

SHEER FROCKS NOW

Pretty Diaphanous Stuffs for Summer Wear.

LOW SLEEVES AND LONG GLOVES

Gorgeous Flowered Materials for the Little Coats.

Worn in All Its Forms at the Head of the Empire Hat—Embroidery, Lace and Handwork Lavished on the Frocks—Race for Openwork Embroidery—Dresses of Banana Yellow—Surplice Bodices Numerous—Attempt to Introduce Fancy Gloves—Embroidered Shoes to Match Embroidered Costumes.

Now, that Easter is past, sheer summer frocks are becoming a more important factor in the fashion exhibit than they have been during the early spring, and summer wraps, too, are appearing in greater numbers than heretofore.

The spring street costume was the burning question before Easter, and many women are still continuing the quest for that important item in the season's outfit; but a large percentage of fashionable woman-kind is already armed cap-a-pie for spring and early summer and has passed on to consideration of clothes for true summer weather.

The wash materials are unusually attractive this year, and the multitude of diaphanous stuffs not intended for tubbing is a triumph for the designers and manufacturers.

Linen in all its forms, from sheers to handkerchief linen to coarsest crash, batiste and fine lawn is at the head of the lingerie list and, though these materials are used for some simple models that might go into



OF BRAY LACE AND LINEN.

the tub week after week and come out fresh and wearable, many of the most attractive lingerie frocks shown were never intended for tubbing. Fortunately, the cleaning establishments have become expert in the handling of such garments and now do the work so quickly that cleaning is practicable, even for frocks needed for constant wear, provided one can afford the cost and is within reach of the cleaner.

In the very fine lawn, batiste and mull frocks, embroidery plays quite as important a part as does lace. In fact, embroidery is even more in evidence than lace upon the prettiest French models, although Valenciennes is usually combined with the embroidery.

We have spoken before of the dainty sheer frocks embroidered by hand in tiny garlands and sprays such as were once reserved for baby cloches, and finished with little frills of Valenciennes, and perhaps inset with Valenciennes insertion. These French frocks are almost altogether made by hand and are, of course, as expensive as they are charming—a fact true of a majority of the best lingerie imported models.

However, in the first class shops there are lovely little frocks of lawn and batiste, chiefly made by machine, but with touches of hand work that give them distinction. The by-the-yard embroidery flourishes, insertions and all overs are so exquisite in themselves that, cleverly used, they will give a maximum effect for a minimum of labor, and often the putting together of the yoke or gimp is the only thing calling for expert needle work.

Sometimes the blouse is cut slightly low at the neck, so the difficulty of fitting and shaping a collar and gimp is avoided, and in some pretty French frocks made in this fashion no trimming save embroidery bands and flouncing is used. There are attached here two models of this type pretty enough for any summer occasion, yet not so complicated that the home seamstress could not copy them. The fineness of the materials is the keynote to their success, and in cheap stuffs they would lose much of their charm.

On one of these frocks, embroidery bands, with a row of puffing in the frock material



SET IN ROW KNOTS OF LACE INSERTION, between, are set into the blouse so that they suggest a rounded bolero, while the soft full front of the blouse headed by the embroidery bands on each side of a band of puffing, is cut in a square demi-cololette at the throat. The skirt has two flounces headed by embroidery bands, and on each side of the narrow front a band of embroidery runs from waist to hem, passing over the two flounces.

broodery and puffing for its trimmings—the odd management of the neck frill and the quaint little tablier on the skirt being the original features of the design. The frilled bands of the material between the embroidery, while very effective and apparently simple, add decidedly to the difficulty of laundering, and unless one is sure of a careful and skilful laundress a gown trimmed in this manner will suffer less at the hands of the cleaner than at the hands of the laundress.

The rage for openwork embroidery shows no signs of abating, and some of the prettiest of the thin frocks are lavishly trimmed in such embroidery, if not made of the allover openwork material. An allover, worked simply in eyelets, is often used for the body of a frock and trimmed with flouncing and insertion combining eyelets with more elaborate design.

In all white, or made over some delicate tint batiste or lawn, frocks of this description are delectable things, and, though a

An embroidery band scalloped on the edges and with Valenciennes frills under the scallops of one or both edges is a good simple finish, and the same effect may be introduced upon the skirt, though often the embroidery is used nowhere save on the fronts and the trimming of sleeves and skirt is left to tucking and Valenciennes, as was the case with one of the frocks sketched here.

Other surplice fronts are finished with one of the scallop embroidery appliques, producing somewhat the same effect as heavy hand embroidery on the edges of deep scallops of the material. Similar Swiss embroidery appliques, with the scallops much larger, is an excellent finish for skirt flounces, and, as these embroideries usually come in several widths or sizes, it is easy to use the one idea in all the details of the frock.

Colored lawn or linen bordered by such scallops in white is sometimes especially chic, and though not quite so smart as

Some of the ready made models of the better class, though machine made, are carefully turned out and exceedingly dainty without being too costly. One little gown of this class, which is pictured among the bowknot design with a good narrow imitation Valenciennes.

This use of the lace was of course somewhat complicated and difficult, but even straight bands of Valenciennes insertion combined with tucking and Valenciennes frills will make a summer gown charming. Some of the prettiest frocks have no lace on the skirt, but are finished at the bottom with a group of deep tucks, or are trimmed in several groups of tucks, varying from three inches in depth at the bottom to a half inch at the top group, and set at

A remarkably pretty frock of finest white lawn turned out by a Fifth Avenue dressmaker who makes a specialty of lingerie frocks and negligees had skirt, surplice fronts and three full elbow sleeves trimmed simply with groups of hemstitched tucks. The only other trimming introduced was in the form of a very elaborate little chemisette and puff undersleeves of real Valenciennes set together with hand stitching.

Linen costumes in cut and skirt design are many and varied, the coats ranging from the long fitted tailored garment in firm, heavy linen to the most frivolous of little boleros. Jaunty capes and non-descript little wraps, half cape, half bolero, are also developed in linen, and the trimmings employed may be as cheap or as costly as the designer or buyer wills.



WRAPS OF CLOTH, SILK AND LACE FOR EVENING AND AFTERNOON.

soft pink is used more often than any other color under such lingerie materials, it is hardly so soft and lovely as a creamy yellow of the banana or corn color shades.

One French model in openwork batiste, lined with a light banana yellow, or rather worn over a slip of banana yellow dull finish, veiled in silk mousseline of the same shade, took on the most luscious yellow shadings from rich cream to the banana tone, and with it was worn a deep



MUSLIN FROCK.

girle in mousseline ribbon of three shades of yellow ribbon and three shades of light green tucking in harmoniously with the yellows.

This idea of several colorings in the girle accompanying lingerie frocks has found much favor, and often five or six of the pastel tones or of the popular faded tones are mingled in one girle, as they are mingled in many of the smartest hats of the season. Hat and girle may correspond with good effect, and this idea is carried out not only in the combinations of several colors but also in many shadings of one color, the American Beauty, apricot or banana yellow and rose being, perhaps, chosen most frequently for these shaded accessories.

Surplice bodices on blouses are numerous among the new lingerie frocks and are possibly the simplest and most easily developed of the modish ideas. Shirred or plaited at the shoulder and bordered by a narrow Valenciennes frill and inset rows of Valenciennes, or by a band of embroidery insertion, with a narrow Valenciennes frill to edge it, the surplice front is easily achieved, easily laundered and exceedingly smart.

scallops buttonholed by hand on the material the by-the-yard embroidery is less expensive and much less troublesome of achievement.

Frocks in delicate color mull, lawn or batiste, embroidered in openwork design with white are shown in robe patterns—plain material, allover, flouncing, and insertions—and when artistically made are particularly dainty, though for the woman of few frocks all white is far preferable. The last word of modishness is the frock of this class, with hat, parasol and coat to match, but such a costume en suite is necessarily expensive.

While embroidery has come conspicuously to the front, the sheer lingerie frock trimmed entirely with Valenciennes has not lost its perennial popularity, and unless very fine and beautiful embroideries can be bought fine material trimmed entirely with Valenciennes is softer and more effective than the embroidery trimmed frock.

Incidentally it may be added that it is far better to use a little of the really



good imitations of Valenciennes than a great deal of the coarse cheap lace, a fact which the manufacturers of ready made tub frocks and many women who buy such frocks or who make their own at home do not seem able to grasp. Tucking will do much toward trimming a frock, and a fine lawn or batiste daintily tucked and with little other trimming is preferable to the frock elaborately trimmed with coarse lace inset or applied curiously by machine.

intervals, with the uppermost group well above the knee. Or, again, one sees a deep flounce, with many fine tucks at the bottom and set on the skirt with another group of narrow tucks.

Trimming running in vertical lines is liked for wash frocks as well as for others, and the line of trimming down the middle front or on each side of a narrow, plain front is very much in evidence. These lines of trimming may run straight to the



PUFFS AND LACE INSERTIONS.

bottom and end there or may turn some distance from the bottom and continue horizontally around the skirt, as a heading to a flounce, or be merely inset in a plain, full skirt.

Lines of trimming run along all the vertical seams of some skirts or run the full length of the skirt, with widths between that are tucked closely down over the hips. On certain full skirt bands of inset embroidery run from the bottom part way up the skirt, finishing with a motif or medallion of some sort at their upper ends, and slim tapering points of inset lace or embroidery also belong to the full vertical trimmings.

Castellated effects both in lace and in embroidery are liked as trimming for the tub frock skirt, and such cast and such cast trimmings are, of course, easily laundered. Where hand work is available hemstitched tucks make an exceedingly dainty and smart trimming for the sheer lingerie skirt, and some fairly good effects are obtained even with machine hemstitching, though this is hopelessly coarse as compared with the hemstitching done by hand.

It is no uncommon thing to see the richest of real Irish crochet on a linen frock, and superb embroidery bands and motifs are also used upon linen, but, on the other hand, there are delightful linen frocks trimmed only in stitching, openwork bands, medallions, or, perhaps, merely embroidered collars and cuffs. The last mentioned in soft color with collars and cuffs of white or string color heavy linen, embroidered heavily in linen thread and with edges scalloped and buttonholed, make particularly smart morning frocks, and there are, too, fresh and pretty morning frocks of linen devoid of all trimming save stitched bands of the material, but cut down to show a dainty little chemisette of sheer lingerie and lace, and with short slashed sleeves showing undersleeves to match the chemisette.

Such frocks are more modish than the regulation shirt waist frock of linen and are quite as practical since chemisette and undersleeves are removable and need not be laundered with the frock. Some women prefer long sleeves of the linen, saying that the undersleeves in sheer white silk much more easily than the chemisette and are more or less of a nuisance for ordinary wear.

This is no doubt true of the long, close, white undersleeves, but the puff undersleeves ending at the elbow, which are fancied as much for morning frocks as for more dressy toilettes, are not easily soiled. The short sleeves in undecorated the sleeve of the season, and in midsummer it may be as comfortable as it is unbecoming to the average woman. The long, close cuff is a happy compromise for the woman who knows that her arms are not all she could desire in point of beauty, and American women are evidently not going over to the elbow length sleeve as unreservedly as are French women.

With the short sleeved frocks, long gloves in white or the palest biscuit shades are commonly worn, but long black suede



EMBROIDERED LINEN COAT WITH IRISH CROCHET.

gloves are liked with some costumes and are, of course, more serviceable than the light kids. The handling of kid and all light kids. The handling of kid and all light kids. The handling of kid and all light kids.

Numerous fancy gloves are shown. Some have gamsie tops lined with contrasting color, others have colored stitching

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on the backs and perhaps kid bands of corresponding color at the tops. There are regulation mosquitoes long gloves without opening at the wrist, but with loose straps stitched in color that may be clasped around the wrist to hold the glove firmly.

Embroidered tops are seen, too, and tops inset with lace, but though these bizarre ideas may appeal to the women who welcome any novelty, there is little or no probability that they will be taken up by the fastidious women who really set the seal upon our fashions. Fancy gloves have often been tried and have as often failed, and even in this season of glove importance, history will doubtless repeat itself.

Appropos of leathers, there are beautiful new colorings in leather used for bags, purses, card cases, belts, &c. The greens and lavenders are especially lovely and the blues are better than ever before.

Burned, cut out and painted leathers are used not only for belts and other dress accessories, but are worked into the trimmings of some of the newest frocks, and are such novelties as to be almost new to the eyes of the beautiful rather than eccentric.

Among the new things in footwear white kid in combination with patent leather or colored leather is noticeably prominent, and some of the pumps in champagne or tan leather, with a narrow band of white leather around their tops and with flat little bows of white kid in front, are very acceptable, whatever may be said of their practical qualities. Rumor has it that white leopards is to be worn with these and other white trimmed low shoes and slippers as well as with the all white shoes, and the all white stockings dear to our grandmothers bid fair to come to their own again.

The craze for embroidery has spread to include the low shoes and white canvas or duckies heavily embroidered on the toes are made for wear with embroidered shoes, embroidered petticoats, embroidered hats, embroidered parasols. Verily there are great possibilities of extravagance in the season's modes, but at least, the greatest extravagance to-day lies within the border lines of good taste and expresses itself in the exquisitely dainty, not in the barbaric.

The flowered silks used for coats with sheer skirts are perhaps the most striking of the season's fancies, but even these, though gorgeous, are usually so harmonious in coloring that one can not call them extravagant. Some rich lustrous silks of flame grain weave, but extraordinarily soft, are flowered in huge designs of flower and garland, or of riband and flower basket and spilling blossoms, but the shadings melt into one another so that the bold design loses its audacity.

Masses of huge American Beauty roses in all their natural shadings, banded upon a silvery gray white background which they almost entirely cover, were the design for one of these beautiful gowns, and another had natural hued wisteria with vine and foliage over a ground of light blue, which showed only in small patches like glimpses of blue sky seen through a vine covered arbor.

Some of the new flowered and embroidered crapes, too, have a subdued gorgeousness. Pastel colorings are among the expensive crape novelties, and there are mousseline de soie embroidered in flowers whose petals are detached each from the other and make the flowers almost as high in relief as the natural flowers would be if laid upon the surface. Such marvels are expensive in proportion to their beauty, and \$30 or \$40 a yard is no uncommon price for silks.

Luckily the moderately expensive and extremely beautiful silks are legion. Tafeta plain, shot, flowered, chiffon fadde and chiffon moiré, meringe in all its wide range of weight and luster, surah, the handspan silks—all these are lovely enough to satisfy even an exacting woman.

The handspan silks, including pongee in all its variations, are in high favor as the season advances, and the smoother surface pongees are regaining the prestige they lost last year, when the rougher weaves attained great popularity. All the new colorings may be found in these dull surface, soft silks and their wearing qualities are excellent.

Clair de lune silks—lustrous, iridescent stuffs almost too light for silks in the ordi-

nary acceptance of the terms, yet heavier than silk mousseline or gaze, and with gleaming, satiny soft surfaces—are among the many beautiful chiffon silks, and is delicate green, pastel blue, apricot, &c., are lovely beyond description. Radium is of the same class.

Mousseline de soie and the heavier chiffon known as chiffon cloth are offered not only in plain coloring and flowered design, but also in the fowler and taffeta designs such as small checks strewn with said finish dots or other figures having the effect of a shadow pattern. Marquessie is a new chiffon silk greatly resembling the clair de lune variety.

The coats and cloaks of the large group explain themselves, and have with one exception been selected from a multitude of charming models because of their practical characteristics and their simplicity of detail. The one exception is a coat which forms part of a costume and, though it could be copied only by an artist, it is illustrated by its designer.

The frock of pale apricot silk mousseline and lace is simple enough, but with it is a loose transparent coat, sprinkled with silver and gold patterns and trimmed in black velvet and in a deep border of bold embroidery in gold and silver on heavy black net. A simpler embroidery in chenille, lustrous or other boldly effective silks, would bring the model within easier accomplishment, and its lines are really lovely.

NEW BIRD IN LONDON PARKS.

Good Points of Japanese Nightingale Released in St. James's.

During the last two days the stroller in St. James's Park, if acquainted with country sounds, may have thought he heard one of the most characteristic bird voices of spring, the "pos, pos, pos" of the wren or cuckoo's mate. It was not the wren, nor the London Sparrow, to which he was listening, however, unless by a very unlikely chance, but the Japanese nightingale, whose call is so similar that it will answer the wren's call when kept caged in the country in hearing of that bird.

The birds were released by Frank Finn, the Park last Saturday by Frank Finn, the well known naturalist. They immediately made themselves at home and settled down to the new life by taking a vigorous bath in the lake.

The Japanese nightingale is not a nightingale, nor does it come from Japan, but this is the name given to the bird by dealers, who find the name sounding the better than the plain alternative of "Pekin robin."

It has been a favorite with birdkeepers ever since its first importation, and is now exceedingly cheap; the first pair brought from China, not so very many years ago, cost £10—now this sum would buy a few hundred.

The Japanese nightingale is, perhaps, the most charming little bird in existence. He is most beautifully colored than most small birds, being olive green above, with orange bordered wings, and tinted on the throat and breast with the most exquisite shading of primrose yellow and glowing orange. His eyes are, if anything, darker and more lustrous than our own robin's and his bill is as red as coral.

Merrillists have gloated over the presumed incapacity of beautiful birds to sing, but the Japanese nightingale is one of the exceptions to the rule. His song is as sweet as the English blackcap's, sometimes as short, loud, mellow and insistent as one of the blackbird's strophes, and, again, long, low and tender. He is, too, as affectionate as a love bird with his own kind, and is now called for by birds—especially sparrows.

It is thought that they will breed in the park this year. This would be very desirable, as they do not increase quickly, and there are not many birds of the kind in England.

They should be useful as well as ornamental in our own town parks, if they are splendid insect destroyers, being especially excellent flycatchers at short range. Should this experiment prove successful Mr. Finn will release more birds in a short time.

Origin of the Steel Pen.

From the Louisville Courier Journal.

"We owe the steel pen," said an inventor, "to a man named Giltott—Joseph Giltott—an Englishman."

"Giltott was a jeweler. He lived in Birmingham. One day, accidentally splitting the end of one of his fine steel jewel making tools, he threw it carelessly on the floor."

"An hour later it was necessary for him to write a letter. Where, though, was his quill? He looked about him, and lo! he couldn't find it. Looking finally on the floor he discovered not the pen, but the broken steel tool."

"I wonder if I couldn't make shift to write with this?" he said.

"And he tried to write with the split steel, and, of course, he succeeded perfectly."

"If this split steel pen, which has superseded the quill all over the world."

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