

LIGHT SPRING GOWNS

Great Vogue Predicted for the Sheer Goods.

SILKS, LINENS OR COTTONS?

Fashion Authorities Differ as to the Outlook.

All the New Materials Notable for Fresh Loveliness—Wonders Especially in the Cotton Goods of the Season—Exquisite Harmony in the Colorings—More Novel Combinations of Materials—Coming Changes in the Skirt and Sleeve—Some Features of the Spring Millinery—New Ideas Expressed in the Trimmings.

"At last we are to have the silk season, for which we have waited," says one authority in fashion matters. "The most wonderful cotton season on record," prophesies another man whose opinion has weight. "Linen—linens galore," is the impressive



VOILE AND TAFFETA.

phrase in a dissertation upon coming modes by a third wise man. Probably they all are right. We shall have to adopt Alice in Wonderland methods, make the contest a caucus race and give every material a prize. Possibly for wide variety and novelty the cottons lead the list, and not only do we have offered us improved versions of all the familiar cottons, but the manufacturers have cleverly imitated in cotton many of the wool and silk materials. Cotton voiles, cotton chevots, cotton suitings, cotton and silk materials in every weight from firm to gossamer—all these are



BLUE AND WHITE SILK.

shown, and many of them are priced at figures which take them entirely out of the domain of inexpensive materials. One may pay \$3 a yard for cotton voile, and the fashionable dressmakers are making up these high grade cottons with quite as much elaborate detail and costly trimmings as are bestowed upon the chiffon voiles of wool or of silk. That sheer materials of the voile, marquisette and union class are to have a tremendous vogue seems a fact established, and a multitude of fancy effects in these materials is in evidence. Stripes are prominent here, as in all classes of the new fabrics, but checks and plaids in one or two tones coloring will be very popular.

There are, too, hand embroidered French veillings which command high prices, the embroidery being done in silk or in standing



SANTAL FOREE.

soutache (very fine soutache applied on edge instead of flat) and bordered veillings, showing deep border designs of stripes, dots, etc., which echo the coloring of the body of the material. Plain and fancy veils are alike in demand, and the latter fine stripes in white and color, with a tiny rib line separating the two, are being made up into charming frocks, usually trimmed with delicate matching colored stripes. One particularly pretty frock which we have seen is in the class of chiffon voiles striped finely in a light rosy green

and a delicate straw color, which harmonized exquisitely with the green. The frock was made over straw color silk and trimmed in bands and little rouchings of rosy green tulle. Bodice and skirt were of the voile, but a third piece was added in a little loose palette of rosy tulle trimmed in rouchings of the silk and filed lace dyed to match the straw color in the voile. The idea of the white or contrasting lining under sheer veillings has been revived and is, at the moment, better liked than the effect of fancy checks or stripes under plain sheer material. Many of the new browns are particularly soft and lovely over white. Another transparency idea which produces delightful effects is the use of a bordered silk under a plain or striped semi-transparent material such as chiffon voile or marquisette. A white silk with deep floral border under a striped marquisette in white and black

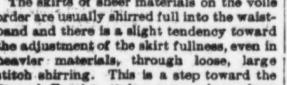


A LINGERIE FROCK TRIMMED WITH SOUTACHE, A GOWN OF GREEN LINEN AND A BLUE AND WHITE STRIPED SILK WITH LACE.

or white and color gives charming results, and the Parisian dressmakers are having deep borders painted upon the lining where desirable effects in soft bordered silks can not be obtained. Deep hems or bands of silk are applied to the skirts of sheer stuff, after the fashion so enthusiastically received last summer and fall, and to provide a change from the plain band all sorts of battlement, scroll and other irregular designs are introduced in silk upon the bottom of the sheer full skirts, which need to be weighted down in order to achieve the clinging lines prescribed by the mode. A pretty and simple model represented among the sketches was made in almond green silk chiffon and taffeta to match. On the skirt bottom the taffeta was applied in a deep battlemented design, with two narrow bands of the silk crossing the voile between the battlements. The bodice was trimmed in soutache bands of the silk and the puffed sleeves were confined by similar bands. A model very like this in a soft light brown marquisette was equally attractive and practical. White silk linings of course self easily around the bottom, but where the semi-transparent outer skirt has a deep bottom finish of silk dressmakers sometimes add a six inch hem or binding of the dark silk to the bottom of the white lining. This does not look bad and it adds greatly to the serviceableness of the frock.

The skirts of sheer materials on the voile order are usually shirred full into the waistband and there is a slight tendency toward the adjustment of the skirt fullness, even in heavier materials, through loose, large stitch shirring. This is a step toward the Second Empire styles, concerning whose importance vague rumors are afloat, but save in very soft stuffs tucks or plaits around the waist line are more graceful and becoming than shirred folds, and it is probable that such adjustment will be retained for everything save the sheer stuffs and the very supple silks.

Many fancy effects are introduced upon foreign models, and occasional tunic and paprika lines prove that these ideas have not been altogether abandoned. Walking skirts in most instances show variations



STRIPED SILK.

of the plaited idea. One new model with wide double box plaits in front and back and at each side, while the intervals between are filled with side plaits, is used for some of the smartest early styles. For girlish use, these walking skirts are shorter than ever, but the ankle length skirt is too extreme for the women of more advanced years, and for them is the skirt clearing by two or two and a half inches. Dressy skirts will, of course, continue to be long all around, but the fate of the train is uncertain, the round skirt showing signs of regaining favor. Tailors of ability are reveling in the tours de force which the popularity of striped suitings renders possible. Even in a very severely tailored costume great originality and finish may be obtained by clever handling of the stripes, and some of the most chic new models show bias, horizon-

tal and vertical striped effects all combined in one harmonious whole. Bungled, such tailor work would resemble nothing save patch work; but skilfully maneuvered, the mingling of these line effects may do much for the figure and give decided individuality to a coat and skirt of uncompromising severity. Narrow horizontal strappings on vertical stripe coat and skirt, narrow panels of horizontal stripe set between vertical plaits, bands on panels of bias lines meet in V shape—all these are popular; and, when no more

the little silk dots are in a rather light, bright blue. In so far as predominating colors for the new season are concerned, all is still conjecture. The manufacturers have made their guesses; but it remains to be seen what the ultra fashionable will elect as their favorite colors. All indications point to a great vogue for the browns and the yellows, ecru and all tints akin to the light browns. Certain straw and maize shades promise well, and there are brownish yellows with greenish tinge which have been taken up by the milliners and are seen in some of the sheer silken stuffs. Greens at present are next to browns in prominence, and there seems no doubt that rose, da, almond and some of the light greens of mustard suggestion will be strong features of the spring modes. Many hats of yellowish or burnt straw tones combine browns and yellow greens in their trimming, and these colorings are emphasized throughout the new fashions, feathers, wings, grasses, etc., which are furnished for the trimming of the spring hats.

Wheat and grasses in many shades are, by the way, pronounced favorites in millinery, and numerous hats for street wear have for trimming only sheaves of these grasses and soft, wide ribbon. Yellow green and green color schemes are often repeated in such hats, and one sees, too, many blue and green combinations, which are not, however, the old blue and green themes, but mixtures of new shades of both colors—a soft almond or rosy green blending with a rather light porcelain blue in charming harmony.

Brown and blue combinations are liked and are most successfully used, lustrous changeable ribbon in the two colors being frequently introduced into trimming. As has been noted before in these columns, ribbon bids fair to play a very important part in the new millinery, and about two out of every three hats shown so far have soft bows of supple ribbon at the back, falling low over the hair and sometimes half way to the waist. New feather ornaments, quite as wild and temptuous as those which have adorned the winter hats, are being brought out in the

new spring colorings, many of them showing shaded colorings in green and brown, green and blue, lavender and blue, etc. The new fancy straws are beautiful in coloring and weave, and all the old favorites are to the fore, wearing new beauties, thanks to the triumphs of the dyers. An imported model from one of the great Parisian milliners was a wide brimmed, low crowned, picturesque shape in very fine straw, of a rich deep yellow, brilliant yet soft. Huge panes in purple and yellows clustered around the crown and sprayed out over the brim, and wide satin finished twill ribbon of the changeable class, shading from yellow to brownish green, formed a great soft bow at the back, the ends passing through the straw brim and tying in another huge bow underneath the brim. Anything lovelier in line and color it would be hard to imagine; but such daring experiments should be for

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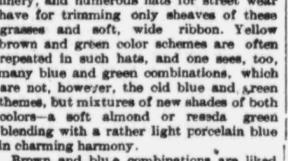
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lined robes are on view in all the shops, and there are, too, embroidered border linens; that is, linen with a deep embroidered border. This border is most often executed in fine soutache, with French knots and occasional embroidery stitches scattered throughout the intricate design, and the result is often exceedingly effective. Apropos of soutache embroidery, we mentioned last week certain novel and novel imported frocks of white batiste embroidered elaborately in soutache, the embroidery executed in the most intricate band designs and indescribably rich in effect. Our artist has sketched one of these imported lingerie models, and this sketch in the central group will give some slight idea of the model, though the odd embroidery must be seen to be appreciated. Another sketch in the same group pictures a linen frock mentioned in these columns last week, a model of the guinea or jumper class, with strappings and little hand embroidered marquisette for trimming. Linen laces dyed to match the material are upon some of the new linen frocks and coats, and such dyed lace in curly, flat or antique forms a most successful trimming, some soft lace such as valenciennes or a fine batiste embroidery being necessary, however, near the face and in the inevitable undersleeves.

A. Simonson 398 FIFTH AVENUE OPPOSITE TIFFANY'S. My new establishment is complete in every detail. Patrons can enjoy here every comfort and convenience. HUMAN HAIR GOODS. My stock for the coming spring season is larger and more comprehensive than ever before. Special attention is called to the LATEST FASHION IN HAIR DRESSING. THE TURBAN PUFF. Now displayed at my establishment in the fullest assortment. Hair specially selected for its soft, silky quality, and light, snappy, natural curl is used in its making. The Turban Puff is universally becoming and chic. Its ease of adjustment adds to its many charms. ROMAN BRAID. You must see this new design of mine to appreciate its many advantages over the ordinary style of braids and switches. The Roman Braid is made so as to form a handsome culture for the front or back hair dress or for a low or high hair dress. Above all it is most stylish and becoming. ILLUSIVE WIGS. Of my make for Ladies and Gentlemen are the standard of perfection in fit, natural appearance and superior workmanship. HAIRDRESSING. Marcel Waving, Shampooing and Hair Coloring by the largest and most competent staff of lady and gentlemen artists in this city. MANICURING, FACIAL MASSAGE AND DERMATOLOGY. A PRIVATE ROOM FOR EACH PATRON. NO BRANCH STORES. NO AGENTS.

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SECOND HAND HATS. A Trade Which Has Sprung Up in Recent Years in This City. One of the most ancient of all trades is that in second hand clothes, and there have long been dealers in second hand shoes, but comparatively new is a business established in this city about a dozen years ago by a man who deals in hats only while running incidentally a hat cleaning establishment.

How Cold It Is at Minot. Famine in coal and forty-two inches of snow on a level have made Anthony Skeoch, Jr., and hundreds of others in Minot, N. D., much poorer in pocketbook and greatly apprehensive as to further suffering and privation the present winter may bring. Mr. Skeoch's recital of the conditions in the Northwest make it appear that fuel is as expensive as jewels and that cold taxes the recording capacity of the thermometer.

Wages Good "Smelters" Earn. From the London World. There are several trades which provide men and women with good livings simply because they enjoy an exceptionally keen sense of smell. Scenemakers, for example, need some one with a very delicate sense of smell to aid them in mixing the ingredients of perfumes in proper proportions. Queen Alexandra's favorite perfume—violet—costs £10 per ounce, and it is to run the gamut of five professional "smellers" before it is passed as being correctly blended and ready for use.

Berlin Harrow Scriptural Sign. Berlin correspondence London Chronicle. The Berlin police are extremely thorough in their methods, and Daniel Cisneros, who keeps a beer house opposite the Nazareth Church here, has experienced this. In a moment of inspiration he christened his establishment "Daniel in the Lions' Den," and baited the police with the prospect of a picture of the great Hebrew being at ease among the lions.

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Just what is to be done with sleeves seems to be the riddle of the season. One of the best fashion journals this month announces stoutly that sleeves are to be shorter than ever, scarcely reaching to the elbow; but another journal of the same class declares as solemnly and finally that sleeves are lengthening and that the three-quarter length will be the accepted thing for the summer. Reports from Paris and the Riviera incline us toward the acceptance of the latter verdict. There will no doubt be many elbow sleeves upon dressy frocks, but the very short sleeve was so burlesqued and abused last season that the pendulum seems likely to swing the other way. Many of the daintily lingerie blouses have long sleeves, and where the sleeves are short, as is generally the case in the more elaborate models, they come well down below the elbow. One thing seems sure. The new sleeve droops at the shoulder, and very often indeed one finds the greatest fullness occurring about half way between shoulder and elbow.

A correspondent writes us from Monte Carlo that a number of fashionable Parisians have worn frocks whose sleeves of sheer, supple material were merely softly wrinkled or pulled over the arm, following the line of the arm closely and ending at the elbow, just below the elbow or, in some cases, reaching almost to the knuckles. The bodices of which such sleeves were a part invariably widened over the shoulder or were so trimmed over the shoulder that they gave a long shoulder line and drooped over the wrinkled sleeve in cap fashion. This, of course, is extreme, but the fashion straws which float in the Riviera current are worth noting.

A very pretty sleeve of lace or batiste embroidery, introduced upon some of the new imported models, is made of three bands of wide and beautiful insertion joined together lengthwise, except in the other arm where the two edges are not joined and are finished with frills of narrow valenciennes. This sleeve is drawn into a band just below the elbow. V-shaped trimmings are as popular as ever for bodices, and there are many such effects obtained by draperies, which widen at the shoulders to fall over the sleeve top. Sleeve caps or over sleeves out in one with the bodice or coat are increasingly numerous, and trimming around the armhole bids fair to be one of the season's fads.