

TALK OF FALL MODES

The Skirt Problem First in Importance.

SHORT COATS HERE TO STAY

The Midsummer Display of Pretty Clothes Now On.

All Sorts of Toilets Seen at the Popular Restaurants - A Festive Air Given to the Simplest Muslins by the Collarless Neck, Pink, White and Black and the Blues the Predominating Colors. Few All White Costumes - Fetching Gowns of Pink Attractive Tub Frocks of Striped Linen Lingerie.

Already there is talk of autumn materials and modes. Nothing definite can be advanced before August, but now that decisions for the summer season are accomplished and practically no revelations concerning summer modes are left to interest the dressmaking world the great designers, manufacturers and dressmakers are turning their attention to prophesy and the famous ateliers are full of rumors concerning things planned for the August opening.

Meanwhile good weather has brought



BLUE AND WHITE CHITON. A burst of gaiety to the close of the season in all the capitals. The New York season lagged later than usual and smart folk have been in no hurry to get away to country houses and hotels, but now all of the resorts and fashionable colonies are wakening to midsummer life, and New York has taken on its customary summer aspects. Crowds throng the restaurants and roof



WHITE LINEN AND CHITON. Gardens, but these crowds are made up of out of town visitors. New York folk who can take only short summer outings or none at all and parties that have motored in from nearby resorts or country houses.



WHITE CHITON AND BLOOMERS. dressers in America, but as a matter of fact, it is the great country of ours that is the seat of the most advanced and original clothing designs. The women's gown has been given a new lease of life, and it is the fashion of the moment, and the New York dressmakers



A LARGE LINGERIE HAT AND TWO HATS OF STRAW.



PINK CHITON. brilliant, pink about skirt and bodice under the net. Pink in all the lovely modish shades is worn enormously here, as in Paris, and the prettier summer color could be faded. Parisian correspondents have much to say of pink linens, pink cotton voiles, and the three women of a supper party

which came into the Plaza one night last week were all gowned in white, but none was all in white. A pretty blonde girl wore white silk mull made delightfully with flounces and shirred cordings for trimming. Her girdle was a vivid coral and she wore over her white frock a full, gracefully draped coat of coral chiffon embroidered in self-color and apparently unlined, though it may have had a lining of fine white tulle or sheerest white chiffon.

Another of the party, more matronly, though handsome and slender, wore a white silk voile with a Persian border and a girdle in the queer pinkish orange which was the prevailing color note of the Persian design. The third woman was in white net and lace with scarfs of tussars, etc., which have been prepared for the seashore season, and frocks of pink combined with other tones more them to excited description. For example, a friend writes of a "delicious frock in pink linen veiled by a simple girlish tulle of sapphire blue, mousseline de soie and, without trimmings other than a double plaited full collar of fine lace."

The French are doing much with these fine stripes, making the stripe serve as trimming by using it with stripes running up and down for the body of the frock and with a wide skirt band and narrow trimming bands for the bodice, in which the stripes run horizontally. A little note of black is usually introduced at the neck, as in so many of the simple tub frocks, and a buff and white striped dainty, made much after the fashion of the pink batiste just described, but with a little black velvet cravat and lace edgings of white lawn for collar and cuffs, was conspicuously pretty among a group of Tuxedo morning frocks, though the wearer confided to a friend that it was made by a home seamstress and cost less than \$10.

AMERICAN AND ENGLISH GIRLS

COMPARISON MADE FOR A LONDON NEWSPAPER.

The Writer Says Our Girls Are Cooler and Less Emotional Than the English and That the Keynotes of English Girls' Life Are Politics and Sport.

In England it is the boy of the family who is first considered; in America it is the girl. writes a correspondent of the London Times. Every roughness is smoothed from her path. She is a rule spared all responsibility and if necessary innumerable sacrifices are made in order that her girlhood shall be as gay and as free from care as possible. In short her life is apparently to be one perpetual round of enjoyment, with practically few or no serious demands upon her time.

The spheres of girl life are sharply defined. Thus the college girl and the society girl represent entirely different sides of girl life. The society girl is perhaps the most characteristic product of her country and the one to be most frequently encountered. Adaptability being one of the keynotes of her character, coupled with an unusually quick and observant mind, she is a delightful companion. In her thirst for "being up to date" she is equally interested in clothes and culture. Clubs such as the Review Club and the Magazine Club digest the world for her and provide her with neatly worded lozenges containing the essence of any and every subject.

Her conversation is therefore usually brilliant, especially as she always possesses that sense of duty to herself and to her hostess which causes her to exert every faculty in order to show herself off in the best possible light. She has the infinite capacity for taking pains in her dress, which amounts in this case to positive genius. Her English sister, with considerably more natural possibilities, such as complexion, hair and general health, lacks the realization as a duty of good dressing, that attention to small details which go so far to make up the general appearance of a well dressed woman.

Owing to the state of politics, both national and municipal it is almost impossible for the women of the country to take any real interest in such topics as they do, in England, and nothing more surprises the average American than the interest and deep knowledge which English women display in political affairs. The majority of American women are not interested in questions of national importance; their interest rarely extends beyond the town in which they live; sometimes to the State, but rarely to the nation at large.

It is a curious and notable fact that in the greatest democracy in the world the trend of feeling is far more individualistic and local than collective and national. There are very few links, usually none, between the American girl and her fellow citizens. She has her own set, but the lower classes, so termed, hardly come within her horizon, at any rate far less so than in the case with her English sister, in whom the feudal idea is still so strongly implanted that the wellbeing of those who were and are still more or less subordinate is a matter of genuine concern.

Among the American girls the debilitated of the year keep exclusively to themselves; so do the girls who have been out for a couple of years, while between girls and married women there is very little social intercourse. Obviously the American girl is a great loser by this separation of the ages, for she misses the immense advantage of hearing about life from older and therefore more mature minds. Her self-sufficiency is largely the product of her education, which as a rule has been gleaned from books.

Moreover, as her associations are with a new country and with new enterprises, she has little reverence for antiquity, whether of person or of custom, and her judgment is chiefly based on the admiration for the past, and is on the whole more romantic than her English cousin, but it does not enter into her every thought.

The English girl on the whole compares rather unfavorably with the American as far as culture and its application are concerned. The country life led by makers feel fashion's pulse and essay little experiments before venturing greatly in the launching of new modes. Just what the grande quinzaine will bring forth remains to be seen, and those interested in fashion matters are waiting eagerly to know what is to be done with the fall skirt.

The bodice and coat? Oh, they will turn out all right one way or another, but the skirt has been so whimsical and capricious of late that you cannot help wondering what will be done to it next. There are as there have been for a long time past efforts on the part of some of the makers toward fulness at sides and back and of course greater amplitude at bottom, but so far this movement has affected only the robes de style and has not had any particular influence upon the trailing frock and the majority of the dressy frocks. It seems probable that the scant skirt will hold over into the fall, but not in its exaggerated form, and it is devoutly to be hoped that the bride or matron, as the bands, etc., carrying the skirt, lettings are called, will fade from the horizon.

The mode has been unbecoming to a thousand women where it was becoming to one, has interfered with freedom and grace of movement and has led to absurd caricature. If the Oriental movement must hold over, it is to be hoped that it is not this "Turkish trouser line," as one French critic calls it, which will endure.

A modification of the once popular bell skirt, smooth, clinging, but rippling into moderate width at the bottom, has been exploited slightly in Paris within the last month and may find acceptance in the fall, a consummation devoutly to be wished if it will free women from the Pairet skirt. With a change in the width of skirt bottom will of course come a return of the train, which has been practically an impossibility with the tied in skirt.

The short coat will doubtless continue its triumph into the winter, though it is not so comfortable nor so appropriate in the winter costume as it is in the costume of the summer, and with longer and fuller skirts the longer coat will probably return. For a time, however, the short coat will continue its sway and for dressy wear the draped coat and picturesque cloak en suite with the costume of separate will meet the need.

the majority of English girls renders them somewhat dull as social factors, even if it gives them that knowledge of nature as a birthright which is denied to the town dwelling American girl. The contrast in fact is between a product of nature with the most artificial products of the most up to date civilization. On the other hand in England it is after all customary for every girl to be interested in some form or other of social and philanthropic work, whereas in America that work, admirably done as it is, is done by a class of women who are highly educated indeed, but who have given up their lives to that one object and form a class apart.

The next when the American girl meets, are, as a rule, men of her own city who have a shrewd knowledge of business and who pride themselves on being able to "size up" a man. They have probably travelled to New York and to Chicago, and their standard measure is outward success, not perhaps always of dollars, but invariably of prominence in the public eye.

The English girl is frequently brought in contact with life as it is lived in different parts of the empire, for some of her men folk are sure to be possessed of a certain which has so often developed into the power of colonizing. The interests in her life are worldwide instead of local, and this is reflected in all she does. Her very charities extend from Lebanon to Lombardy, and her interest in sport from polo in India to cricket in Australia. These are the two keynotes of English girl's life, politics and sport—and they are both indulged in with that cleanliness and vigor which are only possible through health of body and mind, with perhaps an accompaniment of rustic diseases.

By nature the American girl is cooler and less emotional than the English girl, and her attitude toward men is one of unfailing good composure. Yet at the same time women are considered by the American men as a race apart, who must be placed upon a pedestal and propitiated by much attention and many offerings. In a sense the chivalric instinct is almost too implanted in the American man, and in many of his ideas concerning women he is, although he would be horrified to be told so, curiously medieval. And here again we come upon one of those deep lines of cleavage which divide the American ideals of womanhood from the English.

In England before marriage the man and the girl see comparatively little of each other, but after marriage the common life is a necessity and the woman must be prepared to study his interests and to make them more or less her own. In America before marriage the man and the girl are excellent friends and comrades, enjoying much freedom in their intercourse, but after marriage the two seem to lead separate lives.

The man is wholly wrapped up in his business, and the woman, when her work in the house is over, develops most of her energies to the pursuit of social pleasures. In fact, they cannot really be said to lead a common life. To a large extent this is the man's fault, for he as a rule considers his wife such a delicate object that she is so to speak, put under a glass case and all cares and worries and even rightful responsibilities are carefully kept from her. She takes no active part in the man's everyday life, for she is often completely ignorant of his financial position and is absolutely dependent upon him for every penny. The idea of marriage settlements or a definite allowance is abhorrent to the American mind, and yet when all is said and done the American woman, with all her independence, is the most dependent of women, for is not he who holds the purse strings after all the real master?

In no other country does one feel more profoundly that the women are largely what they make themselves. It is more than probable that the large number of divorces in America are due to the unconscious desire on the part of the woman to find a real partner and contrive a life instead of the mere financial agent that the average American man is contented to be.

It seems well nigh impossible that with all her wonderful brilliancy and energy of mind the American woman should fail in the future to bring her great talents to bear on the material life. At present these talents seem largely wasted, but there are signs that the awakening is at hand, and one cannot but believe that it will not be long before the American girl and woman awaken to the fact of the important part they have to play in the social welfare of their country.

To-day the English girl and woman seem to be in a state of transition, and one can only hope with confidence that the English women of the future will be able to apply their natural practical instincts to the solution of the many social problems of the day, in which they already take so large an interest. At the same time they would do well to take a leaf out of the book of the American sister in the art of making the best of themselves both in looks and conversation. It is also about time that the English girl should abandon the attitude of being generous of her sex in regarding every man in the light of a possible husband and should begin to cultivate that habit of mind which makes real friendship and comradeship between the sexes a possibility.

PIGEONFLYING IN BELGIUM.

Workmen's Sport That Had Its Origin in the Siege of Paris.

Pigeon flying has not become a serious obstacle to politics in this country yet, but in Belgium, where it is the working people's favorite sport, it has, according to a Socialist plant quoted by Mr. Seebohm Rowse in his book on Belgium, "Land and Labour," propagated work is declared to be impossible during the summer because everybody is thinking and talking of nothing but pigeons. The social gatherings of the party are no longer attended, the pigeon alone reigns as absolute master. Mr. Rowse gives a case of connection between flying pigeons and the land question. A man had to move from his house, the site being wanted for some public purpose, and he claimed damages because his pigeons, having been trained to fly to the old pigeon cot, would require training again for the new one. The Court awarded him one-third of their value.