

SUMMER NEGLIGEES GORGEOUS CONFECTIONS OF CHIFFON

Utilitarian Kimonos May Do for Winter Wear but in Summer Diaphanous Gowns of Lace Appeal to Most Stoical Feminine Heart

By ELEANOR HOYT BRAINER.

THE average woman may put up with a utilitarian kimono or dressing gown during the winter. She chooses something warm and soft and comfortable and looks askance at diaphanous and gorgeous confectious of chiffon and lace; but the summer negligee appeals to even the most stoical feminine heart.

Hot weather rhymes with fliminess and coolness and looseness, with colors delicate or gay, with frilling lace and fluttering ribbon, and even the woman whose winter gives her no time for luxurious boudoir gowns and tea gowns is sure to lounge a bit when summer comes.

So the negligee departments of the shops have been busy places for the past two months, and though of course a vast majority of the robes and sacks sold are of the inexpensive type, American women are each year giving more thought—and more money—to their "robes intimes."

Novelties fantastic, extravagant, sometimes merely exquisite enough to be novel, are in every collection. A woman conservative in other departments of dress often turns her fancy loose when it comes to choosing her negligees. She can indulge a taste for the bizarre, the picturesque, the brilliant, the daring, in garments whose use will be limited to her own home, perhaps to her own room, and many a woman who goes soberly clad in public would be a surprise to her friends in her boudoir gown.

For instance, there is an increasing demand for Turkish trousers and flowing coats or tunics for lounging wear. This type of lounging costume when first launched was regarded as ultra daring, though why it would be hard to tell, for it is on the whole far more modest than the ordinary loose and flowing robe but slightly fastened down the front and demanding frequent clutching in the interests of propriety.

As a matter of fact the Turkish woman's costume and the Parisian adaptations of the idea are exceedingly comfortable, modest and, if cleverly designed and made of effective stuffs, attractive, and it is not strange that many women have recognized this fact. To be sure the Turkish costume is not so easily thrown on as are some other types of lounging costume, but it is not designed for the casual and incidental purposes to which the kimono and its kin are dedicated, and is not likely to be donned unless there is considerable lounging time ahead.

The Turkish trousers and long coat of soft light weight supple satin with sheer soft blouse worn under the coat are still a favored model, but there are many variations upon the theme, some of the models being straight one piece robes, loosely girdled, caught in between the ankles to form full trouser bottoms and opening over the usual soft blouse of chiffon or crepe or lingerie. Some of these models are lace trimmed or trimmed in soft fringed ruffles of the silk without losing any of their distinctive character. A model illustrated on this page, for example, was in flesh pink satin, dull in finish and very soft.

There were inset bands of yellowed lace and the ruche, bordering the open fronts and necks was like the style of fringed satin, in pale orchid. Another model was in pale lavender with soft cream yellow trimming and a more practical costume was of dark blue satin with touches of light yellow.

All this of course is extreme picturesque or more extreme than many of the quaint Louis Quinze and Louis Seize and 1830 and 1870 negligees, and infinitely more practical and comfortable than some of the latter.

Watteau draperies, short full skirts, schus, &c., are details of some imported negligees, and aside by side with these one sees funny Godey's Lady's Book sacks and petticoats to go with them, both frilled and ruffled and corded and generally fussed up after the Victorian fashion.

Taffetas plain and flowered play an important part in the eighteenth cen-



A quaint negligee of blue taffeta, one of pink crepe with lace and little nosegays and one of embroidered white batiste with frills and ribbons.

For Hot Weather Rhymes With Fliminess and Volumes of This Kind of Poetry Are to Be Eound in the Shops

make the manufacturers of ready to wear negligees made little use of it. Cotton voile is the material for a great many negligees and some extremely pretty ones. Some small figured orchid and white and pink and white volles of good quality, with collars and cuffs of fine white muslin bordered and valenciennes trimmed are delightful, and there are many cool and dainty looking striped voles.

Cousin many times removed to the sack and petticoat negligees is the coat and skirt model that reminds one of sports clothes rather than of lounging clothes, though one must admit that it is comfortable and practical. There are all sorts of coat and tunic matinees, some rather on the sports coat order, others long and straight, slipping on over the head, loosely girdled, some of mandarin coat character.

A long, loose Russian blouse of red colored broad crepe, wide collar and loose belted, is a picturesque and convenient thing, and distinctly a Bakist is a loose blouse or tunic as long as the gold model but slipping on over the head, buttoning down the shoulders, made of flame color chiffon and painted in deep violet and worn over a plaited skirt of violet crepe. There are many of these Bakist robes among the more extreme negligees—those clinging or floating, filmy affairs of heavy chiffon or Georgette for the most part, often beautiful in color and with bold splashes of design, but too exotic for any save the extremist in dress.

For her, too, though lovely in their way and not so spectacular as the Bakist creations, are soft simple robes of marquisette, chiffon, &c., entire sleeveless and untrimmed save for some finish on their edges. A rose color Georgette crepe, for example, has a two inch wide, finely plaited fringe on all its edges by way of trimming. A silk marquisette robe is on the same sleeveless order. It has a white ground with a big, blurred and exquisitely colored flower design, and is entirely guileless of trimmings, its edges being merely plain edges.

Long straight falling tunics of soft satin that slip on over the head and show just a little of a lace petticoat in front but are entirely veiled in the back by lace, with long wide draperies of the lace about shoulder and sleeve are among the most graceful and becoming of the more elaborate models.

The most usual type in this class is the more or less draped robe of crepe trimmed in lace and tiny silk flowers. Lines of these very small silk flowers in effective colors outline all the hem on some delicate lined crepe robes and are the only trimming save for a little cream net or lace about the decollete, but more often just a few of the flowers are applied in some way to catch up fold of drapery or emphasize some detail, and similar flowers appear upon the boudoir cape and on of silk mules or boudoir slippers.

Headings is another trimming used on the luxurious negligees and sometimes with admirable effect. One robe of pale pink crepe had straight lines of very small crystals beads in groups of three lines set inside its hem and outlining certain details, and here and there these lines were interrupted by motifs of padded beading, a little deep pink rose perhaps an inch in diameter set in pointed green leaves being the design.

Some of the quaintest of the season's negligees look as much like frocks as like negligees. There is a model in old fashioned looking thin taffeta, with a deep pink tracing figure on a white ground, whose short waisted seams, bodice and full skirt open over a vest and petticoat of full white net caught at low neck and waist line with narrow deep pink ribbon. The silk had wide lace bands set inside its hem and the full skirt and narrow bands of the silk stitched along this wide net band, and the whole effect was as much that of a frock as of the tea gown whose name it bore.

In another shop were shown amusing tea gowns with lace skirts and curious petting sacks of flowers in taffeta in old fashioned coloring and design with pinked ruffles or fringe for trimming. French tea gowns this season are prone also to run into Watteau effects of taffeta over mousseline and lace and there are charming but some tea gowns all of taffeta on the order of one sketched by our artist which have the desired informality without outstanding accent upon it.

tury models and in many of the 1830 and 1870 models too, but on the whole the designers still cling to the soft stuffs, satins, chiffons, crepes, laces, lingerie stuffs, &c.

The humbler class of negligees, though not the humblest, includes many good models in albatross, china silk and the tub stuffs, and in this class are many delightful things with a very considerable degree of picturesqueness of their own. One of the Godey's Lady's Book effects already mentioned was developed, and charmingly developed, in a cotton marquisette that had a narrow satin finish stripe in its white ground and was flowered all over in a large design of quaint blossom and lovely coloring. The material, though inexpensive, was indescribably dainty and the rather long frilled neck, the frilled petticoat, the fluttering narrow pink ribbons, the little collar of net and lace were eminently coquetish.

White dotted swiss is used for some of the prettiest of the simple and comparatively inexpensive negligees and is particularly likable in certain

models lined with pink or blue or yellow wash silk, scalloped on all edges and embroidered around the scalloping in the color of the lining. No other trimming is used save some knots of ribbon in the color of the button-

holes and the lining, but the robe has a very French air and lingers easily, though, of course, care is needed if the color is not to fade.

Dotted swiss dyed to the pale pink—flesh tone or a trifle deeper—that

is so much used this summer, is very lovely, and for the comfort of those to whom pale pink tub materials suggest laundering difficulties it may be noted that there is a simple dye a few drops of which put in rinsing

water will give reinforcement to the delicate pink if it has faded in the hot water. By the way, some of the dotted swiss negligees, trimmed in valenciennes and knots of narrow ribbon,

have big applied pockets, shirred on a cord across the tops and with a saucy bow of ribbon posed in the center of each pocket. This idea is good for any simple model on which narrow ribbon figures, and a pink crepe de chine, filed with yellowish lace among whose folds bows of corn flower blue, narrow velvet ribbon are posed, has full pockets with lace frills across the tops and velvet bows tucked among the folds.

Thin crepe de chine, accordion plaited, forms the foundation for many negligees of chiffon, net, silk net, lace, &c., the amount of the plaited crepe left in view varying with the individual model. An especially pretty robe illustrated among our cuts was of this thin plaited crepe in shell pink with a coat tulle of large mesh white silk net and silk lace.

And here we are back among the more elaborate and expensive negligees, without having given a word to the delightful little robes of striped or cross barred sheer white cottons, or to the albatross models trimmed with narrow finely plaited frills of silk to match the albatross or perhaps embroidered a little in self color and provided with hemstitching, deep collars and cuffs of white lingerie or net. The challois, too, deserve notice and are unusually good in designs and colorings this year, but though challois is dear to the heart of the home dress-

maker on with their plans for curbing art and imagination when the robes are not what the budding mind should see.

Not that the curb will be applied too precipitately. The federation will take two years to think it over, in the meantime making a survey of the situation. Mrs. Charles W. Cartwright of Minneapolis, Miss Helen Varrick of Boston, New York, Mrs. George Zimmerman of Freeport, Ohio, Mrs. Dexter Thurber of Bristol, L. I., and Miss Louise Connolly of Newark, N. J., are appointed a committee to guide the survey.

The year 1916 will be a red letter year in the future histories of woman suffrage. To nail a vote for women plank in the platform of each of the two great political parties, to force the Republican party and the Democratic party to recognize for the first time the right of women to the ballot, is no small achievement. So logically has it come about, one thing and another leading up to it, that probably few people realize what a triumph it is. Of course lots will say that planks in platforms don't mean much, but in this instance there are some hundreds of thousands of disappointed women who will be right on the order of whichever party wins next November to see that it continues to stand on that little suffrage plank.

It was considerable of a chore to get those planks nailed in place, but never once did the women falter. When a driving rainstorm beat upon their parade in Chicago they marched straight on, and in their soaked garments they crowded into the Coliseum nine thousand strong, presenting a picture of devotion to the cause which ought to melt and evidently did melt the hearts of the assembled Republicans.

In St. Louis they put a stern guard on their tongues, which is no small task for suffragists burning to declare their doctrines, and so and stood—just sat and stood—a living wall of reminder, on either side of the street through which the Democrats had to pass from their hotels to the convention hall. And having with a fine self-control which forever gives the lie to the stock jokes about women's volubility made their silent appeal, they proceeded to deal with individual politicians. To hear Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, who less than a year ago declined to commit himself on the question of a Federal amendment, though implored by the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage to do so—to hear him come out for that same Federal amendment must have seemed a triumph. But to achieve these triumphs is, as before remarked, considerable of a chore.

THE VARIED ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN

A LITTLE Belgium in the Land of the Free" is what Mrs. Minnie Moore Wilson, president of the Women's Club of Kissimmee, Fla., calls the settlement of Seminole Indians in the swamp lands of that State. Mrs. Wilson was a delegate to the recent biennial of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in this town, and while she was here she told some stories of injustices visited upon those Indians that jibe rather badly with that well known instrument the Constitution of the United States.

"The Seminoles fear and hate the white man," said Mrs. Wilson, "and why shouldn't they? The treaty their forefathers had for the land they occupied, a binding contract, has been disregarded like so much waste paper. Speculators have driven them from place to place, the little homes they build are pitilessly razed by any corporation that chances to want the soil on which they stand. It is 'Ramona' over again, and yet the Government which professes to be shocked at what has been done to Belgium permits it. "For four hundred years this little band of red men has striven for a foothold, and in all that time not one drop of white blood has mixed with theirs. They say that they don't want to be civilized, because then they might lie, cheat and steal like white men."

The Kissimmee Women's Club and Mrs. Wilson are doing what they can to help the Indians, but find themselves rather helpless against the forces of greed.

There are plenty of mothers clubs, but it remained for Mrs. Mary Pamela Rice of Boston to organize a Fathers and Mothers Club. This club, which has a farm house for anemic and backward children at Reading, Mass., and a headquarters in the North End of Boston, is a fairly old story now, for it is more than six years since it began as a little group of people who met together to discuss the problems of parenthood, but perhaps it isn't known that Mrs. Rice has set out to enlarge its scope greatly, and came to New York lately to get what help she could here.

"It was my own home experience that made me want to include fathers in this club," Mrs. Rice said one day. "I found that my children didn't really respect their father, because he had nothing to do with managing them. They minded me, but looked on him as a big play-thing, and when he tried to introduce discipline they simply wouldn't mind him. So I told him he simply had got to reverse his attitude

and assume equal responsibility with me in their control or he wouldn't really be their father. He saw the point, and our reform worked so well that when some of the women urged me to form a Mothers Club I stuck to the principle and insisted on bringing fathers in too.

We spent the first year just having nice little reunions to discuss our personal problems as parents, but when we came together the second autumn I told them I wasn't satisfied—I wanted to do something real. So we acquired our Farm Home, where 150 children who didn't have a fair start in life are, in the course of a year, nursed back to something like a normal standard. But we have only accommodations for a dozen at a time, so not more than 150 can be helped in a twelvemonth. We want to spread out. We want especially to have cottages for hearth children—few poor really nice little reunions to discuss our personal problems as parents, but when we came together the second autumn I told them I wasn't satisfied—I wanted to do something real. So we acquired our Farm Home, where 150 children who didn't have a fair start in life are, in the course of a year, nursed back to something like a normal standard. 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