

SIMPLE DESIGNS FOR NEW FROCKS

Following After-the-War Extravagance in Clothes Reverse Reaction Prevails.

TAFFETA DRESSES IN FAVOR

Fabric Bids Fair to Be Popular for Spring Wear—Summery-Looking Hats for Southern Visitors.

As a violent reaction, clothes became widely extravagant almost as soon as the war was over. There were a few months of readjustment, while dressmakers were getting their establishments back into normal working condition; but this period was surprisingly brief. No sooner was this done, even in a limited way, than the market became flooded with an avalanche of clothes, as extravagant as any that the world has ever seen. Now we are experiencing a reverse reaction, observes a prominent fashion correspondent.

While it cannot be claimed that our frocks are any less expensive than they were six months ago, they are a great deal simpler in design. There is no mistaking the indication that women want all of their dresses but on the simplest and most youthful lines, and that they will pay more for a dress of this character than one elaborated with applied trimmings.

Season Calls for Pretty Clothes.

We tire, in time, of all our clothes, and now is the time when we especially feel the need of something fresh and different. Then, at this season, we have so many more social engagements that we like to have a great variety of pretty clothes in which to appear. In both the early and late autumn this need was filled by one-piece cloth dresses and beautiful furs. Later, these frocks were topped by coats of either cloth or fur. Now, we feel the need of a suit that is completed by some sort of an attractive blouse, unusual enough to make the costume something quite different from the old-fashioned coat and skirt.

A suit, by Douillet, was created to fill this need. Its arrival may be heralded as the most popular suit that this famous house has launched for the winter. The strong one-side movement and the long coat are its features. The portion which laps across the front, buttoning under the ferris, to give a semi-belted appearance, is cut in one piece with the right front of the jacket. The color combination



Tailored Suit of Brown Duvelty, With Jacket Showing Yoke Effect and Skirt Having an Overhanging Panel at Front.

worked out in this is remarkably pleasing. Copper brown velours de laine is the material selected for it.

The tendency in tailored suits is toward the use of pronounced colors. The erstwhile popular dark blue is, for the moment, neglected. Much of this is doubtless due to the fact that in rough wool pile fabrics dark blue is the least attractive of all shades. There must be some changing depth to the color tone to bring out the beauty of the fabric; hence, browns and greens are chosen in preference to blue or black.

The vest and collar are of broadbill fur, although it has been made with these trimmings of the heavy fur which is often substituted for the real thing. While the broadbill

is decidedly more luxurious, the plush is most economical, and has the advantage of being equally fashionable. Douillet completes his costume with a smart bodice of black satin, embroidered in copper color. This makes the suit beautiful and practical.

Taffeta Dresses Midwinter Favorites.

It is surprising to find taffeta dresses meeting with continued success in the midwinter season. Those who look ahead in fashions will see in this indication of a considerable use of this fabric for spring. We have come to think of it as such a practical material that it never has had the attention that it deserved from the artistic standpoint. It was always featured in evening gowns for members



Suit of Copper Velours de Laine, Affords an Outfit Quite Different From Old-Fashioned Coat and Skirt Suit.

of the younger set, but we rarely saw it in handsome daytime frocks, as for some reason or other it has come to be considered a somewhat informal material. Now our greatest designers have taken it up and are exploiting it in a way that makes everybody wonder why we did not realize its possibilities before.

Taffeta Popular With Designers.

Probably the puffy skirts of this autumn gave it the first boost toward success for it does come into prominence whenever we have a wider silhouette, due to the fact that its stiffness makes it suitable to these designs. Now those who make dresses are using it for straight-line models which wrap about the figure. Of course it is not a fabric which lends itself to a long line drapery with any degree of grace, but it could not be surpassed by any other material for short, puffy drapery.

Lanvin especially has had great success with her taffeta dresses. She makes them with and without embroidery. Black and navy blue are the colors most in demand in taffeta.

This winter hats have reflected the uncertainty of the silhouette. There has been a war between the dress with the puffy hips and the one of slender lines and the question of a choice between the two has had an important bearing on all fashions. As both these types were worn, it was natural that there should be both large and small hats as well as those that were plain and those greatly trimmed.

We always see the full skirt accompanied by a rather large hat of picturesque shape, which is topped by trimming of a fussy character; while the straight-line dress has in its wake the small hat. Fur toques are fashionable bits of headwear for this midwinter.

Please Southern Visitors.

Those going South are beginning to think more of springlike things, and for them quite summery-looking hats are already making their appearance. Glazed chintz and cretonnes are featured in some of them. We have had chintz and cretonne hats for the country in other summers, but the glazed, or shellacked chintz, has not been used before. It is indefinitely more practical than the ordinary chintz, as it sheds the dust easily and may be wiped off with a damp cloth. Then, if one is caught in the rain with one of these summery-looking hats on, there is no fear of its turning into a bedraggled mass of cloth, for even a rubber rain hat could shed a downpour no better.

Quite a remarkable trimming appears on the glazed chintz hats. It is a fringe of straw. Although you may not be going South it is a very good idea to get some of these hats, for they are most attractive and in the hurry of getting ready for an exodus from town in the spring it is not always easy to find just what one wants in country hats.

LINES SUIT FACE

Late French Hats Are Modeled to Adorn the Wearer.

Feathers, Velvet and Ribbons Are Deftly Arranged to Afford Most Becoming Headgear.

The late French hats for winter are practically a collection of lines—lines elusive and obscure, lines impossible and strange, lines pure and girlish, but always the lines that suit the face they are built to accompany.

This may sound easy, but it isn't. It takes an artist to construct a hat of the proper lines which will look smart and trim. But the French, when it comes to hats, are the leaders of the world. A French milliner takes a small piece of velvet, and in a few minutes your very eyes she has produced a hat which is the joy of all beholders.

The prettiest French hats one can take into her hand and crush into a round hat. These seem to be no frame and no foundation, and yet they are perfect frames for the faces they adorn. Ostrich feathers of all sorts have a fascinating way of curving over the ears and necks of their wearers. The hats are black or of very dark colors, and the feathers are bright.

Many variations of this hat of Shantung are shown by the French milliners. They are large or small, trimmed or untrimmed, for sport or for dress, but all are in the same line. Shantung is one of the most popular of the hat equipment of 1920. They are made of velvet or of hatter's plush or of tiny ribbons—shirred and sewed round and round, and they are in solid colors when they are smartest.

Feather and coque turbans are distinctly good and these come in many bright colors, worn usually with no trimming but with an exquisite lace veil. The veil is more an ornament for the hat than a protection for the face.

Picture hats, wide and spreading for wear with the old-fashioned French costumes and with those that follow the Spanish influence. These are made of hatter's plush or of velvet, beautifully sewed; and their rather high crowns are made soft enough to fit over the head. Sometimes there is a suggestion of trimming about them, but more often they have an inconspicuous band of ribbon.

There is a popular turban of manila made over a sparkling metal brocade band. It is simply a puff of the tulle with the color of the band showing through around the headsize, and then a puff of the tulle droops over the right ear.

WORK SYSTEMS TO BLAME

Manufacturers Feel That Increased Cost Is Due to the Week-Work Scheme.

There is now a feeling among women's garment manufacturers that the factor of increased cost, due to the establishment of the week work in place of the piece-work system, may play a more important part in high prices than it was realized. This point has occurred to some of the leaders in the trade who have not been entirely satisfied that the cost of raw material and other items was alone at the basis of values. Accustomed to piece-work prices, which enabled them to know with the best accuracy just what production cost them, some of the manufacturers, it is explained, may have added unconsciously to their profits when dealing with the new system that does not show costs so easily and correctly.

CRETONNE HAT FOR SPRING



A facing of turquoise blue silk and field flowers encircle the crown of this charming broad brimmed cretonne hat designed for spring wear.

Gems Liven Black Gowns.

Emeralds are used as a foil for a black lace gown when emerald silk lines the folded bow ends on the soft crushed girle and sash, and for one notable costume an emerald facing is used on the black lace hat. Colored gems are favored for use with the all-black costumes generally, but jewels of pearl and diamond-set platinum make a most effective accompaniment for a black tulle gown, having an underdress of creamy white. With such a costume a long diamond chain finished with pearl-mounted pendant and used with pearl earrings carries out the long graceful lines of one of the new soft hanging tunics. Dignity is added to an all-black costume by the use of a diamond and onyx collarette.

The New Coat.

The newest French coats are cut on the simplest possible lines, without belts, and hanging straight, the silhouette narrowing slightly at the bottom.

UNUSUAL DRESS FOR MILADY



Navy blue serge with braid trimming and double ruffle of plaited georgette with short length sleeves destined to become so popular.

SOME NEW NECK DECORATIONS

Single Great Stone, Usually an Emerald or Diamond, Swings From Slender Chain.

Many young women are wearing, instead of pearls, a single great stone—usually an emerald or a diamond—swinging from a slender chain about the throat, says Harper's Bazar. Very striking is this great jewel, which is often oblong in shape and cut "square," instead of in innumerable facets.

The fashion of wearing brooches, revived since the armistice, has resulted in much work for the jewelers, who are busy resetting precious stones. The new brooch is designed obviously for the sole purpose of supplying the needed point of light to a dark frock, and is especially effective on frocks of black velvet or tulle. In fact, it would almost seem that the diamonds had fallen out of the fashions and attached themselves to the frock—at which we all rejoice. After all, what was ever more rigid and senseless in the way of an ornament than the old tiara with its stiff arrangement of gems?

TWO UNUSUAL SUIT MODELS

Toward-the-Front Effect Is Featured in Outfits Which Are Smart and Graceful.

Bernard has made some odd suits, perfectly flat from neck to ankle at the back, while the front of the skirt flares and ripples from gathering at the belline, and the front of the box coat flares forward like the skirt. Rather a weird way to make a suit, but somehow or other it is smart and graceful.

Bullock has also put out a model with this toward-the-front effect, a blue serge model with rabbit fur trimming. Both coat and fur-bordered tunic slope downward in an oblique line from front to back. Perhaps most interesting of all French models are the georgette frocks with flounced skirts made of rather stiff silk. There are flounced frocks of metal lace also, and all these georgette creations are so graceful and coquettish and feminine that they will surely "take" with womankind.

COMBINATIONS ARE IN FAVOR

Scarf and Skirt and Coat Arrangements Are to Be Among the Spring Novelties.

The lines being shown to skirt buyers for next spring feature new materials rather than marked changes in design. Plaited and shirred effects still predominate in the new offerings, some of which feature novel pocket arrangements. Panel patterns are still considered good, although the aim of the skirt designers appeared to be that of producing garments along simple lines. Among the novelties are skirt and scarf and skirt and coat combinations, principally in the sport clothes department. These combinations are made of the same material. Specialists in summer and resort wear designs put garbardiné in first place.

New Parisian Fad.

There is a new fad over in Paris—that of the carrying of charming French dolls instead of dogs. At the Claridge recently was a very attractive doll, dressed exactly like the girl who was carrying it. All the women were in ecstasies over it. There is also a new bracelet quite popular in Paris, of tortoise, inlaid with pearl, and really quite beautiful. Ankle bracelets are seen now and then, and one also sees a watch in the same place, once in awhile.

WHEN DADDY MINDS BABY

Sometimes His Work Is Better Than Mother's, Is the Opinion of an English Writer.

Many a father is far more competent to look after a baby than the mother. He simply looks at it and the baby stifies.

First aid is often necessary in the case of babies. They do a silly thing and then kick up a row because they've done it. Suppose baby has swallowed a thimble? Mother is distracted. She rushes about shrieking and saying she knows the baby will die. What does father do? He remains quite calm. With his strong right hand he seizes the baby's feet and holds it upside down. "Now, dear," he says to his wife, "watch what comes up." He ought to have said "comes down," but let that pass. She does and then suddenly she discovers the thimble—on her finger. It was the only place she hadn't searched!

Mothers are not to be trusted, remarks a writer in London Answers. They mean well, but they are far too imaginative. They watch the baby too closely. Nobody likes being watched. They watch its little guins so hard that the first tooth gets nervous and is afraid to come out.

If the tooth doesn't come through exactly when they expect it, they take baby to the doctor.

Then there is the question of language. The words some babies pick up from their mothers are truly terrible. Those stupid words mothers will say when talking to baby—"Idioms—Idioms—trudly oodly—goollogoozoo!" That sort of thing is bad for baby. He does not grow up with a proper respect for words.

Fathers never offend in that way. They talk to the baby as man to man instead of as idiot to idiot. Certainly your baby may turn out to be an idiot later on. But why advertise the fact to the world so early?

ARE YOU REALLY EDUCATED?

If So, You Can Answer Yes to All of the Following Questions, Says Professor.

A series of test questions for the educated has been evolved by a professor of the University of Chicago, which he declares are the best evidences of a real education. You are truly educated if you can answer yes to the following questions, so says the professor:

- Has education made you public spirited?
- Has it made you a brother to the weak?
- Have you learned how to make friends and keep them?
- Do you know what it means to be a friend yourself?
- Can you look an honest man or a sure woman in the eye?
- Do you see anything to love in a little child?
- Will a lonely dog follow you on the street?
- Can you be high-minded and happy in the drudgeries of life?
- Do you think that washing dishes and hoeing corn is just as compatible with high thinking as playing piano or golf?
- Are you good for anything yourself?
- Can you be happy alone?
- Can you look out on the world and see anything but dollars and cents?
- Can you look into a mud puddle by the wayside and see a clear sky?
- Can you see anything in the puddle but mud?

Why "Apostle Spoons."

"Apostle spoons," also called "gossip spoons," were gilt spoons given by the sponsors or "gossips" to a child at its christening. They were so called because each spoon had a figure of an apostle on the handle. Wealthy people gave the whole twelve apostles; those of less means and generosity gave the four evangelists; while poorer persons had to be contented with one, bearing generally the figure of the donor's or of the child's patron saint. There is a capital picture of a full set in Hone's "Everyday Book," copied from one in possession of the author. It is noticeable that each apostle seems to wear a broad-brimmed hat—the hat, in fact, being a plate of metal which was put on the head to preserve the features from injury, and which is to be seen on all genuine apostle spoons.

Rats Welcome.

Coal mines and other mines are always full of rats, which become exceedingly tame and saucy, being never killed or molested by the miners. The latter believe that to kill one would bring bad luck.

Indeed, it may be said that rats are very useful in mines. They do good service as scavengers; and, what is more important, they give warning by their actions in the presence of dangerous gases, being more sensitive to them than human beings.

When a "cave-in" is about to occur, the rats often give timely notice, scampering about in an unusual manner. Doubtless the preliminary cracking of the rocks alarms them.

Paradoxical Feelings.

"I felt cold chills coming over me when the train stopped."
"What was the trouble."
"A hot box."

Yeung Fan.

Sunday School Teacher (speaking of the Apostles)—Peter made one error—Irresponsible Kid—How many runs did it let in, teacher?

FOUND PEBBLE WAS DIAMOND

Irishman's Belief That Pretty Stone Was Valuable Led to Working of South African Fields.

The discovery of African diamonds is a romance of sleeping for years on wealth beyond the dreams of avarice. In 1867 John O'Reilly was on his way from the interior, and stopped for the night at the house of a Boer named Van Nickerck. He saw the children playing on the floor with some pretty pebbles they had picked up, and O'Reilly said: "These might be diamonds!" He had one of the pebbles in his hand, and the Boer said it was no diamond, that there were lots on the farm, and he might have it and welcome.

O'Reilly said he would take it to Cape Town, and if it proved of value he would give his host half the profits. On his long journey he stopped at Colesburg at the hotel, and showed the men he met his stone, and scratched and scratched glass with their gun flints, and threw the bright pebble out of the window. But O'Reilly recovered it and got it to an expert, who announced that it was in truth a diamond of 22.4 carats.

O'Reilly, like the honest Irishman he was, fairly divided the \$500 he sold his diamond for with Nickerck when he went up-country again, and the Boer remembered that he had seen an immense stone of the same kind in the hands of a Kaffir witch doctor. He found the fetish man, gave him 500 sheep, a number of horses and nearly all he possessed for the stone, and sold it the next day for \$56,000. This was the famous Star of South Africa.

PROUD OF HISTORIC EDIFICE

British Nation Has Right to Exult in Glories That Surround Ancient Westminster Abbey.

Westminster hall, next to the Tower and Westminster abbey, is the most historic edifice in London. Adjacent to the house of commons, it dates back over 800 years, although Richard II was responsible for its present glories. He it was who, in 1397, had the hall rebuilt, and added the grand oak roof which is rightly described as "one of the finest feats of carpentry extant," and which, with judicious patching from old ship's timber, in 1820, has lasted to this day.

Probably the largest hall in the world unsupported by pillars, the historical associations of Westminster hall, are full of interest. Tablets on the stairs and in the middle of the hall mark the spots where Charles I and the earl of Stratford stood their trials, and another tablet records the lying in state of King Edward.

Here successively the duke of Somerset and his rival, the duke of Northumberland, and a little later, the duke of Norfolk, were all tried and condemned. The hall was also the scene of the seven years' trial of Warren Hastings and of the proclamation of Cromwell as lord protector. A few years later his head was brought from Westminster abbey and exposed on the southern gates.

Westminster hall also has political and legal associations, for some of the earliest parliaments assembled there, while as late as 1882 the law courts were held within and around.

Great Preacher's Humor.

The wit of Henry Ward Beecher was a large element of his popularity. The Brooklyn postmaster sent him formal notice that a letter had been returned to him from the dead letter office and got this reply: Colonel McLeer—Dear Sir: Your notice that a letter of mine was dead and subject to my order is before me. We must all die. And though the premature decease of my poor letter should excite a proper sympathy (and it does), yet I am greatly sustained under the affliction. What was the date of its death? Of what did it die? Had it in its last hours proper attention, and such consolation as befits the melancholy occasion? Will you kindly see to its funeral? I am strongly inclined to cremation. May I ask if any other letters of mine are sick, dangerously sick? If any depart this life hereafter, don't notify me until after the funeral. Affectionately yours, Henry Ward Beecher.—Exchange.

Trade Signs Disappearing.

Many of the familiar trade signs used to advertise business enterprises have been displayed by the flashing electric display. Among the old and commonplace signs to be discarded in the onward sweep of advertising progress are the wooden Indian, which one time kept its silent, stolid vigil beside the door of the tobacconist. The significant boot that once was suspended over the shop of the repairer of boots and shoes is now of happy memory. So are the barber's pole, the anvil hanging above the entrance to the blacksmith's shop, the horses' heads over the liveryman's doorway and others.

"Scum" Was Valuable.

One of the biggest oil fields in America was for two generations occupied by the buildings and fields of an ordinary farm, through which ran a creek which issued from the ground in a remote corner of the estate.

The farmer had always been troubled with what he called the "scum," and had put a plank across the little rivulet to keep it back. An oil prospector, after the farmer's death, found that the scum was petroleum, or mineral oil, and that land became valuable as if it had been a rich gold field.