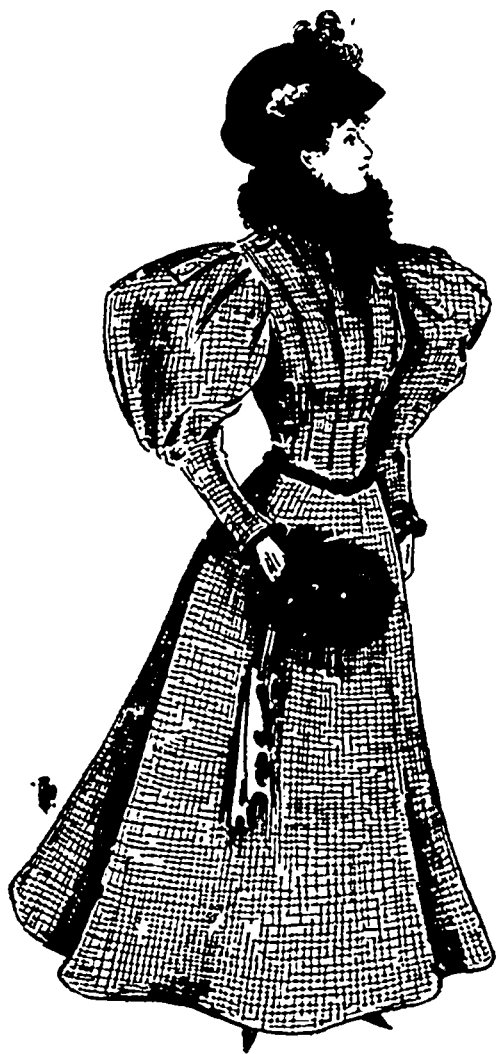


## DECEMBER GOWNS....

The blouse waist is still in demand, and will be worn more or less during the winter, but Toronto modistes find it less in demand than during the early autumn months, while in Paris and London fashions it is shown but little.

Much velvet is being used both in street gowns and for bodices. When used for the latter, the bodice is made of the velvet, close fitting, and trimmed with jets or sequins.



In No. 1 this month we show a pretty skating gown made for a well-known Toronto heiress.

It is an all-wool black and white check, very fine and soft. The skirt is the fashionable nine-gore skirt. The bodice is made with three box plaits back and front. The two side plaits in front reach over the shoulder. Two square-shaped tabs of the material are neatly fitted in the shoulder line and extended out to rest upon the sleeve puff. The three back plaits are gathered in close at the waist line, thus avoiding a broad effect. Jeweled buttons of white pearl with circlets of steel, and loops of black eye-glass with imitation cord form the trimming. The sleeve is of the fashionable fulness, stiffened with mohair. It is gathered in the under seam of the upper arm and at the elbow to allow the fulness to fall in softer effect. It falls in bell-shape over the hand. A ruff of soft, black fur at the throat, with edging of the same at the wrists and base of the bodice complete this very neat, simple, yet thoroughly stylish, costume, which would serve equally well for a

traveling gown.



We show in No. 2 a very stylish gown suitable for chaperon or dinner gown for elderly lady. It is of heavy, black, corded silk, made perfectly plain, with pointed basque and puffed sleeves. The "dress" effect is given by shaped bretelles of old rose satin, extending in points over the shoulders and reaching lower edge of the bodice at front and back. These bretelles are richly embroidered by hand or applied in black velvet and silk, vine pattern. Extending from beneath the bretelles at the shoulder, and falling over the sleeve are frills of pointed black Brussels net, embroidered in green and old rose silks. The entire effect is rich and stately.



No. 3 is a gown to be worn this month by a Toronto debutante. It is of white Shanghai silk, very soft and fine in quality. The skirt is plain; the bodice décolleté, formed with pretty shaped yoke of the silk, which is edged with pearls. A double box plait of the silk falls from the yoke in front and is gathered in at the waist line. A deep knife plaiting of chiffon finishes the top of the yoke. The sleeves are of puffed chiffon, and open, as indicated, to show the arms.

Sleeves are not smaller, but the puff has descended, or rather very large drooping sleeves are the order of the day. The bell-shaped cuff falling over the hand (shown in No. 4 November number) is in favor, although not likely to become popular for house gowns because of its inconvenience.

This sleeve was worn in Washington and Philadelphia last winter.

In velvet gowns, we illustrate in No. 4 a very handsome visiting costume. The skirt is of heliotrope velvet, with foot trimmings of braid. The bodice is close-fitting, and richly braided in black or old gold satin or fine cloth. Artistic drapings of the velvet form the bodice trimming. The sleeves are of the braided material and are draped to give an open arm effect. This gown is decidedly rich, stylish and novel. The fashion may be successfully reproduced in lighter materials. It would be effective in silk or any soft dress goods. For a short waist the draping should not be continued below the waist line.



Old style satins are coming to the front for evening wear, while rich brocades are also in vogue. Last year it was unusual to see a brocade gown at a ball, but this season will show many of them.

Shot silks are still shown for evening and reception gowns, but the qualities are richer and the shades more lustrous.

One fashionable Toronto modiste has sent out black satin gowns ornamented with rich embroidery in colors or hand-painted. The latter will probably become a fashion for rich effects in chaperon's gowns.

Velvet coats in redingote style are the latest. A very effective one has been recently made for a Toronto society woman. The young Duchess of Marlborough wore a similar wrap for traveling.

The prettiest ornaments for house and walking dresses are the jeweled buttons—very large, usually of pearl, with silver or gold devices.

The present fashion is to fasten the bodice beneath a box plait or full draping. Fastening under the arm is going out.

Braid is coming much into favor for trimming.

The best modistes have the dress stiffening about half-a-yard in depth.

Silk underskirts are still first in favor; next to them, white merino, lustrous and the usual cambrics are worn.

Thanks for information are due to Miss Paton, 3 King St. West.