WOMAN'S REALM

BLACK SATIN DIRECTOIRE EVENING COAT.
Lined throughout with old blue satin and trimmed with black fringe, Oriental embroidery and black marten. Detachable ruff of pleated black satin lined with blue and centred with black marten.

Gowns for Country House Wear.

Morning and Evening Toilets Chosen by the Smart Parisienne.

Paris, September 16.

All the world has deserted the sea to begin a round of country house visits, broken often by a run into town by train or automobile. For each and every occasion there is a new gown, suitable to the early autumn.

The up-to-date woman, gowned smartly for a morning walk, bears a curious resemblance to her male companion. The same straight coat, with the same collar, and sleeves of the same form; the hat of the same material and form, but made feminine by the draping veil; the same tan shoes and the same short, unbuttoned gloves, while the unlined, limp, petticoatless skirt clings nearly as closely to the limbs as do the trousers of the masculine costume. With the long, close coat sleeves there has come into vogue the gauntleted d'Artagnan glove. Made of the softest chamois skin, to be quite correct they must fit the hand loosely. There are also suggestions of this hero of romance in the latest cloaks and large soft hats, with waving feathers set at a rakish angle. Inexpressibly dashing, yet with the utmost sobriety of line, was a long redingote of heavy ottoman silk, in two tones of dark red and pale green, worn by one of a group of young women gathered around a tea table in the garden of the Ritz one sunny afternoon. It was quite new in cut, the back forms straight, merely suggesting the slender figure. The middle seam was split to a little above the waist line; the fronts shot forward, to touch at the bust, then sloped sharply back to the line of the hips. A narrow line of velvet finished the neck and followed in the same narrow line the entire edge of the garment. Two great velvet covered buttons, set inside little silk frills, decorated the sharply pointed fronts. The tight coat sleeves dropped frills that almost covered the hands, then followed the back seam nearly to the elbows. The mousseline de soie blouse of the same color was made up over white; the belt and the cravat bow that finished the high curved stock were of matching silk.

STOCK AND SLEEVE FRILLS.

The latest fancy is to have the stock and the pleated frills that finish the sleeves of some fine, soft, white material lightly edged with a line of hemstitching. And to be correct the pleats must be done by hand. These hand pleated frills are the hall mark of extreme elegance.

At country house gatherings there is much dancing, for here the young girls of the family make their initiatory bow before the more serious presentation to their set in town. Sweetly charming are some gowns prepared for these little dances at a great chateau near Paris. Over a sheath of soft, white, Liberty satin hangs a scant, short skirt of white India muslin; the edge is shaped into deep teeth followed by many tiny frills of scantily frilled, Valenciennes lace, forming a border quite six inches in depth—like moss. The slightly low cut corsage is trimmed in the same manner; the mossy effect continuing around the shoulders. Triple lace frills make the sleeves over tight shirred ones of filmy chiffon that reach to the elbows. A long scarf of blue mousseline de soie, with long silken fringe, circles high the waist and falls from the back to the hem of the skirt. Shoes and stockings are of the tender blue of the scarf. A pale pink rose pricks the hair, and a second one is thrust into the sash at the left side.

Of white tulle is another dainty gown, hung over rose color, made paler by a veiling of white mousseline de soie, reflecting changing lights. The hem of the tulle skirt is trimmed with tiny puffings and the low corsage is wholly bouillonne; between each puff is twisted a ribbon of white satin, knotting at the sides into smart bows. Three of these twists of ribbon form the girdle ending in the middle of the back in similar bows. Short, wide, open sleeves are edged with the puffings. A tiny wreath of pink roses finishes the edge of the corsage.

HOODS AND WRAPS.

While youthful, these tulle gowns are strong and well calculated to stand the dampness of country evenings. To cover the head for a walk on the veranda or in the grounds are little pointed capuchin hoods of soft taffeta silk. They are tied loosely under the chin with wide soft ribbon, and bordered with tiny ruchings of pinked silk or by a line of delicate silk roses. For a quickly adjusted wrap there are those of white or pale tinted cashmere, lined with soft white silk, made long and loose, the sleeves being achieved by long strong stitches catching together wide folds of the material. Instead of the capuchin hood, the latest ones are finished with the triple collar.

For a mother is an evening gown of smoke gray silk voile. Short sleeves, a little over-corsage and a long, extremely narrow train are thickly embroidered with metal work in tones of pearl and gray. It is all quite transparent as it hangs over smoke gray voile. At the height of the knees the voile skirt is cut off and finished with two flounces of fine lace, transparent over pale turquoise blue silk. A scarf of the same fine lace is thrown over the shoulders; the jewels worn are diamonds and turquoises. Nowadays, if jewels are worn at all, they are carefully selected to match or to wonderfully harmonize with the toilet. Immense sums are spent by rich women to carry out this fancy, especially in rings; with the lace shadowed hands that are the dernier cri, quantities of rings are worn. One day the jewels are white, diamonds, pearls and faintly tinted opals, or smoky moonstones. Another they are blue, sapphires and turquoises, or only emeralds will flash through the lace, or brilliant red rubies. The luxury of this fancy is an extreme one. With the short sleeves bracelets have disappeared. With every costume goes a scarf; they are infinite in variety and afford a pretext for the pretty motions of flashing fingers in their adjustment.

SILK TAILORED SUITS.

It is a season of silks and of silken tissues. They are of rare beauty. Tailored costumes are made up entirely from heavy Ottoman silks in solid colors. There are long redingotes of these silks, worn with skirts of soft woollen materials. Smartest of all are the changeable Ottoman silks, deeply ribbed, the surface one color, another glinting from the background. These changeable silks effectively face revers, collars and cuffs for tailored costumes. They shape waistcoats and hem skirts. Indeed, they are used almost exclusively as trimming accessories.

An eccentric skirt of the season is lifted a little at one side to show the whole foot. Another, from the same house, shows a strange overskirt of mousseline de soie, with narrow panels tied into great knots. These are quoted simply to show the extravagances of the ultra modes, for surely no sensible person would adopt them.

Graceful and quite practical is a long, clinging skirt of fine silk voile, hanging in lovely untrimmed folds. The princess overskirt, hanging straight from the bust, with no fulness, is cut off short on one side or the other, and at the back it reaches nearly to the edge of the underskirt. A narrow fringe edges it below a border of elaborate braiding.

INFORMAL TALKS

SATIETY.

"I often think of what Herbert Spencer said about amusement," remarked the tired looking woman in the beautiful gown. "He said: 'Though at first you may find amusement dreary and uninteresting, you will in course of time habituate yourself to it and begin to find life more tolerable.'

"I believe I am getting reconciled to a life spent in the pursuit of amusement, and after a few more years of it I shall cease to feel so bored. The process of getting used to it is tiring, though. I go to teas and meet chattering women whom I don't care about, and smile because smiling is in order, and utter inanities about things in which I am not interested. I go to dinners and sit hours trifling with foods for which I have no digestion, on one side of me a heavy man who knows nothing but stocks and who gobbles, on the other side a dandy whose mind is absorbed in the fit of his coat. I'd much rather be eating a chop and some fruit with one congenial friend; but what will you? I am of the class whose women spend their lives in a round of pleasure, and I suppose I am greatly envied by many not of this class.

"I drive in the Fifth avenue procession when I'd rather be tramping over the hills; I make one of a theatre party to see a mediocre play when I'm longing to stay at home. I—but, dear me!" said the tired looking woman, interrupting herself, "it is time to go home and dress for the Crowdlings's reception. I hate receptions because they're such crushes, and, oh!" she added, kissing the artist friend to whom she had been unburdening herself, "how I envy you for having a life of work."

SERVICE IN CANADIAN HOMES.

Last summer the Canadian government sent a woman representative, Mrs. Simpson Hayes, to England, to arrange for the emigration of hundreds of gentlewomen to Canada. These women go into the homes of the settlers as domestic workers, but are received, it is said, on terms of perfect equality. In fact, the authorities say that only gentlewomen are wanted. The girl of the servant class does not seem to fit at all. She is not equal to the unexpected tasks of a pioneer home.

A colonial training farm has been started for would-be emigrants and there they are put through a pretty severe course of training. They learn housework in all its branches. They are taught how to take care of pigs and bees and poultry. They chop wood and they bottle fruit. They cure bacon and they learn to ride and drive. It is hard work, but there is no lack of volunteers, for the new land offers golden prospects to these superfluous women of the old country. As a rule the unfortunate employer does not keep her "lady help" long. There are too many superfluous men in the new country, and it is not unusual for the fair emigrant to receive several offers of marriage before she even reaches her destination.

STUDYING OPERA AT NORMAL COLLEGE

NEW COURSE BEGINS THIS AUTUMN.

A Musical Education Unique from Fact That It Costs Students Nothing.

Grown-up people frequently have occasion in these days to wish they were children again, or at least of the student age, and those who have young people taking the musical course at the Normal College must wish it very often. The two most fascinating features of this course are quite new—the opera course and the vocal course, both started last year, but the latter only fully developed this year. The students are so enthusiastic about them that it has been necessary to limit the numbers in the classes, and Professor Henry T. Fleck, of the musical department, finds it quite impossible to respond to all the demands made upon him. A number of the graduates who are now teachers want an afternoon opera class, but Professor Fleck is so driven that he cannot arrange it, and the Training School wants one, too. As this instruction is part of the collegiate course in music, the Training School has no legal claim to it, but as soon as the class was started last year the Training School students asked to have one, too, and this year they sent a teacher to Professor Fleck with the message, "Tell the professor we have got to have it."

In the opera class the students study and become thoroughly familiar with all the best operas, so that when they go to the opera it is not a mere mass of pleasant sound to them. They know the plot, they understand the instrumentation, the scenic effects and all the stage business. They have read and sung the whole opera line for line. To them "Elizabeth's Prayer," or the "Jewel Song" has a meaning which it can have for few others in the audience.

The musical department has piles of opera scores, and when any particular opera is being studied there is a complete vocal score for every two students in the class. They study this score and sing the choruses and solos until they have an intelligent conception of the whole work.

The vocal course is the outcome of some radical ideas entertained by Professor Fleck. He thinks that real musical culture is impossible without vocal training.

"The theory of music studied alone, without vocal development, is almost useless," he says. "Too much stress cannot be laid on the importance of training ear and voice to correct perception of differences of pitch and duration as the underlying principle of musical study. As soon as a girl has learned the forms of notation and sound effects, their vocal expression should accompany the growing knowledge. I don't mean mere sight singing, which is elementary work and doesn't enter into the collegiate course, but thorough vocal culture, the development of the voice, which means as well the development of the mind. Singing is too often divorced from mental culture. Singers begin by singing, whereas the mental training should come first. With us the theory and science of music precede the vocal expression."

What Professor Fleck is aiming at, he says, is to take school music from its old moorings, where it was utilized chiefly as a filler-in between speeches and a demonstration of the teacher's skill in drilling choruses, and make it an out-and-out study.

The musical course at the Normal College appears to be unique in the annals of musical education. Of course, music is invading all the colleges. Students now have an opportunity to study those things for which they are specially gifted, giving only a reasonable amount of time to those studies which once monopolized the curricula of the colleges. So all the colleges are taking up music—Radcliffe, Vassar, Wellesley, Harvard, Yale, even Oxford and Cambridge. But the Normal College, Professor Fleck believes, is the only place where one can get a musical education without spending a cent of money. The city pays even for the pencils and paper, as well as the books used. And in a department of education so expensive as vocal culture usually is this is something worth talking about.

The entire musical course in the college, including the work in the high school, now covers eight years. In the high school the work is obligatory, but in the collegiate course it is optional. It counts toward a degree just the same as anything else, but the student is under no obligations to take it if she doesn't want to, and those who are taking it are not preparing to be special teachers of music. The subject is studied only for its cultural value, and the number of those who appreciate its value is so great that it is rather embarrassing to the musical department, which is sadly handicapped, like the other departments, by the limitations of the old building.

In the collegiate musical course a girl may have from three to five hours a week of musical instruction for four years.

FOR GIRLS WHO GO TO PARIS AS STUDENTS

MANY PITFALLS FOR THE UNWARY.

Disillusionment Is Quicker and Cheaper at Home, Says Miss Patch, of Y. W. C. A.

"It is a very unwise thing for girls to go alone to Paris to study," said Miss Caroline Patch, who has been secretary of the Paris Young Women's Christian Association for over four years past, but who has recently returned to New York.

"They should go with their mothers or with friends," she continued. "It is not merely that the moral code and the way of regarding women are different, but that the girls themselves feel different. First, there is the natural desire to learn all the French possible, and for that many students wish to live entirely among French people. But, in addition, there is a desire to learn French life, French way, the French point of view, along with the language. That is perhaps natural, too, but it leads often into an environment which is totally strange to the American girl, which she does not understand at all, and has no experience to cope with. Girls of good family and training will do things in Paris which they would not dream of doing in New York or Chicago. They disregard the conventionalities, which are always a safeguard to us all, and sometimes find themselves in totally unexpected situations. Moreover, the American man understands the American girl. He understands her rules of conduct, her independence and freedom. He has usually been through school and perhaps through college, side by side with her. He knows very well whether she is merely unconventional or something more. But the foreign man has no such key to her conduct. To him, generally speaking, a girl is either hedged about with conventions, never for a moment left unchaperoned, or else is open to advances and doubts which the American girl does not understand at all.

INVESTED WITH ROMANCE.

"Student life in Paris has been invested with a glamour of romance. It has been greatly advertised in fiction and in travel books. A girl who would go to Chicago or New York for a year's study with the most prosaic, unimaginative feelings possible goes to Paris possessed of a curiosity which has been artificially stimulated. She will explore strange fields and meet and associate with people whom she would never encounter at home. She understands American men; knows how to grade them, how to treat them, where to place them in the social scale. She has no such comprehension of foreign men."

Miss Patch is well qualified to speak, as in the students' branch of the Paris Young Women's Christian Association there are 800 members and in the central association 1,000. All the members in the former and a portion of those in the latter are young women who are in Paris to study art, music, French or other branches. The central building is at No. 5 Rue de Turin, and the Students' Hotel is at No. 93 Boulevard St. Michel, in the midst of the Latin Quarter, near the Sorbonne. There is a boarding home at each, and, although increased accommodations could be utilized, still the great majority of all students wish to board in French houses for the sake of the language.

"Living expenses are very high for the girl who has earned her own money," said Miss Patch. "Regular pension rates, $1 40 a day at least, must be paid for board in any ordinary French pension. Students get furnished rooms together for $15 a month, but this sum includes neither heat, light nor service. Rooms can be got for $8 a month, but they are very undesirable. American girls have an idea that one can go to Paris and find some attic under the roof where they can live very cheaply while studying. All such ideas are fallacious. Many students live very straitened lives, almost going without necessary food. They wish to pay good masters—that is what they have gone to Paris for. It costs more than they think, and there is nothing to do but to take it out of their living expenses. Even so, there are painful instances now and then of girls getting completely out of money; although that is a fact also with both women and men in the tourist class, as every American Consul can testify.

DON'T EXPECT TO FIND WORK.

"Many ambitious American girls wish to secure work in Paris which will pay part of their expenses, as they could easily do in Chicago or New York. That is practically impossible. In the first place, because for anything but teaching English a thorough knowledge of French is required; in the second, because labor of every description is so exceedingly cheap there, and, third, because in no Continental country is the woman who works respected as in America. Let any girl who has any such idea as that put it entirely out of her mind. She should not go to Paris unless she has plenty of money to pay all her expenses.

"As for teaching English, that is all in the hands of the British girls. We have an employment bureau at our central branch, and through that supply a great many governesses and nursery governesses, not only to French people, but all over Europe. But the British girls have a monopoly of that. We have not the governess system in this country. American girls do not understand it, and they are too independent to adopt the life successfully.

"Many American girls go to study in Paris who could derive more benefit, in every case but that of French, from studying in some American city. They are not sufficiently prepared to derive full benefit from study in Paris. Then so many of them are disillusioned there, and they could be more easily and less expensively disillusioned at home. Many girls go for a year, and it takes them a year to learn the ways of the city, to learn the sort of instruction they need and where to get it. Often the masters they go to first are not suited to them, and it requires some time to find it out. Often they find that it requires two or three years to get the benefit they hoped to get in one.

"I think perhaps the most fertile road into temptation and trouble for the American girl in Paris is the 'maison meublée,' the furnished room house. These are practically hotels. One may get rooms without meals; any one may take a room there, and one may come in at any hour of the night. It is a very free and easy life."

MRS. HOFF'S IDEA.

In addition to its boarding home, the Paris Young Women's Christian Association has an information bureau, which is exceedingly useful, not only to students but to women tourists. Lists of boarding places can be found, also information as to excursions, points of interest, prices, guides, interpreters and teachers and schools of every description. The association has regular excursions to points like Versailles and Fontainebleu for both residents and for visitors, conducted by some person competent to explain intelligently. It has regular lectures on the art treasures of Paris, and has always a French professor at its table, as well as classes in French. It has a luncheon and rest room near the Madeleine, in the shopping district, where interpreters, teachers and others lunch, and where a great deal of French and German can always be heard. In its entire membership the Paris association has girls of twelve nationalities. One of the chief needs that it fills among the women students is a social one. Its three branches serve 4 o'clock tea every day. This is free to all girl students. They may make appointments and meet friends there. Two of the houses have gardens, and the daily afternoon tea makes a centre of social life.

The present association was organized four years ago by Mrs. J. J. Hoff, formerly Miss Grace Whitney, of Detroit. Mr. Hoff represents Standard Oil interests in Paris, and the couple resides at the Chateau Breau, which was one of Henry IV's hunting lodges. It is a very beautiful country place, and Mrs. Hoff always has a reception there for girl students of Paris at least once a year. She is the main support of the association work in Paris and often addresses the Sunday meetings. She takes an untiring interest in young women wherever she meets them.

An international Young Women's Christian Association home will be dedicated on November 1 in Rome, for which Miss Helen M. Gould has given the money. The Rome association has had only a furnished flat before for its boarding house. The new place is a six story building on the Via Balbo, where work along the same lines as that in Paris will be conducted. A similar building and similar work are said to be much needed in Berlin, where students flock.

A RECEPTION GOWN.
Of white crepe de chine. Ermine collar and ermine rug muff with a row of heads overlapping a row of tails. The muff when spread out is oblong like a mat.

"DIVORCE" AT WOMAN'S FORUM.

The first meeting of the Woman's Forum will be held at 11 o'clock Friday morning, October 16, at the Berkeley Lyceum. Miss Helen Varick Boswell, the president, will preside. The topic for discussion for the day will be "Interstate Divorce Laws," under the direction of Mrs. Gabrielle Stewart Mulliner, as chairman of the legislative committee of the Woman's Forum. There will be no men admitted to the meeting, and there will be a discussion from the floor after the invited speakers have been heard.

The laws of the different states will be read, and a comparison will be made. Mrs. Mulliner will take up the legal phase, and the leading address will be made by Dr. Grace Peckham Murray, who will give the medical side of the question.

The question of the desirability of allowing divorce for insanity, desertion, cruelty, drunkenness, incompatibility of temper and other causes will be taken up by the members of the legislative committee, Mesdames William Grant Brown, Charles S. Reed, N. Coe Stewart, C. C. Ruthrauff, E. J. B. Nelson, R. W. Chapman, C. S. Robinson, F. F. Davis, L. W. Sprague, I. R. Keller and Gerard Bancker, Miss Lawton and Miss Boswell.

"The Effect of Easy Divorce Laws Upon the Future Homes of America" will be discussed by Mrs. N. Coe Stewart; "Probation in Divorce," by Mrs. Keller, and "The Limitation of Self-Sacrifice" by Mrs. Gerard Bancker. Miss Lawton will quote George Eliot's views on divorce.

DECEPTIVE FOAM.

T. J. Bryan, state analyst of Illinois, says that the artificial foam so alluring in a glass of soda water is in some cases produced by the use of soap-bark. Now, soap bark, according to the United States dispensary, owes its foam producing qualities to the saponin in its bark. "Saponin, as found in commerce," adds this authority, "is a powerful poison."

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