

# Woman's Viewpoint

## WHAT ANNE RITTENHOUSE SAYS

### Somber Dark Blue Serge Relieved With Much White.

Special Correspondence of The Star.

PARIS, April 26.—Women always give a sigh of content when they hear the statement that dark blue serge is in fashion. The contentedness of this sigh is not inspired by the fact that laboring and the cloth concerned. It resembles serge and the effect is the same. Those who prefer serge can have it.

No one who was worried of the epidemic of dark blue that would sweep on the country this spring. Each dressmaker turned out several dozens of it at the February openings, but it was not until the first of April that the world waked up to the fact that the color was dominant.

The economist woman saw in this fact a chance to recommend whatever dark blue suit or gown she had in her possession and she immediately began to discuss the various methods of altering a frock of yesterday to suit the demands of today.

She has found that white and buff waistcoats, cut in manly brevity, lined with large, white, pebble buttons, are exceedingly good aids if she is of the type that can tolerate such accessories. If not these, she has turned to the various varieties of white muslin collars with their centers attached will bring the neck into fashion, and it is in the neck line where so many women stumble today.

The fashion of the moment demands white against the neck, not just a thread of white, but a blazing expanse of it. It uses this color to offset all the somber and faded shades that fashion has brought into being this spring.



**Blue and Black.**

The smartest women of Paris are dressed in blue and black, and the two colors are almost alike, so dark is the blue. Probably because turned out the most popular costume in these two shades, the skirt of costume had three ruffles across the back, and the blouse was made so much like a vest that it could easily serve for one. In front was a wasteful cut of white silk with an iridescent color of white across the neck and down the back. There was an immense row of black satin placed across the waist at the back.

This is one of many models turned out this spring and worn by women who have insisted upon decking themselves in all the gaudy colors of the Orient during the last two years.

One does not feel that dark blue serge is a cool color for summer, but it is better than red, or purple or even black, for the American climate. It is not as restful as the faded green that one sees in taffeta, but in cloth it is the best color we can get for consistency, wear, and when white is freely mixed with it the result is satisfying.

**Taffeta and Serge.**

When women do not care to indulge in a suit or a gown of taffeta they are per-

## FOREIGN FASHIONS FOR AMERICANS

BY LILLIAN E. YOUNG.

Special Correspondence of The Star.

VIENNA, April 26.—No one feature has held sway so persistently as the combining of plain materials with figured, and it is entirely permissible to do anything one wishes with materials and trimmings so long as the effect is pleasing. No fabrics are so contrasting that the



A SMART AFTERNOON FROCK OF PLAIN AND FIGURED CREPE DE CHINE.

colored dressmaker may not be counted upon to supply something out of the combination, and one may not feel that alone is sufficient to stamp the season as an interesting and different one.

In the accompanying sketch is illustrated one of the pretty, gay-colored dresses—an afternoon frock developed in

fine-colored crepe de chine, with a tulle and girde of the same ground color, figured in a quaint design in turquoise blue, when color and white.

The skirt shows a new and graceful drapery induced by little lifted folds of the material in front and back, while the material at the sides is laid under the belt in small flat pleats.

The blouse has long wrinkled sleeves cut in one with the body and trimmed on the outside of the fitted forearm with a row of frosted silver buttons. The front edges are left widely open over a soft, peated guimpe of white chiffon with a small Medici collar of its own and a narrow neck cord of silver. The blouse itself has a square collar of self-material and is further trimmed along either front edge below the bust with more of the silver ball buttons.

The arrangement of the girde is a pretty one. It is cut in two lengths, each starting from under the front edges of the blouse at the bust line and crossed in the open space below, then carried to the back and there tied in a large bow over the hips.

The tulle is hip length in front, but slopes longer in back, and laid in small pressed pleats under the belt, and is buttoned on to the front at either side with a row of the silver buttons.

In a frock like this too much care cannot be exercised in the small details; also, the color arrangement is all-important and must be considerably selected, not to be too glaringly contrasting nor yet too lacking in emphasis to serve the purpose. There is everything in placing the color touch. Not only must it strike the right note, but it must, at the same time, be adjusted so that it gives a dash to the ensemble effect. For instance, with the clear, pure whites vivid colors may be used, but with the cream tints the dull "off tones" will invariably be found necessary to bring to the ensemble just that effect of entirety that is, it might almost be said, the one requirement.

**A Good Lotion.**

Mutton and lamb fats are too fatty and hard to be used in cooking, but they make a first-class lotion for chapped hands, cracked heels and chibbins.

The Roman striped silks and ribbons appear on many of the smart costumes.

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## TODAY'S HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS

### Summer Frock Fads.

I fancy the thin summer frocks are going to be something of a disappointment to their owners when they are brought out of their wrappings to do duty a second summer. But the secret should be only temporary, because it is easy to bring passed models up to date this season with very little trouble at all. In fact, the manufacturers must have had the possibilities in mind, because the stores are offering not only the usual small accessories for remodeling, but overskirts, panniers, petunias and similar draperies all ready for adding. It goes without saying, the prices are high, but the designs are so simple that the home dressmaker can carry them out.

Taffeta, the material generally used for remodeling, is chosen because of its lightness and its ability to take the color of the gown to be renovated. All are fashionable, in the case of a white frock either can be used, of course.

One very pretty model is made from two lengths of taffeta in painter effect very full on the hips. Each strip is looped and the raw edges are pleated and sewn to a folded girde fitting the waist. Thus the effect is of full panniers dividing both back and front. A bow in the back finishes the girde. Three and one-half to four yards will be sufficient, which will allow for collar and cuffs.

Then there is the simple sash-like garment formed from a length of silk, say two yards, the raw edges sewn together, and then on selvaige edge gathered up to fit the waist line showing a heading two to three inches deep, depending upon the size of the wearer. This selvaige comes at top and bottom of the frilled sash, and the lower edge can be finished with a ruffling or be gathered in and sewn down to the skirt, giving the puff effect.

Another style is made by folding a length of silk double, and side stitching it to fit the waist line. A belt of silk or black velvet ribbon is set on so that three inches of the pleats come above the waist line and six inches below. Then the effect is very pretty both over a white dress and a colored, provided the silk harmonizes with the color of the frock.

There are lots of girls who will gladly take advantage of such simple, inexpensive means of providing pretty, up-to-date gowns for home or vacation evening wear from their present wardrobe. These should look around for odds and ends of handsome materials where only small accessories are needed and for short lengths of silk that are also reduced to remnant prices. They are always to be had for the searching.

Bits of fine embroidery and organdie can be fashioned into the popular styles of collar with very little trouble. Better put in one's time upon those than the fine work some girls do upon things not seen, unless, of course, time is no object.

MARY LEE.

**For Oily Hair.**

If your hair is very oily, try dipping your brush in water and passing it through your hair two or three times a week. This will prevent superfluous oil.

## BEDTIME FOR THE NERVOUS CHILD

For children who are nervous and inclined to be restless during sleep there is no more efficient sedative than a warm bath at bedtime, followed by a brisk alcohol rub.

If this method of treatment be continued for a while the nervousness should eventually be entirely overcome, other conditions being equal.

If a warm bath is given at night, a sponge bath will answer for the morning ablutions, and in this should be dissolved a small quantity of sea salt, the effect of which is at once tonic and soothing.

It is not advisable to allow a child to form the habit of sleeping in a lighted room, even though the light be dim, for, aside from the danger attending turned-down lamps or gas jets, the child's eyes will invariably seek the flame, or if that be out of range, the reflected circle of light upon the ceiling.

This, in nervous children, produces an auto-hypnosis, which, though stimulating sleep, has none of its benedictive effects. The objection which most nervous children have to sleeping in the dark can, however, be overcome by having a light in an adjoining room or hall, so placed as to diffuse a subdued glow without being itself visible.

An important point in the treatment of nervous children, and for that matter of all children, is the avoidance of disturbing influences around the bedtime hour.

Neither ghost stories nor exciting stories of any kind should be told, nor should the child be allowed to go to bed in disgrace, unpardoned and unloved.

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## Light-weight Serge Frock.



Russian green French serge was made up into this neat and useful frock with its draped skirt, which demonstrates the new bottle line. A rolling collar and revers of Russian green taffeta are supplemented by others of white. The girde is of the taffeta. A jaunty hat was worn with this. The frame was covered with shirred silk in Russian green and the hem edge was finished with soft-tone soutache. Black pompon trimmed.

## Fads and Fancies.

The latest gettings of Siberia are the green sarnet for ribbons.

There are new French cotton crepes with delightful flower borders.

Some of the new neck chains are made of silver and copper combined.

Many frocks are trimmed with hand-embroidery done in coarse silks.

Frocks, blouses and millinery are trimmed with bands of ostrich feathers.

We see tip-tilted hats and narrow stand-up hats in the new millinery.

The newest lingerie is trimmed with pleated frills of tulle instead of lace.

Rippling tunics and raglan sleeves are features of modish costumes.

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taffeta of silvery, bloomful, chiffon-like weaves.

Some of the new sleeves define the wrists by clasping them with a ribbon.

Make your waists full at the back and front if you would be in fashion.

Some of the new models show a belted and sleeves of one material and color.

There is a little fullness in the lower portion of the skirt in some of the new models.

The smartest street costumes have the jacket of plain and the skirt of checked material.

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