

GIRLISH FROCKS THAT WOULD PASS THE SCHOOL CENSOR

Despite Designers' Slight Interest in Les Jeune Filles the Prevailing Modes Are Essentially Girlish

By ELEANOR HOYT BRAINERD.

THE girls have been lucky this year. For that matter, they are always lucky, since youth is theirs; but the fashion makers are not always kind to them and though by virtue of their youth they manage to have charm, even when unbecomingly or inappropriately dressed, the average French designer's recognition of youthful claims begins with the twenties.

For him neither the "flapper" nor the plump elderly woman exists. He has always, in his mind's eye, femininity young enough to be slender and charming, old enough to be chic, even a bit daring. When he has created a mode for this siren, his task is done. Adaptation is business for lesser talents.

Lavinia does take an interest in youth of all grades and, occasionally, any one of the famous houses may toss a tribute to the jeune fille; but, this season a very large percentage of the frocks designed for the twenties and thirties might, without change, be turned over to the teens. Most of the prevailing modes are essentially girlish, and so we come back to our original proposition—the girls are lucky this summer, so far as fashions are concerned.

The fluff and flare and frill and abbreviation of some skirts are delightful for youthful party frocks and muslins. The straight smock lines and one piece frock lines suit the girlish figure admirably. The gay colors and audacity of the sports coats and frocks and suits rhyme with "girl."

Just what the autumn will bring in lines, in silhouette, no one knows; but American manufacturers of ready-to-wear frocks and suits seem firmly convinced that, whatever the periods from which Paris takes its inspiration, skirts will be longer, less flaring, probably less full. What these manufacturers believe is likely to be true for the crowd. They have to be prepared for early trade, cannot wait to begin preparing their models, until after Paris has definitely spoken.

Their first big output represents the result of shrewd guesswork, based partly on fashion straws set afloat in Paris and hinting at the direction of the current's course, partly on study of summer modes and probabilities of holdover features in these modes. And since women wear what they see worn, this early avalanche from the manufacturers plays a mighty part in shaping the accepted fashion ideas of the crowd. Paris will modify the ideas later, but the guesses of high grade American manufacturing houses will not be far wrong.

All of which is merely by way of preamble to the statement that the school girl's wardrobe, which is usually prepared earlier than other autumn outfits, can be planned successfully, though it must be planned wisely, and the best way to do it is to study carefully the latest models shown in the best shops and pick up attractive ideas from the prettiest clothes worn by girls here, there and everywhere this summer.

One need not go far afield in search of inspiration. The summer has brought out a host of pretty frocks conservative enough to be fairly sure of holding their desirability even after the new fashions of the autumn are in evidence.

The full but comparatively straight skirts seem, in the light of what prophecy one hears, safer propositions than the short and flaring extreme that midsummer has tolerated and encouraged. Even in midsummer the straight, or at least approximately straight, line skirts have been popular with many women and have held their place alongside crinoline and frills, and some of these simple, straight sum-

mer models would reproduce very successfully in autumn materials or ones suitable for autumn and winter wear even in their original materials.

The white serge frocks, for example, would be useful in a cool weather wardrobe and the late summer models in white serge often suggest very likeable designs for dark blue serge or other dark cloth frocks. Linens, too, offer good suggestions.

A coat frock like the pink linen model sketched for this page would work out well in dark serge, with touches of soutache or cord braiding, and the plaited skirt is fairly sure to be considerably used in the autumn, is, indeed, one of the safest experiments with the skirt problem that can be made well in advance of the coming season. It gives ample width without bouffancy or flare, and, as one Fifth avenue tailor put it when asked to make an advance autumn suit, the plaited skirt will be wearable whichever way fashion's cat jumps.

In softer materials the accordion plaited skirt and the skirt finely plaited and pressed, but not of accordion type, are more desirable than the wider plaits of the cloth skirt and quantities of lovely little frocks in crepe de chine, georgette, chiffon cloth, silk voile and similar materials are made up with these finely plaited skirts, untrimmed, and with demurely girlish bodices into which fine plaiting enters in some slight way.

A crepe georgette frock, in delicate fashion, and with little hand made tabs of the material edging the big, girlish collar, the cuffs and the short ends of the crepe scarf girdle, is an ideal model for the young girl's informal evening and afternoon wear, and would be quite as useful in the fall and winter as in the summer. Models of this sort in various delicate colorings have multiplied in the shops since the early season, and even now are good investments, but can very easily be copied at home.

The smock and middie blouse ideas are perennially with us and always essentially girlish, although the older women refuse to leave them to the girls. Each season sees new variations upon these themes, but this summer has brought even more than the usual number of such models, and many of the linen and summer fabric frocks of this class would successfully stand translation into terms of autumn and winter.

A popular summer model in heavy soft white linen with big collar and wide belt of dark blue linen and straps of the dark blue on the sleeves is being copied for one schoolgirl in dark blue serge with white cloth collar and belt and straps of green suede, and with a plaited skirt.

Even the same sixteen-year-old the dressmaker whose slack season has been changed to a busy one by the working up of a boarding school girl trade, is fashioning the daintiest and most demure of creamy net evening frocks self trimmed in narrow bands of puffing, shirred cords and tiny frills. The skirt is very full and all-a-froth with little frills, but flares very little, and the crêped shirtings that, with the aid of a narrow eiel blue ribbon and a narrow of tight little ribbons, defined the waist line, are posed quite high, so high that any normal waist curve is snuffed out.

The evening frocks that the young girls are wearing this summer are chiefly of the widely swirling sort, and so delightful are they that however much one may long for a change in the skirt styles for older women, one would be reconciled to seeing the young girls hold fast to present modes. Never did the debutante or the debutante's cousin ever look more pleasant and delectable in evening frocks and summer muslins than this year.

Not and ribbon and lace, organdy self-trimmed, pleated, edged, ribbon adorned; crepe georgette echoing the organdy models in all save their crispness; taffeta, softened by tulle or Georgette or chiffon; filmy batiste, sporting the same peep edged frills



A girl's frock of white organdy trimmed with printed organdy frills and one of net, lace and ribbon.

and self-trimming that the organdies and Georgettes affect, but perhaps daintily lace-trimmed also—all of these are on view wherever smartly dressed young girls congregate for evening gayety and innumerable effective touches give variety.

The neck line, in particular, offers opportunity for individuality, and the inevitable shallow V of other years

is reinforced by neck cut square round, oval, straight across the chest. Even when this V is retained it is likely to be in new version, rilling away widely from the throat at the sides, shallow in front, a little low across the back, but with some rolling collar or frill rising high but not close about the nape of the neck.

PLATINUM SETTINGS FOR JEWELRY OF THE MOMENT

IT has taken only a few years to change the standard setting for jewelry from gold to platinum. Gold settings still obtain, it is true, but only to a comparatively limited extent.

The rapidity of this change from a custom centuries old has led many women to believe it only a fad of the moment. Some have therefore relegated their gold set jewels to the safe deposit vaults and have invested in new platinum set jewelry. Others, believing that platinum has come to stay, have sent their gold set jewels to be reset in the white metal.

The admirers of platinum insist that the new setting has come to stay because it has recommended itself on purely practical grounds. The platinum setting, they explain, in no way affects the color of the stone. Gold infuses a yellow light. Diamonds gleam in all their purity of whiteness from a setting of platinum, as they cannot do from a gold setting. Polished platinum radiates a pure diamond light. This being true it in no way affects the color of the stones, whose chief beauty depends upon an unimpaired white radiance.

It is seldom that an order for re-setting in platinum demands a facsimile of the gold jewelry. The jewelers explain this by saying that platinum can be spun so much more finely than gold that it admits of a greater delicacy and flexibility of craftsmanship, and hence opens up a far wider field of artistic possibilities. Even the most delicate of gold settings can be made more delicate in platinum and the most intricately wrought design in gold can be wrought far more intricately in the white metal. Because of its possibilities for intricate designs platinum is inspiring novelties of an artistic order, daring effects that were impossible in gold.

There is no danger of even the finest setting for a precious stone wearing down if made of this metal. Therefore the clamps of the setting made may be made almost negligible in bulk.

A cluster of small diamonds set closely in platinum makes a compact gleam that gives the group almost the appearance of a great single stone. This is impossible in a gold setting as the yellow line of the setting, if taken close scrutiny to detect the platinum between the stones.

Platinum settings can be cleverly made to simulate a changed shape of the stone they support. For instance a round diamond set in a highly polished square or hexagonal disk of the metal will give a very close effect of diamonds cut in these shapes, which are in vogue at the moment. They can do this because the gleam of the polished metal tallies so well with the gleam of the stones.

the sides gives a pretty throat a chance to look its best, showing the curves from neck to shoulder and not overaccenting slenderness as does the narrow V cut, hugging the neck closely on the sides; but whatever the shape of the collar or neck finish on a girl's frock one rule is imperative: the cut must not be aggressively low.

Movie Actresses and Their Hair

Did it ever occur to you that every movie actress you have seen has lovely hair, while the most popular count their curls as their chief beauty? In fact, (this is a secret), many are lending ladies just because of their attractive locks. Inquiry among them discloses the fact that they bring out all the natural beauty of their hair by careful shampooing, not with any soap or make-shift, but with a simple mixture which they make up for themselves by putting a teaspoonful of canthax, (which they get from the druggist), in a cup of hot water and applying this instead of soap. After its use their hair dries rapidly, with uniform color. Dandruff, excess oil and dirt are dissolved and entirely disappear. The hair is so fluffy that it looks much heavier than it is. Its lustre and softness is delightful, while the stimulated scalp gains the health which insures hair growth.—Ad.

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Frocks Designed for the Twenties and Thirties Might Be Turned Over to the Teens

exhibitions one sees on every side in this land of overprecocious daughters and overindulgent mothers.

It is an American habit to chant praise of all things American, but even the most patriotic of critics, if honest, must admit that a large majority of the girls one sees—on Fifth avenue, let us say—are ridiculously, atrociously dressed.

Luckily, appreciation of the falling has spread and much effort is being made toward the curing of the evil and the establishing of better standards and ideals. Almost all of the high class boarding schools for girls insist upon proper dress and preach the doctrines of good taste in dress early and late. In some of the most fashionable and popular of these schools the insistence takes the form of ironclad rulings, and subtleties parents order, clothes made after school rules, while rebellious, but helpless, girls assume a girlish simplicity whether they have it or not.

Skirts must not be longer or shorter than this, must not be wider than that. Shoes and slippers must have heels that conform to school schedule. Collars may be so low and no lower. Hat brims must not exceed so many inches in width. Hat crowns and trimmings must not soar beyond a prescribed limit. A frock too elaborate or eccentric is calmly condemned and may not be worn. An extreme mode of hair dressing is out of the question.

The system seems drastic, but it is justified by results, and a few years of such drilling are likely to leave an imprint upon even the most effulgent taste and impress even the most bar-

baric of nouveau riche spenders. One spoiled daughter of multi-millionaire parents without a background of social training entered a school in New England last fall and carried with her a wardrobe calculated to impress the daughters of social lights who were to be among her schoolmates. A week after her arrival she wrote home:

"Dear Mother: My clothes are packed in my trunk and my jewelry is locked in the safe. Miss _____ bought me a school dress. It will be very nice. Please send me money to get the lingerie dresses without much thinking for evening and a plain suit for some more school clothes."

"One of the teachers will take me to New York to buy them—and a suitable hat and heavy, low heeled shoes."

"If I don't have them I can't say, it's fine, but it's awfully plain, and they think you're common if you dress up and look showy. Miss _____ said I might possibly wear the necklace she gave me after I got to be 25, but certainly not before. Isn't it all queer?"

And the mother, though she did think it all queer to the point of lunacy, told her friends about the letter with pride.

"If you're swell enough you don't have to dress up," she said, and, though that may not have been the basic idea behind the school discipline, it has its element of truth.

Any of the frocks pictured here, they would pass the average school censor, and though some of them are of materials essentially for party wear, even these will form a good suggestions for the making of autumn materials.

MAKING THE MOST OF A SMALL HOTEL ROOM

HOW to make the most of a single room in a summer hotel is a problem that many women are trying to solve just at this time of year. For a stay of even two weeks it is well worth while to take advantage of a few short cuts to homelike surroundings and personal comfort. In most instances a little forethought will reduce the settling-in process to a minimum expenditure of time and trouble. Many needs can be anticipated and provided for before leaving home.

A suitable curtain for the door takes up little space in a trunk and yet will be a source of comfort and convenience. Two widths of cretonne run on a strong tape can easily be fastened into hooks on each side of the doorway. The lower edge need not be hemmed until the correct length is measured, and a few pebbles sewed into the hem here and there will serve as weights. A strip of similar material to throw over the bed and two slip covers for the pillows will result in an inviting day bed. Just the place for afternoon naps.

The more rearrangement of furniture often adds much to the comfort of the occupants besides increasing available space to suit personal needs. Moving a chair over a corner leaves space behind it for some of the many excellent devices for hanging clothes. If carefully covered garments so hung are better off than in a crowded closet.

For storing hats try an arrangement which will prove ornamental as well as practical. Secure a many hat boxes as necessary of the same size. File one above the other, standing them on their sides, so that the top of each box faces the room, making a tier of open compartments. Dainty hats should be protected by a square of plush cloth tied by the corners so as to cover the trimming, but the covers will be kept in good condition if a width of cretonne is laid over the top hat box, extending down over the open compartments and fastened here and there on the sides with a thumb tack.

An expert in furniture rearrangement for a single hotel room advo-

icates placing the bed with its head to the door, allowing first a foot space for the door to open. Above the bed is an old-fashioned wooden one with high headboard, if the type often found in country hotels, this arrangement creates a little vestibule for the room and prevents possibility of seeing into the room from the hall. A fancy bag for newspapers and magazines, and a case for attractive parasols and canes are attached to the back of the head board and relieve the bareness of the woodwork.

This arrangement of the bed in connection with a curtain of the door, gives an attractive entrance to the room and results in privacy, even when the door is left open to secure all possible air.

If the wind makes it difficult to keep a door open a quickly made and simple factory door block can be fashioned from a quart bottle. Fill the bottle with sand to give the necessary weight and wind the top with the top of a black stocking. Such a factory door block with white chalk, to make a bright colored turban and then proceed to dress the bottle like a doll, a chief answering as a dollies. This improvised door block is decorative as well as useful.

When closet space is limited and a trunk must be kept in the room, a trunk cover is desirable and also decorative. It may be made of cretonne to match other personal belongings, and, if access to the trunk is frequent, the cover should be equipped with pockets having flaps and a key. Small pieces for the laundry, pieces of fancy work, unanswered letters can be tucked into these pockets, temporarily.

For the woman who must pass occasional waist, an empty drawer inverted, is a capital ironing board. The wood at the bottom of the drawer, being inverted, will not touch the clothes. Small pieces for the laundry, pieces of fancy work, unanswered letters can be tucked into these pockets, temporarily.

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A frock of white and blue linen, one of blue serge and one of blue and white striped silk.



A black velvet jacket and a pin's crepe frock.