THE DRESS DISPLAY

Smart Frocks Seen Now in Public Places.

A TRIUMPH FOR FAR MONTANA.

Beauty Contest in Which the New York Women Lost.

Combinations of Sheer and Heavy Stuffs Insistent Notes in the Restaurant Frock Exhibit—A Touch of Vivid Color Seen in the Black and White Costumes—Hats of Chestnut Brown a Late French Fancy—Bargain Sales Going On Now at Exclusive Shops—Hats, Frocks and Furs That Are Real Bargains—Cheap Furs Especially Attractive—Christmas Time in the Shops.

Christmas shopping is the order of the day, and the women who crowd the shops just at this season are more interested in leather goods and fans and bric-à-brac than in frocks and hats; but the street frocks bought earlier in the season are much in evidence, the season of handsome theatre and restaurant toilets is in full swing, and evening gowns of various degrees of gorgeousness are piled high in the fashionable dressmaking establishments and displayed in the shops and at the opera, so that even the student of fashions who has not the entrée to the swellest pri-

OF BLACK VELVET AND ERMINE.

vate social functions can see the best of what the season has to offer.

It is surprisingly good, that best, and on the whole perhaps the smart restaurants at luncheon hour, tea hour, dinner hour and supper hour are the best vantage ground for its consideration. The crowd is hopelessly mixed, of course, but good clothes are a matter of money and taste, not of social position, and some of the most exquisitely dressed women in New York are not even in the fringe of the smart set.

At the popular restaurant one sees the women of society, the actresses, the newly rich and the great army of New York women who, without pretension to social distinction, dress phenomenally well upon moderate incomes. One sees, too, the stranger within our gates, and incidentally the stranger within our gates is often the best dressed woman in the place.

New York is fond of claiming preeminence in matters of fashion, but in this day, when buyers and dressmakers trot gayly back and forth to Paris and New York, even those women who do not have their frocks made in either of these two places may have the latest offerings of fashion, provided they have the money to pay for them.

Only the other evening a Denver woman, a woman from the city of Mexico and a

SUIT OF BROADCLOTH.

woman from Montana were, with one New York woman, the feminine contingent in a supper party of ten at a well known restaurant. The men of the party represented mining interests and successful ones, and with two exceptions were obviously not New Yorkers, but the four women met on a common ground of French gowns and millinery and, on the whole, the odds were in favor of the woman from Montana.

Her gown was of a curious shade of pink, deeper than peach, yet not of the ripe apricot tone. The material was silk mousseline, and combined in the trimming scheme were lace dyed to match the mousseline, heavy gold embroidery, an odd shade of brown velvet harmonizing marvellously with the unusual pink, and a little creamy alençon near the face and on the short sleeves.

There was a loose opera cloak to match and a large pink hat whose plumes shaded to brown at their tips. Evidently not intneded for general wear in Montana, but a comfort to any woman in a great city, and unmistakably of the French Frenchiest.

Mousseline, chiffon, net and other sheer stuffs in connection with cloth, velvet or silk are insistent notes in the restaurant frock exhibited, and, though the heavy coat and sheer coat models are as popular as ever, bodice and skirt frocks combining the heavy and light materials are perhaps the preferred idea at the moment. In many instances these frocks are medium or dark in tone, but made up over white or a light tint which serves to emphasize the difference in the texture between heavy and the transparent stuffs.

The idea of the light lining is by no means new, but it is used effectively, and by its use a frock dark enough for real service may be made to have a suggestion of lightness that fits it for festive occasions. Black and white combinations, which have come to the front again this year, are frequently handled in this fashion, and one of the frocks sketched for the large cut illustrated the attractive possibilities in the idea.

The basis of the model was black mousseline de soie laid over a lining of white silk veiled in white tulle. Bands of black panne trimmed the skirt, the girdle was of the panne and revers of black panne were under others of white. The note of vivid color which appears in almost every black or black and white toilette was furnished by a little waistcoat of brilliant peacock blue silk, embroidered heavily in silver and in peacock shadings.

In black and white, too, was a frock of the heavy net which the French call gros tulle. The black net was made over white and trimmed in black velvet bands, bordering bands of the net on which was laid handsome applique embroidery in gold. The model was princess, and a tiny bolero of gold embroidered net showed a flat neck finish of black velvet and a most diminutive waistcoat of brightest orange.

Black and white striped silk gauze was

OF BROADCLOTH AND LACE.

the material used for the skirt of chic costume, whose King Louis XV. coat was of black velvet. The gauze was plaited so that the two inch wide black stripes were uppermost, though they opened to show the white as much as the black toward the bottom of the voluminous skirt. Handsome Irish lace was on the coat, but the only note of color was in several huge turquoise and brilliant buttons.

The sheerest of black silk voile is, like mousseline, net, &c., made up over white and inset elaborately with black chantilly and trimmed with black velvet, after the general idea suggested in one of the models pictured here, and makes a chic and practical frock. Some very charming gowns of this type are shown with a rather bright rose, ciel blue or ripe apricot under the black, instead of white.

The various fashionable shades of violet, purple, etc., in sheer stuffs are made up over white after the fashion indicated for the black materials, and French makers are fond of putting a warm shade of chestnut brown over white. This last color scheme was used for a model in gros tulle, sketched in the central group.

Here, again, panne velvet was combined

WHITE CLOTH, EMBROIDERED.

with the net, but instead of being applied in plain bands, it was used in bands of fine transverse tucking; and, on the skirt, these tucking bands headed two flounces of panne which ran around the sides and back of the skirt. The front breadth was of the net without flouncing and merely trimmed with self tucks.

Hats of chestnut brown, velvet trimmed in clusters of white tips, or white hats with brown tips are provided for wear with these French creations in bright brown and white; and the rather large hat of black velvet with white plumes is having a decided vogue. It is particularly smart when well worn, but is being taken up in cheap millinery to a rather distressing degree. Only the finest of materials, the most chic of lines and a certain audacious severity give it the cachet possible to it.

And, apropos of hats, now is the season of the hat sales. Exclusive importers whose principles and business system forbid their carrying any models over from one season to another, and whose clientele would not buy the model hats used early in the season, even if they should desire to buy more hats later on, are selling off their stock at prices phenomenally low in comparison with those asked for the same articles a month or two ago.

To be sure, the models, be they hats, frocks, wraps or fancy accessories, have been handled until most of them are distinctly shopworn and have been copied many times. Moreover, the best of the stock has been picked out before the sale season, but there are real bargains to be had in these sales if one has taste and judgment.

A little freshening, which may be done by an inexpensive seamstress, or a trip to the cleansers will often do wonders for a frock that looks sadly tumbled and demoralized, but one must be sure that the model chosen has such possibilities of renovation and not buy something too intricate in design to be readily repaired or too flimsy and perishable in material to come out fresh and dainty from a cleansing.

The frocks and wraps of white or pale lined broadcloth, which are so much in demand this season and so numerous among the models, are excellent invest-

BLACK VOILE WITH LACE AND VELVET.

ments if offered at prices really low, for unless they have some perishable trimming they will stand innumerable cleansings and keep their shape and modishness. Recognizing this fact, the dealers do not make reductions so sweeping in this line as in the province of the chiffons and mousselines, &c., but tempting reductions there are.

We have seen a pale pink broadcloth and Irish lace frock priced at $250 in October sold at $150 within the last week, and the woman who bought it bought also a little checked velvet visiting gown, which needed no renovating save cleaning, and a fresh chemisette, but whose price since early in the season had fallen from $160 to $85. These were French models, beautiful in cut, original in detail, far ahead of anything one could have made for the same price; but, as we have said, one must exercise judgment and taste if one buys wisely at these December sales.

In the large shops and the establishments devoted to ready made clothing for women sales are also being announced, but the big shops are chiefly busy with Christmas matters now, and it is after Christmas that one will find the alluring bargains there. The woman who can wait until after Christmas for a part of her wardrobe for the season will find that her money goes a long way, and if she wisely chooses frocks and blouses of a type that will be available even through the spring and into the summer she will be well repaid for putting up with some needs before Christmas.

The lightweight silks, voiles, crapes; eolicnnes, Henrietta cloths, are all available to supplement spring and summer outfits when winter is gone, and there are many frocks in such materials among the models which will find their way into the sales.

Fur sales, too, are going on, and though good furs are never really cheap very good values are offered in some of the shops. Apparently, too, furs are to be popular Christmas presents, for everything from the cheap little neck furs and muff of astrakhan or caracul, which despite their small value have considerable cachet when worn well—to the elaborate wraps of sable, seal, broadtail, &c., is in demand.

Cheap furs have been more attractive this season than ever before, partly on account of the cleverness with which cheap

OF VELVET WITH EMBROIDERED WAISTCOAT.

pelts are cured and dyed, partly because of the smartness of the designs according to which the furs are made up. It does not pay to buy an inferior quality of a costly fur, but some of the frankly inexpensive furs have merits of their own that justify investment.

Astrakhan as now handled is cheap, but modish and attractive. One can get a loose luxurious looking coat of astrakhan reaching almost to the ground, lined with white satin and with a small but becoming collar of ermine, for $125. The ermine is not of the finest. Possibly it isn't ermine at all, though one has the merchant's word for it; but the coat worn by the right woman would appear exceedingly handsome and chic.

Then there is the squirrel, which in its gray phase is out of fashion, but which has with the assistance of the dyers taken on a beautiful glossy brown. One can buy a warm practical box coat of this fur for from $100 to $150 and a bolero for $75. The fur is not elegant, perhaps, but many women prefer it to a cheap Persian lamb.

Many of the little furriers will make an attractive black caracul coat for $150 or less, though the swell furriers will not consider such a price.

Automobile furs have changed little since last season, and the fur lined coat with fur collar is still a favorite for cold weather motoring. These coats may be used for more purposes than the ordinary automobile coat of inexpensive fur or skins, and the manufacturers have turned them out in such cheap form that they are within the reach of any one likely to need a coat for motoring or driving. Handsome coats of the kind, lined with good fur, made of good cloth and adorned by collars of costly fur still command high prices.

Fur trimming on coats and gowns is not extensively employed, though little boleros *en suite*, with frocks, are numerous, and sometimes if the fur used is a very supple one, like baby lamb, it is used in trimming the frock as well as for the coat. One sees occasionally a velvet costume whose coat has a collar of ermine, chinchilla or sable; but collarless neck finish and separate neck furs are still the general rule.

A straight standing collar or a high turndown collar of l'Aiglon style is often a feature of a coat in short hair fur, cloth or velvet; but separate furs are rather cumbersome over any kind of collar, and the fashionable woman must have her various neck furs and muffs.

A velvet gown, fur trimmed, which is reproduced in one of the sketches, was an especially pretty example of the possibilities in velvet and fur, without extravagance in the quantity of fur used. Imagine a velvet of a deep dull gold color, with bordering of dark brown fur and jabot and undersleeves of beautiful creamy old lace, and you have the picture—a charming one.

A VELVET SUIT EDGED WITH FUR, A DRESS OF BLACK MOUSSELINE DE SOIE WITH BANDS OF SATIN, AND A GOWN OF MARRON, HEAVY NET AND PANNE.

Brilliant Colored Feathers.

From the London Daily Mail.

Flaunting plumage of most vivid colorings decks the winter hats of the woman of fashion, and, curiously enough, not even the most brilliant feathers are left as nature colored them. They are dyed even more brilliantly to suit the millinery freak of the moment.

Peacock tail plumage is used in its metallic blue-green shade, while the tail feathers of the same bird are dyed a rich brick red.

A London milliner yesterday tempted her customers with a purple hat of the Gainsborough type, which was one glorious mass of that magnificent color known as eminence. The feathers on the hat repeated the dye.

A single ostrich feather perched upright, with the tip drooping over a diamond diadem, is a form of adornment that is very extraordinary, but truly piquant when worn by a handsome woman in her hair as the coiffure ornament that accompanies an Empire evening robe. The color must match the gown.

Brilliant, indeed, are the orange and amber marabout feathers, which are as fluffy as a duckling's coat, and like a rosy cloud is the same plumage when dyed a bright cerise.

His Parting Shot.

From the Washington Post.

"When I was younger than I am now," says a lawyer who is still somewhat this side of middle age, "I had a position in the office of a man who has a big reputation. Naturally I felt my responsibility. It was plain to me that the head of the firm had outlived his usefulness, and I used to feel sorry to think what would happen to him if I ever left him. Sheer magnanimity made me overlook a lot of things.

"I wasn't treated in that office with all the deference due me, but I stood it till one day somebody went too far. Then I marched into the old man's private office and laid down the law to him. I told him I wasn't going to endure such treatment another day. I was going to quit, that was what I was going to do, and I was going to quit right then and there. I unburdened my mind freely, and then I stopped to give him a chance to apologize and beg me not to ruin him by leaving. He didn't look up from his desk. He just said to me, in a polite kind of a way:

"'Please don't slam the door when you go out.'"

C. SHAW.
The Fashionable Hair Goods Shop.

REMOVAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

December 26th we will remove to our
NEW BUILDING
506 FIFTH AVENUE, N. Y. Between 42d and 43d Sts.

Located in the centre of New York's fashionable shopping district and convenient to all sections of the city, as well as suburban districts.

Until December 26 we shall remain at our present address, where we have for half a century conducted a Human Hair Goods business second to none.

Our Present Address is 54 West 14th St., Near 6th Ave.

Bi-Metal and French Steam Coffee Pot Co
948 Broadway,
Bet. 22d & 23d Sts., N. Y.

THE GENUINE FRENCH STEAM COFFEE POT is the highest perfection in the art of making delicious coffee. All genuine new style French Steam Coffee Pots are stamped on the bottom. JOS. HEINRICHS. Paris—New York.

Coffee Pots of every description repaired and any missing parts replaced. Solid Sterling silver-lined copper tea kettles, coffee pots and chafing dishes.

Beautiful Christmas Sets, $7.75 up.

HEINRICHS' SPECIAL COFFEE. 38 CENTS PER LB., HAS NO EQUAL.

TRAPPERS' PROSPEROUS TIMES

Furs Worth More Now Than for Past 33 Years.

From the Duluth Herald.

The many trappers operating in northern Minnesota will reap a rich harvest the present winter, meaning many comforts, even luxuries, in the log cabins of scores of sturdy settlers in the wilds of the northern country, who are mainly dependent upon their traps during the cold months for a livelihood.

The settlers and professionals in the country directly tributary to Duluth look for the most part to mink, marten and otter to make their trapping operations profitable, and the pelts of these little animals at present command a higher price than at any time during the past thirty-three years, while there has been a decided slump in the prices paid for furs from the black, blue and silver fox, which bring only $50 each now, where a year or two ago they were as high as $300 apiece.

Last winter $4.50 was considered a good price for a mink pelt, and it wasn't more than a season or two back that $2.50 was the highest paid for a single pelt of this kind. Now a choice raw mink fur will bring $11, and a marten pelt from $18 to $20, where $6 or $7 was paid last winter. An otter skin is worth $22 just as it comes from the trapper's hands, which is away above any price paid for more than thirty years. Quite a few fisher are caught through northern Minnesota, and these are worth from $8 to $10. Beaver are very scarce in this State. They are worth from $7 to $9 each.

The higher prices paid for furs will also prove a boon to the Minnesota Indians, or such of them at least as have any business ability. A good many of the Indians trap during the winter, but the trouble with the majority of them is that they do not know the value of their catch, and are likely to sell a $22 otter pelt for $4 or $5, and a $11 mink pelt for a dollar, or perhaps a pint of whiskey. The white man is well aware of this fact, and some agents make it their business during the winter to do nothing but buy furs of the Indians, selling them later at a handsome margin of profit.

These agents usually travel from reservation to reservation by dog team or snow shoes.

Even the little weasel, scores of which daily leave their tiny tracks in the snow on the outskirts of the city, are worth $1 each for their pelts. They were valueless three years ago, and two years ago were worth 10 cents each. For a time last winter the pelts brought 50 cents each. The weasel also belongs to the homologue of the American sable, together with the marten, mink, fisher and otter. The American sable really is the marten, according to some authorities. It is commonly called the pine marten, and at first glance the only distinguishing feature between it and the mink is a spot of beautiful orange color on its throat, just under the chin.

A grizzly bear skin is worth $40, if in the best condition, but of course grizzly bears are unknown in this State. Many black bears are trapped and shot, however, by settlers, Indians and trappers.

Hobby of Norway's New Queen.

From M. A. P.

Queen Maud of Norway has her hobbies, like most other European royalties.

Among the many things she has collected at various times are miscellaneous ornaments and useful articles made of ivory, of which she is a great admirer.

She has also for years collected ivory tusks, the spoils of royal sporting expeditions all over the world, and these will doubtless be added to when her brother, the Prince of Wales, returns from his Indian tour.

The "Jewel Craft"
At Vantine's.

THE Vantine collection of Antique Jewelry contains many pieces of rare value mounted in settings representing historical periods dating back hundreds of years.

The introduction of odd settings for Oriental Jewels, and the exclusive splendor of both, demonstrates the fascinating influence which these precious and semi-precious jewels possess.

We invite inspection of these and many others contained in our display at the Jewelry section.

Necklaces	Tiaras	Rings
Bracelets	Pendants	Seals
Scarf Pins	Hat Pins	Fobs
Clasps	Brooches	Collars
Chains	Card Cases	Bags

Solid Silverware
From Japan, China, India, Turkey.
Open Evenings until 7 o'clock.

A. A. Vantine & Co.,
Broadway, between 18th & 19th Sts.