

FOR THE GRADUATE

All White Simplicity the Keynote of Her Frock.

GIRLISH MODES TO THE FORE.

Fashions Adapted to the Needs of Youth.

The Most Practical of Graduating Frocks the One That Will Stand Tubbing—Lace, Batiste and Mulls Favored—Cotton Nets New Arrivals in the Field—Hand Work and Ready Made Embroidery for Trimming—Slips for the Sheer, Unlined Gowns—Becoming Lines for Girlish Figures—Nine Out of Ten of the Graduating Frocks Have a Round or Square Dutch Neck.

Graduation day with all its accompanying festivities is looming near at hand and the problems connected with frocks for these occasions are exercising girl brains almost as seriously as are preparations for examination finals.

Girlish simplicity is of course the cor-



BATISTE AND SOUTACHE.

rect thing in graduation frocks, even the most ambitious of the graduates recognizes that fact; but there are many variations of this simplicity, and it is attainable at varying prices and different degrees of elaboration.

It is easy enough to make a distinctly girlish frock of sheer lingerie or net and lace cost \$150 or \$200 if one goes to a fashionable dressmaker for it and gives carte blanche in matters of handwork and real lace, and there are many girls in ultra smart



NET AND SATIN.

boarding schools who have ordered frocks of this type, but the great host of girl graduates are by necessity or the good sense of mothers limited to a less costly variety of frock simplicity, and after all, provided the frock is fresh and dainty, cheeks and eyes and lips and hair have more to do with its success than hand tucks and real valenciennes.

The most practical of graduating frocks is of course the frock that will stand tubbing and look well after the ordeal. Fine lingerie frocks are nowadays more often sent to the cleaner than to the laundress, but the young girl is not as a rule over careful of her clothes,



LINON AND LACE.

and if a frock must go to the cleaner often during a summer one will have little comfort from it. Perhaps the summer is to be spent where no cleaning establishment is close at hand and inconvenience is added to the time and expense entailed.

So, we repeat, the frock actually fitted for tubbing is the practical frock for the girl whose summer wardrobe is limited, and it is quite possible to take this into consideration without sacrificing too much upon the altar of utility.

A fine linen is the most satisfactory material for the lingerie frock that is to endure tubbing, and it will pay to obtain an excellent quality. The batistes and mulls are softer and launder well if carefully handled, but the linen will outwear them every time.



COMMENCEMENT GOWNS OF NET TRIMMED WITH SOUTACHE AND OF NET AND BATISTE.

Various other sheer cottons have been added to this long favored trio. Swiss and organdie are of course old favorites, but their crispness, once their chief merit, has made them yield place somewhat to the softer mulls and batistes and linons, though they are still liked. The cotton nets, marquisettes and crêpes are more recent arrivals and have achieved decided popularity, a very large percentage of the cotton graduating frocks this year being made up in these materials.

They launder well, are easily handled,



WHITE MULL.

are very soft and graceful, are durable despite their sheerness and lend themselves admirably to simple forms of trimming, although they may be made very elaborate with hand embroidery in cotton, silk or soutache. The cotton nets come in many varying meshes, are very wide and not extremely expensive.

Embroidery in fine soutache is perhaps more effective than any other trimming, but a little of this embroidery can be quickly achieved by any girl or mother who has the slightest facility with her needle. It costs a mere trifle to have a pattern stamped and after that the work goes very quickly and easily unless one has chosen a very intricate design. To have much braiding done by a dressmaker is expensive, because it absorbs valuable time, but a few afternoons of home work are not likely to crowd out other vitally important matters and if women realized how easily soutache braiding may be achieved, more of it would appear upon home made frocks.

Other embroidery, too, is easily applied to net—more easily than to other sheer materials. Darning designs may be made wonderfully effective and require a minimum of time and effort, and there are many loose, quickly wrought embroidery stitches now in use which once learned give charming effects for a small amount of labor.

If one does not want to embroider the net frock by hand it is possible to buy embroidered net bands which will furnish admirable trimmings, though of course they will add much more to the cost of the frock than the home stitching would. Where an effect of trimmings especially designed for the frock is desired makers often achieve a clever combination, using the ready embroidered bands for the bulk of the trimmings, but repeating the design or a part of the design in hand embroidery here and there on bodice or skirt.



LAWN AND LACE.

Many of the net frocks have only a little embroidery around the throat and just a touch of it for sleeve finish, and possibly for waistband. Others have more elaborate full length lines or front panel or deep skirt bands.

One of the very daintiest models we have seen, a model copied for a New York boarding school girl who will be a great heiress, was of fine mesh net, a very excellent quality, which looked like the real Brussels and probably was that. The little frock was, like practically all the models, in one piece; that is, it had a bodice and skirt joined together.

The skirt, slightly full all around and quite full in the middle of the back, was trimmed only by a group of fine hand tucks, possibly twenty of them, running around the bottom just above the hem. The round full bodice, a little short waisted, joined the skirt with a three inch waistband, over which ran a soft puff of the net. Through this puff soft pink satin ribbon was run and tied in a knot at each side of the front.

The round Dutch neck was finished with the same puff and ribbon arrangement, only a trifle more narrow, and the short sleeves had the same finish. There was not a touch of lace or embroidery, but the frock was exquisitely made and the lines charming. The silk slip to be worn under it was white, but an extra pink slip had been provided so that the effect might be varied.

A slip is a necessity for any of the sheer, unlined, one piece frocks which are the accepted thing in lingerie frocks, but one slip will do duty for many frocks and if made at home it will cost little. A good quality of china silk will do very well for the purpose, but it is a mistake to buy a cheap quality, for such a slip may be put in the tub and washed, while the cheap silk stands but little laundering. Soft mesaline is sometimes chosen and occasionally a soft satin is used.

Ready made slips are offered in the shops, and in certain houses are well cut and made, but when of this class and in good quality of silk they are more expensive than when made at home. Slips of fine lingerie material are used too and may be made up less expensively than the silk slips, but while fairly satisfactory under linen and similar materials they are not appropriate for net and haven't the right softness even for linen.

Net frocks made over soft satin slips and having deep hems and girdles of the satin are pretty in all white and in white with a very delicate tint, as in the net model sketched for one of the small cuts, a creamy net over the palest of rose petal pink slips in soft satin.

The round, full bodice was lightly hand embroidered in white silk across the front and had a little real baby Irish insertion over the shoulders, around the neck and at the wrist. The girdle was of pale pink satin, and a deep hem was of the satin. Above this hem was a deep group of inch tucks in the full skirt. A frock like this might be very easily made at home, but of course must go to the cleaner when soiled.

The two models of the large cut belong to the more elaborate type of graduating frock and are both of Parisian origin, though they have already been many times copied by the importer. One is simple enough for home copying, save for the soutaching; and as this is applied in straight lines save around the round Dutch neck the same effect might be

obtained with hand trimming, or the soutaching might be simplified.

The adjustment of the satin girdle is a note which gives originality to the model; and indeed a clever handling of ribbons in girdle, bretelles, knots, etc., will often offset the most pronounced simplicity of a net or muslin frock, giving it a smartness quite out of proportion to the expense and effort.

The princess frock of the French group is of batiste and net combined and its straight, slender unbroken line, call for handling more skillfully artistic than any ordinary home dressmaker could give. Yet the result is eminently girlish and dainty, and the pointed bands of pale pink batiste falling over tucked bands of net are a trimming detail very effective and worth remembering.

The unbroken princess line in a sheer frock is charming for older girls slender enough to wear it well, but the round bodice and skirt lines in sheer materials are more becoming to the average girlish figure and are usually selected for the graduating frock.

Nine out of ten of these frocks will have a round or square Dutch neck this season, and it is here that the Dutch neck comes into its own, for it properly belongs with the youthful throat, and though modish for older women seldom makes them look their best. Even the youthful throat is not always adapted to the collarless line, and this point must be carefully considered.

If a girl is "crawny" or has an unusually long neck by all means give her a high transparent collar, but not too high and without exaggerated slope behind the ears. Extremes in this line were never in good taste and fortunately are absolutely taboo now.

The wide waist line which has been taken up by women has its echo in girlish models and the frocks are very easily fitted. Many retain the shortened waist line in moderation, but others, like the frocks for old folk, have waist lines dropped to normal and we have seen three frocks for girls of 18 or 19 years which reflected the Louis tendency in pointed girdles, very full skirts and close elbow sleeves.

One of these frocks was a genuine picture costume after Watteau and was of palest blue marquisette with a pointed bodice, a little petticoat and fish of fine dotted net, a pannier suggestion in the full skirt and little pink roses tucked here and there. Pretty of course, charming on the right girl, but rather too sophisticated for genuine girlishness.

Less extreme and without the pointed bodice line but having a suggestion of trimness about the waist quite different from the full, loose lines of the average lingerie model was a frock of sheer white lawn which had a border of tiny flower sprigs embroidered in delicate colors.

The small sketch which reproduces this model will show how the flowered stuff is worked into the lower part of the bodice, giving a corset or plain (sirdle effect), and is set into skirt and sleeve in corresponding lines. Valenciennes lace and insertion aided in the trimming design.

Almost all of the soft, sheer skirts are frilled or plaited to the waist band, though the crisper linen, organdy, etc., are sometimes fitted smoothly over the hips by means of stitched tucks or plaits or by gores. The very deep, full flounces below a fitted hip yoke is seen too, but save on a very slender, tall girl it cuts the length too much even when applied to the yoke very plainly, and the arrangement of such a skirt must be considered in reference to the lines of the whole frock.

Some very pretty white frocks are made up in the finely dotted materials, net, cotton organdy, etc. The fine dotted nets give particularly good results and the white, while always a little stiff, may be handled in a fashion to overcome this falling and is girlish and practical.

The cotton crepes in really good quality are attractive materials and are enjoying a great vogue both for blouses and tub frocks. It is said that they require no ironing and are very practical on that account, but laundresses tell us that they are by no means easily laundered, requiring stretching and more or less careful pressing to get them into the right shape after laundering. They have too, so the laundresses say, a sad propensity for taking up bluing and dirt, and it is harder to keep them a good color than to keep linen or batiste white.

Silk materials are of course to be taken into consideration when discussing graduating frocks, though the nets, cottons and linons are really more appropriate for such occasions. Chiffon, silk mousseline, silk marquisette, silk net, crêpe and various light soft silks are all used for the commencement frock and lovely frocks are made out of some of the high class cotton and silk mixtures with flowered borders, but these, like all colored frocks, belong to the girls' party frocks, summer afternoon frocks, etc., the graduating frocks par excellence being all white or but very lightly touched with pale color.

Only Two Fires in Cartagena in 10 Years.

From the Washington Herald.
The city of Cartagena, in the Republic of Colombia, is one spot where the business of being a fireman is no great drain on the nervous system, according to Joseph K. Duffy of San Francisco, who spent some months in Cartagena.

"There have been two fires in Cartagena in the last seventy years," Mr. Duffy said. "One man who now is growing old says his father remembers as a small boy when a house in the town was burned. That was an accident. The other fire, which happened recently, say about a dozen years ago, was believed to have been of an incendiary origin."

"But these fires did not destroy the houses in which they happened, because the houses are built of stone. All that can burn is what is inside. This factious state of affairs is ascribed by some of the inhabitants to the influence of San Pedro Claver, a priest of Cartagena, a couple of centuries back, who within the last ten years was made a saint."

Trout Held on Weeds.

From the Field.
A correspondent says that when fishing in a small river lately he hooked a small trout. After he had hooked it he went to the surface side up toward the landing net without further resistance. Finding the line a little too long he began to reel in, carefully allowing the rod to drop almost to the straight, when the fish, then only a foot or two from the shoving shore, suddenly recovered his wind.

"The water was quite still and clear, with one or two small patches of surface grass on it. Instantly the trout rushed at one of these patches and seized the grass in its mouth, holding on for all he was worth and defying me to drag him free. I then put the net under him and lifted him out with the bit of weed stuck in his teeth."

Coyote, Texas Boy's Pet.

From the Dallas News.
A pet coyote belongs to Roy Calloway, a Dallas boy, who declares that coyotes can be made tamer than dogs. This particular coyote came from Stamford in western Texas when two and a half months old. It is now a little over a year old and fully grown.

This pet plays with the children, lying down to be rubbed by them, and frolicking about the yard with them. She likes to play with dogs, but the dogs object. The coyote sits on her box and waits for Roy to come home in the evening and shows her pleasure when she sees him. "I don't think," Roy says, "that any dog could be more lovable than my coyote is."

South Carolina Horse Swappers.

From the Calhoun X-Ray.
The horse swapper's business is rather flourishing in this section just lately. Many old pluggs change hands and many lockys are made to rejoice for a short while, at least until they find out that the other fellow knew something that he forgot to tell; then he loses confidence in his former friend and doesn't look upon him as being the pink of perfection as he did before; but they get better as soon as they have time to think it all over and realize that this is not the first time the trick has been turned, and probably not the last. Perhaps the other fellow will do the turning next time.

Decline of Horse Breeding in England.

From the London Daily Mail.
The census of horses set going by the Government in Devonshire is nearly complete, and it is found that the police had nearly all the facts already accumulated.

"The result of the census is likely to be alarming. It is not so much that the number of horses has fallen off—though there is probably a decrease of at least 15,000 souls in England—as that the right type is wanting. The other day, at special request, a Government buyer of remounts, accompanied by a professor, went down to Cornwall to purchase.

A hundred horses were specially collected and paraded; but of the 100 only six were selected as sound and of the right type. It is this, however, that is the real cause of alarm. Among those who know the facts the national deficiency is great.

WOMAN AND HER HAT.

Skillful Engineering in Pinning it On—Troubles in Heavy Weather.

A fierce gust of wind that swooped down on a woman walking up Park row tore off her hat and sent it rolling like a cartwheel across the car tracks.

"Why doesn't that happen often?" a man who witnessed the spectacle asked of his sister.

"Because women pin their hats on so that they won't blow off," she said. "A woman wouldn't look very pretty running after her hat in the street, and she takes precautions against losing it, and her precautions are elaborate."

"A man can jam his hat down tight on his head and make it stick, but a woman can't do that because she wears her hat on top of her head, where all she can do is to pin it on with those long hatpins through hat and hair."

"I have known a woman to use eight hatpins, making a sort of crisscross, mutually bracing network of these long pins running through her hat and hair to keep her hat on straight and true. Some women use four hatpins. I use only three."

"But pins are a pretty precarious means of attachment. On a still day the pinned hat goes all right and stays where a woman puts it, but on a windy day where a woman has her troubles, you can take it from your sister that this is perfectly true."

"The wonder to me is that women pin their hats on to stay as well as they do; I can account for this only on the supposition that they must be natural engineers, instinctively skilled in the art of running their hatpins in such a manner that they will brace and hold effectively. For all that, though, the wind does play pranks with women's hats; brace them as securely as they may, it blows them down over their eyes and down over the back of their heads and twists them every which way."

"I came in myself this afternoon with my hat so skewed that a boy who was just shown at the front was now around at the side of my head; which was much as if the bow of your necktie, which should appear under your shirt, should work around to show under your ear."

"Is it any wonder, brother, that we hear women ask: 'Is my hat straight?' Still for all her troubles in keeping it straight, a woman seldom sees her hat, she always looks out for that."

PROSPECT PARK FISHES.

There Are Lots of Them and the Fish Fellows Get Plenty of Food.

The first of the Aquarium's expeditions for the present season to the waters of the city's parks for fishes wherewith to renew its stock in certain fresh water varieties was made on April 28 to the lake in Prospect Park, and as usual fishes were found there in great abundance, including small mottled black bass, sunfish, yellow and white perch, carp and goldfish.

Among the carp taken were fishes weighing from three to five pounds apiece, fair sized bass and big goldfishes. The white perch, yellow perch and sunfish, while healthy, are rather stunted in size, the reason being that among so many feeders these smaller fish don't always get enough of the food they like.

The carnivorous feeders and eating anything they can get, are sure always of an ample supply of food in summer, for their children throw food to them to see them come up and get it. At this season there may be tossed into the lake in this manner, broken up into fragments, fifty loaves of bread in a day, but none of it is wasted, the carp taking whatever fragments come their way.

The agile bass snap up smaller fishes not too big for them to swallow, and they also get many an incautious insect that happens to light on the surface of the water, and so the bass manage to get along pretty comfortably and to thrive.

But in the presence of so many bigger and abler competitors the white perch, yellow perch and sunfish don't thrive here quite so well as they might in other waters.

Railways of India.

From the Westminster Gazette.
According to the latest returns 771 miles of new lines of all gauges were added to the Indian railway systems in the official year that has just closed. The open mileage is now just under 31,000.

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