

Home Hints

WHITEVELVET EVENING GOWNS

BY ANNE BITTENHOUSE.
Special Correspondence of The Star.
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A woman who is known by her clothes entered a box the opening night of opera at the Metropolitan Opera House wearing a gown of white cut velvet. This will suggest a new fashion to most women. Somehow, one does not associate white velvet and evening gowns, but it is wise to alter this idea, for women will wear a good deal of it. The woman who wore the white velvet gown at the opera led the way in the fashion, but she will have many followers.

Here is the frock in detail: a slightly draped skirt ending in a negligible train and a crapery of white tulle at the waist line that gave one the impression that it had started out to be a can-canishé tunic, then changed its mind and ended in being a frock. It was much longer in back than in front, and tied itself into an immense bow above the knees, allowing its streamers to drop down over the train of velvet. The bodice, which there was of it was of tulle, mounted over shell-pink satin, and flatly folded from shoulder to waist, back and front. The sleeves were puffs gathered up the middle and



WHITE FUR IS LAVISHLY USED AT THE PRESENT TIME. THIS SKETCH SHOWS AN AFTERNOON SUIT OF BLACK VELVET TRIMMED WITH WHITE FUR. THE COAT IS CUT AWAY AT THE BACK AND THE RESULT IS INTERESTING.

best small gilt chairs with cane seats for musical, dinner and card parties, a woman with a velvet gown is wary about sitting down. If she finds that it is not possible to avoid such chairs in the round of social pleasure, she must take the alternative and avoid the velvet gown but a hostess who must rent her chairs, Mayhap, if the two fashions continue, the hostess may let her guests know what they must expect. She may put on the left hand corner the words: "Cane chairs used."

A famous diner-out said the other night that he began making a mark on the edge of his gilt cane chair at the beginning of the Newport season; it was a mark that he could easily distinguish, and he had the pleasure to discover it a dozen times at various parties. He says it is like an old friend.

A woman must take these things into consideration before she copies the beauty of a white velvet gown. That is the admiration of a set of fashionable women. She can imitate the gown in whole or in detail, and it may be that she will prefer to omit the swinging train which gives it dignity, but also gives troubles to the wearer.

One is never sure of these days of not having to dance at any hour of the performance, but one is positive that such evening is not allowed during the habit opera, but we have gotten into the habit of going out for supper after the opera, and as one is never safe from dancing when eating, one does not know when it is safe to wear a train.

Will Long Trains Arrive?
It seems an inauspicious moment to introduce trains of any kind to women's skirts. Never was there a moment of our later life when dancing was such an obsession among all classes of people, and the skirt with a train is not intended for such pastime.

If it swings free from the shoulder and has a loop at the lower edge (which can be slipped over the wrist, then one can step with freedom, but if it is attached to the skirt in any way, or if the skirt itself is shaped into a train, then one must just as well give up the idea of comfort unless one intends to sit much and walk slowly.

The really short skirt is fashionable, and the "cane-like" train that swishes on the floor like an angry reptile when a woman walks is fashionable, so one can choose, but those in the watch towers of fashion observe with interest the onward march of a square and long train.

Will it come into full fashion before the winter season is over? Or is it merely a fantasy of the dressmakers who feel they must change the length of skirt, if for nothing else than to show they are not asleep? One thing is true: the older woman who leads a dignified social life, who is not given to romping at parties, should take up the square train to meet herself different from her granddaughters, and wearing one of the popularly of white fur, which is used in the lavish way in which white fur is used. Our sketch shows this sketch from Paris, which shows not only white fur on an afternoon suit of black velvet but a striking new coat.

Swiss & Company's Sales of Fresh Beef in Washington, D. C., for week end Saturday, Dec. 6, averaged 12 1/2c per lb.
Advertisement.

HERE AND THERE WITH CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS

Lampshades, straight from Austrian decorators, are made up in futuristic fashions. They are made up on wire in all sizes, and are adaptable to any light, as that any room furnished with the electric bulb can use them.

Some of the larger shades of linen, used for tall lamps or candles, are lined with silk.

The newest ribbons for tying up Christmas gifts include a gay Bulgarian peasant ribbon that is very bright.

For the connoisseur there are some superb specimens of the old Chinese lacquer exhibited among the holiday goods. They include a varied range of objects and are the most expressive specimens of expert workmanship seen in this very artistic medium. There are some unusually choice pieces of the carved red lacquer, both as a single color and also in conjunction with the fine green and yellow lacquers in superimposed layers. The red is usually on top. Vases and small screens carrying the principal articles in the collection.

There are many new electric fountains for dining room tables, or for use that they send up continuous streams of water. An electric motor and pump concealed in the base of the work by the pebbly looking the same water through the tubes. "Psyche at Nature's Altar" from water nymphs and laughing cherubs form the chief figures in these, which are further decorated with crystal or bronze ferns and flowers.

Novelties for Christmas gifts include a parcel post tape measure. It is seventy-two inches long, the giving measurements for the largest package allowed, and has printed on one side length in inches and on the other side the rates of postage, according to the weight and zones.

WOMEN WORTH WHILE

THEIR FRIVOLITIES, INTERESTS AND HOBBIES.

MRS. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.



A ten-minute talk with Mrs. William Jennings Bryan shattered my pet illusion concerning her. I thought the chief interest of her life was making jam. All the newspapers said so. Since Mr. Bryan became Secretary of State columns have been written and printed about Mrs. Bryan's solitaire for the pantry shelf, and how noble it was of her to spend the summer in the hot kitchen just to see that the pear preserves were done to a turn, and the peach marmalade flavored exactly right.

Now, here is where you learn the truth about Mrs. William Jennings Bryan. She does not make the jam. She would if she had, but not unless. More than this, she is not even domestic by nature. This latter fallacy has gone abroad perhaps because Mrs. Bryan is everything we mean by the term "good housekeeper." Her house is well ordered, her servants

are well trained, her dinners flawless. But all this is not because Mrs. Bryan loves the prosaic details of ordering a house, training servants and planning dinners. It is because she is both a conscientious and a capable woman. After having a life conscience and more executive ability than the average housewife, she chooses to do the duties of the performance of a woman's main job, in the conduct of her household affairs. Mrs. Bryan's shoulders bear a heavy and responsible load that sometimes talk to the man of the house.

In order to protect Mr. Bryan from the annoyance of domestic details, Mrs. Bryan issues all checks, gives all orders, manages the dishes, the cookhouse, the chauffeur, and stands between her distinguished husband and the butcher, the baker and the confectionist maker.

Mrs. Bryan's lights in books and every summer for years past has made it a rule to study thoroughly some one standard work. Her favorite recreation is the opera. She is deeply interested in every-

thing musical, though she declares her own piano-playing is that of an amateur. Soon after her marriage Mrs. Bryan studied law and was admitted to the bar in the state of Nebraska. At that time Mr. Bryan was a practicing lawyer, and Mrs. Bryan's object in acquiring legal knowledge was to be able to help her husband in his work. No sooner had she finished her law course, however, than did Mrs. Bryan enter politics.

Throughout the years of Mr. Bryan's public life his wife has been constantly at his side. She travels with him when he needs her, assists in handling his vast correspondence and in receiving the scores of callers who come to see Mr. Bryan from all parts of the country. When Mr. and Mrs. Bryan came to Washington for the inauguration of President Wilson their apartments in a hotel were full to overflowing with people who came to shake hands with Mr. Bryan. The stream of callers always began before breakfast and ended between midnight and dawn. Mrs. Bryan saw them all, heard their requests, sent them away happy and later presented their cases to her husband.

Mrs. Bryan is not a great club woman. She is a member of the Woman's Club of Lincoln, Neb., however, and in conjunction with two friends founded and organized the Sorosis Club of that city. This organization is twenty years old, and is limited to twenty-five regular and two honorary members. The club was founded for the study and discussion of current events, and has been largely instrumental in training a clever group of women as thinkers and speakers. Mrs. Bryan herself speaks in public with ease and fluency.

As the wife of the Secretary of State, Mrs. Bryan holds the place of first importance among the cabinet wives. During the present season many social duties will devolve upon her. She presides in Washington over a house well adapted to entertaining on a large scale, Calumet Place, the old home of Gen. John Logan. The place is rented furnished from Mrs. Logan and is full of rare books and interesting objects. The club members have painted gorgeous rugs, tapestries, hand-painted carved tables and pictures gathered on their trip around the world.

THE DAILY MENU.

- BREAKFAST.**
Grapes Liver and Bacon. Cereal
Graham Gems Coffee
- LUNCHEON.**
Panned Butter Fish
Fried Potatoes Brown Bread
Drop Cakes Coffee
- DINNER.**
Vegetable Soup
Roast Beef Mashed Potatoes
Buttered Rice
Cucumber and Onion Salad
Brown Betty Coffee.

Butter the inside of a pudding dish and line with bread crumbs or pieces of bread, buttered. Pare, core and cut the apples into small bits, fill the dish and cover with a layer of cinnamon, sugar, powdered cloves and a generous portion of bread crumbs. Bake, covered, for thirty minutes, and then uncover and brown.

Black velvet hats have created a great furore, and they are made in many styles, mostly small and close fitting, with wing bows, stiff and originally shaped, plume ornaments and paradise feathers are among prominent trimmings.

The Christmas Work Bag.

If your Christmas workbag is still purged out with unfinished gifts it is time that you went seriously to work to empty it. For Christmas is not very far away and Santa Claus must be anxiously waiting for his mortal helpers to get their Christmas gifts finished.

There is still time to make some date-embroidered gifts if the pattern chosen to embroider is not too intricate. A useful gift is a handkerchief case made of heavy handkerchief linen. It is made in the shape of an envelope, about six inches square.

To make this case cut a strip of linen six inches wide and fifteen inches long. Round or point one end, beginning the curve or point three inches from the end. Bind this end and the straight end both with white wash ribbon. Then embroider either an elaborate or a simple design on the flap. A monogram or a wreath of flowers is quite enough embroidery if your time is limited. Now fold the strip of linen crosswise six inches from the straight end and crease it. Bind the raw edges together with ribbon to make a pocket or envelope, and turn the embroidered flap down. Fasten it with a button and buttonhole loop.

A corset case is an easy gift to make. Select flowered ribbon six or eight inches wide and buy a yard and a quarter of it—that is, forty-five inches. Measure twenty inches from one end and crease the ribbon there. Featherstitch a band in each end and then baste the ribbon along the side edges double for twenty inches. Turn the remaining four or five inches over for a flap. Attach a small length of narrow ribbon to the flap and another ribbon at a corresponding place on the case, so that when the two are tied together the case will be securely closed.

A pin case of some sort is a useful gift. One sort is the sheet made of two lengths of ribbon featherstitched together over a sheet of white muslin. A flowered ribbon or one decorated with holly for this. The sheet should be about eight or ten inches long, so that a yard of ribbon will make it. Arrange rows of

sorts of pins neatly on it. White and black-headed pins should each form two rows. Then there should be a row each of two sizes of safety pins, and a row of pins with heads of assorted colors. Another row containing half a dozen ball pins and three or four pins for holding violets, and other flowers should also be made.



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Drop a cube into a cup of hot water, blend with vegetables and seasoning, and it is made. Beef or chicken flavor bouillon is made with vegetables and seasoning.

Armour's Bouillon Cubes.

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