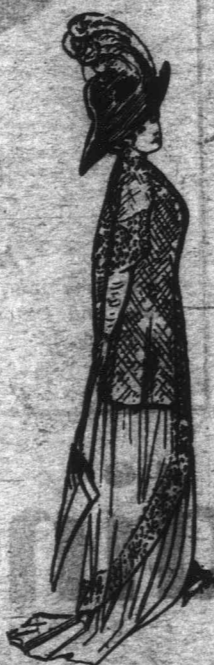
IF every woman, and in fact not one woman in a thousand, is so situated that when the summer wardrobe has to be planned she can buy just what she likes regardless of cost. While it is never a wise plan to accumulate

really a lot of half-way gowns just because they are cheap and a careful reckoning of past expenses generally furnishes the information that for the price of three half-way ones one good one could have been purchased, it is quite essential to comfort in summer weather to have several gowns, and consequently just what to choose in accordance with income is a grave question.

This year there must be more time and thought expended, but not necessarily more money, in solving the problem. Never were there so many sales of summer materials at reasonable prices, and if a good color be chosen the cost of the material will not be excessive. Then the choice of the model to copy and the painstaking supervision of the inexpensive dressmaker or seamstress will secure a satisfactory result. All one piece gowns are fashionable, but so also is the three piece costume, the pretty, simple waist with coat and skirt.

Voile de soie gowns, plain and figured, are by no means too difficult to attempt. Combined with liberty satin or silk, or with a band of embroidery, there are many models that can be made without any deep knowledge of dressmaking and at a small expense, only again it must be stated that while large sums of money need not be spent, a large amount of time and thought must be allowed for. The skirt must hang well, but that problem can be dealt with by first making a skirt of muslin, fitting it perfectly, and then

ripping it apart and using it as a pattern, less made up for the material of the gown. And, be it waist lining. With these to start on dressmaking, no gown will look well un-



DAINTY COSTUME OF SINGERIE OR VOILE.



VOILE DE SOIE AND SATIN GOWN.



PONGEE AND LINEN COSTUME.



VOILE DE SOIE AND SILK GOWN.

## ATTRACTIVE PARASOLS.

THE parasols this summer are to be most attractive, and already the crowds around the counters where

parasols are sold promise well for the profits of the business. There is an unusual variety of choice for so early in the season in colors, designs and in the handles. The latter have evidently been

influenced greatly by the Chanticleer idea, for birds of all descriptions and animals ever were made. Then there are the quite plain but shaped wooden handles, in black, red, brown or of the natural wood.

Also are these handles tipped with crystal, agate, silver or gold, and as may be supposed, the prices are as varied as the designs. There are plain silk, silk with

flowered borders, in white, black and all colors, finished with a hemstitching; there are chiffon parasols, gathered and pleated with lace edged ruffles, and there are

parasols made entirely of lace. Many of the handles are exaggeratedly long, but there are also a great many to choose from that are of ordinary, normal length.

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