

Light, Fancy Furs Are to Be the Style This Winter

And the Woman Who Is Buying Would Do Well to Select the Novelties, Says Augusta Prescott---The Latest Fads

MR. JOHN JACOB ASTOR is back from Europe with some new furs and in French fashion she is beginning to wear them early in the season.

Things have come to a strange pass when you buy your winter furs in the summer time, yet this has long been the style in Paris, and the custom is gradually creeping over to this country.

It seems a pity, the French say, to spend so much money upon your furs and then to put them away. "My mink and boa cost \$1,000," said a French society woman; "why should I conceal it in a hamper for two-thirds of the year?"

"This is the custom nearly all over the continent," the fur dealer said, "and kept in good order to wear all the year around. In the winter time they are adorned with a heavy suit, and in the summer they are worn with lighter wraps. It is wholly a question of custom, this matter of wearing furs, and women who own handsome fur garments feel that they have really no right to deprive themselves of these articles thru so many months of the year."

And that is why, if you go to Lenox these fall days, or to the White mountains, or to high resorts anywhere in the west, you will see the women all in sable. They are wearing beautiful gowns, which still have a touch of summer about them, for the days are warm at noontime, but around the shoulders there is thrown a fur cape or deep collar, or one of the big, flat boas of the season.

It is the style, of course, to wear old furs, and women who have heirlooms are proud to bring them out year after year and to wear them on occasion. But it is very nice to own a set of up-to-date furs, and that is the reason why women of fashion who can afford the money are prone to invest in a new set in the latest new articles in this line. They pride themselves on a fur collection just as they do on a string of pearls.

"What does a set of furs cost?" is the first question a woman asks when she starts out to buy; and well may she consider the question of price, for it is the ruling one when furs are concerned. The truth of the matter is that furs are ridiculously high, and they do not seem inclined to come down in price. You can clothe your fingers in diamonds for a less sum than you can dress your neck in furs, and you can buy a diamond dog collar for just about the same price which a real handsome coat and muff will cost you. Never wear furs so dear. But, on the other hand, they were never so nice, and never so becoming; never so fashionable and never so desirable.

Of course, there is a grain of consolation for the woman of limited purse in the fact that fur imitations can be picked out very cheaply and, as they are prettily made and nicely executed throughout, they will answer every purpose. If she does not want to buy fur imitations she can buy real furs of the cheaper grade, and these, with a few nice pieces to help out on state occasions, will carry her very well thru the winter.

The new boas are quite distinctive, and perhaps it might be said that they are different from the boas of previous seasons. The majority of them are flat and are lined with satin. They are about eight inches wide and are long enough to go around the neck and hang far down the front. A handsome squirrel boa about two yards long, flat and lined with gray satin, costs something like \$50, with the muff thrown in. But, if you are not too critical, you can get it for a little less if you will take a cheaper grade of squirrel, or you can go higher if you want a softer and more silvery shade.

There is one pretty thing about furs this season, and this is that they are lined in very artistic fashion. The style is to match the silk to the fur, and to make it harmonize as well as possible in every way. For instance, gray squirrel is lined with slate gray silk and is trimmed with gray silk fringe, and ermine is lined with cream color.

Sable has its lining of wood colored satin and mink is lined with golden brown. It is all a question of hue, and the woman who is having her furs lined should by all means be accurate as to the shade of satin which she uses with them.

It is a pretty season for the woman who has old furs on hand, for she can take an old sealskin coat, so old that it looks all faded and yellow in spots, and she can have it relined with a deeper shade of satin, and she can then trim it by setting a handsome new sable collar around the neck and a pair of sable cuffs at the wrist or at the elbow; and with this she will wear a large flat seal muff shaped like a granny muff. And then she will want a sealskin toque. The sealskin toques, by the way, deserve a word all by themselves, for they are very beautiful. They are made of rather bright silk and they are built so

that they look like turbans and walking hats. They are by no means the shapeless fur hats of other seasons, for they are cut and fitted and placed upon a frame until they are as shapely as they can be.

A beautiful fur turban worn just once on a chilly day in the mountains by a leader of fashion was built exactly like a turban. The top of the turban was covered with seal and around the edge there was a little frill of yellow satin. A band of seal went around the outer edge, and at one side there were two brown feathers changing to yellow. It made a very pretty hat and a hat of which any woman might be proud.

Once upon a time it was the style to wear furs out in plain fashion. Coats were long and shapeless and muffs were big and round. Boas also were round

and fur capes had no shape at all; but that day has gone by. The new fur coat is a fitted article of dress, and its trimmings are either of the same kind of fur or in sharp contrast. No matter how they are selected they are in extremely good taste, and the woman is as carefully fitted as the she were being measured for a gown.

There is also a question as to whether the stout woman looks well in a fur coat, and the leading dressmakers of Paris have solved the problem by declaring that she does not. "There are other ways of wearing furs," say they, "and we are dressing the fat woman tastefully without putting her into a big fur coat."

For the benefit of the woman who is too stout there comes this year a very pretty boa which is built of some short

fur. Ermine is ideal for a young woman, but the woman along in years will use Persian lamb or other short varieties of lamb.

The boa for a stout woman is made flat and rather wide. It is lined with satin, but it is as thin as possible, so that it does not make the neck heavy. In front it is fastened with a handsome jeweled clasp and the ends, which are wide and pointed, do not come quite to the waist line. With this the stout woman carries a large, thin, flat muff, shaped something like a pillow, altho it is by no means a heavy muff. In her hat she wears a fur ornament which makes it a fur rosette or a bunch of tails. The foot of her skirt can be trimmed with two narrow bands of fur

and she can carry a fur bag upon her arm. In this way she contrives to be well dressed, in winter furs.

Do not think, because you purchase small articles of fur, that you are necessarily buying cheaply. Many of the tiny little fur bits, such as cuffs, collar, fur bands and rosettes cost \$20 and more and you can readily fritter away a couple of hundred dollars without knowing it. Perhaps, after all, fritter is the wrong word to use, for money is never wasted that is spent on furs. They will be good year after year and you can wear them forever and will them away afterward.

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present of pieces of fur and so she has accumulated many handsome articles. This winter she has selected a coat of sable, which will cost \$1,000. It is long haired, with silver tips. The coat, which comes only to the hips, is fitted in the back and loose in the front, in military fashion. It is single breasted and is buttoned with immense silver monogram buttons. To go with this there is to be a large pillow muff, very wide and quite flat, and there will be a small fur collar which clasps in front and which can be easily removed.

The woman who is not prepared to pay a thousand dollars for a sable coat can get along very nicely with a cloth coat lined with fur, for fur linings are to be quite the rage this year. A handsome black broadcloth coat lined with

chinchilla makes as pretty a garment as one would want to possess, and there is the mark of fashionable approval stamped upon it.

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To trim these fur hats one can take a bow of velvet ribbon, and, if one can use the big jeweled ornaments which are fashionable this year. There are ever so many trimmings available and, indeed, the fur hat can be decorated with anything that could have been used upon a felt hat.

There are new wrinkles always for the woman who is trying to economize and the other day I saw a woman come out in a suit which one could not but admire for its ingenuity, even if it had not been so pretty.

The suit was built of rough cloth in a shade of silver gray. Altho of a delicate hue it would shed the dust nicely, and, of course, it could be colored some day. With this suit there was a flat muff of imitation ermine, that fur which is imitated so well, and there was also a boa which was short, flat and rounding upon the ends. Her hat was a peculiar silver gray felt, very rough, and almost woolly in its texture. Around the edge there were a very narrow row of ermine, and, at the side, there were two plumes. This was not an expensive suit, yet it was an extremely handsome one.

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The novelty furs are very attractive, but they are scarcely advisable for the woman who is going to wear them a long time, for they may go out of date. A calfskin, with the hair upon it, in red with big wandering marks of white—just like a barnyard calf—was made into a handsome coat which was worn with a golden brown dress. A flat calf muff was very pretty.

The fur coats are buttoned with braided loops, and big handsome buttons. If one does not want the buttons visible one can button the coat under a flap and trim the opening with a handsome fastening in fancy braid, and gorgeous braids come for just this purpose. Again one can button the coat with big fur buttons, and it is very fashionable to cover button molds with fur, and to work little figures on each mold, just as the one were working on velvet or silk. These big buttons make a trim all by themselves and they dress up an old coat which has well-nigh outlived its usefulness.

Novelty is quite essential if one is going to look in style, and one can best manage this by securing something new in the shape of a neck trimming. One lovely collar was trimmed on the ends with fur rosettes; another had fur flowers cut out and applied; still another was trimmed with a design in braid put on in swirls; another had its ends trimmed with bands of braid.

All suggestions are useful when one is taking up an old collar, for any woman who undertakes the task will see how easily it is to do it well. The wide fur girdles are to be very much worn and also the wide fur stocks.

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We have almost come back to the fur-lined circular, and women who once owned a fur-lined garment of this kind can get it out of the closet in a very few alterations. One of the most fashionable new capes of the year was once an old fur-lined circular. It is cut down a little, so that it is not quite so long, and it is trimmed with fur on the outside. There are other ways to utilize the old fur circular and one of these is to make it into a coat three-quarter length with long, loose coat sleeves and wide flare around the wrist. Such a coat is very becoming to any woman and if worn with a big new-fashioned muff it is immensely smart.

Dozens and dozens of hats are made of fur this year. They are either all fur, or are fur trimmed, and, perhaps of the two, the latter is the more satisfactory, for it is lighter and one does not tire of it so soon. A gray squirrel of a grayish blue around the wrist, upon the model of a polo hat. It was covered with the squirrel on top and around the sides. It was like a polo even to the small feather ornament which stood upright at the crown. Another hat of the same fur was built on the lines of an English walking hat; and still another was modeled after a Fedora.

To trim these fur hats one can take a bow of velvet ribbon, and, if one can use the big jeweled ornaments which are fashionable this year. There are ever so many trimmings available and, indeed, the fur hat can be decorated with anything that could have been used upon a felt hat.

There are new wrinkles always for the woman who is trying to economize and the other day I saw a woman come out in a suit which one could not but admire for its ingenuity, even if it had not been so pretty.

The suit was built of rough cloth in a shade of silver gray. Altho of a delicate hue it would shed the dust nicely, and, of course, it could be colored some day. With this suit there was a flat muff of imitation ermine, that fur which is imitated so well, and there was also a boa which was short, flat and rounding upon the ends. Her hat was a peculiar silver gray felt, very rough, and almost woolly in its texture. Around the edge there were a very narrow row of ermine, and, at the side, there were two plumes. This was not an expensive suit, yet it was an extremely handsome one.

It is difficult to state what are the most fashionable furs of the winter, for Dame Fashion lays down no rule for her followers; she simply asks that they dress in good taste. Silver tipped sable perhaps is the most popular, not going to consider the price, the other, seal, ermine, mink and Persian lamb come very close to it; then there are the cheaper furs and the novelties, of which one must not forget the big buttoned calf, both of which are to be much worn this winter.



Fashionable Furs for Winter Wear

How to Arrange for Lectures and Concerts---By Margaret E. Sangster

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IN THE days when life used to be much simpler than now, we, in this republic, made much of our winter evening lectures and our winter evening concerts.

As our great cities have grown cosmopolitan, the number of evening entertainments, of every sort and variety, has been multiplied, and people may freely choose what they will in theatrical representation, operatic singing, or scientific instruction from the lecture platform. In the smaller towns and villages, where the number of lectures and troupes, there is less liberty of selection, and judicious preparation beforehand is essential if the winter is not to be barren of profit.

In the old days, we had philosophers like Ralph Waldo Emerson, statesmen like Horace Greeley, men of letters like Oliver Wendell Holmes, or George William Curtis, and fine orators like Wendell Phillips and Edward Everett to fill the places in our lecture courses, and after that season they appeared and befitted the public taste and enlarged popular ideas. From across the water came Charles Dickens, W. M. Thackeray and Matthew Arnold, giving their hearers full tithes of satisfaction and carrying back with them a lavish harvest of American gold. The great singers came, both men and women, and while the cities heard them first in opera, most of them later condescended to the plain concert stage in places where opera could not be rendered.

Still the great singers come to us, and still we have lecturers from the

other side. Only a few months ago, from the White House down, people were interested in listening to the broken English of the author of "The Simple Life." Let a man write a popular book, and those who read it wish to look in his face, hear his voice, and judge if they may what manner of spirit he is of. It would be invidious to disarrange and give the names of the popular lecturers of the hour, but we know who they are, and let the night be ever so cold, the snow ever so deep, the roads ever so icy, we shall go and hear them when they come to our town.

In planning a lecture course, a good committee is the first requisite. Motonony is to be avoided. Novelty is

to be sought. There is wonderful charm in a new face, a new voice, and a new subject, but there is also an irresistible fascination in a familiar presence and many of our notions; we are most of us rather ignorant about the underlying conditions which have brought Russia to its present crisis, and pushed Japan to the front, as the champion of the east, and, as we have not time to read exhaustively for ourselves, we need the lecturer who can supply us with facts carefully collated, and with information in a concrete form. A historical subject, or one purely literary, one that takes up the social life of ancient Rome, or of medieval Germany, or of England under Queen Anne, will find a host of captivated listeners. A lecture is supposed to embody and

epitomize the substance of many books. If it is worth hearing at all, it must be in the nature of a picture, and if not eloquent, must at least be agreeable and have no dull passages.

A lecturer who reads his manuscript closely, or who has a squeaky, ineffective voice, need never hope to enthral his audience. The audience, so to speak, at a lecture, have seats in the parlor car, and they are not expected to undergo any discomfort that can be saved them. The lecturer who cannot be heard with ease, in every corner of the room, need not expect a second engagement.

It is incumbent, however, on the committee, to provide a hall for lectures in which the acoustic properties are good.

I shall not soon forget an experience I had, one evening, in Canada, where for an hour I listened to a brilliant and distinguished lecturer, and heard a mocking echo repeat word by word, cadence by cadence, the who effort, until I was almost distracted. I learned later that there was always this mocking echo in that building, but that the lecturer himself and the people who sat a little further back than I had, were not disturbed by it.

We know so much more about music than we once did, we are so much more critical, and our facilities for hearing good music have so increased that on the best performers can hope to please us now. Ask your grandfather if he remembers the merry times he had in those gallant days when he tucked your

pretty young grandmother under his arm and carried her to the Hutchinson family, or the Swiss bell-ringers, give one of their performances. We are by way of being more exacting and more fastidious in these times, and we demand the best that modern culture in music can afford for our pleasure.

The fault of our programs is that they are almost invariably much too long, so that the artists it must appear best that they be determined to get more than the worth of our money, while, not contented with this, the average audience proceeds to encore every number from start to finish.

I have an affection for concert singers, who have never aspired to grand opera, but who warble for us in pure, sweet, simple strains, songs that simple folk can understand. No concert like me, and for many just like me, is so satisfying as one where the repertoire includes old ballads, Scottish songs that bewitch the heart, and possibly some of the patriotic tunes that stir the blood. For a winter evening once in a way, try the pleasure you can get from simple, old-fashioned music, that has in it the power to touch the heart.

The real time to devote to lectures and similar entertainments is when the days are short and the evenings long, and few outside invitations beckon families apart. In these months parents and children, neighbors and friends, may together make use of opportunities which will yield a long enrichment.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Light Housekeeping

WITH all the many words that are uttered every day in praise of light housekeeping, the ready-to-heat-and-serve things in the shops proving a tempting argument in its favor, there are certain advantages which are not always taken into consideration.

Light housekeeping really means the getting along without a servant, and getting the meals for yourselves, usually these ready-cooked things. Sometimes bachelor girls, who live two or three in the same little suite of apart-

ments, make a convenience of it for the two unimportant meals of the day, dining, either at some restaurant or with a private family.

The greatest objection to it is that it is apt to become too light, so often you don't want to stop this or that bit of interesting work to get up an appetizing luncheon for just yourselves, and you "get along" with a hasty luncheon of whatever happens to be around.

Naturally, you don't eat a great deal—nothing is particularly appetizing;

but before long you sink into the habit of not bothering to stop for luncheon, and perhaps bother less and less for breakfast, with the result that you run down in health, perhaps not dangerously so, but at least perceptibly so.

This is particularly to be avoided if you are a brain worker, yet it is often brain workers who fall into just such errors.

Where light housekeeping is carried out by a system, religiously on the housekeeping plan, it has great advantages—apparent on the face of them—

to these people who have studios and apartments.

Living is undoubtedly cheaper that way, which is the first consideration of the people who're trying to get a start. And everything can be as wholesome and as nourishing as in the usual way, if only a little time and thought are expended in the effort to save money.

Potted ham and tongue are all very well in their way—mighty good for a "spread"; but an easy diet of potted meats with crackers and cheese isn't storing up the right sort of energy for