

THE STAR, ST. JOHN.

For the Home Dressmaker

For Sweet Girl Graduates

THE selection of the graduation frock is but a trifle less exciting than the choice of the wedding gown. The commencement is an event of importance and the frock to be worn upon such an occasion must be considered with care.

Nothing is quite so pretty for the sweet girl graduate as a lingerie frock. Some have a preference for silk, and if this material is used, a silk of supple nature should always be chosen, leaving the "staid-alone" variety for the marriage robe.

Messaline is charming and falls in graceful, pretty lines. This may be trimmed with Valenciennes lace very much in the same style as the lingerie frock.

China and India silks are youthful and lend themselves to simple designs, are a cooler variety of silk, and, in addition to these qualities, are capable of being laundered.

But the lingerie frock is always the most suitable for this all-important occasion. For it there is a wide variety of materials from which to choose. Dotted swiss is never unfashionable and always makes up into an attractive frock. This season there are exquisite embroidered swisses, and nothing could be daintier than a frock of this material for the girl who is to graduate.

MAY USE MUCH LACE

French nainsook is another material never out of style. Batiste and India linen are also favorites.

Valenciennes lace is the favored trimming, and a profusion of this dainty lace may be used, provided it is handled with good taste and judgment.

Now as to the style of frock—that cut a la princesse usually becomes the fashion, and this season is at the top of popularity. In any event the frock should be a "one piece"—that is, it may be cut in one piece from shoulder to hem, or the skirt and waist may be cut-and-sewn separately, then joined together with the skirt line with insertions of lace or tulle.

A dash may be worn or not, as desired. If it is used, it should be of soft messaline ribbon about eight inches wide. This should be fastened tightly to the left of the center back under a closely strapped bow, with two long ends, one reaching nearly to the foot of the gown and the other a trifle shorter. The waist line may be very slightly raised in the design, but the effect of becoming to the wearer.

These sheer lingerie dresses, delicate lace, and fine workmanship, as their transparency reveals all seams and finishings. They should be styled with French seams unless "finger-tips" known "finger-tips" are desired. The seams should be of the same material as the dress, and the lace is often employed in the same way as heading. The dress, by hand, should be finished to the edge of the hem, and the edges of the skirt should be finished with a machine-stitched decorative cord, and even with a decorative cord of the same material as the dress.

Two shirring threads are always better than one, as the second thread holds the gathering in place much as the old-fashioned "stitching" used to do.

THE FOUNDATION SLIP

A very important accompaniment to the lingerie frock is the foundation slip—in fact, it may make or mar the dress. This should be cut and fitted, sewed and finished, with exactly as much care as the outer dress. The slip should be cut either in one piece or should be joined at the waist line to form a one-piece garment. To avoid a distinction at the waist line, the best way of making such a slip is to attach waist and skirt to a fitted and boned bodice of the same material, about six inches deep. After skirt and waist have been properly adjusted and sewed at the top and bottom edges of the bodice, leaving only the girdle portion to encircle the waist. This method prevents any unsightly bulges to mar the graceful waist line. Let the slip be well fitted, well sewed, well finished, but do not overfit it. The slip is quite pretty made of lawn or batiste, or it may be made of China silk. Avoid, however, using the latter silk, as the effect of the whole should be graceful and simple.

A graduation dress should, above all things, be girlish in its effect. There will be many fine opportunities for more elaborate and ornate costumes in the way of reception, dinner and ball gowns.

White kid slippers and white kid gloves are necessary adjuncts to the graduation outfit. While dressed kid is the acknowledged style for all dress, suede is so much cooler for warm weather wear, that it would be quite permissible for the girl graduate to appropriate the same.

COOL FROCKS FOR SUMMER EVENINGS



Seen in the Shops

TULLE of all descriptions is shown for summer dresses, and a new Paris creation is a variety that may be washed as easily as cambric. This is a very much of an innovation in dress goods, and we may soon expect to find a sort of linen chiffon which will take the place of the fragile material that has been associated with that name.

Another very attractive material is shown which is white striped with pale blue—but the stripes form only the hem of the material, and the remainder of the fabric are small bunches of roses or fresh looking—that one could almost pick them up.

Option crepes make the most convenient summer dresses. Thin and rough folds are very nice, and some are so sheer that they might even be used for lingerie. They will take the place of lawn, and some are just as light and transparent as these materials.

A white material, striped with white, has wide bands of rather blue or green, and the stripes are of a green and pale brown. The same kind of material has wide bands of white with a green hem striped with black, and above the green bands another band striped with white and black. As the majority of new models show broad stripes, these new materials will be very much in demand.

FROM England comes the latest news concerning men's fashions, for while the feminine portion of the population get their ideas from Paris, the men cling to London as the only reliable source of masculine styles. The very newest decree is that evening waistcoats must be cut so low that the coat is cut away at the waist line in front, there will be a line of white to show that the white vest is not missing. The waistcoats for morning and afternoon are much longer—five inches below the waist line. This will be an acceptable style for a certain type of men, for it will take away that short-waisted look which makes them look fat and unattractive.

THE hats in the shops this season are made with bandeaux pinned into place so they may be easily removed when the prospective purchaser tries them on. In this way it is easy to arrange the bandeaux according to the coiffure. It may be built up in the front or the back, or it may be omitted entirely if the hair is so arranged that it will support the enormous saffron so popular this season. Of course, if the bandeaux is necessary, after it has been arranged to suit the wearer it is sewn into place before the hat is sent home. This is a much better arrangement than was in effect when the bandeaux first came into style, for it was always necessary to rearrange them. This meant time and trouble for both the saleswoman and the customer.

FOR summer dresses foulards and gingham will be the most popular. They will be worn for business as well as for play. The time has gone by when it was necessary to wear dark colors in the city streets, and even the tailored suits for this season are mostly in shades of light gray or white.

A beautiful hat seen the other day was of white leghorn. Around the crown was tulle in lightest lavender and white, with here and there a spray of maidenhair fern. In the front was fastened a big clump of fern and one spray of white lilies. It would be impossible to describe the lightness of this

There should most certainly be, also, according to the old saying, no luck will attend you on your way through life. The belt of course, are to add piquancy to the novelty and render the new bracelet garter unique.

MASCULINE taste has surely run riot, for the latest is to have the initials of the wearer embroidered in a bright-colored silk on the left-hand pocket of the vest. This style is mostly used on vests of linen or flannel, for the magnificent broaded affairs are quite enough in themselves. Some of the initials are in monogram and others are in script about three inches high.

Besides the monogram on the vest, many men are wearing on their monogram their shirtsleeves, just above the cuff, and we may soon expect to see black letters embroidered in red on the lapel of masculine dress coats.

THE summer girl may think that because she is going to a quiet place for the warm weather she will need no evening frock, but that is a mistake. No matter how quiet the place looks during the early part of June, by the middle of July some gaily will surely be in evidence, and by August first an evening gown will be a most imperative necessity. But don't, dear Miss Summer Maiden, make a mistake and think that any old winter gown will do for a summer evening frock. That is a fallacy that has caused the de-thronement of many summer queens.

A woman of any taste should always be governed appropriately, and when she is not her friends are sure to recognize her deficiencies. Let the summer frocks be inexpensive, but let them seem part of moonlight evenings and rest sephers, of bright sunny mornings and long, lazy afternoons. But especially let the dancing frocks be cool and thin, so that you may dance in comfort without putting undue strain upon your disposition.

So many gowns may be made of materials that are far from costly—the gown of flowered swiss, for instance. The foot of the skirt, the sleeves and yoke are made of embroidered silk, but why not use plain flannel or even plain net? The funny Turkish-looking oversleeves are of chiffon, but both these and the tassels are not necessary parts of the costume.

A fascinating little dress is that made of pale pink China silk, trimmed with a bias band of itself and with a yoke of all-over Valenciennes lace. The bands by the way, are two inches in width, while the belt is a crushed affair of the material.

A mousseline-de-sie in the palest of blues is made on tulle lines, with a fascinating chemise and undersleeves of dotted net. The sash is in satin, liberty satin preferred, to match the gown and finished at the ends with a silk fringe. The making of this is rather interesting. Three skeins of silk are required and a large needle is threaded with six strands. These are run through and tied in a loose knot and the remaining strands are treated in a like way until the fringe is finished. On this gown the chemise is the principal feature, for it just extends across the front without spotting the lines of the shoulders. Two fancy buttons fasten the frock in place on each



shoulder. This model is especially to be recommended for its simplicity. The gown that has no trimming except the high empire belt of apple-green satin would be charming made up in some fancy net. The gown is perfectly plain, and it might be black as well as white, when it would serve for an older woman. The flowers at

the right shoulder are quite an addition to the whole, and they might be those large, graceful Clematis blossoms that are made so beautifully this year. The scarf is merely a separate one carried for convenience, and nothing could be more artistic for the purpose than the Egyptian marriage veil.

THE Merry Widow sash is growing in popularity every day, but so is every other fashion after it has entered the street car or to return home, for car doors as well as front doors are not flexible, and they cannot grow larger with the styles of the season. The hats are round and flat as ever, but the trimming seems to be mounting upward, so that soon, unless Dame Fashion decrees otherwise, the summer hats will be entirely out of proportion to anything except elephants and camels. Of course, after a season of small hats, large hats always come, and we must have them.

For the present, however, the present we will all be wearing the latest of toques, and those girls who find that the huge affairs are becoming to them must take their share of suffering next year, when the small-featured girl has her day.

It is true that they are very much more of the cone shape, but so is every other fashion after it has entered the street car or to return home, for car doors as well as front doors are not flexible, and they cannot grow larger with the styles of the season. The hats are round and flat as ever, but the trimming seems to be mounting upward, so that soon, unless Dame Fashion decrees otherwise, the summer hats will be entirely out of proportion to anything except elephants and camels. Of course, after a season of small hats, large hats always come, and we must have them.

A NEW parcel of American design is made of ordinary summer materials that will stand wet and be almost as effective as an umbrella. The present-day parasol is made in all sorts of ways: catching parasols, sunshades and light lingerie affairs that will be charming with summer clothes.

Our Letter From Paris

PARIS, May 7.

HATS remain the source of the greatest interest to the feminine residents in this French capital, and there are a few general descriptions which practically cover all of the hats shown. The high bandeaus with "cachepoupe" of high proportions are things of the past. The crowns are now made to suit the shape of the head. If a bandeau is used it is not visible, but serves merely to fit the hat more firmly to the head. The brims of hats continue to be faced with straw of contrasting color and foliage, while the leaves remain a very favorite trimming. Flower-covered hats are shown by the best modistes, and some of them are very original and most becoming. For instance, on a straw hat upturned on the left side were showed long-stemmed violets of large size, the caught-up brim supported by a market bunch of roses without foliage, while on a delicate mauve straw hat the entire crown was of roses.

A pretty novelty in millinery is a toque in the shape of an untanned flower pot, rather large and entirely made of hyacinths or periwinkles in shades of blue, khaki or cerise. The top is also entirely made of flowers or is trimmed with a bow of taffeta ribbon to match. A beautiful hat of black cloth is trimmed with one huge feather ending in three tips concealing the high crown. Behind this is a bow of black taffeta and around the crown is a band of dull silver beads. This hat is faced with silver lace or silver cloth.

There seems to be a tendency toward turning up the hat on the right side and placing all the trimming on the left. This gives a rather odd effect, as though the hat and the head were crooked, but it is at least a very new idea.

The Charlotte Corday style of the earlier season remains very popular, although there is fear that the artistic ruffie may become too universally worn to be absolutely smart. On hats of black ermine or leopards there are trimmings of velvet, ostrich plumes in tones of old peacock blue shot with gray, with ribbon to match forming a large bow of five loops on each side resting against the high crown.

On other hats there are bandeaus around the crown of white alpaca, with a bow of black velvet in the front. Plumes are used in combinations such as black and cerise, black and green. There are many mole-colored hats, as well as cerise, although that shade is far from becoming to the average woman.

Tailored hats are usually large saffrons, that sit well on the head, trimmed only with a huge wing or a draped ground crown. In fact, when it comes to summing up the season's hats, they are to be seen in every diversity of blossom, from the orchid to the daisy, carnations, lilacs-of-the-valley, hawthorns, pansies, convolvul, pond lilies, sunflowers—there is no flower that one could not say is not worn this year. Mochlo feathers, as sailing ground, and those of height, daily, and the tall feathers of pheasants are worn in all kinds of rich colors. They are used in bunches of five or six, and rise from a cloud of velvet or taffeta.

Golden made of flowers, are meeting with some success at the Concourse Hippique, where some very pretty girls have been seen lately, carried out in baskets or on low chairs, wearing hats of velvet, with huge crowns, and trimming well with the hairdressing of the present moment.

A very charming woman was seen at the Adieux gown, which was quite plain and unadorned, with a very heavily braided band around the crown, and a large black tulle bow at the back, with a huge bunch of black tulle feathers, which was trimmed with a huge bunch of black tulle feathers, which was trimmed with a huge bunch of black tulle feathers.

INVISIBLE DARNING



Darning over a Patch

Needle and Thread at Hand

Looking with a Patch

Revealing a Patch

THERE are many needlewomen, and good ones, too, who can make a skirt, trim a waist or decorate a hat, but who, when their talent is torn, have no idea how to mend it except by the most ordinary and primitive stitches which mar the appearance of the whole.

The art of mending is not to draw up the edges of the rent and sew it over and over regardless of the fact that the cloth must all become gathered in so doing. The object is to conform to the weave of the goods, always keeping the material flat, so that when finished there will not be a hundred little creases each pointing to the undesirable pucker where once was a hole.

In the first place, nothing is more important than to have all sewing implements at hand, so that, when the patch is in place, it will not be necessary to drop it on the floor while madly seeking needle and thread.

For correct and proper mending one needs needles fine and coarse—and this sweeping description means numbers 11 and 12, as well as numbers 7 and 8—sewing cotton and silk, scissors small and large, every bag, many pins, thimble, darning egg and embroidery hoop, while a hot iron should be somewhere in the vicinity.

For mending gloves cotton is best, for it does not tear the kid, and if the hole is in a finger it should be mended on a small "glove" which comes for the purpose. If the seam is ripped it may be sewed over and over. Platted seams with invisible stitches, and for this the finest thread is too coarse. Havelings taken from seams are good, or a hair from your own head, unless some member of the family's ponytail

looks that more nearly match the material. A straight tear may be darned with havelings, without an under patch, but should it be one of those unfortunate jagged or triangular tears, then a patch is necessary. This may be cut from the hem or an extra wide seam in the garment, and laid under the rent, always with the nap and weave in accordance with the outer material. Baste the patch firmly all the way round the outer edge and all round the rent itself, holding the edges of the rent as near together as possible. This done, the finest needle and thread it with havelings on a single thread of hair, and darn in the usual way, taking care to pick up a few threads of the under cloth each time. Press the work with

a warm iron, removing basting threads, and but the patch not too close to the mend. This method may be used for all sorts of holes and tears, except that in the case of a hole the edges must be darned to the patch, while in the case of a tear the edges may be darned together. All cuts and some silks may be thus treated with success. The

work, when finished, may look rough, but the pressing makes the greatest difference in the appearance.

There are sometimes zigzag tears on women's skirts that look hopeless, but, if no material has been torn away, the easiest way to remedy the hurt is to darn with a patch—any material will do—to the right side of the material, so that the edges of the tear are close together, and so that the long stitches are on the right side. Put this, wrong side out, upon the fronting table and apply a bit of plaster, using a hot iron to make it stick. When tight, the outside patch may be removed and the edges of the rent will be firmly held in place by the plaster.

Other materials are hardest of all to mend, but sometimes a convenient trick, when tackled down, serves to hide the stitches, or the rent may be sewed together in the most clever way, trusting to the fairness to hide the defect. Sometimes lace may be applied to cover the unsightly tear, but in any case, ingenuity and resourcefulness may be won with anything.