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FASHIONS AND FANCIES

SELECTING gowns for the summer outfit involves far more thought, time and patience than can be realized by the uninitiated in the mysteries of dress, and this season's fashions will tax to the utmost all those qualities best adapted to the successful accomplishment of the task. At times it seems as though everything that had to do with fashions was absolutely contradictory. Word goes forth,



Old Rose and White Foulard Gown

certain not to be altered much, that full skirts are to be worn, and only full skirts, this followed within an incredibly short space of time with the information that exaggeratedly tight skirts are the very latest style. Draped effects or much elaborate trimming is commanded, and before the trimmings are chosen the news is flashed abroad that simple, plain and classic folds are the very latest creations.

In the myriad of confusing orders thus set forth what can mere woman do? Even the most extravagant of her sex halts undecided as to purchasing recklessly and blindly gowns that within a month or six weeks will be deemed "impossible," and "impossible" implied to clothes signifies all this is undesirable. Such a narrow line it is, too, that divides the distinctive from the impossible.

Which is the most essential gown for the spring wardrobe is an all important and complex question. There must always be a smart tailor gown, but is that as necessary as the one-piece gown with coat to match, made of light weight material and suitable for the spring midday reception, the afternoon drive or any of the social festivities that take place after Easter? New, fresh, smart gowns are a delight and joy after a long winter season of heavy materials and dark colors, and the woman who can and does resist their allurements is either half stoic, blind to the charm of attractive dress or absolutely lacking in taste. A smart street costume is an investment eminently practical, and this year there is a greater variety than usual to choose from in the coat and skirt costumes and in the three-piece, or, rather, the gown with coat to match than has been the case for some years. There is the always fashionable, strictly tailor made costume in serge, but this season it will be more on the practical order than ever, for the more elaborate style of costume, with shorter coat, Russian blouse or much trimmed short jacket, will be the most popular.

Eccentric in the extreme are many of the new gowns with the skirts enlivened (?) with folds of the material tied together so as to draw the fulness in about the ankles. When this fashion was first introduced it was essentially a caricature, and even the designers who gave it to the public were sceptical as to its adoption, even with possible modifications of the original idea. It has been greatly modified, but the ugly, unbecoming lines, that tend to awkwardness, have not been, nor can they be, entirely overcome. It is seen at its best in the soft, transparent fabrics which permit of the skirt being wide and fall about the ankles, then the knotting of the folds does not give so harsh and uncompromising an effect as when the style is carried out in cloth and velvet. Fortunately, there is a wide range of colors and textures to choose from, so that there is not the slightest necessity for using the heavy weaves.

Foulard is one of the popular materials this season and the number of different designs is remarkable. One of the great objections that foulard was a material easily injured by rain has been apparently quite done away with, for the new silks are called waterproof, and certainly give the appearance of being extremely durable.

Those of figured design combined with plain are most attractive. There are polka dots of every size, stripes and checks, but the newest are the face patterns of white on a dark ground. Those made up with the plain color or in the patterns that combine a plain border with the figured design are certainly effective, and the colors are most charming. Just as in every material this year, there are several different styles given, and both the draped overskirt and the plain gathered but not too full skirt finished with plain band are very smart. The most becoming should be chosen when there is such a wide field of choice.

The round, low cut neck, which is at the moment an all-prevailing fashion, is painfully conspicuous in many of the newest models for foulard gowns. But the latest designs have all the yoke and high stock collar of finest net, and while so transparent as not to entirely obviate the appearance of the uncovered neck, it does modify it a little.

For older women it has so much that is ugly that the wonder is it has ever gained even acceptance. The pleated ruffle entirely destroys one of the greatest beauty points, the line from the ear to the shoulder, and is inappropriate except for an evening waist, and then it is again a bad line, the neck not being open enough. However, for the moment it is a fashion much in evidence.

The embroidered net and tulle tunics cannot be classed among the newest fashions, and yet they are exhibited in the newest of models. There is so much to recommend them—they are charmingly decorative and becoming, enhance the

beauty of an absolutely new gown and entirely remodel an old one. They can be bought at a reasonable price, and if desired a lot of money can be spent on them. They are beautiful in color and design. Certainly they deserve the popularity they possess. It is easily possible this spring to match the color of any gown in these garnitures, for garnitures they are, but be it remembered always that when any fashion becomes so universally popular and is so practical it is no longer so smart or exclusive and the woman of well trained taste selects in preference a model in direct contrast.

The soft finished silk and satins now selling at such reasonable prices will make the summer evening frocks remarkably attractive this year. The overskirt, round or pointed, preferably the latter, shows to greatest advantage in these materials. There need be no trimming, even on the waist. Soft folds in surplus effect of fine tulle or chiffon are most becoming, either of the same color as the gown or of white. Sleeves of the net or chiffon, reaching not quite to the elbow, close-fitting and finished with crystal fringe, are also becoming, while if so desired the sleeve and flou in one piece, recalling the kimono sleeve of two years ago, can be chosen. There are also sleeves of godly size, in single or double puffs, for the low waist that has the round cut around the shoulders, but this is a most trying fashion and not to be rashly recommended. The theatre and restaurant, dinner gown is far prettier with the net elbow length sleeve, and is in far better style than the latter, which by rights should be for a ball gown. But, in sleeves as in skirts, this year the choice is so wide that surely no woman should ever be seen in anything unbecoming.

Lace evening gowns for summer will tax to the utmost the jealousy of those who appreciate real lace, for when cost is not considered the real lace gowns are simply superb; and they are becoming, for no longer is the fashion of the moment sacrificed to the beauty of the lace, but the lace is cut into and made up with a reckless disregard to its value and produces most marvellous results.

For the woman to whom economy is a necessity the fashions of the moment present a depressing outlook. The quality of the material, the workmanship of the trimmings, the subtle grace and elegance of line as exhibited in the expensive models that are displayed, combine to make the copying of them an almost impossible task. After the first bewilderment has passed a careful study of even the most elaborate gown soon suffices to clear the atmosphere a little, and the woman with any real knowledge of clothes, if she can call to her aid a clever seamstress, can evolve from these selfsame models a most satisfactory wardrobe at surprisingly small cost. In truth, some of the best gowned women are those who spend the least money.

It is difficult unless one be absolutely conversant with the intricacies of modern dress to copy successfully the most elaborate of the fashion designs, but by following the general outline, choosing the simpler styles (as a rule the most satisfactory), and then adding some handsome trimming, the result will be remarkably attractive. One error into which amateur dressmakers and milliners alike are apt to fall is sewing their work too tight, and in consequence giving garments harsh, hard lines. A gown well sewed is not of necessity nailed together. This applies most to drapery and trimming, but the foundation, the lining also, can be so put together that it will not look too tight and too strained.

COOKERY RECIPES

Fish Macaroni—A most appetizing dish is made with fish and macaroni in the following way. Boil half a pound of macaroni till tender, in salted water, chop it in small pieces, and mix with two pounds of any boiled fish fry from bones. Take three ounces of grated cheese, and mix in half of it; then butter some ramequin cases or a pie-dish, fill, and put the rest of the cheese on the top with a few pieces of butter. Brown the fish, etc., in the oven or before the fire.

Sardine Eggs—Cut some hard-boiled eggs lengthwise, and remove the yolks carefully, so as to keep the whites whole. Skin and bone some sardines, chop them finely, season with a few drops of vinegar, pepper, and salt. Fill the whites of the eggs with this mixture, and scatter the chopped yolks on the top. Serve on lettuce with a good salad dressing.

A Quick Dessert—Place a layer of canned fruit, as pears, peaches or apricots, in a serving-dish; over this sprinkle a layer of Force, and on the top pile lightly sweetened whipped cream.

Teed Oranges—Skin the oranges, remove as much of the



Embroidered Mauve Voile de Sole Gown

white pith as possible without marring the fruit, and pass a thread through the centre of each orange. For the icing whisk the whites of two eggs well, stir in one pound of icing sugar, and beat thoroughly for a quarter of an hour. Dip the oranges in this and tie them to a stick. Place this stick across a very moderate oven, and let the oranges remain until dry.

Savoury Surprises—Take a piece of bacon about 4in. long, roll inside minced beef, chicken, and parsley; pepper and salt to taste. Put in rolls on a skewer, dip in batter, and fry a golden brown.

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