

LONGER SKIRT IS MAKING HEADWAY

Designers Achieving Purposes by Drapings, Flouncings, Panels, Ruffles and Things.

SOME HAVE TRAILING TRAINS

Arrangement is Combined With the Abbreviated Garment for Women Who Insist Upon Having the Now Waning Mode.

Harbingers of the spring season crowd upon us from all directions. From Paris come the robes of the spring, while right here in New York, observes a fashion writer in the New York Times, we are being treated to fashion exhibits that are truly American in character. Only the best of America's fashion creators paraded their gowns for the fashion people to revel in and to take shining examples from the clothes of American women this spring.

While the dresses designed for the street have a tendency to remain at a very moderate length—not to say short—those for afternoon and evening are creeping downward at an uncertain pace. And it is interesting to see how variously the different designers achieve their purposes by drapings and transparent flouncings and panels and ruffles and underskirts and things.

For those women who will not accept the frankly long skirt (either because their figures are too short or because they want to remain youthful in appearance), there are gowns with trailing trains to make them look long, while at other portions of their skirts the legs are allowed to show almost to the knees. This style will continue to please those husbands, too, who vowed they would not be parties to the reappearance of the longer skirts. It took them a long while to come around to a whole-hearted acceptance of the shorter skirt; but having reached that point, they seem many of them determined to remain there.

One evening gown at the National Garment-Retailer's fashion show was made of a black beaded robe just draped about the figure in such a way that it was possible to see the lines of the dress, with straps of cut jet to hold it in place over the shoulders. On the left side of the skirt the draping was opened and made a short skirt line, almost to the knees, while on the opposite side the lines of its draping curved downward until it barely escaped the floor.

Another of these very brilliant gowns was made of some soft and light fabric of metal cloth—that is, one which had a color woven in with the silver threads. Its skirt was draped in one of those irregular ways that brought it very low on one side, where it spread out into a graceful train, and from the other side the fabric came from a higher point, to fasten under the drapery of the train. The interesting part about this gown was that when its lovely wearer stood still in one spot, it had every appearance of being quite amply full. Then when she stepped along the path the movement of her body transformed the lines of the skirt so that they followed her figure exactly.

All the evening frocks had simple straps for the shoulders, with as much neck showing as possible. One was of red velvet, and the shoulder straps

the lines of draped evening gowns followed the characters of the fabrics used. Most of the colors were brilliant in the extreme, showing a marked tendency to get away from black, which has been so astonishingly popular during the last season. Yellow in the brighter shades appeared repeatedly, establishing a precedent for its use during the coming spring and summer.

Models for Different Types.
When the draped evening gowns are considered, then there is a distinctly different type for the young and the slim woman. It is draped, to be sure, but it is extended in some way at the hip line, so that the gown assumes a distinctly bouffant appearance. It is made, more usually, of the thinner materials and of taffeta which, of its own accord, puffs out into distended lines. One dress of this type was made from heavy flowered taffeta, the tight little colorful bouquets of flowers being scattered over a background of stiff cream-colored silk. The skirt was lavished with full panniers over either hip and, falling from that point, it reached the ankles. There was a



Late Creations in Pure White.

short-sleeved bodice and little, old-fashioned puffed sleeves, giving the effect of lovely maidenliness combined with a real old-time charm.

Some of the evening dresses were short, as far as the foundation material was concerned, and then had extra lace of gold tissue flounces below that line which made the skirt long, and yet not long. It was a compromise that many women will like, because it forms an easy transition between the long and the short and allows them to gradually become used to the longer lines.

From Paris we gather the first news of the spring openings there. Of course it is, as yet, only snatched information transported by cable, but it serves to give an idea of what the Parisian couturiers will sanction for forthcoming styles.

Two frocks, which are the latest creations of Martial et Armand and Charles, are not, of course, included in the spring showings of those two houses, but they are the sort of thing that led up to those openings, and for that reason they hold a real significance.

Simplicity is Noticeable.
The simplicity of the drapings of these gowns is their most noticeable characteristic. They seem to be only a suggestion of a gathering of the fullness at a certain point, or at various points as the case may be. But in the manner of that draping lies the center of interest in the frock, and around it the trimming and all of the lines of the gown are grouped in harmony.

Cheruit's gown illustrates that regularity of beaded trimming which has proved itself so acceptable, and in this case the cross lines of bead tubes and circles follow the line established by the draping about the lowered waistline.

The gown from Martial et Armand has a somewhat higher waistline. That is, a second tier of velvet ribbon establishes a more normal line, while the lowered one remains there, as though to demonstrate its willingness to be pushed from the center of interest, which it has held uninterruptedly. This frock is made with an underdrapery of silver that shows charmingly on the bodice under the arms.

Then the overdress is made of a beautifully soft piece of panne velvet, embroidered by hand over its entire surface with designs in silver thread. The velvet is a light violet in tint, and the velvet stripes of ribbon about the waist, along with the velvet and silk bows grouped at one side, are in a deep tone of purple. Incorporated in the making of the blossoms are petals of silver cloth, and the straps over the shoulders are made of this same material.

Cheruit's gown is all white—the satin which forms its foundation and the various sizes of beads from which the various edgings are made. White, they say, will be one of the popular tones for spring, and it seems to be the rule that when a frock is white it shall be kept entirely white, without touches of color to relieve it in any way.

As for sleeves for evening gowns—well, there wasn't any sleeves. They just don't seem to enter the calculations of the designers.

LIE IN WAIT FOR UNWARY

All Kinds of Get-Rich-Quick Schemes Offered to Visiting Americans in City of Havana.

"Every American in Havana has a scheme to make your fortune and his, too," said a recently returned American, according to the New York Sun. "It makes no difference whether your capital is \$2 or a million times that sum, you can find a proposition that will need just the amount you can raise."

"For \$2 or \$3 you can buy a hive of bees; the bees will swarm the next day and you will have two hives. Keep this process up a few weeks and you will have a thousand hives, and as bees can work the year round in Cuba, flowers being continuously in bloom, each hive will make you \$25 and a thousand hives mean \$25,000 a year. A neat income even in an expensive resort like Havana."

"If you have a few hundred dollars you will be advised to go into the chicken business and your adviser will tell you how eggs sell at 6 or 8 cents a piece—they don't sell them by the dozen in Havana—and each hen will therefore earn \$12 to \$15 yearly while her board will be \$3.80 or some such sum."

"If your fortune is up in the thousands you are advised to go into the lumber business and you will be told of the tremendous demand for poles on which to hang tobacco while it is being cured. The American who is explaining the huge profits from these enterprises usually does his talking in a cafe and does his figuring on top of the marble-topped tables. The table tops are covered with figures on a busy day until a waiter comes around with a damp towel and wipes off the tables and obliterates the fortunes."

GRAVE COST OF INDECISION

Gap Johnson Tells of Incident Which Should Convey a Moral to the Intelligent Reader.

"My cousin, Hank Buckley, paid \$3 for a dog a couple of weeks ago," related Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge, Ark., "and directly gave the dog and four bits for a fiddle. Pretty soon he swapped the fiddle and six bits for a shotgun. He hadn't much more than got settled with the gun than he figured he'd rather have a dog than a shotgun, and swapped the gun for the fiddle, and the fiddle made him give \$1 to boot. After a spell he got to studying and decided that he wanted a fiddle worse than he did a dog. So he swapped with the fiddle man and gave him \$1 to boot."

"Well, he kept this up, sorter like the ragged rascal in the old Third Reader, swapped round and round the rugged rock, swapping fiddle or dog or gun, whichever. It happened to be, for one of the other things, and giving \$1, or such a matter to boot every time till he was out \$10.25, and had the dog. When I read him last he told me it was a dreadful thing not to be able to make up his mind and keep it made up."—Kansas City Star.

ROSARIES FROM HOLY LAND

Important Bethlehem Industry Is the Manufacture of Beads From Material America Sends.

Ten to twenty tons of the pearl-shell waste of American button factories—broken pieces and butt-ends of shells—are shipped monthly to the Holy Land, where, in the village where Christ was born, the material is converted into beads and ornamental objects.

For many centuries the manufacture of such products has been the only important industry of Bethlehem. They find a market largely in the United States. In 1920 there was shipped from Bethlehem to this country at least \$80,000 worth of rosaries, made of mother-of-pearl beads, with silver chains and strung on wire of the same metal, or "white metal" for a substitute. For making larger rosaries or other ornamental objects Bethlehem obtains supplies of pearl-oyster shells from the Persian gulf, from India and from Australia. The chains of silver and white metal are imported from France. Hand labor is employed exclusively in the industry, and, inasmuch as it is very cheap, the idea of using machinery is regarded with disfavor.

Firemen Pull Out a Rat.

Many funny requests come over the phone of the newspapers and to the phone "information," but a new one was sprung recently in Marblehead, when the phone rang at the Franklin street fire station and a hysterical voice called for the department to come immediately to Circle street as a most peculiar crackling noise had been heard all night in one of the rooms.

The firemen rushed into their coats and boots with a vision of something going on in the smoking fire line. On arrival no signs of fire could be discovered and the woman, much agitated, showed the men whence the noises came. Armed with axes and picks they assaulted the dresser, from which the noises issued and after a stubborn struggle managed to subdue a good sized rat in a drawer of said dresser. The woman was grateful to the firemen, who now feel qualified to fight pests, bipeds or any walking creature, as well as the fire fiend.—Salem News.

Electric Steel Smelting.

It is claimed that an electric induction furnace which has been under trial for some time in Sheffield, England, solves the problem of making very large steel ingots demanded by modern machinery, because it is as easy to make a two-ton ingot in this furnace as one of 80 pounds in a crucible. But it is admitted that at present high-grade steels can be made by the electric furnace on a commercially successful scale only in places where power can be obtained at an extremely low cost. Laboratory experiments have indicated that a high-class steel can be made by the electric process from inferior material, but for commercial purposes this is not yet possible.

British Columbia's Timber.

Directly and indirectly the timber industries of British Columbia represent nearly half the trade and commerce of the province. In 1920 they produced nearly \$83,000,000 worth of commercial material and it is estimated that the 1921 output will run well over the \$100,000,000 mark. The output in 1920 was approximately 2,000,000,000 feet of wood products, and over 20,000 men were employed to produce this quantity.

Those Subnormal Children.

In an address to the physicians of Florida Dr. Borden Veeder of Washington university, St. Louis, said: "The fallacy of setting arbitrary standards for the weight and height of children without reference to their parents is a practice which should be abolished. In judging whether a child is above or below normal the stature and weight of the parents should be considered."

WOULD PRESERVE OLD HOUSE

Efforts Being Made to Raise Money to Buy Dwelling Dating From Seventeenth Century.

Some who love good things—and happily interest in the architecture of former ages is awakening more and more—are trying to preserve a remarkable old peasant's dwelling at Harrevel, a lonely hamlet on the heather in the province of Gelderland. It is called los luis, dating from the Seventeenth century and the last house of the Saxon type. Los, in the Geldrian dialect, means open, by which it is indicated that the house consists of one room only and that there are no partitions between the places for housing and sleeping for men and beasts; cows and goats and chickens living peacefully together with the inmates. There is no chimneyplace; the wood fire burns in a hole in the floor, which is of stone, and the smoke is allowed to find an outlet as it pleases.

The peasants, man and wife, who are living here are beset with the extremely modern, yet most unfortunate habit of having a wall built between the stable and the dwelling room, adding a chimney and building another room, by all of which renovations the house will be irretrievably spoiled.

The managing committee of the open-air museum at Arnhem are now trying to get money together in order to buy the house and have it removed to their museum park. It is much to be hoped that they will meet with a prompt success.

WHY

The Earth Is Not Flooded With Light at Night

Why is the sky not illuminated at night as it is during the day? The space in which the earth moves is constantly flooded with light from the sun; why, then, is not the sky at night as bright as in the day except for a round shadow cast by the earth? Ought not the sky outside that shadow, visible in wide expanses, to be as bright, sunshiny blue in clear weather as during the day?

This is a question that has often been asked, but the explanation is simple. Rays of light, unless they enter the eye, are not visible. Therefore the rays from the sun that pass by the earth are not visible to anybody on the earth unless they are reflected back into the eye from some opaque substance in the sky, as the moon, acting like a mirror.

In addition to the direct rays of the sun the earth is illuminated by rays that would pass it by were it not for the myriad particles of dust and moisture that are in the atmosphere. These rays are reflected to the earth from the particles. If the atmosphere enveloping the earth were several million miles deep instead of only 40 to 50, which is a mere film in comparison with the earth's size, the twilight which is caused by the light reflected from it for a short time after the sun drops behind the horizon would last far into the night.

It is reflected light from the atmosphere that gives the sky its beautiful blue color. When the particles of dust and moisture in the air are large enough they reflect the light completely. When they are sufficiently small the light waves are broken up and parts of them scattered and the component of light that is easiest broken off and scattered in this manner is the blue.—Cleveland News Leader.

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'An' trim it nice an' clean,
Then make a whittle jus' as slick
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He can, too, bet a dime—
But when I ast 'em make me one
He says, "I haven't time."

My pa c'n catch th' mostest fish
Of any man I know.
He's caught an' awful lot, I guess;
At least he's told me so.
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Considered Gown of Violet Panné Velvet.

was composed of finished velvet, making a cord of about half an inch in diameter. The top of the neck were made of a similar material, with a fringe of the same on the back, according to the fashion of the gown in question. The gown was made of a single piece of material, the front and back being joined at the shoulders by a single seam. The gown was made of a single piece of material, the front and back being joined at the shoulders by a single seam. The gown was made of a single piece of material, the front and back being joined at the shoulders by a single seam.