

ST. JOHN

CORRESPONDENCE PAGE OF FASHIONS & BEAUTY

Blouses, Plain and Fancy for Mid-Winter Wear

THE blouse plays a most prominent role in mid-winter fashion; for as satin-finished fabrics grow in favor, so do plain skirts, which fact throws the responsibility of trimming entirely on the bodice.

The secret of successful blouse-building this season is to secure by the adjustment of girdle and trimming the effect of a one-piece costume, even though the skirt and blouse be separate. So let me here emphasize the importance of having the girdle match or harmonize perfectly with bodice and skirt, thereby forming a connecting link.

Earlier in the season, when the Directorate sash came in, we saw many black sashes on broadcloth and silk gowns of other colors, such as gray, tobacco-brown, deep red, blue, etc. For a time this picturesque style appealed, but now it has been abandoned in favor of matching sashes, and truly this is a blessed economy for women of slender means.

Any one-piece costume, whether cut on princess, Empire or Directorate lines, is an appalling task for the home-dressmaker, but it is a comparatively simple trick to simulate these effects in a two-piece costume, when the material of the skirt is employed in the blouse and a high girdle is added.

In planning this season's blouse to match any skirt, it must be borne in mind that the lining must fit snugly and that there must be no fullness nor "pouch" at the waist line. The fullness is over the bust and shoulders, never lower. Another feature of the up-to-date blouse is the guimpes, yokes or tucker effect, and the woman of slender purse will find that she can freshen her wardrobe wonderfully by introducing novel guimpes.

For instance, if you have a princess or Empire effect in satin finished broadcloth, cashmere or any supple cloth or in messaline, you can transform it from afternoon to dinner gown by introducing a different guimpe. If your afternoon guimpe is of tucked net, dyed to match the fabric, with high pointed collar and long mousetail sleeves, you can substitute for dinner a guimpe of cream white or ecru net, inset with imitations of lace or colored embroidered picked out with gold or silver beads. The neck should be slightly rounded or cut in "D" fashion, and the mousetail sleeves may be long or short. Even with very decorative frocks, long sleeves are worn this season, though sticklers for the conventions insist that elbow sleeves or shorter should accompany the very low neck.

If odd guimpes are to be used, they should be fitted properly on a lining which runs to the waist line and then fastened to the blouse proper by innumerable small hooks, buttons or eyes to prevent even the tiniest gap.

We are showing this week a splendidly fitted guimpe pattern, which the lace or net can be used for the sleeves and for a yoke of any depth and shape. It is especially suited to developing the popular keystone yokes which run half way down the fronts of blouses.

Here, in Figure A, the sleeves are



FIG. B—KEYSTONE YOE EFFECT IN FIGURED NET.

smooth, plain and tight-fitting, with the highly favored, pointed finish at the wrist; but in Figure B, there is shown a different treatment, with the keystone yoke and mousetail sleeves to elbow or hand. The original of this model was a wistaria colored messaline trimmed with embroidered banding of silver on wistaria silk, and an edge of deeper wistaria braid. The keystone yoke was of creamy figured net, showing a fine daisy pattern, and in the heart of each daisy was sewed a silver bead.

The same model would develop charmingly catwba colored silk or broadcloth with a plain net, edged with fine gold beads over gold gauze. The introduction of an interlining of

Just a trifle deeper hue, matching the binding of the left hand skirt, which is covered and scalloped, the only trimming on the skirt. And just here a word about buttons. If you cannot buy handsomely jeweled or chased buttons and you are tired of satin covered buttons, try covering the molds first with cloth braid, or satin and then with interlaced soutache braid. These are very popular and the smallest buttons are simply better of interlaced braid, bullet shaped.

Figure D suggests a stunning idea for the girl who can braid and embroider quickly. As will be seen by reference to the plain model of the bolero sections in the upper corner, the foundation of this frock is very simple, but a girl who can braid evenly, and work solid discs of heavy embroidery silk in between the braid pattern will soon have a very ornate and effective afternoon blouse.

The model from which this was sketched was a London-smoke broadcloth, combined with net dyed to match, matching sash of messaline, and a touch of flame color in the embroidery. The guimpe, for which the pattern in Figure A could be used, was made of the coarse net, laid in broad tucks, and fitted snugly into the waist line. The broadcloth used in the skirt formed the foundation of the bolero and was almost hidden by soutache braid in London smoke and embroidered disc in flame color. The upper edge of the bolero was finished with teeth-shaped trimmings of broadcloth, each finished with grey braid and a flame colored disc, while the lower part of the bolero had a finish of fine London-smoke ball fringe. A touch of the braid and embroidery was also introduced around the high collar.

Fleeces of embroidered crepe de chine, light red, wistaria net and lace in which the braid or colored embroidery is introduced can be used to build this bolero.

In Figure B you find the reverse of the treatment shown in Figure D, for here the over-drapery is of satin or some other supple fabric, while the braid, embroidery or lace appears in the undergarment or low-cut yoke.

The blouse is made of percaleine or silk lining, with upper section and sleeves of lace, net, braided chiffon or satin, while the drapery by contrast will be plain but very supple. The sleeves may be plain or skirted, but the model complete is most artistic. The over-drapery and sash in the original were of creamy white messaline, and the sleeves and yoke were of cream-colored net braided and studded with gold beads. The sleeves were held in place by straps of the satin, finished with rosettes of net, set off by gold and pearl ornaments.

With blouses such as these, a plain frock skirt, either regulation length or mounted to give the short waisted effect can be used.



FIG. E—CREAM COLORED MESSALINE WITH BRAIDED AND BEADED NET FOR EVENING WEAR.



FIG. D—AFTERNOON BLOUSE IN LONDON-SMOKE BROADCLOTH WITH BRAIDED BOLERO.

Rounding Out the Arms and Hands

DESPITE the fact that long sleeves have come into vogue, there are many times when a lone, bony arm and thin hand are a great embarrassment to the owner. Perfectly rounded arms are seldom seen, and particularly is it unusual to see a perfect forearm. However, there are simple home treatments which will often eradicate a great many blemishes. One of the greatest whiteners is pure lemon juice, which should be used freely by the girl who has a yellow tint to the skin of the arm.

Very thin and scrawny arms should be massaged with a flesh food, and a physical culture exercise should be practiced. Massage of the arms is accomplished by grasping one arm with the hand of the opposite arm, and beginning at the wrist, working upward with a twisting and wringing motion. Then begin from the shoulder and work down in the same manner, all the time working into the flesh some good food. If the arm is apt to be blotchy and the circulation is poor, the mass of flesh should be gripped between the fingers and the thumb in a firm grasp, and moved up and down upon the underlying bones.

Many women write to me that a flesh upon the upper arm is very rough, and this is very unbecoming with evening dress. It is often caused by carelessness in properly drying the arms and from the insufficient use of the scrubbing brush. A very stiff brush should be used on the upper part of the arm, but even such applications will not always relieve that rough condition. Go to any reliable druggist and ask for a cake of pumice stone—not powdered pumice, but in one solid cake. Apply to the rough parts of the arm every day, then wash off in warm water and soap.

Pumice stone will also remove superfluous hairs on the arms unless they are very stubborn. If the frequent use of pumice stone irritates the flesh, apply cotton of alo ointment and it will quickly relieve that itching sensation. Form-la for this ointment has been given so often in these columns that I will not repeat it, but I will gladly send it to any reader upon receipt of stamped and self addressed envelope.

Hair on the arms is an affliction common to many women. In using depilatories, remember that no depilatory has yet been discovered that will remove the hair and prevent its coming back. The following formula is a simple one and can be used with a degree of safety. It will remove the hair temporarily, but further than that I promise nothing—Dissolve three ounces of sulphuret of calcium in twelve ounces of water and bottle. When desired for use wet enough cornstarch

with this liquid to make a paste sufficient to cover the growth of hair it is desired to remove. When dry the hair will come away with the paste.

The girl who feels that her arm is ugly, beyond redemption, should adopt the style of long sleeves which reach to the wrist. These sleeves are worn even with décolleté gowns.

Only constant care will keep the hands in good condition during the winter months, and the girl who wants soft, white hands should never let them get chilled. Remember that kid gloves are cold, particularly if they are tight. Only constant care will keep the hands in good condition during the winter months, and the girl who wants soft, white hands should never let them get chilled. Remember that kid gloves are cold, particularly if they are tight.

The wise girl will rub cold cream into the flesh of the hands every evening when she goes out in the air—be it ten times a day. And she rubs it into the flesh—does not dab it on carelessly—always rubbing it down towards the cuticle of the nails. If the grease is well into the flesh it will not soil the leather of the gloves. If the hands do get chilled despite muffs and gloves, do not hold them over the fire when coming in. Wash in tepid water and throw just a little glycerine into the basin to soften the water—about a teaspoonful to every pint of water—and then rub the hands vigorously until the natural heat has returned to them.

When it is desired to whiten and soften the hands with the least possible delay the following cosmetic paste is very beneficial:

Myrrh, 1 ounce; honey, 4 ounces; yellow wax, 2 ounces; rosewater, 6 ounces.

Melt the yellow wax in a double boiler and then add the myrrh, which should be powdered, while the wax is still hot. Beat these two ingredients thoroughly together, then stir in the honey, which should be strained, then the rosewater. If you find it too thick, add enough glycerine to make a spreadable paste.

Apply at night and wear a pair of old gloves several sizes too large. Do not expect a cure in one night. Repeat the process every night for a week or two.

In your quest for pretty arms and hands do not forget that lacing will give you red arms and swollen fingers. Tight gloves will also make the arms red and mottled. Believe me it is far better to have the waist line one inch larger and pretty white arms, rather than red arms and a small waist line. For the woman who has a thin hand with large veins showing and whose flesh hangs loosely over the bones of the fingers, I recommend that she massage every day with the flesh food which

The Possibilities of a Cake of Chocolate

THE store room of every good housekeeper should contain a good supply of chocolate. It is full of nutrients, fattening in quality and can be developed into all sorts of dishes tempting to the eye and the palate alike.

Nervous, thin children should be allowed to drink the chocolate they want. In making chocolate of the unweetened chocolate should be allowed for each about four ounces of the mixture of milk, and it should be sweetened with brown sugar rather than white. Boil down until it has the consistency of cream, and just before removing from the fire, flavor with vanilla. For afternoon tea for grown-ups it is well to add a liberal dash of port wine as a flavoring. The chocolate should not boil after flavoring has been added, as the heat will kill it.

Chocolate Pancakes—This makes a delicious dessert for luncheon and one that is quickly prepared. Mix together two eggs, yolks and whites, with two heaping tablespoons of sweetened chocolate that has been grated (if unweetened brand is used, then the mixture must be sweetened to taste) half cup of milk, half cup of flour. Beat all together well. Fry like ordinary pancakes, brown on both sides, and roll them, lay on a hot platter, sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve immediately.

Hot Chocolate Sauce for Vanilla Ice Cream—In a porcelain saucepan boil together one cup of water and half a cup of granulated sugar. Let it boil for five minutes, and then stir in slowly five tablespoons of grated chocolate that has been dissolved in a gill of rich milk or thin cream. Stir until thick and smooth, remove from the fire, add vanilla flavoring to taste, beat thoroughly and serve.

I am giving. This food should not be used on the face if the skin is inclined to be hairy, but it is quite safe to use freely on the hands where the skin is not so fine:

Tannin 1-2 grammes
Lanoline 10 grammes
Oil of sweet almonds 20 grammes
Melt the lanoline and oil in a double boiler with as little heat as possible. Remove from the fire and beat in the tannin as the mixture cools.



FIG. C—TAILORER BLOUSE OF MESSALINE WITH SCALLOPED ROUND IN BRAID.

metallic gauze is one of the features of the mid-winter fashion season. Especially is it effective under artificial light, therefore popular for dinner, dancing and afternoon reception gowns. But it must be borne in mind that the metallic touch is to be introduced lightly, dainty and in homeopathic quantities. The smartly made gown does not display bullion fringe, drops or heavy bands, but bullion gauze or gauze banding, under net or lace or embroidered chiffon cloth, etc.

Figure C shows a very good model for a messaline or satin shirt waist to match a tailored suit. The scalloped edges are bound in flat silk braid of



FIG. A—THE POPULAR GUIMPE INTRODUCED IN MANY BLOUSES.

WOMAN—THE HOSTESS

WITH the woman, hospitality should be and generally is a fine art. No matter what her estate, how large or small her income, she invites members of her wedding party to receive with her, or if she moves from her old home to her husband's town, she selects some of her old friends to assist her, provided of course that they have been prompt to call upon her and show her social attentions.

For these afternoon affairs, light refreshments are provided, tea, chocolate, dainty sandwiches, cakes and bonbons; at night coffee or punch may be substituted for tea and chocolate. For a large reception at night the bride does not give the afternoon affair, but the afternoon affair she wears a dainty house frock. If her husband assists in receiving during the afternoon, he wears grey trousers, black frock coat, fancy waistcoat, and silk tie, but at night he puts on evening clothes.

These general afternoon teas are, always the safest method of entertaining for the new bride or bride who has not yet learned where to draw her social lines. Later, she can give a party for her friends, luncheon, musicales, dinners, card parties, etc., but at first she should not pick and choose her guests too freely.

In giving a dinner, the evening dining room will not accommodate more than ten, and a larger number of guests take from the general air which men like around the dinner table. A luncheon of more than twelve women is also apt to be cumbersome, but a card party is limited only by the size of the room and the number of tables which can be arranged.

The young matron's social privileges are many. If her husband desires to entertain a number of his bachelor friends, she may be the one woman at the table or she may arrange for their entertainment and then turn the house over to them. She may give, with her husband, a chafing dish party of a dinner party. Have his most intimate friends to dinner informally, a couple at a time, until you know your town, then give the formal dinner. And incidentally remember that dinner invitations go out in the joint names of your husband and yourself; also that your husband leads the way to the dining room with the woman guest of honor, highest social standing or age on his arm, while you bring up the rear of the procession with the leading man guest.

As a rule, the bride is kept quite busy at first repaying calls and accepting the hospitality of her husband's old friends. In addition to this, she generally sends out her own cards for four afternoons at home, a fortnight apart, or if her husband is fond of society, they are both at home on four evenings at the same interval. In the latter case, the joint cards are sent out. When the bride receives in the afternoon, either the announcement of her days at home accompany the wedding announcement cards or she sends them out separately.

Prudence Stoddard

Gold slippers and yellow silk stockings are now being worn by the girls of the smart set. They have supplanted the white slipper and stocking in popularity.