

Exquisite Fabrics from France

BY SARA MARSHALL COOK

The Wings of Spring

THE making of women's clothes constitutes the third largest industry in the world. The uninitiated may speak lightly of fashion, but nevertheless it is a bigger and more important subject, wielding a more widespread influence than most people realize. One of the strongest branches of fashion's tree is fabrics. For a long time this was only a slender twig.

Then it suddenly began to grow and in a very short period of time convert its development into amazing proportions. Designers now delight to lavish their best efforts on textiles, for here their art finds unlimited scope. Woolens, silks or cottons—any one taken separately is no small subject to-day.

Rodier, the great French maker of fabrics, is one whose genius apparently never flags. During the months directly following the recent war, when the difficulty of getting raw materials and workers was almost insurmountable, his work continued. Weavers of cloths worked out of doors in France amid the ruins of their factories, and the things that they produced were little short of marvelous.

One might have expected the merchandise turned out under such conditions to be plain and uninteresting. On the contrary, the charm of color and the originality of pattern were very great. Rodier's new spring and summer materials, which are more beautiful than any he has hitherto made, although his fabrics always have stood for the unusual in both pattern and weave, are being lavishly employed in the models brought out by the greatest French dressmakers.

Popelabule—
Much Like Poplin
AN INTERESTING new woolen well liked for suits and light-weight coats is called Popelabule. In weave it is very like old-fashioned poplin, the only difference being that it is softer. It might be said to combine the characteristics of flannel and poplin. Bernard and Beer, two French makers famous for their suits and coats, are making extensive use of this.

Popelabule comes in seventeen shades. There are wonderful reds, soft, dull greens and enough browns and tans to please all tastes. Among the lighter shades there is a greenish blue and a mauve tint, each beautiful. Other lightweight woolens are in rust browns beautifully embroidered in leaves, twigs and pine needles.

In spite of all the wonderful shades the preference is given to beige, not only in Popelabule but in every other material. Throughout the entire collection of new cloths and silks by Rodier this shade predominates. There are many variations of it from the palest tints to darker hues almost brown. Cloths of other colors frequently have relief embroidery in beige tone.

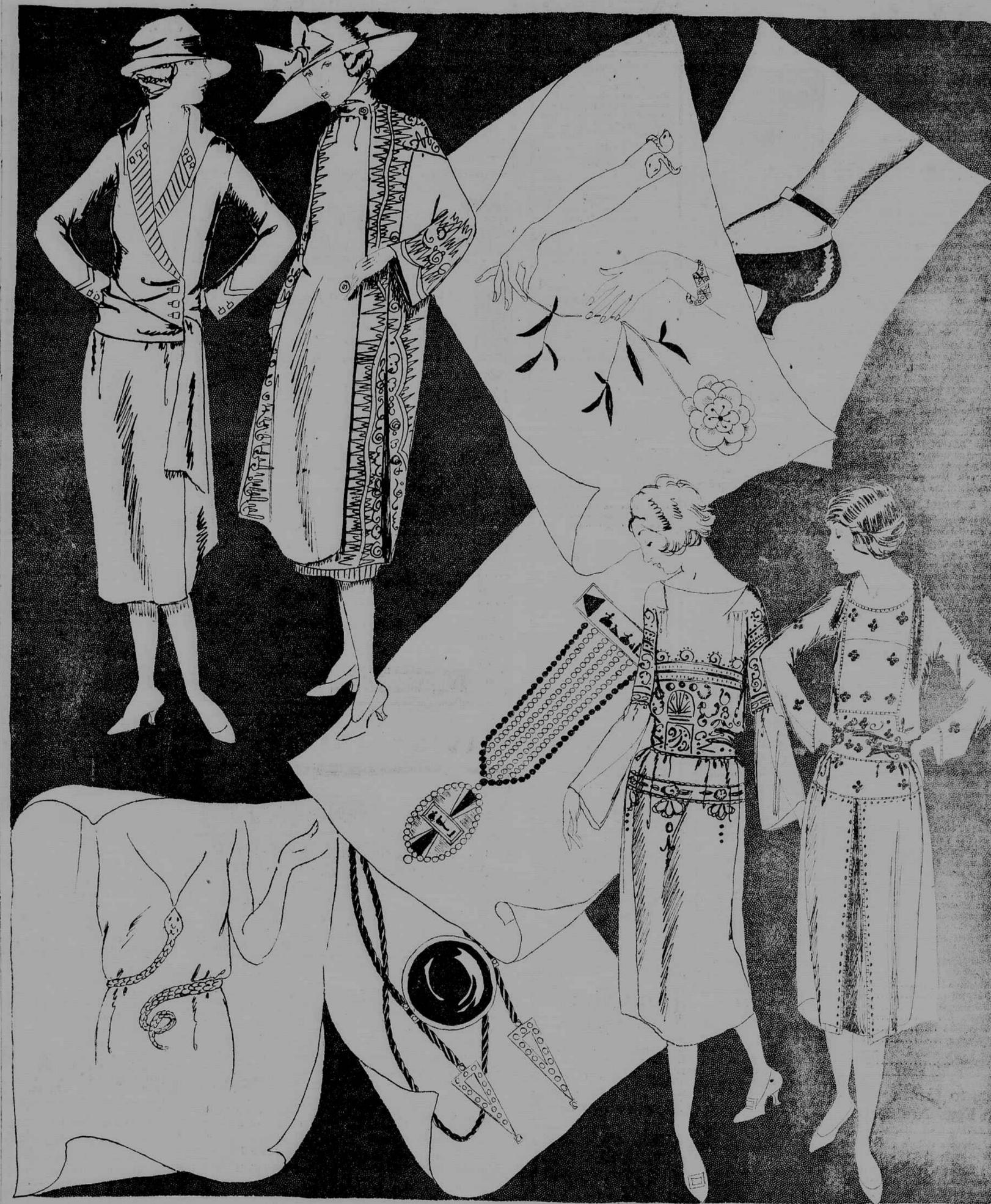
The creamy Kasha cloth that Lanvin exploited so freely last season is retained, but now it, too, serves as a background for raised embroidery often in Moravian reds traced with black.

Embroidery Veils

FOR the heavier wraps such as traveling and motor coats and for country suits the plaids having part of the pattern blotted out by embroidery are smart. The idea of suppressing part of the design with needlework is not a new one. Cheruit did it last season with hand embroidery.

A simple coat-dress of beige Popelabule trimmed with a printed foulard, blue striped with yellow, is at the top of to-day's page. The bodice portion shows the back panel cut in one with the right side front and the deep sash girdle, the ends of the latter and the revers being lined with the foulard. It fastens low on the left side in surplice fashion with three galleth buttons the same shade as the material. The long sleeves are of the same cut as those in a man's coat, a new and interesting

At the right of the coat-dress is



one of Bernard's new coat-mantles of Rodier's Popelabule in a yellowish beige hue embroidered in dark blue, the embroidery appearing down the sides of the coat, on the roll collar and forming a deep border for the bell-shaped sleeves. The panel-like front and loose-fitting back are left entirely plain. Just below the deep and exaggerated armhole are loop panels set on to the body of the coat, giving the appearance of being cut in one with the sides. These pieces are heavily embroidered inside and out, carrying out the embroidered design, which extends from the shoulders to the bottom of the garment.

Woolen Novelties For the Springtime

EMBROIDERED sergies are among the woolen novelties brought out by Rodier for spring. Dark navy blue or black is embroidered in Roman stripe effect, also with borders or bars covering the entire width.

For the embroidery, strongly contrasting shades, such as jade green, yellow, black, cerise, rose, violet and brick red, are selected.

A novelty woolen for sports clothes is called d'Jersa Bullaine. The pattern resembles the surface of a waffle iron, with its alternating one-quarter-inch squares of crinkled and plain material. It may be had in all the bright shades of the modern sports costume as well as dark colors.

Satins and chiffons are embroidered in relief after the same manner as the woolens. Shown in to-day's sketch is an afternoon dress of black satin and black chiffon embroidered in red silk. The chiffon forms the deep apron-like tunic which extends to the bottom of the skirt and the lower portion of the bell-shaped sleeves.

The bodice and foundation skirt are of the satin, the former being heavily embroidered across the front

Upper row, left to right—Coat-dress of Rodier's Popelabule in beige trimmed with blue and yellow striped foulard. Bernard coat-mantle of the same material in beige embroidered in dark blue. Two of the new snake bracelets, one entirely of gold and the other of rose diamonds and blue enamel, and an ankle bracelet of velvet ribbon with two cut steel ornaments. Lower row, left to right—Green gold novelty girdle of snake design. An emerald cabochon with diamond pendants attached to a green silk cord. Watch and fob set with pearls, lapis and crystals. Afternoon dress of black satin and chiffon embroidered in red silk, and one of blue satin and red chiffon embroidered in gold.

and under arm sections, as well as the short upper sleeves. At the back there is a rather broad and loose hanging panel of the black satin which extends from the shoulders to the waistline. Under this panel the deep sash ends pass and knot at the left side back at a medium low waistline.

Fantastic Bracelets In Cobra Designs

SATIN and chiffon are combined in a frock at the lower right of the sketch. The satin is dark blue and

the chiffon red embroidered in silver gray. The underslip is of satin and is embroidered down each side with the gold thread in panel-like form, this being the only portion of the slip not veiled by the chiffon. The chiffon skirt is cut with hip yoke and apron panels, front and back, the former divided and embroidered down each side. The bodice across the front is well covered with the gold embroidery, while the slightly blousing back is quite plain, with the exception of the

little dot design which also trims the apron tunic.

There are as many novelties being brought out in the smaller articles that complete the costume as in the fabrics from which the clothes are made. The women of Paris evince a craze for all sorts of metal girdles. The snake design in belts and bracelets is fashionable among the more extreme novelties. These may be made of greenish gold or for those who are willing to pay a high price for a novelty which will soon go into oblivion there are snake belts set with precious stones. Often a large diamond may be suspended from the snake's mouth.

The Simple Dress And Lavish Jewelry

ALL that our dresses and hats have lost in extravagance, jewelry has gained. Dress and jewelry are decidedly at variance. The day when a narrow flexible bracelet set with diamonds of mod-

erate size was a coveted ornament has receded almost as far into the past as the gold bands which our mothers wore on their arms, or the oldtime gold keeper.

Best liked among the necklaces are single stones attached at either side to a narrow round silk cord with ornamental slides. Pearls are used for such necklaces as well as uncut emerald cabochons. Cords are not black, like those used heretofore, but in delicate shades, such as light blue, green, mauve or pink. Necklaces with the stones suspended from the sides instead of from the top are extremely smart at the moment.

Watches are as fanciful as any of the present-day ornaments. Tiny timepieces with fobs are very much in the present-day fashion picture. The little watch itself and the bar to which the fob is attached are closely set with precious stones. In addition there may be a cameo in delicate colorings like the one shown in the sketch to-day.

The New Veils

TO BE becomingly veiled aids a woman greatly in being smartly dressed. The selection of a veil is as important as the choice of any other article of dress, especially so since the right veil enhances a woman's beauty to no inconsiderable extent, while one that is not becoming will accentuate the smallest defect. Women have come to realize this and spend ever so much time and deliberation in purchasing these bits of flattering attire.

The veil is scarcely a matter of season, yet at this time of the year its vogue is particularly pronounced—and no spring toilette appears complete when it is absent. This season women are evincing an extraordinary amount of enthusiasm over veils, due to the fact that there is such great variety in color, shape and mesh.

All the shades appearing in the new suits and dresses are duplicated in veils, although brown, gray and black predominate. Just as two shades appear in a dress, so we find different colors in a single veil. The body or main portion may be of chiffon and have a trimming of Shetland mesh in a contrasting hue, or it may be that of a Russian mesh of one color combined with Shetland in a decidedly contrasting hue. Then again, a woven dot or design may be of opposite tint from the veil itself.

Intricate Combinations In Varied Colorings

THE uniting of different colors and materials in a veil is especially apparent in those for motoring, yachting and traveling. These are, of course, of the long and flowing variety. An import just arrived in this country is of chiffon with a square piece of silk Shetland inserted in the front. This portion covers the face, leaving a border of the chiffon both top and bottom. The border is drawn tightly about the neck and the ends draped about the wearer's shoulders. On sunny days it is placed higher and allowed to hang loosely, the border protecting the wearer's face from summer's burning sun.

The same veil is being shown in combinations of taupe and old blue, orchid and purple, gray and taupe, rust and brown, as well as the conventional white and black.

Another, similar in type but square instead of long, is of Shetland all-over with an insert of Shetland mesh. This is worn in much the same manner as the one described above. One of the practical features about these veils is the fact that they are washable.

Some Striking Meshes Of Russian Origin

FOR the tailored woman who prefers to swathe her hat with veiling rather than wear the made veil there is the Russian mesh with a woven dot either in square or round effect—the square dot being given preference. Then there are the octagon and square meshes with either French dots or large chenille dots, both of which are very popular. These come in solid color as well as varying shades.

The woman who is in mourning and cannot indulge in beautiful new colors has not been neglected by designers and manufacturers. They have not only made copies of the newest styles in veils of pure white and solid black, but have originated types especially for her.

A square model of Russian mesh is in black with a large woven dot and is bound with grosgrain ribbon. It is worn over the hat with the front edge drawn about the wearer's throat. All corners are left to hang in the back. Another manner of wearing a square veil is to arrange it on the hat so that the points hang in the back, front and on either side.

Then there are white flowing veils of fancy meshes having white grosgrain ribbon neckbands. Others are bound with crepe and come in either black or white.