

# Paris Modes Spring Costumes

## THE QUESTION OF SHORT SKIRTS AND LONG.

Such a multiplicity of styles as are now being placed before the public has rarely been seen before, and it requires cool judgment to know what to choose among the many bewildering pretty materials and designs that are furnished for gowns for morning, afternoon and evening. There is a universal variety of fashions for spring gowns; that is, for the first gowns that are put on for the street after the heavy winter ones are impossible warm. The war still rages on the question of short skirts and long, and, as is usual, the question is being settled in the most expensive manner—that is, every woman must have both.

The cloth skirts that are made short clear the ground about one-half an inch, not more; the really short walking-skirt is reserved entirely for rainy-day gowns and for golf skirts, and the long skirt still trails many inches on the ground. Checked black-and-white and blue-and-white are smart for the moment. They have jaunty little coats, much trimmed with black or white braid or with black or white braid. While the skirts are plain, the jackets are elaborate, short as a rule, but with long straight tabs in front and not in the least on the tailor order, although with supposedly tailor finish. The nine-colored skirt with a good flare is a modest skirt that meets with general approval. The pleated skirts are, in addition to the pleats, trimmed with straps and bands in long lines or around the skirt. If the pleats are fastened down to a certain part of the skirt where the pleats flare, there are ornaments of passementerie or braid at the top. Checked silk skirts—blue-and-white, white and blue, or white and red—are also plain-colored ones or white ones. There is rarely a waist or a bodice, and the skirts are fastened to the lines of the bodice. The light-weight vicunas, camel's hair and zibelines are used in street gowns, with black or white braid. These, that give a very soft look. The colors are of glossy shades of blue, purple, green and brown, and there is a chiffon waist and a silk waist.

The all-one-color scheme is seen in these costumes of cloth and lace or in the vicunas and lace. The smartest are in mauve or the light tan or green; the latter will never be too popular, for it is very taxing and just a little conspicuous, but these are some shades in it that are on the toilette that are exquisite, but always in the palest shades. These skirts are long, not only at the back, but in front and at the sides, so that they are not expected to be held up.

They are for carriage wear or for reception wear, although they are classed under the head of street gowns. Dainty negligees, tea gowns and matinees are simple in design, but not necessarily inexpensive. Accordions, pleated effects are fashionable in silk, light wool, crepe de Chine and muslin, as well as chiffon. It would seem as though a chiffon garment of this kind would be most perishable, but it is not especially when made up with a lining of albatross cloth or light India silk, for the light silks make good linings in anything intended for summer. Many of these negligee garments have no lace at all on them; others are a mass of ruffles of chiffon or mousseline de soie and white, and there are some negligees in long lines. The sleeves are graceful if they hang loose from the shoulders, and are quite long. For practical purposes there are some negligees that are good for these garments, inexpensive and durable.

Evening gowns of chiffon and lace are trimmed with quantities of ruchings of lace, as well as medallions of lace. The lines are much the same as they have been for a year or two, with the exception of the ruffled skirts, of which not many have yet been seen. The fancy models now have the upper part of the skirt fitting close in tucks and ruffles of chiffon or mousseline de soie and an inside founce of tulle, all of which helps to keep out the material, and the ruffles are held in place by the low-waist intended for the shape of the gown. The square neck is not so fashionable now as the round, with the gown cut well off the shoulders and so perfectly fitting that it does not need, except for the square neck, a strap of embroidery, lace or jewels that holds it over the shoulders. Below the top of the arm are the ruffles and lace, and has rather a large bow of chiffon or net caught with a jeweled ornament or a band of lace, and chiffon and lace require considerable holding out after they have lost their first freshness.

There is a variety in the shape of the gown. The square neck is not so fashionable now as the round, with the gown cut well off the shoulders and so perfectly fitting that it does not need, except for the square neck, a strap of embroidery, lace or jewels that holds it over the shoulders. Below the top of the arm are the ruffles and lace, and has rather a large bow of chiffon or net caught with a jeweled ornament or a band of lace, and chiffon and lace require considerable holding out after they have lost their first freshness.



Small Checked Cloth Piped with Black and White Taffeta.

## For Beauty And Health

The longing to be beautiful is in the heart of every woman, kept down, perhaps, by the most austere, yet never extinct; rampant in the lives of most women. Instinct and history teach the value and the power of beauty, and everything that tends to foster or preserve it is seized upon by those who fear to lose or who desire to add to their good looks. In the effort to obtain beauty, many foolish things are done, and sometimes permanently, if used. Here are some receipts that have been tried and have been found simple and harmless:

**COLD CREAM.**  
This formula for cold cream is used by one of the prettiest actresses on the stage. It prevents wrinkles if used every night. Rub some on the face when retiring, and wipe off with a cloth. Do not buy the ingredients in the little more on and leave till morning, when it will be absorbed. After bathing on a small quantity of the cold cream, then dust the face lightly with powder. The difference in price will be fully made up by the difference in the quality of the materials. Five ounces almond oil, two ounces lanoline, three ounces rose-water, half ounce spermaceti, half-ounce white wax, pinch of borax.

**THE TEETH.**  
To whiten the teeth, dissolve two ounces of borax in three quarts of hot water, and before it is cold add a teaspoonful of lime. This is a thorough and powerful spirit of camphor. Bottle it. Use a wineglassful to a glass of tepid water, and arrest tartar. A good tooth-powder is made from an ounce of camphor, dissolved in a quart of boiling water; when cool, bottle it. Use about half a cupful in a bowl of warm water, and a very little water added to it, if rubbed



A Graceful Bodice for Evening Wear.

into the scalp and then rinsed off thoroughly, leaves the hair soft and silky.

### How to Give a Little Woman Party

The little woman party is an entertainment which would be suitable for a circle of friends who are well acquainted and fond of laughing. The hostess of such a party was a little woman coming well below the five feet mark. She asserted that she had suffered so much from her lack of stature that she determined, for one evening at least, to make the lot of the little people enviable—to put a premium on littleness.

On entering the drawing room each invited guest found herself seized upon, placed against the wall and measured with a foot-rule. Every man or woman was subjected to this treatment. When all had arrived tallest man took as his partner the tallest woman, the man next in size took the next tallest woman, and so on. A procession was then formed, led by the smallest woman and man. Other couples followed, graduated as to size.

The procession marched three times around the room to the tune of "See the Conquering Hero Comes." The smallest woman received a pretty lace pin. This was presented with the suggestion that "best goods come in small packages." Her partner was given a small pocket-dictionary, because, it was explained, it contained much valuable matter in small bulk.

Each member of the party was forced to mount a weighing machine. When the weighing had been done, accompanied by bursts of laughter and applause, the second triumphal procession followed, led by the woman and man of the lightest weight. Again the piano struck up a lively and appropriate air, and the procession circled the room. At the termination of this match the victorious woman received a silver pin tray in the design of a feather. Her partner was given a sofa pillow filled with down.

A blindfold game followed. To play it the men of the company are blindfolded one by one. When the first man has been bandaged the women sit in a row facing him. He is then allowed to choose one woman from the row, the object being to choose the one of fewest inches whose height the previous man has, of course, revealed. He does not choose her by name, but by her chair. Thus he may say: "I choose the lady in the second chair on the left hand," or "I choose the lady first in the row on my right hand." He can choose her once. If he should be lucky enough to select the smallest woman in the room, a prize will be given. This is a game that is very amusing and one that should be given to all circles of friends.



Evening Gown of Chiffon and Lace.

## Use the Oiled Feather For A Quiet House

In one of the quaint English story books of the last century, where the moral looms larger than the tale itself, there is an account of a man who went through life with an oiled feather in his hand. By its magic air-cleaning qualities, soft hinges and rusty bolts were vanished one by one, and these irritating physical disorders silenced. The moral atmosphere following in the wake of the oiled feather became one of smiling peace and sweet content for all concerned.

To the modern housekeeper the oiled feather may still be commended. Nothing is more uselessly aggravating or more productive of "nerves" than the thousand and one unnecessary noises that rasp and irritate one when the oiled feather, or its equivalent, might give increase of tranquility.

Take the creaking door. If the hinges seem rusty, wipe first with kerosene to cut the rust, then apply the oiled feather, or, using any oil that does not become



Accented Pleated Neglige.

paraffine on the wood grooves of a dumb waiter and the door. The "dumb," while soap or vaseline will do the same for a creaky chair.

For squeaky shoes try first soaking the sole in oil. Pour a small quantity of linseed or sweet oil upon an old plate and dip the shoes in it. The oil will saturate the sole, and, if the shoes are not over night, in this way they not only usually lose the squeak, but, being saturated with oil, become proof against damp.

In extreme cases the only thing known as a sure cure for creaky shoes is French talc, and in this case the services of a cobbler must be called into requisition. Fry apart the leathers of the shoes together in a good sized insect-powder blow or a tube in the month for half a minute, wash them in steaming water for five cents will drive a little wooden peg through the sole which will hold the pieces of leather of which it is composed together.

In cases of sickness, the noise made by throwing coal on the fire may be obviated by putting the coal in paper bags, then laying it on the fire, through the speaking tube in windy weather may be laid low by a temporary plug of wood or soft paper.



Light Cloth Frock with Elaborate Insertions of Lace.

## LUNCHEON CLOTHS IN 16TH CENTURY SPANISH STITCHING

(By Clara L. Kellogg.)  
These luncheon cloths may be used in various ways—for small table-covers, covers over cloths, tea, or on polished tables for luncheons, for fruit luncheons, salad, Dutch, chafing dish or course luncheons. This Spanish couching and lace stitching is very effective in the Oriental colorings—of old coral greens, oyster grays, burnt orange salmons, iridescent blues and greens blended, golds and blacks. This Oriental embroidery is in Oriental stitch, mostly couching (lying down of threads), and the dark-colored stem-stitch bands each part, green. This is on a plain round thread in, and the ornament of the design is all in this couching stitch, which is the living down of threads—that is, threads extending from tip to base in even, close rows with a thick, smooth surface of silk is formed, all on the surface and keeping the form; then, with two single threads of floss, this is handied at intervals in the opposite direction; then, beginning at tip, catch down these long, last made-over stitches by tiny stitches in rows forming over the whole little bits of stem-stitch being directly over the other, edges quite even, and stitches also, producing a flat, beveled, glossy effect, and sure to wear well. The charm is great and shows to its best advantage the beauty of the silk. This stitch may be used on most designs that are of the conventional form. The stem-stitch may be used on most designs that are of the conventional form. The stem-stitch may be used on most designs that are of the conventional form.

In No. 2 lunch cloth some Oriental couching is used in the horse chestnut, and the leaves are in lace stitch of creamy white and veins and outlines with couplings of Japanese gold thread, making a cloth all white and gold, which goes well with most china. This cloth is most beautiful in its appearance, and in its design, and is a very good one.



Accented Pleated Neglige.