

FASHIONS AND FANCIES

HERE are seasons when black and white are immensely fashionable, and again, other seasons when the all black and the all white gowns are not nearly so smart as the colored ones. This season, while gowns of pastel shades as well as the vivid colors are in style, there are many more white and black being made than has been the case for the last few winters. And the thin black gowns are especially smart, so varied in design and texture as to make it easily



Satin Gown With Black Chiffon and Velvet Tunic

possible for the woman who prefers always to wear black to be able to have an endless variety. Voile de soie is a most popular material in the order of chiffon and mousseline de soie, which it closely resembles in its light transparency, but, as its name indicates, it is silky and more lustrous. It is a most exquisite fabric, and whether plain or embroidered works out well in any of the present models in afternoon or evening gowns, although it is a material that seems far better suited to summer than to winter wear. There are many new fashions in regard to the manner of trimming the voile de soie gowns. Velvet is a charming contrast, and a broad fold or band of velvet black velvet ribbon is effective against the transparency of the voile de soie, or silk veiling, as it is sometimes termed. The tunic overskirt finished with a band of velvet is far more effective than when finished with merely a hem or band of satin or silk. Embroidery is also smart, while for the evening gown the embroidery on the material is worked out in a design that of itself forms the border, and not only for the afternoon gown but for the more elaborate model for the theatre the velvet finish for the moment is in the highest favor.

Theatre gowns are now so essential in every fashionable outfit that they receive more attention than almost any other style of gown. The decollete, evidently made over ball gown is not nearly so smart as the simpler model designed expressly for the occasion and which also does duty for a restaurant dinner gown. The perhaps too simple style of the plain black voile de soie gown is quite changed by the lining and trimmings that are used. Made up over black or even white (although black with white lining is very fashionable), the same model does not appear half so elaborate as when over a color and with trimming that corresponds to the lining. A coral pink satin gown with double tunic of black voile de soie is charmingly dainty and smart because of the color of the lining and a wide jewelled belt thickly set with coral beads and rhinestones. The same model carried out with turquoise blue satin lining and a turquoise belt is no handsomer than when all black with jet and rhinestone grille, but the color makes it seem much more so. With the all black more trimming can be employed, and without considerable jet and embroidery the gown is all too simple.

Black satin gowns are smart this season, but they are veiled with tunics of embroidered net or chiffon covered with a jerseylike bodice of heavy embroidery—net and jet combined or silk and jet. There are straight gurnitures of embroidered net that cover the front of the waist and then fall straight in panel or stole effect down the front of the gown. In description this does not sound very new and is on the same lines as last season, but there is a most marked difference apparent to any one who examines it closely—difference enough to make a last year's gown look up to date if freshened by the new trimming. The new gurnitures, as they are called, are bewilderingly beautiful, and both in tulle and net are embroidered in an endless variety of designs. Jet and steel, jet and silver, jet and gold, jet and diamante effects—one and all are fashionable; while in all jet numberless different and most effective designs are worked out by combining different kinds of jet—the cut beads, the spangles, the tail heads and the paillettes. The finest are extremely costly, as well they may be, for both materials and workmanship are of the highest order, but for the benefit of womanhood in the majority there are many, quite as many, different patterns in machine as in hand work, and at a tenth part, at least, of the cost. The woman who buys what she knows is the best, without troubling as to price instinctively chooses the hand work and the cut beads, but while the best is the best never was there a season when a limited amount of money could be invested to better advantage than at the present moment.

Excessively—it might be said aggressively—plain and simple in effect are many of the most expensive gowns this season, their cost, so it is said, being due to the originality

of design and the models designed by an artist. The whole is so harmonious that even an amateur in such affairs recognizes instinctively the beauty of the gown. But it is not a fashion to be copied rashly. A machine worked gurniture over a good fitting last year's gown will turn out far more satisfactorily than a copy of the severely plain and simple gown the cost of which counts easily three figures. To the lover of clothes, the woman whose taste has been educated and, incidentally, satisfied by an unlimited allowance for gowns the gowns this season are more attractive than she has ever known. She recognizes at a glance the fine quality of the material, the exquisite coloring and the wonderful beauty of line that exists under the apparently clumsy drapery, and she selects quickly what is becoming; for the woman who is not becomingly gowned this winter has either poor taste, no vanity or no money; and while these wonderful specimens of dress may be only for the wealthy, the woman of limited means can, by spending time and thought, select becoming things for herself, even in these extravagant days.

Gowns to wear at home in the afternoon or for informal luncheon and card parties are made of the black voile de soie in many instances. Open at the throat in a short V shape or with the V filled in with transparent yoke, the waist made in soft surplus folds of the material over softer folds of tulle and edged with velvet, the model is a most attractive one. But there is another model that is in great demand—the full blouse waist and the tunic skirt, slightly gathered with velvet belt, fastened with two fancy buckles. The sleeves are elbow length over longer sleeves of tulle or net and are also finished with a band of velvet ribbon. The description does not give the impression of low charming in this simple but extremely smart model, which has some of the lines of the long Russian blouse, so extremely becoming to a slight figure.

Embroidered tulle is one of the most fashionable of all materials for evening wear this winter. While of finest quality it has much more "body" to it than had the old-fashioned tulle, and the finest silk nets are wonderfully strong. They have to be to bear the weight of the spangles and embroidery with which they are adorned, but never do they look heavy and thick, no matter how elaborate the work, on account of the tenuity of the net. There are many fancy nets as well as the plain silk net and the tulle, and some of the openwork nets are all embroidered with fine cut jet beads that make an even lighter effect, while the diamante effect, the rhinestones embroidered or set in the net, makes the whole gown look as if made entirely of jewels.

The introduction of color into the thin black gown is most cleverly worked out this season, not only in the linings and bodices, as previously described, but in the trimmings on the waist. An openwork embroidery of jet on an all-black satin brocade gown will be laid over pink satin, of which just the edge of the satin will show. This can be intensified by the introduction of coral beads through the jet embroidery or in a large ornament on the front of the waist, but it is not necessary to even work in the color in such fashion, for the touch of pink satin under the jet will be quite sufficient to relieve the all black.

An afternoon gown of soft silk and wool material or crepe would be charming made like a model shown in New York. It emphasizes the tunic effect, which continues in favor, partly on account of its adaptability to the present fashion of ma-



Black Silk Voile Gown Embroidered with Pearl and Jet Over Pink Lining

terials and partly on account of its gracefulness. Clinging and unlined skirts require a double effect to make them appear at their best. This design reaches up to the bust line in what looks like an apron shape, and meets a rather elaborate yoke, or underbody, fashioned of lace.

Bands of passementerie or braid finish the lower edge of the tunic and outline it where it almost meets the hem of the underskirt in the back. The same trimming ornaments the armholes, which are cut out quite widely. An effective and simple banding to use is made of net dyed to match the cloth and embroidered in a heavy fibre floss of the same shade. With plenty of filling the design could be made to stand out boldly and handsomely.

Lace tunics that are sold separately and can be worn with different costumes are a novelty of the season and will be found helpful in remodelling a passe frock or in giving a little variety to one that has seen a great deal of service even though it is still in good style.

Among the new necklaces those made of small pearls strung in flat net-work are fashionable. The pearl band or necklace may be in the form of a net having circles, squares, triangles or diamond figures for its component parts.

THE ROMANCE OF FINGER PRINTS

A FEW months ago the New York police arrested a notorious burglar, considered to be the most expert man in America at safe-cracking. On searching his room there was found a note book filled with writing in cypher. The police were unable to understand the signs, but the feat was performed by a reporter on the "New York Evening Sun," who, incidentally, gave his paper a unique news "scrap."

The note-book turned out to be a remarkable "Guide to Safe-Cracking." It contained the results of the life-long experience of the criminal concerning the best methods of working in his line of business. The various makes of safes were analysed in detail, their weak spots were mentioned, and the most expeditious methods of blowing them open were indicated.

Included in the guide was a set of rules to be observed by all cracksmen. The first of the rules, heavily underlined, read something like this: "Be sure always to wear gloves when at work, and once you start on your job never remove the gloves if you value your liberty. Take no risk whatever about leaving behind an impression of your fingers, and before you leave look carefully over the place you have been working, and if you see a finger-mark rub it out with a rag. Should you forget this, and should the 'bulls' (American criminal slang for police) find your finger-marks, they will know at once who you are. Beware of finger-marks."

This advice explains why gloves are now a recognized part of the outfit of criminals. Hundreds of pairs have been found by the police in the possession of arrested burglars. But even the use of gloves sometimes fails to protect a burglar from detection, and in one case they actually led to his arrest. Some little time ago the police found a new glove, accidentally left behind by a burglar who had robbed a Broadway store in New York. The glove was traced to the store where it was sold, and the salesman was able to give so accurate a description of the purchaser that the arrest of the criminal followed within forty-eight hours. This is an instance of carelessness on the part of a burglar that the American police never met before. It shows how the finger-print fear entered into the calculations of the cracksmen.

The American police have been using finger-prints for the identification of criminals for three years. As already told, the introduction of the system into the United States was due to the demonstration of its value given at the St. Louis Exposition by Sir Edward Henry, Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, who attended the exposition on behalf of Scotland Yard. The United States Government sent a representative to London to make a detailed report of the value of finger-prints in the hunting of criminals. A special bureau was immediately established at police headquarters, in Mulberry Street, and now the police in the principal cities of the United States would as soon think of doing away with the photograph gallery of rogues as of abolishing their collection of finger-prints. An exchange arrangement is in operation among the various American police departments whereby copies of all new finger-prints are distributed broadcast. There is a collection of nearly thirty thousand finger-prints of criminals at the New York police headquarters, and more than fifteen hundred identifications a year are made in New York by the finger-print method of law breakers, most of whom, otherwise, would succeed in concealing their identity.

While the matter was under discussion there was caught in New York the thief whose identification with a notorious English criminal by means of finger-prints has been described in these articles. From that completely successful experiment dates the instantaneous conversion of the New York police force to the value of finger-prints in the hunting of criminals. A special bureau was immediately established at police headquarters, in Mulberry Street, and now the police in the principal cities of the United States would as soon think of doing away with the photograph gallery of rogues as of abolishing their collection of finger-prints. An exchange arrangement is in operation among the various American police departments whereby copies of all new finger-prints are distributed broadcast. There is a collection of nearly thirty thousand finger-prints of criminals at the New York police headquarters, and more than fifteen hundred identifications a year are made in New York by the finger-print method of law breakers, most of whom, otherwise, would succeed in concealing their identity.

The rapidity of identification is frequently a valuable aid to the police in confining a prisoner after his arrest. In one instance, a suspected burglar was caught by local police in Boston, and was taken to a police station some miles away from the police headquarters. The man protested he was innocent, but his finger-marks were taken, the index numbers by which the prints are classified were worked out, and telephoned to police headquarters. In a few minutes there came back over the telephone the man's history, with some details concerning his recent movements. He was immediately put under a severe examination, and as the police fired question after question at him he broke down, and confessed to a recent housebreaking. Had he been given the time to recover himself that must necessarily have elapsed during his removal to police headquarters for identification it is probable he would have been able to nerve himself for the cross-examination, and would have come through it successfully.

All American policemen are schooled in the best ways of taking finger-prints, and in the system of computing the index numbers. The police of New York City attend lectures weekly, delivered by Lieut. Faurot, who is in charge of the finger-print bureau. Lieut. Faurot also has among his pupils the heads of police departments of other cities, who are contemplating adopting the finger-print system. The lieutenant is America's leading finger-print expert, and he carries in his head an unbelievable number of finger-print indices, so that he can identify without searching the records who many a criminal is immediately he hears his finger-mark numbers.

Lieut. Faurot warns enthusiastic beginners to beware of hurried work, and to go slowly in computing the numerical values of the finger-marks. An instance is related of the danger accompanying too much haste, which led to the escape of a notorious criminal not long ago. The criminal, after robbing the safe in a large shop, left behind, on the side of the safe, clear impressions of his fingers. A reproduction

of them was made, and by some mistake a wrong index was secured, which happened to be the number of another thief. This thief was traced, after great difficulty and waste of time, but was able to prove a complete alibi, sworn to by the police of another city, in which he was at the time of the robbery. It was thought for a time that the finger-print system had come to grief, but the marks were examined again, and it was then discovered that a mistake had been made. The name of the right thief was then ascertained, but it was found he had sailed for South America, and had completely vanished. The local police knew of his sailing at the time of his departure, but they did not arrest him, for no charge had then been made against him.

An ingenious attempt to fool the police of Cincinnati by means of finger-prints occurred recently. A burglar forced an entrance into a private house, and after securing his plunder, he left behind a ball of putty, on which were the finger-prints of a non-criminal friend which the burglar had secured before starting on his job. His object was to make the police believe an unknown thief had done the work, and thus remove all suspicion from himself. Unfortunately, on leaving the house, the ingenious Raffles ran squarely into the arms of a policeman, and the scheme failed.

As already mentioned, some criminals purposely cut their fingers to make finger-print recognition impossible. A man was arrested not long ago in New York with scars on several of his fingers. The police knew from his actions that his finger-prints had been taken previously, but they could not trace them, and the man successfully hid his identity. He was obviously pleased with himself until the police told him that thereafter his scars would serve as absolutely certain identification marks, which nothing but the removal of his fingers could destroy. The criminal had not thought of that phase of the matter, and he began to swear. He used a peculiarly blasphemous curse, quite out of the ordinary vocabulary of oaths. Immediately the expletive was uttered one of the detectives present identified him by it. The man had sworn in the same manner when arrested some time previously, and the peculiarity of the oath had stuck in the detective's mind.

It is curious that while American men prisoners readily admit their iden-

tity when it is proved by the finger-prints, women prisoners protest to the end that a mistake has been made. They seem to believe the finger-print system is nothing more than a "third degree" dodge, as severe police cross-examination is called, and that the police are guessing when they compare finger-prints.

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