

COMES A WHISPER FROM PARIS: IT'S ABOUT LONG SKIRTS

But It's Only a Rumor and Mean while the Summer Frocks Demand and Deserve Attention

By ELEANOR HOYT BRAINERD.

THE air is full of fashion rumors. Over in Paris the makers of modes are preparing for their openings and the secrets of those preparations are being guarded almost as carefully as the secrets of the War Office, but leaks will occur, and so one hears scraps of prophecy, whispers concerning long skirts, First Empire waists, trained evening frocks, plaited street skirts and many another detail of dress to come.

Just how reliable these whispers are remains to be seen, and just which of the modes experimentally launched at the early openings will develop into an accepted fashion also remains to be seen, but in the meantime women are wearing the clothes that spring edicts sanctioned and worrying very little about Parisian plans. It is the buyer, the manufacturer, the merchant, who do the advance worrying.

But the summer frocks of this year have hardly had so far the inning they deserve. The woman who invested her spring dress allowance in a good looking raincoat and hat, has been the one to demonstrate the benefit of preparedness, and the tulle and organdy that tempted femininity to extravagance have in many cases proved broken reeds—wilted reeds might be more accurate.

Still there has been some genuine organdy and tulle weather, and many of the thin summer frocks are pretty enough to be worn in defiance of the weather.

As has been noted before in *THE SUN*, the sports clothes mania has cut into the popularity of the simple cotton and linen frocks that were, yet those simple cotton and linen frocks have sold by thousands and tens of thousands, and the cotton frocks, in particular, have been rather more attractive than usual.

The modes of the moment are especially favorable to what is called airy stuffs; and while the linsens and heavy cottons incline toward the straight lines which, properly handled, are chic even in this season of bluff and flare, the thin cottons flaunt their way with reckless prodigality of fold and frill.

And they are charming, these thin frocks of sheer material, they are charming. If they do not suit every woman, well, so much the worse for the woman. She may console herself with the thought that her last state will be worse than her first. If the full long skirt and the short, First Empire waist do go hand in hand when fall modes arrive.

Undoubtedly organdy is held of the summer ball. It is not practical. Perhaps that is one reason for its popularity. The frail and fair have ever a fascination. But the organdies have positive as well as negative virtues. They do muss and wilt with appalling ease, and they are a lamentable sight when not crisp and fresh; but when they are crisp and fresh they are certainly crisper and fresher than any other hot weather material. Other stuffs may be as thin, as cool, but nothing else gives such an impression of coolness. And then that element of crispness that goes with the sheerness of organdy makes the material among cottons what taffeta is among silks—the ideal material for the present day alibonette, thin enough and soft enough for lavish quantity, and yet crisp enough to billow and flare and avoid clumsiness.

The French designers have been making the most of organdy's adaptability and have sent out numerous bewitching models in this material. All the light colorings are represented, and occasionally one sees a delectable flowered organdy, while at least one recent successful frock was of white organdy ruffled and collared in a flowered organdy of quite old fashioned design in many soft colors on a white ground.

But best of all are the all white organdy frocks, the white muslins of man's sentimental fancy. They may not be the simple and demure expressions of unsophisticated taste that the eternal masculine imagines them. Indeed, they usually quiver to their outermost frill with sophistication, but they are adorable. There's no denying that.

For instance, there was that white organdy of our large cut, sheer and airy, frilled almost to the waist in fluted frills; frilled narrowly on the sleeves too, and on the edges of the huge collar that rolls away widely on the sides and low in front. That is the whole story, except—a very important exception—for the girle, a narrow pink girle, on the front of which was posed a prim little nosegay in several colors, encircled by a tiny fluted frill of the organdy and tied with narrow blue ribbon that fell in long ends and loops. The effect is that of an old time paper frilled bouquet in miniature, and the quaint little conceit dots the f of the frock effectively, yet calls for no great outlay of money or effort.

And there was another white or-

gandy in the same shop that demanded recognition, a very short skirted, widely flowing model whose skirt was tucked prodigally above the prodigal display of alternating narrow puffing and narrow valenciennes frills. The collar was even larger than that of the other frock, a deep shouldered swathing cape collar, rising high in the back, standing away from the neck at the sides, as a truly modish collar should this summer, and opening in a low V in front. It was almost entirely of narrow puffing bands and lace frills, as were the sleeves, and a wide soft French blue ribbon formed the girle.

Some of the domestic models in organdy—some of the imported models also, though not those from the great artists—are elaborately trimmed in lace, but the most entirely successful organdy frocks are those that are self trimmed, yet so cleverly designed that they have distinct individuality and cachet.

One sees many organdy frocks in the restaurants, in the roof gardens and wherever smartly dressed women congregate in New York on summer evenings, and some of the effects achieved are amusing, even absurd. A pretty young actress sat at a table in a popular restaurant the other night clad in sea green organdy that frothed and frilled and billowed in frivolous imitation of the sea, for which its color was named.

The skirt was ultra short, egregiously wide, frilled to the hips. The bodice was nipped in at the waist, shallow and round in its demi-decolletage, and had short puffed sleeves, leaving the arms bare from a point half way between shoulder and elbow—just such a bodice as our grandmothers used to wear. So far so good. A very charming work as frocks go to-day, but the hat that topped the pretty head of the frock's wearer gave the touch of absurdity to the toilet and brought smiles to the eyes turned toward the table where the actress sat.

It was a high hat, a narrow hat, a hat with jam pot crown and small curling brim, in some very fine light straw, with a band of narrow ribbon drawn around the crown half way between top and brim, and tied in a little bow with short fluttering ends, and lower a wreath of very tiny flowers in several colors. Truly an absurd hat to crown that frilly sea green tulle, but even the sternest critic must have admitted its piquancy.

Across the table was another organdy frock, a white one, tucked and corded and great collared and wide sleeved, and with this frock went a less audacious though picturesque hat, tremendously broad of brim, rather high of crown and trimmed singly but knowingly in a wide, soft, blue satin ribbon that was drawn around the crown, was crossed at the back and fell out over the drooping brim and to the wearer's waist line in two floating ends.

New York evening resorts of the fashionable sort are fuller than usual for this time of the year, though the summer crowd in New York has grown to be an accepted feature of the city life, and the restaurants and places of amusement cater to it assiduously now, instead of slumping in "the dull season." One sees queer things in dress as one roams about, for summer ways seem to afford greater opportunities for caricature than does winter, and few women know how to look their best in warm weather; but one also sees a host of attractive toilets, quite as many as are on view at any summer resort.

Georgette crepe and net are the thin stuffs most in evidence in these summer toilets, though, as has already been said, organdy is superchic. The crepe and net are both much more practical than the organdy. Indeed, it would be difficult to imagine materials thin and fine and more practical than these two. They crumple, of course, as do all thin stuffs, but the wrinkles shake out, and if shaking does not do the trick easily and quickly enough pressing will.

Both materials wear surprisingly well if of good quality, and both can



A fluted frilled frock of white organdy with a prim nosegay blue ribbon tied at the belt and a dress of plaited cream net with touches of black.

be made up in modish fashion without any considerable amount of trimming or elaboration, though the smoothly made frock of such sheer stuff usually has great attention paid to its underpinning, and a good deal of work and expense can be put into underlayers of silk, net, chiffon, &c.

Color, material, line—these are the essentials for success. Trimming comes afterward, and may be inspired or merely incidental. Georgette frocks in flesh or other delicate color-

ings, very simply made and finished on all edges by little points or tabs of the Georgette, have a delightful, old-fashioned simplicity, and are greatly liked by women of fastidious taste. Frocks of Georgette or chiffon quite devoid of trimming save for open stitching inside the hems are pretty too, and such models as these often have the short, flaring sleeves clinging to the shoulder but very wide and open at bottom.

A good looking orchid toned chiffon frock had these sleeves, the lower part joining the upper part just above the elbow with a line of openwork stitching in black. The wide collar, too, had a quarter inch openwork stitch in black heading its hem, but beyond this there was no trimming save for the deep tucks across the sides of the skirt and the wide soft girle of black satin.

The touch of black that Paris has always loved still enters into the modish frock in one way or another, and this summer it very often appears as lace, a bit of black lace being cleverly used for accent on a frock otherwise all white or delicately tinted or gay. Black lace, preferably Chantilly or other fine thread lace, is introduced in large quantities upon many models, but such effects are less interesting than those obtained more subtly, such as a tiny frill of cowbebbie black where least expected but most desirable.

One good model in cream net, plaited here, had this black lace motif

turning out very beautiful things in them, and the manufacturers are glad to have an attractive article in large quantity and at reasonable prices, took up the domestic voiles with enthusiasm, especially for the expensive type of summer afternoon frock.

As a result in the summer sales there are innumerable pretty models of dotted stripes and figured voiles, often in combination with voile, either white or in plain color. More expensive models in imported voile or the finest domestic grades are silk trimmed, taffeta being the silk usually chosen for girles, four buttons, ruchings, bands or whatever the trimming may be.

Many of the all white voiles are indescribably fine and soft and there are fancy weaves in endless variety among them, but though greatly to be desired again with advancing summer, though in the spring there seemed little interest in them. The domestic mills are

turning out very beautiful things in them, and the manufacturers are glad to have an attractive article in large quantity and at reasonable prices, took up the domestic voiles with enthusiasm, especially for the expensive type of summer afternoon frock.

As a result in the summer sales there are innumerable pretty models of dotted stripes and figured voiles, often in combination with voile, either white or in plain color. More expensive models in imported voile or the finest domestic grades are silk trimmed, taffeta being the silk usually chosen for girles, four buttons, ruchings, bands or whatever the trimming may be.

Many of the all white voiles are indescribably fine and soft and there are fancy weaves in endless variety among them, but though greatly to be desired again with advancing summer, though in the spring there seemed little interest in them. The domestic mills are

VARIED ACTIVITIES OF THE WOMEN

THE courage and capability with which Englishwomen are tackling ploughs and lathes and milch cows and motor buses and other things run by their men before the war called the latter from home are winning their reward.

Not it is true, the reward prophesied by Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, who thinks the British Government will be so impressed by woman's services that it will give her the vote. At least, in Mr. Asquith's proposals for a revision of the electoral charter increasing the number of men entitled to the franchise there is no hint of including the 7,000,000 women who are keeping the country going while their husbands and fathers fight. And the Premier declines to receive a committee of suffragists who want to talk to him about it, alleging that he has many pressing matters to occupy his time.

But cheer up! Englishwomen are getting the trousers, anyhow. Not in that symbolic sense expressed in the saying "She wears the trousers." They aren't bossing things; if they were they would get better wages for the man's work they are doing. But the old rule of a smaller pay envelope for the same work done by a woman is still in force in England, likewise in Germany, where in Schoenberg the Common Council recently refused to give equal pay to the women who have taken the place of men as street sweepers, pleading that once adopted the principle would spread. In the metal trades the women work ten and twelve hours a day for from two and a half to eighteen cents an hour, and the Socialists have tried in vain to induce the factories to be fairer.

But sartorially, the women are donning the trousers, and public opinion in the war countries upholds them. In England, especially, more and more trousered women are seen milking cows and working in powder sheds, &c., without the finger of scorn being pointed at them. And while a man, never having had to get about with a skirt pinning his ankles down, couldn't possibly appreciate the meaning of this, every woman knows. If assuming man's work gives woman the power to assume, literally, his nether garments when convenience demands, she is rewarded.

to keep her physique up to par through all this strain and bring forth children fit to cope with the world? Socialists answer, No.

Fifty poor rich—Miss Lorena Carroll, of 57 West Seventy-fifth street. Just fancy, the poor girl has to worry along on the paltry sum of \$7,475 a year. Any girl can see in a minute how impossible this is. For example, Miss Carroll needs for her education \$3,500 a year, and even her education calls for \$2,000. Her automobiles, she thinks, should cost \$3,500 a twelve-month at least, and household expenses, including flowers, as much more. Parties and luncheons and trips, she holds, cannot properly be managed for less than \$3,000, and altogether Miss Carroll tells Surrogate Fowler, to whom in her great need she appeals for more of her late father's fortune, that to live without scrimping she must have \$18,500 a year.

The Surrogate evidently doesn't appreciate a girl's troubles with necessities costing more every day. He tells Miss Carroll he reckons \$7,475 is enough for her.

Once "open wider, please" was heard only in masculine lairs, barytone or tenor. But women are saying "Open wider" now, and more will be saying it shortly. Under the care of Hunter College and the Vanderbilt dental clinic of the College of Physicians and Surgeons a school has been opened in which girls can learn all that any man dentist knows in the way of torture and relief.

The Seelye bill passed in April gave the women of New York State the right to be graduated as dental hygienists, and before many years the Board of Health will have numbers of them teaching school children that a large share of life's ills come from bad teeth.

Suffragists are pointing with pride to the fact that Idaho, where women vote, has been maintained for private profit. Also to the fact that other States where women vote, California, Nevada, Illinois, Idaho, Colorado and Oregon, have passed new and enlightened employment laws.

And in Kansas City, Kan., likewise in a State where women go to the polls, there is now on the statute books an ordinance to chain wire beaters to a post on the public street. The male judges approve, holding that the fear of public shame will keep potential wire beaters from giving way to the habit.

In England last December a soldier hit his wife over the head with a stick so hard that she almost died to death. In that country, where women don't vote, he was fined for the deed—fined 10 shillings.



A frock of pink Georgette crepe, one of white organdy with lace, one of orchid chiffon with a black girle and one of yellow organdy.

Train Your Hair as an Actress Does

No class of people devotes as much time to beauty as do actresses, and naturally no class must be more careful to retain and develop their charms. Inquiry among them develops the information that in hair care they find it dangerous to shampoo with any makeshift hair cleanser. Instead they have studied to find the finest preparation made for shampooing and bringing out the beauty of the hair. The majority of them say that to enjoy the best hair wash and scalp stimulant that is known, get a package of canthrox from your druggist; dissolve a teaspoonful in a cup of hot water and your shampoo is ready. It costs less than three cents for this amount. After its use the hair dries rapidly, with uniform color. Dandruff, excess oil and dirt are dissolved and entirely disappear. Your hair will be so fluffy that it will look much heavier than it is. Its lustre and softness will also delight you, while the stimulated scalp gains the health which insures hair growth.—Adv.