

DETAILS OF THE COSTUME.

MEANS BY WHICH THE NEW YORK WOMAN ATTAINS PERFECTION.

Such Desired Smartness in Dress Given by Attention to Little Things—Flurry Neckwear of the Season—Stocks Both Elaborate and Simple—The Wide Belts.

In some recent reminiscences of America, devoted as usual almost entirely to the American girl, the English returned visitor has decided for all time that New York women are not regularly beautiful, but invariably smart.

The happily wise man would be somewhat astonished if he could see the smile of perfect content which plays about the mouth of the New York girl when she reads his hurrying charge. She does not for a minute question his decision, nor apparently regret it.

She has an air of having chosen the better part and of regarding smartness as a fine art. She knows that in New York distinction in dress is no longer mere picturesque or grace or extravagance, but smartness, which is the perfection of finish in every detail of the wardrobe.

It is a fact that to-day the finest, daintiest

ribbon are combined in a full floating ascension plaiting that almost hides the front of the blouse.

To wear with winter cotton shirt waists, the freshest and prettiest stock is of white tucked mull with full mull and lace ends. A very novel Colonial stock is of China silk, brocaded with pink roses on a cream ground. The neckband is a plain series of folds, but



the frill at the throat is a long wide bias scarf, which partly hides the front of the blouse. This fluttering old-fashioned stock is extremely becoming to the tailor made girl who is young and fresh looking.

The stock with pendants has come in slowly and though a surprise to all but fashion experts, is merely the legitimate outgrowth of the stole stock of last season. These groups of pendants may be few or many, long or short, of ribbon, bead embroidery, lace, fur, chenille or passementerie. And extremely plain blouses are coming into fashion to make a properly simple background for these elaborate floating stock ends.

Where ribbons are used there is a positive fringe of them, of different lengths, and they are bowed and knotted and often sparkling with glass beads or rich with French knots. It is a pretty novelty to have flower stocks, the bands of flat tiny ribbon flowers and the pendants knotted at the ends, and at intervals, in close imitation of forget-me-nots or violets, cherry blossoms or anemones, and, of course, always in the natural colors.

Stocks of flat, close fur, doeskin and jaguar, are the very newest and oddest articles in neckwear, and to the mere outsider cannot easily be accounted for by evolution. Lace and chiffon and flowers do not seem to lead by a natural sequence



but the love of an infinite variety, and constant change in it as well, that causes Wall Street to be such a steadily popular hunting ground for the men who glory in the American girl. So rapidly do the fashions in these important dress trifles change that to be fashionable nowadays is an absorbing profession.

It is easy enough for the merest kindergarten in styles to pass swiftly from a high stock to a low stock, Cecilia neck. That takes little time or intelligence; but to follow a high stock day by day all the way down, centimeter by centimeter, never for an hour having the neckband too high nor too low, must be the result of careful study, in which the intuition is cultivated and the judgment made precise.

The woman with cultivated fashion instinct has felt all summer that a subtle change was taking place in stocks. When

to these extraordinary fur stocks, but they are very smart and very much in vogue. They are made with a single short flat tab depending from the front, are usually embroidered with beads or in silk, and are fastened together in front with tiny frogs of jet or steel. These odd little collars are worn indoors and are not made up with any other material.

The plastron stock must be made either to match a waist or to be worn over a very plain blouse. It is altogether too distinctive and elaborate to be combined harmoniously with a much-trimmed waist.

It is smartest of black satin lined with white peau de soie. The neck band is plaited like a Colonial stock, but there is a modern touch in the narrow velvet bands that catch the plaits in shape.

The long flat plastron, if not extremely smart in design and finish, suggests not a little the chest protector. Hence it must

she heard exciting rumors of a fall in stocks meant to her but one thing, that the low neck dressing was really coming in, and the stocks which are attracting most attention are fluffy in effect, elaborate in materials and exquisite in workmanship.

The very newest is the Colonial stock, always dressy and quaint, and appearing with many variations. The neckband of this stock is moderately low, of silk, velvet, lace or fur; and the reason for the name is shown in the flaring plait of lace that is the invariable finish at the throat.

Sometimes the lace hangs in straight plaits to the belt, sometimes it is plaited, twisted, and, occasionally, lace and

be worked out in the most artistic manner and embroidered and lace trimmed.

Many of the simpler stocks are mere folded bands of chiffon with a double wide Colonial frill at the throat. Others have two or three separate frills or two or three narrow plastrons.

A very unusual stock is hattemented, with tiny ruffles around the square. It is very fresh and ingenious in appearance, but apparently extremely popular for middle-aged and elderly people.

Men who give out circulars or cards to passers by in the street do not always find easy takers. Plenty of people pay heed to their profers whatever, and even cheer out to avoid them. But this is not what happens to the man who gives out candy samples, as one distributor does, for a downtown dealer.

When this man appears with the saccharine circulars that he gives out, each one enclosed in a little pastboard box, he has no difficulty in disposing of them; and none of the people who take them so readily turn away, either. This is because hanging in front of him, and starts up the street at the time when the homeward flow of travel is going along that thoroughfare most strongly.

The mouth of the bag is open and as he carries it hanging in front, he can reach into it with either hand with equal convenience; and using both hands as he passes up and down the street he gives out samples right and left, and rarely are his samples declined.

No Lack of Takers Among Those the Distributor Meets in the Streets.

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patent leather, in bright red, Yale blue, mauve, white and black. These vivid colored belts are worn with frocks of any color, quite regardless of the usual artistic color scheme, and are really stunningly smart.

The soft kid belts are tucked, gathered and plaited just as velvet or silk would be, and are made up like the old Gordon belts over fitted linings; sometimes of an even width all the way around, and sometimes very wide in the back and curving down to an inch in the front.

The wide flat belts have from two to four surcingle buckles, and these narrowing in front usually an elaborate clasp of gum metal or of art nouveau jewelry.

MAKING FASHION PLATES. A Kind of Art That Supplies a Living to Young Girl Artists.

A girl who paints watercolor heads very well, but does not always get orders for them, paints heads for fashion plates in the intervals of waiting. It is very easy and not uninteresting.

She works in one of the many establishments in New York where the making of fashion pictures goes on, these pictures of the swishing skirts and the delicate draperies that are scattered broadcast over the country. This is low the work is done.

A girl who is an excellent artist visits the openings, wherever they are held. She carries with her superlatively a little pad about the size of her palm and a pencil. She studies a gown, takes out her pad and jots down her notes of it before watchful eyes can see her.

Or if the fates are propitious and nobody interferes she draws the entire gown in miniature. Then she brings it back to the table of working which is, as often as not, the two parlors of some downtown boarding-house. There she enlarges it to drawing size.

There are sometimes other girls in the same room with her; but often the girl who paints the heads and this particular artist who does the fashions work alone, as being superior artists, by rights they should.

Then in the next room gather the others, ten or a dozen, when copying the first sketch. One, nimble with her pen, inks in the original drawing, another colors it; another paints in raised spots which when finished constitute the decoration of the gown, another sketches in the lace, while a still another finishes out the picture with a bit of landscape calculated to give it atmosphere.

Then at the two windows kneel girls who are busily engaged all day long in tracing copies of the original drawn by the girl in the painting room. If the lines do not better for the eyes, but if the day is gray the tracing is more difficult and hard on the eyes.

Arms, too, constantly raised, the girls are in the drawing room. But compared with the drudgery of machine work it is play.

While the girl who paints the water-color heads is at work in this place—she works there only when orders are scarce and she must—all sketches are finished in the second room without the head. No profane hands are allowed to approach the task set apart for her.

Figures are sketched and painted in old rose, in mauve and in blue, but no face adorns them. The hair is left for the fingers of the genius artist.

When the gown is quite finished, the coloring laid on, the decorations touched up with high lights and the bit of landscape added, then is the picture forwarded to the girl who sits in a nook of her own by the front window, where the light is best about the middle of the day. Some with a saucy look, and some calm, as befits the splendor of the gowns to which they are attached, but all very beautiful.

And the girl does it contentedly, too, for she has learned sense. If this pedestal is not one of the highest, she is set upon it. She is praised, and she has learned by experience more or less bitter that it is better to work that is praised and paid for, if it does seem to partake of the every day work of the work-a-day world, than to sit in her studio and starve.

FREE CANDY SAMPLES. No Lack of Takers Among Those the Distributor Meets in the Streets.

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FLOWER FANCIES THIS SEASON

ORCHIDS AND GARDENIAS WILL RIVAL THE VIOLET.

And Be Sure to Wear Your Corsage Bouquet Over Your Heart—White and Pink for Weddings—Dinner Decorations to Be More Extravagant Than Ever Before.

Flowers are always in fashion, and yet there are fashions in flowers, particularly in New York. In the country it is different.

New Yorkers spend money like water the year round, and especially in winter, for any and every sort of blossom grown in a greenhouse. None gets the cold shoulder.

Nevertheless, every season one or two particular flowers, more ambitious evidently than the others, shove to the front, carry off the honors in popular favor, and become the fashion. This just happens—it seems.

Like the twentieth century girl, though, roses of all kinds are now much longer than the old-fashioned varieties, and the once insignificant carnation has graduated into a big, handsome blossom with a stem two feet or more long. The color scheme, especially in the case of weddings, is generally left to individual preference.

Of the fashions in fall and winter wedding decorations a leading florist said: "It has come to pass that weddings usher in the gay season in New York and usher it out again, and I am glad to say that already we have a good many wedding orders on our books. To some extent I know what decorations will be most in demand.

At the churches chrysanthemums will have the biggest show for a month to come. In one event, soon to come off, only white ones will be used. The bride-to-be was so afraid that her mother had not made plain to her her wishes that she came in the other day alone to see me herself.

"I want to have white chrysanthemums in the chancel, on the end of the pews in the middle aisle and in the drawing room where I receive," she told me, and she insisted on having the largest and finest I could get.

But the chrysanthemums there will be some green, of course, but no other color. Her bouquet will be of white orchids. None of the brides on my list, so far, want to carry pink chrysanthemums. At the house, except in the drawing room, the decorations are to be pink chrysanthemums.

The arrangement of the flowers in the chancel will represent something like a

ball hedge at either side against a background of green, and the flowers will droop over the end of each pew to give the aisle the effect of a chrysanthemum bordered lane.

"When receiving congratulations the bride and bridegroom will stand in front of the row of chrysanthemums, behind which again will be a row of palms. A decoration of this sort takes a tremendous quantity of flowers, but it can be better furnished with chrysanthemums than with almost anything else.

"For the time being, decorations of autumn leaves at weddings are practically out. To my mind they never were appropriate unless the bride and groom were middle aged.

"Near the holidays the weddings will take on more color. Red roses and all the gay flowers, such as pansies, will be in great demand for decorations.

At the January and February weddings the principal decorative will be pink roses and carnations, pink or white preferred. The outlook, in fact, is for more pink weddings than any other—I mean so far as decorations are concerned.

"At one of the rose weddings I shall place in the chancel six tall standards of roses, the top of each nearly three feet in diameter. From these there will be a row of vines of smilax. There will also be vases of roses on the altar, and the chancel railing will be outlined with smilax and roses twisted together. The bridesmaid's bouquet will be scattered over the twelve guest tables and white roses over that of the bride, but there will be some blue flowers, too, and they will carry white gardenias and her attendants' bridesmaid roses.

Guests at the January and February weddings will see more flowers than anything else. After that, roses will get a setback from brides for along comes the Easter Lily and other bulbous plants, to say nothing of the showy flowering bushes which are so good for decorative purposes.

Dinner decorations will be more extravagant than ever this winter. That is a foregone conclusion. The tendency for several years has been to more and more elaborate in this respect, and the florists predict greater extravagance than ever in the next few months. The table will carry white gardenias and her attendants' bridesmaid roses.

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"That is the beginning. One of the newest and most effective designs for the room is to suspend flowers above the table to form an umbrella, a square canopy, a network of flower ropes—anything pretty, in fact, so long as the table is topped.

"The effect of this is nothing to equal pink or red. For this reason use more roses and carnations for dinner decorations than anything else. I did a party of this sort for a lady who had pink carnations, the handsome new variety, no more than four of which grew from one stem, and the effect was stunning. To my mind, making the pink carnation is the belle of the season."

WOMEN'S WORK. Some Who Made Their Own Opportunities and Are Successful.

Women make their own opportunities nowadays without waiting for opportunities to come to them.

One of the most successful of the dress manufacturing firms in this city is composed of two young women who, while engaged in teaching, began in a very modest way to put out some original work in dress-making. First with the design for collarettes, then for waists and finally for whole suits, these women have gradually enlarged their field until they supply some of the largest retail stores here and in other cities. Forty machines are run by electricity, and two floors on a prominent thoroughfare are given up to their work.

A flower shop has this month been started in a Western town by two New York girls. "The well appointed flower shop," says the announcement, "is necessarily an important factor in the social and artistic success of the smart functions of the present day. But the other two began making the pennies which had been given them for the offering.

"When one of them went broke in the game she touched the boy with the book and the gum for his pennies. He put up several and lost.

"The winner at the end of the pew was

FLORISTS DENY THAT OF THEMSELVES THEY CAN MAKE A FLOWER THE FASHION OR THAT A GROWER CAN DO IT.

Then, although it is true that there are half a dozen or more women in New York who could popularize any flower they might choose to wear, even a sunflower—none of them has ever taken the trouble to do anything of the kind. Moreover, these women are not back from their summer outings.

Yet here are the leading florists, almost to a man, declaring what the particular floral pets of the next three or four months are likely to be. Orchids and gardenias, the latter a new fangled cousin of the old-fashioned jasmine, are "it," if the florists are to be believed. This does not mean, they are careful to explain, that orchids and gardenias are likely to oust the splendid prolific rose or carnation family, or for that matter, any other of the standbys, from public favor; but only that, like the debutantes of any season, they will receive more general attention than they ever got before, or probably ever will have again.

No further proof of the belleish of the pinkish-lavender variety of orchid and the fragrant, pure gardenia is needed than the statement that they will share honors this season with the violet in decorating my lady's out-of-door corsage. Heretofore the violet has been without a rival for this purpose. The violet or nothing, many women have said, going so far three winters ago, when the violet supply was short, as to wear when driving and automobiling an artificial variety over their hearts.

By the way, a corsage bouquet may never be worn again, but just over the heads of the violet, though, no woman need feel under obligations to stick to the violet for personal wear. She now has her choice of three blossoms equally suitable for the purpose and equally modest.

If the orchid costs more than the violet, it makes up for that by representing more lasting qualities. But the popularity of the orchid and gardenia is not to stop at the corsage. White orchids will lead every other flower this fall in first choice for brides' bouquets, and gardenias mixed with lilies of the valley will be the second choice—according to experts in such matters.

Orders placed with the florists by men customers, for cut flowers to be sent to their women friends, include more orchids than they were ever known to before in the same length of time. The reason for this—although the florists don't say so—may be that orchid prices are not nearly so far out of reach now as they will be a month hence.

When it comes to making presents of flowers though, "said a leading florist, "most men send roses, more particularly if the offering is sent late in an afternoon on the man's way up town. If the flowers are ordered in the morning then a corsage bouquet is occasionally chosen and that, of course, is the lady's favorite.

When a man of fashion in sending a box of flowers—say long stemmed roses—to have the florist tucked away in one corner a corsage bouquet of courtship it is roses nearly every time.

"That reminds me of a sad story told to me the other day by a florist friend of mine. One of his customers was paying ardent court, as every one knew, to a lady of large means and many graces who was a long way past the debutante stage. The lady's day came around and she was particular to state that it was her twenty-seventh.

"The young man in the case rushed to the florist's window and ordered twenty-seven American Beauties—to be sent to the lady's house.

He was most particular in giving the order, but as fate would have it, the clerk made a mistake and sent thirty-seven roses instead of twenty-seven. The young man did not marry the lady. I believe they don't spend any more. Florists can't be too careful in filling birthday orders."

The American Beauty rose leads all the flowers for interior decorations. Its scenic possibilities are unrivaled. Full of green, the leader of New York and Newport society stamps it, before any other, with her approval.

In using this and other long stemmed flowers the decorator disposes them in large groups here and there rather than in scattering devices. The decorations, though, depend a good deal on the character of the entertainment.

At young people's dances, debutante and wedding receptions, it is the fashion to bank the mantel with flowers, to festoon doors and windows with rows of green twined with blossoms; whereas the scheme of decoration most in vogue at the more stately ball and reception is more concentrated.

Most of the modern private ballrooms and drawing rooms are too ornate to lend themselves to scattered decorations. It has been the fashion for several years, however, to more blossoms against a generous background of palms, placed at different points, are more effective, and also that tall vases, crowded with flowers, are laid in need in same cases.

Only long stemmed flowers lend themselves well to this style of decoration, which makes it one of the most expensive

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THREE BOYS IN A PEW.
An Incident in Church That Would Have Surprised King Solomon.

"Solomon was a wise guy in his day," said a churchgoer who occasionally forgets himself in his talk and runs in a word or expression familiar to the street, "but he didn't know it all about children. That break of his about training up a child in the way he should go is an example of his lack of knowledge on the subject.

"I wish Solomon had been in the gallery of a Fifth Avenue