THE FEMININE RULES.

Woman's Dress No Longer Modelled After Man's.

THE FICHU IN FAVOR AGAIN.

Summer Gowns This Year Made Especially Dainty and Pretty.

Bargain Sales and What Wise Women Should Seek to Buy at Them—Skilful Needlework and Unusual Combinations of Materials and Trimmings Charms of Present Fashions—Beauty of the New Foulards—Graceful Effects Brought by the Revival of the Fichu—Popularity of the Separate Waists—Gowns of Lawn, Lace, Batiste and Pique—Costumes for Afternoon Wear—Frills of Fashion.

The season of special sales is here once more, and to the average woman the possible acquisition of bargains opens a path of temptation which stimulates her ambition for shopping all over again, and beguiles her into extravagances which in nine cases out of ten she repents later. Money melts away astonishingly on materials that promptly go out of style before they can be used, unless she has great firmness of purpose and a strong measure of power to resist the tempting array of "wonderful bargains."

Some wise counsellor in the wisdom of choice at the sales has suggested that you can buy to some advantage if you have a scheme of color for your dress and keep this constantly in mind, buying nothing that will not promote this scheme. The colors most fashionable just at the moment, especially in foulards, are the shades of mauve, glacier blue, and a peculiar rose with a flame tint in it. These,

with the dark blues which never go out, are a safe investment to put away for next season. The use a woman makes of her money may be indicative of her character in a way, but it is not she who puts all her mental and moral force into the shopping that always buys most wisely. It is the motive which tells the story. Some women buy to make the most show, others for the gratification mere spending affords them, while again it is the desire to possess everything in sight without any regard for its adaptation to special uses. The real love of pretty things and a pride in wearing them, combined with a sense of their usefulness, are the most truly feminine of all the forces which guide a woman's selections in shopping, and it is the feminine creature with long, clinging skirts and no end of ruffles, lace, tulle and feath-

ers that is first on the list this season. There is certainly a strong reaction from the rather extreme masculine tendencies of dress of a few seasons past, and a very active enthusiasm for everything essentially dainty and feminine. So you can make no mistake buying pretty laces and chiffons at reduced prices. The use of black velvet ribbon in the form of bows, straps, loops and bands on gowns of all kinds, and especially the thin ones, is one of the notable features of fashion shown to some degree among the illustrations. There

seems to be no limit to the pretty ways of disposing of it, yet the effect is invariably good.

The special charms of the summer fashions

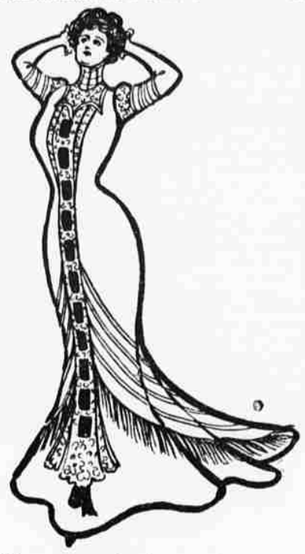
are in the skilful needlework and unusual combinations of materials and trimmings which make the gowns particularly dainty and pretty. Tucks, for example, were never more cleverly managed in dress decoration than they are this season, and nowhere more effectively than in the foulards, as they help to condense the pattern, giving an unexpected appearance. The triumph of satin foulard is one of the distinguishing points of summer dress; not the old thin variety so much worn before, but a handsome, glossy quality that costs from $2 to $5 a yard. One very striking costume of bright blue foulard patterned with white, combined with black net, shows another of the many uses of black velvet ribbon. In the first place, so little of the foulard is used that it is quite as much a net dress as a silk one. The lower portion of the bodice and upper portion of the skirt are of silk, giving the appearance of a tunic with a wide plaiting of black net attached to the bottom. A waved band of black chantilly insertion is sown on the

edge of the silk, the net flounce falling below, finished with a narrow frill of the net with insertion at the head. Three rows of narrow black velvet ribbon encircle the narrow frill, and velvet ribbon stripes the flounce up and down at intervals of an inch and a half. The foundation dress is white taffeta, showing off the net and velvet ribbon to good advantage. The sleeves are of net over white, striped around with velvet baby ribbon, and the yoke is also of net and ribbon.

Another idea in combination for the dressy foulards is an underskirt of white embroidered batiste over white taffeta, with a skirt of white silk mousseline between the two when the gown is especially elegant. Swiss embroidery is also used for the underskirts, with the tunic of silk falling over. White satin foulards pat-

terned with black are extremely elegant with the embroidered skirts, some of which are made with two flounces of embroidery with a white silk mousseline flounce under each. The edges of the tunics are finished in various ways, with a chiffon ruche, insertions of lace or narrow shaped flounces scalloped on the edge and bound with ribbon matching the color in the silk. Narrow lace gathered on with a row of black velvet baby ribbon is another pretty finish for the circular frills. Cluny lace in insertions and *motifs* of different designs is very popular for trimming foulards.

Underskirts of accordion-plaited mousseline de soie, with a narrow ruche on the edge, and skirts of point d'esprit in either black or white, trimmed with graduated rows of satin ribbon, are used with the foulard tunic gown. The eccentricities of fashion are sometimes its most attractive features, and especially so when they help out the scheme of remodelling old gowns, as this combination of materials is sure to do.



It is an easy matter to renovate our gowns when there is plenty of material, but fashion does not always favor us when it is necessary to eke it out with something else.

White chiné silk partially covered with a shadowy design forms the underskirt of an écru lace gown made with a long tunic. It has four ruffles cut *en forme* and scalloped in broad deep scallops finished on the edge with white silk fringe. Chiné silk and embroidered muslin is another combination. Some of the fancy foulard gowns are made with two waists, one décolleté for evening wear. A pretty idea is a bodice of the same lace which trims the skirt, finished with a wide belt and bow of taffeta silk, either pink or blue if the gown is black and white, and a drapery of the silk around the neck.

Foreign fashion notes remind us again of the revival of the fichu, and many of the latest models attest this fact with a shoulder drapery of chiffon or lace. Whether the gown is of cloth or of transparent material has no weight with this fashion, as it is equally suitable for either from fashion's point of view. The return of the fichu brings in its train the long shoulder scarf, with fringed ends and the stole ends of chiffon and lace, which are already a pretty addition to many a thin gown. The fichu is especially suited to the bridesmaids' gowns, and is also worn with evening dress, draping prettily around the low neck. Draping the fulness in the bodice crosswise in fichu effect is one of the new modes. A novel model in pale blue muslin, which can be prettily utilized in cheaper muslins, is tucked perpendicularly all around the skirt from the waist to the knee, where the fulness falls in a flounce trimmed with three narrow ruffles edged with blond lace. The full bodice is trimmed with appliqué designs in lace, and the chemisette vest is of finely tucked lawn with lace insertion between the groups of tucks. Lace insertions encircle the sleeves, and the belt is of blue velvet ribbon with a rhinestone buckle.

A rather odd feature of trimming on some of the blue muslin gowns is the use of beige-colored velvet baby ribbon, sewn on the edge of the ruffles and outlining it everywhere. Embroidered and braided piqué gowns are the latest novelty in Paris, white piqué braided with white being especially chic. It is this sort of strictly summer dress which appeals to every woman just at present, and besides the universal coat and skirt costume in piqué there are lovely gowns with unlined fitted waists, made as carefully as if they were silk, and trimmed elaborately with embroidery. The careful fit and finish are great improvements on the ready-made waists which are sold in the shops, but there is a difference in price which makes one stop to consider. Black piqué trimmed with narrow white pipings is very stylish, but the pretty shades of blue, gray and rose color are more desirable in many ways.

Pretty models in yachting gowns carried out in blue and white serge, and shown in the illustration, may be effectively made in piqué. One of white serge has a sailor collar and revers of white corded silk braided with flat blue braid, and the outlines of the coat and skirt both are traced with the braid. The buttons are of mother of pearl. White Tussore silk is used for revers and collar on another gown of blue serge, finished with braid, rows of stitching and brass buttons. White serge with a panel front of blue cloth is another costume trimmed with bands of blue cloth and silver buttons.

If there is a rumor that separate waists are going out of style, it certainly can have no foundation amid the sea of waists which meet your eye at every turn, both in and out of the shops. Every other woman you meet wears a white waist of some sort. The thin, fancy

waists of sheer lawn, nainsook and India muslin are the daintiest of all, and the most popular, too, for the warm days. They are thin enough to require pretty corset covers underneath, but their usefulness is not confined to house wear, as they are quite as much worn in the street. They are made in various ways, with crosswise and perpendicular groups of tucks, daintily trimmed all over the front with rows of lace insertion and embroidery, or gathered plain into a fancy yoke of alternate rows of lace and embroidered insertion, the tops and wrists of the sleeves being trimmed to match, as in the model shown. Round yokes of insertion are pretty, but every possible form and style of trimming which will endure the laundering process is brought out in this popular department of dress. The very prettiest are made by hand, tucked and hemstitched in the dainties manner, and the especial feature which is the charm of all of them, however they are trimmed, is the fine quality of the material. Coarse white waists have no place in the fashionable set.

Colored lawns in pale tints, trimmed with fine tucks and Valenciennes insertion, make charming waists. A novelty in silk and lace beading run through with black satin baby ribbon is shown in the illustration. Groups of five tucks in black China silk are sewn in between groups of three rows of black beading, and this in alternation forms the entire waist and sleeves. Made without any lining, it is very cool and especially useful.

Among the dressy gowns for afternoon wear shown in the sketches is a black mousseline de soie finely tucked all over and trimmed elaborately with black Cluny lace. Stiff little bows of black velvet, with paste buckles in the centre, fasten it down the front. The sleeves end in a sort of lace mitt, which does away with the necessity for gloves. A stylish gown of mauve taffeta silk, tucked all over, has an underskirt and revers of ecru guipure run through with black velvet. Two lace waists show some of the many uses of black velvet. One has bands crossing at the neck with rhinestone

buckles, and the other has a chemisette vest of tucked blue silk muslin and black velvet bows for a finish. Again we see black velvet ribbon run through under the box plaits of a white muslin gown. Narrow velvet ribbon trims a satin foulard, with a lace panel, and lower skirt outlining it every where, and the odd feature is the tucked and hemstitched sheer white muslin sleeves and yoke.

A very novel model in pastel rose nun's veiling is tucked around the tunic and finished with black silk fringe. Down the front is a half loose wide plait of lace, run through with black velvet ribbon; this shows again that the touch of black is a very fashionable feature of the thin, light summer gowns. A gown of soft rose nun's veiling, trimmed with bands of white silk embroidery, has a Vandyked peplum effect, carried out in a vermicelli pattern of white cord, the points being finished with fine plaits, which also encircle the hem. This costume shows one of the new empire silk scarfs, edged with embroidery and netted fringe of chenille. A gimp and chenille ornament confine the fulness in the centre of the back.

Summer tea gowns have a tempting place in the summer fashions, and there are two pretty models. One is of white China silk, trimmed elaborately with lace insertion, and another of white crêpe de chine and black lace.

THE LITTLE MOUSE.

A Slight After-Dinner Incident in the Gozzleby Household.

"While Mrs. G. and I were sitting comfortably, the other night, by the dining-room table, after the lamp had been lighted, reading," said Mr. Gozzleby, "we heard a gentle, quick little scratching on the carpet, and looking down we saw a little mouse, with the fearlessness of youth, running across the floor. He came from under the sideboard, ran around easily here and there as though prospecting, or as though insisting on his right and pleading his desire to be with us, and then he scampered clean across the room and disappeared. We couldn't tell where; I think mice must be able to go into very small holes. Then presently back he came from somewhere. Mrs. G. had resumed her reading, but I looked down and saw him making his way across the room and under the sideboard again. He was more shy now; he just poked his head out from under the sideboard and looked, and when I called Mrs. G.'s attention to him once more her laying down of the paper she was reading, as she looked up to look at him, was enough to make him retreat. Or, perhaps, he knew what Mrs. G. was going to say:

"'I don't know where they get in; I can't find any holes, but I suppose I'll have to set the trap again.'"

WOMAN'S RIGHT TO OFFICE.

MICHIGAN NOW STRUGGLING WITH A BURNING QUESTION.

Court to Decide if Mrs. Abbott, Who Has Been Elected a County Prosecutor, Can Legally Perform the Duties of the Office—Her Plea in Her Own Behalf.

LANSING, Mich., June 20.—A case of unusual interest to the women of the country was argued in the Supreme Court of this State a few days ago and taken under advisement by that tribunal. The question at issue is whether a woman is eligible to hold the office of Prosecuting Attorney in Michigan. The case is that of Horace M. Oren, Attorney-General, against Mrs. Merrie H. Abbott.

The facts are that in June, 1898, Mrs. Abbott was graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan, and was admitted to practice by the Supreme Court. The following November Mrs. Abbott was nominated for Prosecuting Attorney of Ogemaw county by the Democrats, and was elected by a majority of four votes. She received her certificate of election and promptly qualified. Soon thereafter Attorney-General Oren instituted quo warranto proceedings to test her eligibility.

In arguing the case the Attorney-General admitted that the sole question for the court to determine is whether or not a woman is eligible, under the Constitution and laws of this State, to hold and perform the duties of the office of Prosecuting Attorney. The only constitutional provision bearing upon this question is as follows: "In each organized county there shall be a Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds and a Prosecuting Attorney, chosen by the electors thereof once in two years and as often as vacancies shall happen, whose duties and powers shall be prescribed by law."

In Michigan the Constitution and laws do not expressly state the qualifications necessary to hold and discharge the duties of the office of Prosecuting Attorney, nor do they confer upon any woman the right to vote and hold office, except in certain school elections and district offices created solely by statute, upon which the Constitution is silent, and even then they are restricted to particular circumstances and instances, and have no general authority to vote or hold office therein.

Attorney-General Oren insisted that there can be no question as to the common law rule, which is to the effect that a woman cannot hold a general public office in the absence of any express constitutional or statutory authority conferring upon her such right. She may be a citizen in its technical sense, but cannot hold office. The right to hold office is a political right or privilege, except when the duties thereof are purely ministerial. This, it was argued, has been the unwritten law in Michigan for more than sixty years, and from its admission as a State up to the present time it has been uniformly the rule that in order to be eligible to the office of Prosecuting Attorney one should be 21 years old, a citizen of the United States, an elector of the county and an attorney at law, duly licensed to practice as such.

Much stress was placed on the contention that the people of this State, having placed a construction upon the Constitution with reference to the eligibility to hold the office of Prosecuting Attorney, to the effect that said office could be held only by a male of proper age and qualifications, and this having been the law in this State for years, the rule is as effective as though it was the expressed enactment of the people of the State, and until such time as the Legislature may see fit to grant such political right to women, the latter cannot lawfully hold such office.

Authorities were cited to show that it is plain that the office of Prosecuting Attorney was created by the Constitution, which provides that such official shall be chosen by the electors of the respective counties, and that such electors have no authority under the Constitution and laws of the State to elect other than one of their own number to this office.

Michigan, it was contended, is recognized as one of the leading common law States in the Union, and the principles of the common law are found throughout the decisions of its courts from its earliest history, and consequently the common law rule should prevail. The question of competency, irrespective of the question of eligibility, did not enter into the case. The Attorney-General argued that if the people of Michigan wish to confer upon women the right to hold office, there is a proper and legal way whereby this result may be accomplished. If the time has come in this State when to women should be accorded equal privileges with men in the affairs of government, they should accomplish that privilege in the regular way. It was insisted that if Mrs. Abbott is entitled to hold the office of Prosecuting Attorney, there is no office within the gift of the people of the State, except the very few where the word elector is used in defining their qualifications, which she would not be entitled to hold in the absence of any further action of the Legislature in the premises. In conclusion, the Attorney-General submitted that the acknowledged construction of the Constitution for many years and the policy of the State in governmental affairs should prevail, and should not be set aside at this time and a new policy inaugurated.

Ex-Chief Justice Allen B. Morse, the principal counsel for Mrs. Abbott, declared that but one ground of ineligibility was assigned, and that was that God made her a woman instead of a man. This, he said, "might have been a good reason in the dark ages of the law when women were little better than slaves, but in the light of our day, and in our State, where women are now equal before the law, not only in personal and property rights, but in all the essentials of freedom, it has no foundation in common sense, justice or law."

Mr. Morse made much of the fact that, by virtue of the certificate given her by the Supreme Court, Mrs. Abbott can defend a man charged with murder, while under the ruling asked for by the Attorney-General she cannot prosecute him for stealing a whip. He declared that there is no clause in the State Constitution prohibiting a woman from holding the office of Prosecuting Attorney, nor any qualifications attached to the office that by implication inhibits her, and he insisted that where there is no clause bearing upon the subject there is nothing for the courts to construe or interpret.

Answering the Attorney-General's argument as to the practice of the State for sixty years, Mr. Morse argued that practice or belief does not make constitutions nor deprive citizens of rights. It may give them rights that courts will not disturb because of their long standing, but it takes something more potent than usage to deprive a citizen of his equal rights with another citizen. Nor, it was maintained, can a woman or any other citizen, by non-use, lose rights belonging to him or her, and not prohibited by the Constitution and laws of the State. Emphasis was given to the assertion that neither the Constitution nor the laws forbid the holding of this office by a citizen because she is a woman and therefore the latter has the same right to hold it as a male citizen. If not, she is discriminated against by the courts, and not by the lawmaking power. "And shall all progress in the rights of men and women be stopped forever," it was asked, "because, forsooth, they now wish to exercise a right not forbidden, which they have never exercised before, and which, at the time the Constitution was adopted, the majority of the people, in their ignorance or prejudice, supposed no one would ever wish to exercise? Because a right has lain dormant and not been used for fifty years, is it now forbidden without any other reason? It would not be so with the right to acquire a home or property, nor will it be so as to the right of the electors to elect a woman to office, or of hers to hold or enjoy it."

The same old skeleton of the common law which has ever blocked the path of woman's progress is brought out by the Attorney-General, Mr. Morse declared, to defeat the will of the people in Mrs. Abbott's case, and he said that it would seem that an enlightened and humane court would pay but little attention to a common law that had not one redeeming feature in its treatment of women, and he expressed the opinion that unless some vague understanding of some one in the past, called usage, or the intervention of some cruel feature of the common law is invoked to stay the people's will, Mrs. Abbott is entitled to the office to which she was elected.

At the hearing before the Supreme Court Mrs. Abbott argued at length in her own behalf and made a most favorable impression on the large audience the case attracted. She insisted that the law which should govern the case is that women are eligible to general public office unless by some express inhibition in the constitutional law she is deprived of the right, and that, with reference to the office of Prosecuting Attorney, the Constitution of this State is silent as to qualifications and void of restrictions. In conclusion she said: "We have reached that broader plain of civilization where the common law fetters which once bound women are found broken asunder and scattered along the wake of our national progress. Every year women are being graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan and from the Detroit School of Law, and every year these women are, by express statute, being admitted to the practice of law in all the courts of this State, and now for this court, in the presence of such a status, to inhibit, restrict and abridge these women from the full enjoyment of their profession and from the practice of every branch of the law would be mockery, and would mean the arbitrary exclusion from the enjoyment of personal rights in violation of the law of this State."

The question involved in this case is generally deemed one of the most important that has been submitted to the Supreme Court in many years. For this reason it is not expected that it will be decided for a number of weeks.

FRILLS OF FASHION.

The little matter of belts has an importance in dress out of all proportion to the size of the article, but the belt adds to or detracts from the appearance in a most startling manner, especially the latter when it is not adjusted properly. White kid belts, plain or variously trimmed with beads or metal of some sort, are worn with the white shirt waists, but prettier than these are the belts of soft white satin ribbon wide enough to wrinkle a little, fastened with a silver gilt buckle. Very pretty, too, are the belts of white taffeta silk cut bias, hemmed on the machine and finished with a rosette bow.

Gray kid shoes with stockings to match are worn with light gowns in place of the white ones so long popular.

The smart bandanna silk handkerchief arranged in a four-in-hand necktie stands at the head of the list, but a rising novelty is the automobile of black satin, powdered with crimson sparks and drawn in the neck in a four-in-hand knot and at the bust in a sailor's knot. Then its two long ends are secured in the wearer's belt.

Petticoats, whether of silk or lawn, have to be very carefully fitted to wear with the close-fitting skirts. The prettiest to wear with the thin gowns are made of white taffeta, silk trimmed, with detachable lace-trimmed ruffles of lawn, which can be nicely laundered, or of India silk, trimmed with lace that will wash.

Mourning hats for young girls are of dead black chip, with wide brims, and trimmed with plain white tulle or white tulle dotted with black.

The special novelty in French millinery is the Directoire-shaped hat in biscuit-colored straw. Small roses and forget-me-nots or small daisies and jonquils are the flowers used under the brim in front, and tulle or black velvet ribbon forms the strings. Tulle and a pompon of roses or flowers of some sort trim the outside. One long tulle string is sometimes used, carried around the neck from the back of the hat and fastened on the left side with an upward loop and falling end. Hats to match the gown in color are another notable addition to some of the summer costumes, and they are sometimes trimmed with black ostrich feathers, a tulle rosette and a fancy buckle. Toques of white rice straw, with a straw bow in front, white feathers at one side and a touch of black velvet, are also very stunning with light gowns. Yellow straws, trimmed with

white, are also very pretty, and the black hat, with jetted crown and black shirred tulle brim finished with one white and one black tulle rosette, is also very stylish with the light gowns. A wreath of orchids trims this sort of hat very prettily. The oddest of all the novelties is the hand-painted hat, the brim all spotted with white polka dots like the one shown in the illustration. The quill which gives the stiff effect so desirable in hats of this shape is made of white lisse, overlaid with strands of a white ostrich feather, painted at the end to look like a peacock's feather.

A PROFESSIONAL ANXIETY BEARER.

She Is a Young Woman Who Helps Hostesses to Be Happy While Entertaining.

How to be happy though the hostess of a large dinner party is what a young woman, at the rate of from $3 to $5 an evening, is showing a number of wealthy women. This young woman, in looking around for a means of bread-winning, decided to become a professional bearer of dinner-party anxieties. What she does is to manage dinners or wedding breakfasts or large luncheons, and though she neither cooks nor waits on table, she fulfils a most important mission.

She stands before the hostess in all worry. A half hour before the meal is served she appears in the dining room and sees to it that the butler has got the table set, and that the wines are rising or falling to precisely the right temperature. Then she dons her big apron, and as guests file into the dining room she takes her stand by the pantry's dumb-waiter to see that every dish comes up exactly on time, piping hot when it ought to be hot, chilled to the marrow when the chill is necessary, and, furthermore, she tastes it to see that its flavor is exactly what it ought to be. Having a quick wit, resourceful mind and a knowledge of French cookery, she takes care that no dish passes to the table that is not above reproach. Where she stands in the pantry there is heard none of the crash and grind of dinner party machinery; no long waits between courses elapse.

Now, this may seem a sinecure, but grateful hostesses look upon her work as exalted modern philanthropy, for even if the butler is a new man, the cook a possible traitor to her trust, and the caterer apt to play tricks with ices and sorbets, so long as the dinner manager is at the pantry helm nothing can go wrong. With all the ease of an unfettered soul the hostess can give her whole mind to her guests. If she is a hostess new at the business she can send for the manager beforehand and have her dinner all planned for her, every detail considered, even to the color of the flowers and the pattern on the tablecloth, and the very latest surprise in an epicurean delicacy worked up for the envious delectation of her guests. But this is an extra.