

# Midsummer Fashions

Attractive Toilettes of the Period of Transition, Showing Popularity of Black and White, and the Gay Range of Styles for Day and Evening Gowns at Mountain and Seashore.

MID-SUMMER is a period of delightful transition in fashions. Nothing is settled, and every one is taking individual liberties with the novelties of early spring and summer. Variations of all the styles of the season are seen, and there are occasional hints of something different, which makes one wonder what the autumn will bring forth.

White always reigns supreme. Whatever gown one wears, for whatever occasion, so it be white, spotless, crisp, becoming, seems to be good style. This year white organdie is the newest material. It is made up in the quaint styles of 1850, ruffled, and draped, or it follows the simple lines of flounces and a wisp of lace trimming drawn into a deep circle. I have seen some white organdies made with the accepted long tunic, banded with fine white pique, the same material being used for the waistcoat and bare collar, and appearing as cuffs on the organdie sleeves.

Midsummer hats are larger. The transparent hat is the newest. It is usually of net or lace or tulle with cordings of satin, and is in the modified picture style familiar for many years. The trimming is simple, either one big rose in some unheard of color, such as bright blue or emerald green, perhaps resting upon silver leaves.

#### Hats at Newport.

Summer roses, especially in the pale tones of pink, yellow and the most popular white ones, are made of organdie. They seem exactly fitted to the season, and carry out the effect of coolness ever when placed on the black velvet hats which top the thinnest and most elaborate white gowns. Other roses are of chiffon with the gleam of gold in their hearts.

At a recent lawn fete in Newport it seemed as if those women who did not wear the tulle hats, through which the sunlight filtered, causing delightful shadows on their faces,

A "Fluff and Frill" Gown, with Flower Hat and Parasol Edged with Swan-down.



Tailored Linen Blouse and White Leghorn Hat.

wore hats of black velvet. The exceptions were leghorns, big and floppy, frequently with black velvet crowns, and trimmed with garlands of perfectly enormous roses. White and black feather turbans, with two curious curly-ques rising from mid-front or two wings extending on each side, have been worn for the past month.

Some one says the style was launched by one who saw the picturesque possibilities of the white feather headdress Pavlova wears in the dance of the dying swan.

It requires almost superhuman divination to trace the origin of the present styles. They are so blurred. One period overlaps another in such disregard of time or place or fitness, the analyst gives up in despair before the task is ended.

Not in years has the separate skirt come into favor so generally. Skirts of wash fabrics by the dozen are ordered by the summer girl. The corduroys are deservedly popular. Piques in all weaves are liked. Blouses of white and pale tints are worn with these, and the long capes furnish the completing note.

#### Art in Sash Draping.

Sashes are important factors in mid-summer dress. There are infinite possibilities in the sash. It may be draped and tied in as many different ways as there are different women to wear it.

The present tendency is to arrange it so as to give the idea of great elongation of the waist line. This is in preparation for the fitted gowns and closer fitting coats which they assure us will be here with the first frost. They really are here now, only the majority of women have not made up their minds to accept them.

Some of the sashes are so wide that widths of narrow silk are used in place of ribbon. They are draped about the figure in fantastic styles and knotted in a bow at the back, where they become part of the drapery. Look at the pictures taken in the middle eighties and you will see the inspiration.

The basque idea is shown in one of the pictured gowns. Also it illustrates the craze for black and white.

Paired Gown of Black Satin and White Chenille Cloth.

It is a combination of corded silk and charmeuse. The draping gives the sash effect and also makes clear the lack of fullness in the basque.

Charmeuse bodices and tunics draped over lace petticoats will be seen for semi-dress wear all summer. One such gown is shown here with the lace fichu drawn off the shoulders in a manner that is universally becoming.

The Empire sash is seen frequently. It was carried by the mannequins in the spring fashion pageants, and the style has been adopted by those women who affect the picturesque. To carry these long stiffs with grace and make them appear part of the costume and not a tacked-on affectation takes much practice. Unless they seem to belong rightly to the type of woman who carries one, the style is not attractive.

Taffeta, lace, tulle and jet are all materials which the clever modiste has been able to accomplish wonders with this season. In the costume shown the combination is always lovely. The sash with its embroideries of jet gives just the right touch to

## Where Women Have No Choice About Their Hats.

IN Russia the maiden who is fancy free may dress her locks as she wishes. But not so the wife—she must hide her hair. So, as a recompense for this sacrifice, she dons a hat which may well be called weird. In shape it is not unlike a bishop's mitre, and it is adorned as the fancy or the purse of the wearer dictates. Gold, silver, and even precious stones have been used in decorating this kokoshnik, as it is called.

In certain parts of Spain a hat similar to the Russian style is worn. Particularly in this popular with the dancers among the Toledo peasantry, although it must be very hot and uncomfortable for this purpose.

The Dutch maiden of Amsterdam pins her faith—and her head—to a hat which resembles in shape an inverted flower-pot. It may not be the style most suited to her round, plaid face, but she would not change it for the

very latest "thing" in smart millinery.

On the island of Marken, in the Zuyder Zee, the fashionable hat is again of the mitre shape, but with the addition of wide, flapping wings. Farther north, in Norway, a maiden on her bridal day dons a traditional erection which can best be likened to an eccentric castle or a gigantic chess-board.

In the province of Alsace-Lorraine the women wear a huge, winged head-dress.



Toilette of Soft Black Taffeta—Collar of Lace on Black Taffeta—Girdle with Jet Fringe.

the gown, and the spangle and pointed collar effect is charming. Such a frock as this will fill an important place in the wardrobe of any woman, be she young or not—for it may be worn for so many different occasions, always with the knowledge that it has an elegance that makes it distinctive.

#### Midsummer Stockings.

Stockings for mid-summer show most gorgeous insertions of lace with jeweled motifs. Skirts are so extremely short that shoes and stockings are of paramount importance. Likewise, they are as expensive as they are glittering. Again, it is not intended that they shall ever be washed. They visit the dry cleaners' instead of the laundry. Golden silk stockings with topaz and jet vines up the centre length are worn with Colonial pumps in which golden yellow kid and patent leather is combined.

Pale blue stockings with silver wheat sheaves embroidered on instep and ankle rise above bronze and blue and silver brocade shoes. Parasols are of all colors, all shapes, all sizes. Some of the handles are so tremendously long, that when the sunshade is carried open it soars so far above the head it shadows it in the life below it.

Fur and swan-down is used to edge some of the new parasols. The latter is to be chosen above the former. Swan-down is always attractive and has a softening effect which is becoming.

The swan-down edged parasol shown here is carried with a gown which shows that the pannier still lives. In fact, in pompadour silk and worn with a net gown, it is one of the most attractive mid-summer styles. The foot edging of these net gowns is worthy attention. Does it forecast the revival of the pantalolet? You know that garment has been persistently threatened.

Flower hats are always in good style. Pink roses, white violets, scarlet poppies or geraniums, all are used for these smart toques. Fluff, frill, lacy airiness, the froth of fashion—such is the strongest mid-summer note. It is not a time to take anything seriously, not even dress.

- Charmeuse
- Tunic
- Over
- Lace
- Petticoat
- Shadow
- Lace
- Fichu
- with
- Charmeuse
- Flower.

#### Chinese Mill Women.

IN China wages of women operatives are nearly at the vanishing point. It is said that in the silk mills at Shanghai there are 30,000 workmen, among whom are children that work at 2 cents a day and women at 5 cents.

The highest paid get 26 cents for a 13-hour day. In the Shanghai cotton mills the best women workers get 14 cents a day, the poorest 5 cents, the hours being from 6 to 6, with 30 minutes at noon for dinner.