

ST. JOHN.

CORRESPONDENCE PAGE OF FASHIONS AND BEAUTY

TREATMENT FOR DISCOLORED NECK

THE fashion of wearing the collarless blouse has brought with it a double trouble to the unfortunate woman. For one thing, it exposes the sensitive skin of throat and neck to wind and dust, making it coarse from constant exposure. And for the other, it lays bare to sight the ugly black rim about the throat caused by wearing the tight, high collars of last year. The skin of throat, neck and chest will show lack of care more quickly than that of any other part of the body.

If you have this ugly black streak about your throat, your first treatment must be towards eliminating it. Cold water will stand you in little stead; the neck should be washed with warm water, into which a few drops of benzoin have been added. This done, you should exercise the neck until a free perspiration appears, then again bathe it in warm water, and apply the following lotion, letting it dry on the neck:

Boric acid, 1 drachm; distilled witch hazel, 1 ounce; rosewater, 2 ounces. So many women write to me and say, "How can you exercise the neck?" This is simple enough. Bend the head back and forward and from side to side, and you will soon bring on a perspiration. If you have first opened the pores by a warm bath. Or you can take a small Turkish towel and rub the neck freely with it. The idea is to open the pores so that the bleaching lotion will give quicker results. This treatment should be given every night until the streak disappears.

The work of keeping the skin soft and white should be done at night. If you have been out in the air, with sun and wind beating against your throat all day, then apply cold cream before you wash the neck. This keeps the dust, when the neck should be wiped off with a bit of old linen. If you are average to using cold cream, a very good emollient can be made at home. Take the white of one new egg, beat it to a very stiff froth—so stiff that it can be turned upside down on the plate and not fall. Then put it into a bowl and add an equal quantity of pure, sweet almond oil. Rub this mixture on the neck with old linen, wipe off with a clean cloth, and then wash with soap and water.

If the neck is tanned and discolored all over—by this I mean has no distinct streak, but is simply a muddy color all over—I advise the following bleach. Five grains of powdered borax, five grains of tincture of benzoin, ten grains of spirits of camphor, 100 grains of pure rosewater. Shake the ingredients well until thoroughly mixed, and apply the neck with the lotion, letting it dry on.

This lotion can be used twice a day, at night and after the morning bath. After the morning bath, apply the lotion and then dust the throat with a pure powder.

Massage will fill out the ugly hollows of the neck, and also distribute the lump of fat which often hangs at the nape of the neck. This latter trouble often gives to a girl a very round-shouldered appearance. It is not difficult to massage your own neck. Cold cream, or the egg and almond oil lotion, should be applied generously and the massaging done in a rotary motion. By this I mean not to scatter the fingers over a round surface, but to press down the flesh, and roll of rub, so that you cause the flesh to stir over the bone in a circular motion. Keep on with this treatment until the whole throat has been covered. Then apply the bleach, which is also somewhat of an astringent.

Many women are afflicted with a gutter, and this, of course, shows very plainly when wearing a Dutch neck frock. This can be cured in its infancy, and perhaps the most successful treatment yet discovered for it is electricity. However, if a gutter is of long standing and has been settled by a physician at once, and not waste time with home cures or advertised patent remedies.

One of the most valuable assets of the modern toilet table is the much abused lemon. It is perhaps as effective a bleach as can be found. Cut the lemon in half and rub the pure juice directly upon the throat, allowing it to remain in warm water. Let the lemon juice dry on. If this treatment is too vigorous, then the following lotion may be found effective. Take two heaping tablespoonsful of oatmeal, add to it one quart of cold water, let come to a boil and boil ten minutes. Cool and strain through a piece of cheesecloth, and to the liquid add the juice of two lemons and a tablespoonful of alcohol. Apply this with a cloth, not wiping it away.

Warts are very apt to appear at the base of the neck, and are most unsightly with the collarless blouse. Getting rid of them is a very simple task. Many of them can be tied about tightly with a silk thread, and in a few days will literally rot off. Again, many women have successfully used the sticky milk taken from the milk-weed plant, applying several times a day. Warts have also been removed by constant applications of wet salt. If the wart is stubborn and will not yield to this simple treatment, then the following pomade can be used, but first make sure that it is a wart, pure and simple, and not some other complicated growth. One ounce of soap scum, 1 drachm of powdered sulfur, and 1 drachm of powdered veridigris. Spread this on a piece of old kid or chamois, cut in a little round piece just the size of the wart, and keep it on over night. Repeat if necessary.

Katharine Morton

MATCHING BLOUSES FOR FALL GOWNS



FIG. A—LIBERTY SILK BLOUSE WITH TASSELS.
FIG. B—TAILORED BLOUSE IN SURAH SILK.
FIG. C—FASHIONABLE KIMONO BLOUSE.
FIG. D—DOUBLE-BREASTED BLOUSE.

THE days when a dignified and a gaily colored waist and a somber black skirt was fashionable are past and gone. While the material of the blouse need not be like the skirt, it must match in color, and be really a part of the dress itself. The day of the pleated skirt is decidedly over, and by fall it will be seen very little on the woman of fashion. Some conservative tailors say, however, that the pleated skirt will always be worn by a certain type of woman—presumably the tall, thin type. But certainly the gored and circular skirts are just now riding on the top wave of popularity.

One of the newest innovations in the frequent use of silk tassels. The department stores in large cities carry tassels in all colors, but those who cannot shop at such places can make the tassels at home with a heavy twisted silk, which, when bought at the embroidery counter of any small shop. For afternoon and all dressy occasions, soft, clinging materials are used, such as tulle, lace, and heavy brocade silk is not appropriate for a blouse, no matter how the neck is treated.

To make a coat suit really practical, every woman should have two blouses, matching in color, but vastly different in texture, style and purpose. One of the smartest of the advanced fall fashions was seen the other day in a fashionable shop. It was of old blue chiffon cloth, the skirt a four-gored cut, and the coat semitailored and in three-quarter length. With this suit were two matching blouses. The tailored blouse, to wear mornings for all general street wear, and for short week-end trips, was of imported surah, matching the cloth exactly in color. It was made in the long straight pleated effect, and trimmed only with tiny buttons, covered with the same material. The second blouse, for calling, matinee, etc., was of old blue liberty silk, the exact shade of the suit. This was elaborately laced with light lace, soft strands of the liberty silk being pulled through the pattern of the lace, and finished off with luxurious tassels matching the blue of the material.

Figure A, shown to-day, would be a smart model to follow for such a blouse. It could be evolved from liberty silk, chiffon cloth, or a soft silk net. If you cannot buy materials to match your suit, then buy white or cream, and have it dyed to match. The long, mousetail sleeve in this model is charming made up in soft materials—Irish or Cluny lace should make the vestal and yoke. The woman who has a pretty throat could eliminate the high standing collar and cut the throat out in the prevailing Dutch neck fashion. The blouse is particularly becoming to the slender girl, as it gives breadth over the shoulders and fullness over the bust.

Figure B is a most practical model for an odd tailored blouse. This model is so severe that it can be worked up from even heavier materials than silk. A light weight French flannel or a soft albatross would be a sensible material for the girl who lives in a chilly climate. This particular model was made up in a heavy weight surah, which, by the way, has been given great preference over tulle, as it does not cut. It was seen in a dull London emerald gray, trimmed with smoked pearl buttons. The high Nadmore collar was detachable. It was made of heavy Cluny lace and finished off at the neck with a tiny bow or raspberry satin, giving tone and distinction to an otherwise somber garment.

Figure C illustrates the fashionable kimono sleeve. The one great hindrance to this sleeve is that it binds the free use of the arm, and for this reason it is only practical for the idle girl. The girl who uses her arms freely will find this sleeve a decided drawback. This blouse was made of what is known as Sappho silk—a soft silk with a high lustre on it which costs about a dollar a yard. The color was a dull sage green, and the striped collar, cuffs and belt were of a green and white taffeta silk. The tie at the throat was of soft green ribbon, a shade darker than the material in the blouse. And let me say just here that all colors this coming season are in the dull, faded tones. Nothing that is smart is vivid. All the imported materials have a faded tone to them.

Figure D shows a severely tailored blouse. It requires about four yards of silk of average width to make a blouse of this character. If the blouse is of a large size and the silk rather narrow, then five yards is safer. The dicker is separate. This makes a very neat and economical blouse for general wear; and the neck piece can be made of wash material and washed whenever soiled the least bit. Tucked organdie, embroidered batiste, or heavy all-over lace make practical dickeys.

Figure E shows a very full model on the favorite kimono line. The gimp can be made of matching or contrasting material, preferably the latter. Heavy and wide lace, such as Cluny lace, is used to match the material, a shade of the golden tan. The square yoke was of cream colored tulle, while the sleeves were made of the matching silk, finished off with a cuff of the dyed flat lace insertion.

Let me also impress upon you not to wear old belts with fancy blouses. Whatever your skirt material is, have made a tiny attached belt of the same material, and have it as smart as much as a belt that has no connection with either the skirt or the blouse.

Mary Dean

Tomato Croquettes: Two large cups of tomato sauce, two eggs, two tablespoons of butter, and salt and pepper to taste. Mix thoroughly and then add enough crumbs to make a paste thick enough to fry. Drop by the tablespoonful into boiling hot lard and fry. Garnish with cress or parsley.

APRONS, BIG AND LITTLE, FOR VARIOUS USES

IT has been said by some old wiseacres that many a man's restless eye has been captured by the sight of a dainty apron and, after that, the capture of his heart has been an easy task. Whether this be true or false, certain it is that aprons are again being worn by the housewife, girl, and many dainty ones are to be seen in the up-to-date shops.

One of the newest developments is known as a lap apron. This consists of a perfectly square piece of soft white goods, hemmed all around. When full, faded tones. Nothing that is smart is vivid. All the imported materials have a faded tone to them.

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Tomato Jelly: Take enough tomatoes to equal a quart, run them through a sieve, and add enough sugar, salt, pepper and onion juice to flavor to taste. Dissolve one-fourth box of gelatin in a little water, add to the tomato and cook together until well mixed. Remove from the fire, pour into small cups, and set away on ice to harden. When perfectly cold, turn out on lettuce leaves and serve with mayonnaise dressing. This salad can be made extremely pretty by putting chopped olives through it, and in the bottom of each cup a thick slice of hard boiled egg.

Prudence Standish

If perplexed in matters of dress, beauty, or etiquette, write to Miss Dean, Miss Morton or Miss Standish, enclosing a self-addressed and stamped envelope for reply. This is a quicker method than having your question answered in the columns of the paper. Besides, you receive a personal, intimate answer. Be careful to address your return envelope accurately. Letters come back to us every day, stamped "insufficient address" or "party cannot be found."

ETIQUETTE OF THE MIDSUMMER HOP

THERE are many sorts of dances, but it seems to me that none presents to the young girl so many embarrassing possibilities as the hop given at a hotel or large club house. The little dance given at home on the piazza holds forth little to be feared, and the small weekly dances given by the town club have become almost a home affair, but not so with the formal hop.

So many girls think that it is necessary to have a chaperon, the evening will be spoiled. This is a grave mistake. Let me say most strongly that more evenings have been spoiled by the absence of a chaperon than by the presence of one. If a young man invites you to a dance at a hotel, you need not take with you a chaperon, because there will be many married women at the hop who will act as general chaperones to one and all. But the young man must seek out one of these married women and see that you are duly introduced to her.

Hotel hops are of a semi-public order and a young girl should not be the last one to leave. Only those who reside in the hotel should be found among the last few stragglers. A man who asks a girl to attend such a dance must meet all expenses, and should exert himself to see that she has a delightful evening. He should always dance the first and last dance with her, and take her in to supper. If supper is not served in connection with the hop, then during the evening he should ask her to have some cooling drinks, and later to have a bite to eat, if such is the custom of the hotel.

The young man can dance with the girl more than twice, yet he should not monopolize her to the exclusion of all others. What I want to impress upon the escort is that his companion must not be allowed to become a dreaded "wall flower."

Each year finds the summer girl becoming more sensible in her dress. Gowns for an evening dance should just clear the floor, and a dainty lingerie dress is always in good form. At very formal dances white gloves are worn, but at nine out of every ten summer hops gloves are discarded after the first few minutes in the room. If you wear a trained dress, then make sure that you have on a dainty petticoat. Hold the dress up so that it clears the ground, but do not hold up the petticoat.

The girl who goes to a dance and is missing from the room for an hour at a time, only to be found in a cozy corner with a man, is acting decidedly in bad form. This does not mean that it is absolutely necessary to dance every dance and all the time. But it does mean that spooning on the piazza of a public hotel is decidedly tabooed by Mrs. Grundy. And I regret to say that it is a common evil of the midsommer dance.

When it comes time to go home at the end of the dance, let the young girl seek out one or two of the married ladies and bid them good-night. What this is done, do not stand on the stairs and gossip with this girl, stay in the indefinite length of time in the dressing room chatting with another, or dally for an hour or so in other ways. Once you have said good night, stand not on the order of going, but go.

So many girls write to me and ask, "What I think the man?" To all of them I say, most assuredly. It would be impossible for me to tell each one what to say, but surely there are hundreds of grateful little speeches which any girl can make. Tell the man frankly that you have enjoyed yourself, and that it was awfully nice of him to think of you. Don't gush, but be honest.

It would be most difficult for me to lay down a hard and fast law telling young men what to wear at a midsommer hop. This is a matter settled by local custom. I have been at small hotel hops where the young man appeared in sack suits; others where the men were seen in tuxedos coats and black ties. Of course, the strictly proper evening dress for a man is the swallow-tail coat, white waistcoat, white tie and white gloves, but women are inclined to be lenient with men in the summer, and men are prone to impose upon the good nature of the women. Hence, one is apt to see a variety of garments on the men at a midsommer dance. If a man dresses at the majority of others do, at least he will not be conspicuous.

Very young girls who are not yet formally out should not be seen at a hotel hop. Many girls in their teens are allowed to go to informal dances given by their girl friends, but only the girl who has finished school and is ready for a social campaign should be seen dancing in the public parlors of a hotel. Many indulgent mothers with two daughters say, "It is not fair to let Mary go to everything and keep Stella always at home." As a matter of fact, the rule works the other way. Mary, being the elder, is ready to go out to public places, and in time Stella will have her turn. The girl who is allowed to go out to such places when she is sixteen will be regarded as an "old girl" when she is really just ready to start her social life. And she can never live it down. Those who have seen her dancing at summer hops for several seasons will tell you, "Why, she must be twenty-five, for she's been coming to these hops ever since I can remember." Take my word for it, you of the younger set, it does not pay.

Prudence Standish