

OUR FASHION LETTER

Two Popular Methods of Dressing the Hair.

BOTH STYLES ARE BECOMING

Velvet Costumes Are Destined to Become Very Popular—Dyed Lace Now a Feature of Many Handsome Gowns—Shirred Effects in Skirts.

A favorite mode of hairdressing consists in having the hair waved loosely and dressed low at the back of the head, with a tiny wreath of flowers at one side. Another novel style consists in dressing the hair high and surmounting it with a large black velvet bow and a bird of paradise plume sweeping right down to the décolletage.

What are called the Louis styles are much in evidence. These fashions are very rich and are suited to dressy occasions, carriage wear, etc. A carriage costume made of rich velvet, the coat cut three-quarter length and the lower puffs of the sleeves made of rich lace.



MOLESKIN CLOTH COSTUME.

With a jabot of the same at the throat, it is smart and has a distinguished air all its own.

Chiffon and chiffon velours, crepe de chine, sole de chine and satin oriental are among the dainty fabrics which make up so prettily in the new full dress designs. Taffeta, too, is used in a softer make than it used to be and is helped out by the addition of much chiffon.

Redingotes are being revived, and the big French houses are showing several made of taffeta. These do service for many occasions. As a carriage wrap the redingote is charming.

The picture shows a costume of moleskin cloth trimmed with velvet.

DRESSY GOWNS.

Handsome velvet gowns are among the smartest things this winter. Usually a gown of this sort is quite expensive, and as a result it is often made to do duty both for day and evening wear. A long, well cut skirt accompanies two bodices.

Embroideries are seen a good deal on princess frocks. The shoulders are kept very wide, the effect being attained by the addition of a lace composed of folds of velvet, fur, fabric and taffeta.

Formerly only light shades were used in the evening. Now one sees a great many dark shades as well. Cloth gowns



CHIFFON EVENING DRESS.

for evening wear are also smart, and they are lightened in appearance by the addition of pieces of real lace, gold and silver embroideries, etc.

Dyed lace is now a feature of many of the smartest gowns. Worth is using a good deal of silver with blond lace, and the heavier makes are dyed to match the new shades of royal blue, golden brown, etc.

Most of the gowns have very high collars, which have to be cut with the greatest care.

The new chiffon velvet is finer and closer than panne, but as yet is too expensive to use very liberally. The

little tassels of silk are replaced by larger ones, in which chenille is conspicuous, and long fringes of chenille and ball pompons of the same are used both on fur and plush and are shown in mole gray, seal brown and black.

The cut shows a chiffon evening gown trimmed with narrow ribbon ruching.

SMART TRIMMINGS.

Silk tassels are used as trimming on many cloth tailor made, on the skirts as well as the coats.

Slippers of brocade and tapestry are the latest for home wear. Gold and silver tissues are utilized for evening slippers. They are most becoming to a small foot, but they look best with all black or all white tolets. The stockings should of course match the shoes.

Velvet appears on nearly every winter gown, and corduroy velvet has been



CREPE DE CHINE WAIST.

revived, but it lacks the richness of real velvet, and for that reason it will not be used for dressy wear.

Fancy applications—squares, lozenges, rings and diamonds are in great demand, and into these are introduced touches of turquoise, pale green, poppy red and silver.

Shirred effects are becoming more and more popular and are adding to the fullness of the skirts.

The picture shows a white crepe de chine waist trimmed with chiffon embroidery. It has a very smart tucked cape effect.

EMBROIDERY'S VOGUE.

This is an embroidery season. A great deal more of it is used than of late, and the leading dressmakers are using a great deal of the oriental type.

Bright touches of color are especially smart on the dull brown and gray gowns, and they give the necessary relief to serges and chevrons.

All the red shades, from old rose to cherry, are smart once more, and beautiful calling and reception gowns are made in them. These gowns are trimmed with rich embroidery and old lace.

Taffeta, formerly considered an "old" fabric, is now much used for young



GOWN OF BROWN CLOTH.

girls' gowns. The newest are the figured silk shot browns, reds and blues, and on these the large black spots are most effective. There are also little dresses made of spotted all black silk trimmed with black velvet and relieved by a wide handsome lace collar.

The walking skirt is here to stay, and nothing can equal its smartness when properly cut and trimmed with strapings of the cloth itself or of velvet.

Touches of very light colored cloth appear on the coats and bodices of dark tolets, and many skirts of fine black silken voile and black taffeta are being prepared for the winter season. These are frequently lined with black lace to wear over white or colored slips, and a good many in black crepe de chine are decorated with ecru lace motifs. Some new French models have silk fringes worked into insertion lace, and these are generally employed on double or triple skirts or on those in tunic fashion.

The illustration shows a gown of brown cloth trimmed with bands of velvet. The wide frill of yellow lace in the sleeve is one of the smartest things about it. The hat is of stitched chiffon velvet, and it is trimmed with a pale pink ostrich plume.

JUDIC CHOLLET.

OYSTER FARMING.

UTILIZING THE SEA FOR CULTIVATING THE LUSCIOUS BIVALVES.

An Ever Increasing Demand in the Paris Markets—Nineteen Million Oysters Exported in 1880—Four Hundred Millions Now.

An interesting article in one of the March magazines furnishes particulars of the clever way in which the French oyster farmers at Arcachon have developed this notion of tilling the sea. An interesting Frenchman named Costa in 1857 first started the new industry, observing that oysters were diminishing in number, while the demand for them constantly increased. Now the oyster parks which he originated have become of national and even international importance. The spot itself on the Biscay coast will be sufficiently near to all the successors and imitators of Dando, the immortal oyster-eater, since it is there that the very best bivalves may be enjoyed at the price cited above, of tenpence per hundred. Arcachon, however sends out her treasures to Paris and wherever else they can travel alive, and if only the favorite shell-fish of mankind could survive a sleeping draft or refrigeration, Arcachon would be ready and willing to send oysters all over the world. In 1880 her exports amounted to 19,000,000 oysters. Eight years afterward they were 195,000,000 and in 1894 412,000,000! But then at Arcachon they understand the oyster, and cultivate him with the science and devotion which his merits deserve. An oyster does not ask much, but wants that which it must have regular pure and perfect. Give him sweet seawater with the right flavor of brackish or vegetable material, and keep him safe from crabs, star-fish, dog-fish and foul outlets, and he makes the best possible banker for your investments. His wife signally assists in the shell's sordid trade by producing a family of over 1,000,000 little bivalves every year and these grow so rapidly that by the age of three years they are fit for the table. To prepare a bed and to stock it with 500,000 mother oysters requires a capital of about \$500, but the return at the end of three years ought to be 5,000,000 oysters, worth on sale \$40,000, which is certainly a rich reward. All this however is naturally not obtained without loss and unsparring labor. The article to which we have alluded pleasantly describes the picturesque aspect of the oyster farms, mainly attended to by fish-wives in scarlet knickerbockers, white sunbonnets and top boots, a costume business-like if unattractive. The oysters are pinned out like small cattle of the sea into square-sided folds, some of them devoted to the tiny spot, just settling upon the breeding tiles, others to oysters in the infantile or childish condition. It is from September to July that the hardest work at oyster farming has to be done. The oyster breeds from the beginning of May to the end of August, which explains the popular custom of avoiding oysters upon the table or in sauce when there is no "R" in the month. As soon as there is an "R" the nursing mamma-oysters have to be carefully fattened, the little ones of last year shifted about, and a variety of other momentous duties performed. Exceedingly delicate at first, the baby oyster lives inside his mother's shell for a whole month and then starts out for the great world, one drop of their native sea water at this epoch containing thousands of them. Arrived at the place where chance or choice conducts them they settle down for life, developing slowly, layer by layer, the wonderful shell, ugly and wrinkled outside, but lined within by that exquisite nacre whose texture of moonbeams can be turned by some of them into pearls for the ear of a duchess when the patient bivalve is troubled with a stomach ache, or some floating particle intrudes on its comfort.

Butter Made From Peanuts.

A new factory has just been put into operation in Kokomo, Ind., for the manufacture of butter from peanuts. For a year or more Lane Bros. of that city have been working on a process of making butter from the peanut to compete with the product of the farm cow, and have succeeded in producing the desired article. At the present price of the nuts the butter can be sold at fifteen cents per pound. The process of manufacture is no secret. The nuts after the hulls are removed, are carefully hand-picked and faulty kernels removed. They are then roasted in a large rotary oven. Again they are gone over by hand for the removal of scorched grains. The nuts are then put through a mill and ground as fine as the finest flour, the natural oil in the grains giving it the appearance and consistency of putty as it leaves the mill, except that it is more of an orange color. By the addition of filtered water, to reduce it to a most pliable state, the butter is complete, no other ingredient, not even salt, being used. It never grows rancid and keeps in any climate. It is put up in one, two, five, ten, twenty-five and 100-pound tin cans and sealed. The new butter is already in great demand at sanitariums and health resorts. It is used for all purposes ordinary butter is used, including shortening and frying. Physicians pronounce it more healthful than cow butter and it is much less expensive. By the addition of more water a delicious cream is made, and if desired it can in the same way be reduced to the consistency of milk. The new butter factory is located but a few rods from a large dairy barn, and is running in opposition to it.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.



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H. B. GRAVES

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