

The Toilet and the Baby



VENING gowns and party frocks are of special interest at the festive season. The former seem to grow more rich and sumptuous every year, but as in other departments of dress, one who has the taste and skill can often make a careful selection of colors and clever handling take the place of actual cost of materials. There is no falling off whatever in the use of satin, but rich brocades are likewise favored for certain formal occasions, and there is much in the way of beautiful laces and embroideries in gold, silver, diamante, and jewels for trimming.

The satins employed in evening gowns are of the most charmingly supple weaves, as different as possible from the shiny stiff fabric that used to appear under that name. The new satins do not shine, they shimmer. The brocades, too, though often interwoven with gold and silver threads, are soft and pliable.

The skirts of evening dresses are still of the narrow and close-fitting order, but anything of the tied-in or exaggeratedly tight description is very much passé. Frequently the skirt is fashioned with a slit at one side, in which is inserted a plaiting of lace or chiffon, or the skirt opens in front over a lace-flounced petticoat. The round-length or shorter skirt which almost everybody adopted for at least some of their evening dresses last winter is not considered as of the really fashionable models now. The train is coming back again after its brief semi-banishment, and no wonder, for the added length certainly gives a dignity and grace which are absent from an evening gown with a comparatively short skirt.

The shortened waist is still very good style, and is seen more often than any other. The waist line is not raised quite so much as in the dresses of the Empire period, but there is no fixed point; it may be anywhere between the bust and the natural waist line, and quite on the latter if that is most becoming to the figure. There is some sort of narrow girdle, or folded band, or cordeliere defining the joining of waist and skirt while yet the one-piece effect is maintained.

Some kind of drapery, tunic, overdress, or sash, is seen on almost every gown for evening wear. There is a tendency to like drapery as a change

from the straight lines, and this liking finds its expression chiefly on evening and reception dresses. Tunics of chiffon and embroidered nets are of all lengths and a variety of outlines. Sometimes they are draped quite straight, reach almost to the foot of the gown, and are slashed up one side, the garniture forming a border along this opening. This arrangement is pretty and almost universally becoming, but newer is the diagonal draping, indeed the diagonal line is quite a prevalent feature. Sometimes the tunic is cut and draped so that the line of the edge slants across the front; again it falls straight in front but is brought diagonally across the back or caught up at one side, never at both sides. The bodice is usually draped to match, the surprise model coming in effectively in such a case. A model that is not altogether new but is capable of quite charming development, combines satin and lace, the former being used for the draped tunic. The surprise waist has one plain side of lace over which is crossed the other side of the satin draped, the line being continued down the skirt of the tunic which is draped back to show an underskirt of lace made with slightly gathered flounces.

Narrow bands of fur are among the trimmings employed with gowns of sheer materials, a rather incongruous idea but one that works out better than it sounds. Alaska sable on white, and ermine on rose-colored gowns, are seen. Fringe of various lengths has reached the extent of a fad this season; it is used to edge tunics, fichus, and every part of a gown that can have a fringed edge. Bordered effects are worked out in embroidery of self-toned silks, gold or silver, beads, and chenille.

While white gowns and black gowns are always in favor, of course, there is apparent a fondness for color, and very charming are some of the new colorings. Blue in the soft dull shades is a favorite, and rose-color of various degrees of depth is much seen. Emerald green is one of the few strong colors in evidence. Grey is made effective for evening wear by embroidery in silver, cut steel beads, or something to give a note of brilliancy.

Evening frocks for the débutante differ somewhat from those for older girls, although the same materials may be worn. Satin used to be considered too formal for the débutante, but in its present delightful weave is as frequently chosen as anything else. In fact, a white satin gown is now the first choice of the débutante, when she elects to wear white.

In this respect also there has been a change of opinion, and the girl who finds pink or any other delicate color more becoming than white selects what suits her best for the gown in which to make her first formal appearance as a "young lady." The overdress of softening chiffon is a usual accompaniment of the débutante's satin gown, and the garniture is of seed-pearl or crystal-bead embroidery rather than the richer and heavier-looking metallic or diamante ornamentation.

Party frocks for the girl who has not yet reached the débutante stage are very simple and pretty. Flowered organdie, chiffon, voile, crepe de chine, soft taffeta, are all available, and a fine white lingerie frock can always be made to do service quite well enough, with the addition of a girdle and rosettes of satin ribbon. An inexpensive frock can be fashioned of light-colored silk, trimmed with ruchings of the material, the bodice finished with a pretty fichu of net or point d'esprit.



Children's Christmas Parties

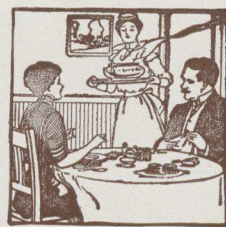
There are many persons who declare that they find it easier to give a party for grown-up people than one for children, and, in truth, it is not everyone who has the knack of giving a lot of little people a good time, not that the children demand very much or are critical, but their entertainers themselves are apt to be nervous and "fidgety," to supervise too much, or rather to let their supervision be too much in evidence. It is less difficult to arrange a party for children at Christmas than at other times in the winter, because there is so much of the entertainment that suggests itself spontaneously from the occasion.

The most successful parties for children are those in which the small guests are pretty much of the same age. It is very difficult indeed to make things pass off quite smoothly when the tiny tots are included with the active, exuberant boys and girls. An important point is to plan the games and every succeeding part of the entertainment before the festive day, not leaving anything to chance or to the inspiration of the moment. If some particularly happy inspiration comes while the party is in progress, well and good, but a carefully prepared plan is more to be relied upon.

It is advisable to have some sort of jolly game to begin with, else the small boys and girls are apt to range themselves on opposite sides of the room and stare bashfully, nobody liking to make the first move. "Musical chairs,"—the game where chairs are placed in two rows back to back and the players march round to the sound of the piano until, at a sudden cession of the music, everyone scrambles for a seat, one always being left standing—is always popular, and serves nicely to "break the ice" of childish shyness and reserve. This may be followed up with some kind of a "Hunt," the article or articles to be hunted being concealed previously in the same room or the rooms adjoining. It is well to alternate active games with those in which the players sit round in a circle and exercise their minds and tongues, as in some sort of guessing game, instead of their feet. If the children are of dancing school age, they will want a few merry dances in which all can join.

There must be a distinct Christmas feature, of course, and here the hostess can have scope for her ingenuity. There must be a gift for each child, and it is not so much the value of the article that counts as its choice in relation to the liking and wishes of the small recipient. The hostess can often ascertain privately what "Santa Claus forgot to bring" in particular cases, and make up the deficiency. It is most important that none of the gifts should outshine the others. While a Christmas tree is always popular, there are ingenious ways of distributing the gifts more amusing to the party, especially if it comes after Christmas, when many have already had trees. One successful way of distribution is from a "Post Office," an interesting device for children who always are excited to receive "mail" for themselves, with their own address and real stamps, albeit cancelled ones.

Supper is an important item in the children's party, and the more the appearance of the table appeals to the juvenile eye, the more successful the supper is apt to be. A miniature Christmas tree decked with tinsel and strings of popcorn and berries makes a good centrepiece, but if one can find a tiny sleigh and Santa-Claus doll in red cloth and white fur it will be rather more amusing. The sugar animals and birds, which are manufactured in red and yellow, are always liked by the little people, and help to brighten the table. The dishes should be quite simple, and served as attractively as possible. Sandwiches cut in fancy shapes, cold chicken, thin bread and butter, jelly served in baskets made from oranges, ice-cream tinted in layers, small sponge cakes baked in crinkled pans, cocoa and milk, with some raisins and nuts, will be an abundance. If there is a big Christmas cake it can make up by exterior icing and decoration for lack of extreme richness in the inside.



OXO Cubes are not a substitute for tea and coffee, but are infinitely better than either.

Tea and coffee affect both the nerves and digestive system. OXO Cubes strengthen the nerves, assist digestion and add their own rich food properties to every meal.

Try an OXO Cube in a cup of hot water—instead of tea or coffee for breakfast.

56



10 for 25c.
4 for 10c.

"Best for Baby—best for you."

Baby's Own Soap

Made of specially purified and refined vegetable oils. It will not hurt the most delicate skin.

Refuse all substitutes.

Albert Soaps Limited
Mfrs.,
Montreal, D511



\$1.00

for this
16-in.
PLUME



New York Ostrich Feather Co., Dept. MM, 513-515B'way, N.Y.



RESERVOIR PEN

Writes long letter with one filling. Always ready. No coxing. No blotting. Best for ruling, manifold and constant use. Fine or medium points. Sent postpaid, 16 for 20c, 3 doz. 40c, 6 doz. 75c. Postal Note or Money Order, Money back if wanted.
J. RANTON, Dept. 7. P.O. Box 1754, Winnipeg



Christmas Eve

The old custom that has given pleasurable excitement to children for many generations.