

Lenten House Gowns Are Now the Talk of Paris

Some Useful Models That Are Being Displayed in Fashionable Parisian Shops.

BEHIND the rush of social events in Paris is the hum of preparation for Lent. The religious season is observed in Paris probably more faithfully than in any other fashion center of the world, but it must be observed in the Parisian's own way, and for the women that means properly gowned.

During the 40 days of denial the round of gaiety that has previously marked the social season of the winter



AN EMPIRE TEA GOWN IN VELVET AND LACE.

is forgotten, or at least dispensed with, and in place of the ball room and the theater party there are quiet little afternoon teas and receptions, for which madame makes elaborate preparation.

So at the present time the manufacture of house and tea gowns, the more sober street and church gown, is occupying the attention of the dress designers, and some beautiful models of these are being turned out of the smart shops. For tea gowns empire styles have long held sway, and the end of the vogue is not yet. The materials of the present embrace far the heavier portions of velvet in many colors and shades. This is made up with lace, chiffon and mousselines combined in many attractive ways.

One beautiful model is of velvet in a dark green shade, made with an over-dress of lace, the lace being banded with fur that is fastened to the velvet. The fur extends around the shoulders, and down the front, and also encircles the arms at the elbow just above deep frills of the lace that fall over the velvet undersleeves. The lace over-dress is held together in front by folds of silk at the bust and waist line fastened with silver buckles.

Another example of the chic tea gown fits the figure more closely and is also of velvet, with a front of soft chiffon with lace down each side, and bordered with a narrow trimming of mink. The sleeves are of chiffon, draped with lace, and there is a jeweled band at the waist line and on the shoulders.

Another beautiful model is of crepe de chine in turquoise blue with a trimming of black Chantilly lace. It is made with waist coat fronts of velvet in a deeper shade than the crepe de chine, and these are decorated with a broderie of faintly colored flowers.

A simple yet very effective morning gown is of fancy French flannel, with



A TEA GOWN OF VELVET AND CHIFFON.

tucked collar and cuffs of China silk. The flannel is in a heliotrope color, and the silk is a daintily flowered design of pink and white. The silk forms wide revers bordered by a band of lace applied. The cuffs of silk are bordered in similar fashion, but beyond this the gown is entirely plain. The illustration will give an idea of how easily such a gown may be made at home dressmaker.

There is already much of spring in the shops. During the Lenten days the shop displays are given up almost entirely to spring and summer fabrics and modes. From a general glance at the models shown thus far it would not seem that we are to be favored with any great change, but a closer inspection shows sufficient of the lesser ones to make a notable variety between our winter garments

and those offered for the coming season.

To begin with, the collars are on a new order. They roll differently, and the skirts slant differently. Yet another difference is noted in sleeves. In every form from the elbow length through a series of puff, envelope, balloon and bell shapes show a distinct difference over present modes.

The great puff, extending from a comparatively close-fitting sleeve, beginning five or six inches above the wrist and broadening into a voluminous mushroom puff of contrasting material, is to be a favorite form.

All kinds of two, three, four and five-storied cuffs, with either puffs, frills, edges, pipings or cordings, will be the new thing that will attract attention in tailor-made and cloth costumes.

The coming of pompadour ideas, the return to a period when a full skirt touching all around was worn, renews the possibility of dresses of shorter length. These full, round skirts always mean gathers around the waist, less smooth hip lines, and a disposition to increase the size of the figure over the hips, which American women do not care for.

But to return again to the winter fashions that are proving so fascinating—fashionable for the house, for the street, for the day or the evening. For street wear the short skirts with which we have been threatened are upon us.

There are really short skirts—not rainy-day skirts, either—but fascinatingly made and trimmed as any reception gown. These are of rough cloths, of velveteens and of corduroys, and are made with blouse and fancy coats.

The skirts are plaited, tucked and trimmed; made with several gores, or with attached flounce, with lines of braid or straps on every seam; with insertions of heavy lace and cut work;



A SIMPLE MORNING GOWN.

with narrow bands of velvet and with rows of machine stitching.

The blouse coat, double breasted and made so that it can be worn open to show elaborate revers, braided or embroidered or faced with fur; the belted jacket, the Louis XV. coat, the jacket with jacket fronts and position backs trimmed with heavy lace, folds of satin, brocade waistcoat, or rare fur, are worn with the short skirts as well as with the long. Velvet, satin and cloth are all used in the construction thereof.

The sleeves are larger than they were—quite full below the elbow and with fancy undersleeve. Puffed velvet is used for the cuffs and trimmings, and full fronts on the coat and in many different colorings, some to harmonize, others to contrast. With the velvet is used fancy braid of all descriptions, with a thread of gold, silver or tinsel, and with the colored stones as well. But there is nothing like the garish display of the gold, silver and so-called jeweled braid of last year.

No "Flannel" Torture.

A correspondent sends a number of the strange messages received by teachers in elementary schools. Here, for example, is one from a mother who objects to physical culture:

"Miss Brown—You must stop teach my Lizzie fysical torture—she needs reading and figors more as that. If I want her to do jumpin' I kin make her jump."

And here are two miscellaneous notes:

"Miss B—Please let Willie home at 2 o'clock. I take him out for a little pleasure to see his grandfather's grave."

"Dear Teacher—Please excuse Fritz for staying home—he had the meesella—to oblige his father."—Tit-Bits.

When Two and One Make Four.

At a school in Kent an inspector was examining a class of children in arithmetic, when the inspector asked the following question:

"Now, John, supposing I gave you two rabbits, and another kind friend gave you one more, how many would you have?"

John—Four, sir.

Inspector—No, my boy, two and one don't make four."

John (quickly)—Please, sir, I've got one old lop-eared un at home.—London Spare Moments.

FARMERS HAVE THEIR ZOOS.

Some in Winnebago and Boone County, Illinois, Raise Strange Animals.

Farmers and wealthy men of Winnebago and Boone counties are spending a large amount of money in collecting and propagating wild game and strange animals from many parts of the world, says the Chicago Daily News.

W. J. Knapp, who owns a large farm near the Freeport line of the Chicago & Northwestern railway, has a zoo of his own which has attracted attention from animal breeders in different parts of the country, and B. Eldredge, the wealthy manufacturer of Belvidere, has embarked in the propagation and protection of game animals and birds on a large scale.

Mr. Knapp began his work several years ago in a small way. A menagerie passing along the highway left a wounded bear by the roadside. Bruin had been given up to die, but Knapp took pity on the beast, carried him to his farm and nursed him back to life. From that time he has been adding to his collection until he has a good-sized zoo. There are elk, deer, monkeys and a lot of birds of fine feather. There is a pretty herd of Shetland ponies and a great pond in which there may be seen a large variety of trout. Not long ago he imported a zebu cow, which, with her tiny calf, came all the way from India. There are specimens of rare character, one of which is a loris which belongs to the quadrumanous tribe allied to the lemurs. Recently a pair of two-year-old buffalo was secured and the purpose is to breed a herd of this great beast of the prairies. A pair of lions is also being negotiated for. The care of these animals entails an immense amount of work and expense, it having been necessary to provide an animal house for them.

The effort of Mr. Eldredge is more in the line of a game preserve. He has acquired a large tract of land north of Belvidere and will probably enlarge it. He has already turned loose a herd of deer, elk and other game animals and will add to the collection from time to time. Of the smaller game there are squirrels, rabbits, quail and pheasants. The entire preserve is inclosed in a high wire fence and the whole placed in charge of a game keeper.

The farmers of northern Illinois are becoming more and more stringent in the matter of prohibiting shooting on their farms. In Rockford township of Winnebago county the farmers have formed an association, and among other things the shooting matter is handled by the association, a member of which allows no hunting on his premises unless the hunter is accompanied by a representative of the farmer, and shooting on Sunday is not permitted at all on the farm of any member of the association. The result is that hunters are giving the locality a wide berth and are establishing hunting preserves in different swamp lands in Illinois and Wisconsin.

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EFFECT OF LOVE PARASITE.

Through Its Influence Old Age Vanishes and Victims Have New Lease of Life.

Love is no longer an empty sound. It is no longer the modern fair one's jest. No longer does it warm the turtle's nest alone. A California physician has discovered the bacillus micrococcus, or love parasite, and can by inoculation make a man or a woman as lovesick as Romeo or Juliet. It matters not about age. The aged and the wise succumb to this influence, no less readily than the young and foolish, says the Baltimore Sun.

Signor Angelantonio, chancellor of the College of Notaries in Alatri, Italy, has reached the great age of 100 years. He was inoculated with the bacillus micrococcus and at once went a-courting. So ardently did he court that he took the heart of a young girl of 26 summers by storm. He married her, and so enthusiastic did she become, and so impressed with her bridegroom's sprightliness that she did not hesitate to declare that she expected they would celebrate their golden wedding.

The doctor, a reliable medical journal, in its account of this wonderful bacillus, tells about some of its effects which may well excite our admiration. The effects, it seems, manifest themselves promptly. A bachelor of 50 years dyed his whiskers the second day after inoculation and the next day ordered a new suit of clothes, bought false teeth and a bottle of hair restorer. Within a week he had a new top buggy, a diamond ring and a guitar and was reading Byron's poems. The next subject treated was a young lady, who was as near the age of 50 years as an unmarried lady can conveniently be. The effect upon this damsel was astonishing. According to the Doctor, the lady speedily expended five dollars for cosmetics and the same sum in new hair. She bought a croquet set, sent out invitations to a party and sang "Empty is the Cradle."

Cancer Investigation in Germany.

The German emperor is reported to have made an order for a commission of experts to be appointed with a view to the most radical and exhaustive investigation of cancer that can possibly be made. The deaths of his father, mother and uncle from this cause have naturally given this scourge a terrible interest in his eyes.—N. Y. Sun.

The Usual Way.

Treat a man well and he forgets it at once, but do him a mean turn and he will never forget you.—Washington (La.) Democrat.

PITH AND POINT.

The less we parade our misfortunes the more sympathy we command.—O. Dewey.

If a man doesn't look frightened when his wife informs him that he talks in his sleep she can trust him implicitly.—Chicago Daily News.

After a man has given up the struggle of trying to be satisfactory, his obituary comes along, and says he always succeeded.—Aitchison Globe.

"An Alabama lawyer shot at a client and missed a vital spot." "Why did he do it?" "I dunno. Perhaps he wanted to administer his estate."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Doctor—"Did you follow my advice and count until you fell asleep?" Patient—"I counted up to 18,000." Doctor—"And then you fell asleep?" Patient—"No; then it was time to get up."—Baltimore World.

Harry—"Now, what would you say, Uncle George, as to the right course to escape poverty?" Uncle George—"When you have got enough money together to purchase and support a yacht, don't buy it."—Boston Transcript.

Mrs. Figgitt—"My husband is a very reckless man about the house." Mrs. Droopin—"Too bad!" Mrs. Figgitt—"Yes; why, he even stepped on my Turkish rug yesterday. Just to think, I've had it seven years and it has never before been stepped on."—Boston Journal.

Coming to the Point.—Mr. Grogan—"What a power of funerals they do have at the church these days. Shure, it's shartened me thinking." Miss Casey—"Thinkin' av what?" Mr. Grogan—"That whin it come toime fur my funeral would you be the widdy?"—Philadelphia Press.

RUSSIAN POLICE METHODS.

Torture That Was Abolished by Alexander I. Extensively Practiced Under Nicholas II.

The centenary of the abolition in Russia of the torture as an organized system of legal inquiry has provided the Russian press with a text for numerous articles on the humanity and progress of their country. No doubt it was a great step to take, but it has still to be ratified in practice before Russia has any particular occasion to rejoice. In the old days the torture was applied to all suspects as a first means of inquiry; and when the unhappy wretch had been compelled to confess something—usually, as Empress Catherine expressed it, anything which was put into his mouth—he was subjected to a second "inquiry" by the same or more severe means, in order to secure confirmation of his first confession. Occasionally the whole process was repeated twice more, with a view to extorting the names of accomplices. The tortures applied were much the same as in other countries, but could be added to by the ingenuity of individual officials.

Thus, during the reign of Anne, when the ex-table boy and favorite of the empress, Bigon, was in power, it was a favorite form of torture to stand a culprit naked in the snow during the severe northern frosts of midwinter, and to drench him with buckets of water, either ice-cold or cold and hot alternately, a form of "inquiry" which had the disadvantage of too often killing the poor wretch before he had time to confess anything. Thumbscrews, the clog and every form of whipping and beating, with almost as many names for the various processes as are to be found in the dialogues of the slaves of Roman comedy, were everyday attributes of the old Russian halls of justice.

Just 100 years ago to-day Emperor Alexander I. abolished the torture as being a "shame and a reproach to all mankind." But he forgot to order the legal instruments of torture to be destroyed, and these lingered on, and were undoubtedly used for another quarter of a century. Officially the torture has, of course, actually disappeared—at any rate, those forms of it which require elaborate instruments for their application are no more to be found. In actual fact, however, says the London Standard's Moscow correspondent, and in secret, there is a great deal of torture going on in the most enlightened centers of the Russian empire at the present day and it is exercised by the police intrusted with the discovery of crime, the "detective police."

Ropes of Human Hair.

The young fellows who make their living by gathering the eggs of sea fowl on the rocky island of St. Kilda, one of the Hebrides, consider themselves rich if they are possessed of a rope made of hair from the head of the girl they love. They use these ropes in swinging from the precipitous cliffs of the island. They vary in length, one of 40 or 50 feet being especially prized. The usual kind is a stout hempen cord, wrapped round and round with sheep's wool. Over this is a coating of horse hair and finally one of human hair. To manufacture such a rope is the work of years, but the St. Kilda girl saves her combings religiously. A curio collector who wanted to buy one of these ropes offered \$125 for it, but the offer was refused. The cord in question was covered with a veneer of red hair, the result of 30 years' collection from the heads of parents, aunts and cousins.—Detroit Free Press.

Delightful Mr. Smith.

The Cook—Mr. Smith says you are a perfect fright.

The Pretty Parlor Maid—He's a hateful old thing, anyway.

The Cook—I heard him say so to Mrs. Smith.

The Pretty Parlor Maid—That's different. Do you know, I think Mr. Smith a most agreeable gentleman.—Boston Transcript.



ART OF CONVERSATION.

Ability to Direct Talk in the Right Direction Is More Important Than Flow of Words.

If you would win laurels as a bright conversationalist, first impress your mind with the fact that it is not flow of words that you need, but ability to direct conversation.

You must practice the part of stating a thought, keeping the talk general, or making the guest of honor the apparent leader.

You must draw out the timid, avoid dangerous channels and make every man and woman about you appear at his or her best, while your own efforts are confined to an occasional word to fill a gap.

When you are trying to make a company a conversational success always avoid a rattling liveliness on your own part.

Don't imagine that to be a clever woman you must be a wit. If you are naturally witty, well and good; it will crop out occasionally. But if your wit is forced, it will degenerate into mere affectation, and affectation is fatal.

Your main object is to make yourself interesting without being obtrusive—to keep yourself in the background while you direct the general conversation.

It is a wonderfully interesting accomplishment.

You learn to note the slightest change in facial expression. The quiver of an eyelid or the movement of a lip tells you a story. You see pleasure, anger, interest or dislike, where another detects no thought.

Your own mind acts more quickly as you appreciate the unspoken thoughts of others. You have the pleasure of feeling that your acquirement is not wholly selfish, for it gives you the power to understand the reserved and to put the shy at their ease.

Above all, don't talk too much. No matter how interesting your stories may be, they are not as a rule so interesting to another person as the stories he wants to tell. The skillful talker, like the really skillful diplomat, uses few words and makes them count.—N. Y. World.

FIRST LADY OF IOWA.

Mrs. A. B. Cummins, Wife of the New Hawkeye Governor, Is a Popular Favorite.

Mrs. A. B. Cummins, wife of the new governor of Iowa, is a leader in social and club circles in Des Moines. She is a woman of ability and charming personality and the late Senator Gear used to characterize her as his most formidable opponent in the senatorial contest between himself and Mr. Cummins. Her maiden name was Ida L. Gallery, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Gallery, of Eaton Rapids, Mich. She was educated in the schools of Eaton Rapids and was married to Mr. Cummins at that place in 1874. At that time Mr. Cummins was a law



MRS. A. B. CUMMINS.

student in Chicago. Shortly afterward he was admitted to the bar. Mr. and Mrs. Cummins lived in Chicago until 1878, when they moved to Des Moines, where they have since resided. Their home is on West Grand avenue, in the most fashionable quarter of the city.

Mrs. Cummins is a member of the Congregational church and one of its hardest workers. She was for many years on the board of directors of the social settlement, but has been compelled to resign owing to stress of other duties. She has been president of the Women's club, the leading organization of its kind here.

The Science of Colds.

Almost everybody one meets is afflicted with that trivial but annoying ailment, a "cold." This is one of the minor troubles of life, but it is a singularly perverse affection all the same, and one decidedly obstinate as regards its tendencies toward cure. Doctors now agree that the cold in the head or "coryza" is an infectious trouble, and therefore to be regarded as another triumph for the ubiquitous microbe. The spread of cold through a household may thus be accounted for on the scientific principle of ordinary infection. The means of cure are many. One English specialist recommends taking an opiate to start with, in the shape of 15 or 20 drops of chlorodyne in water, repeating the dose in, say, four hours. He also prescribes a Dover's powder at bedtime (say ten grains) and a hot drink, by way of encouraging skin action, provided risk of cold and chill is avoided.

COMEDY OF ERRORS.

New Orleans Woman Who Frightened and Sought Refuge in the Castle of the Enemy.

"Women are thoughtless creatures at times and they frequently get into rather embarrassing predicaments by making thoughtless remarks," said a citizen who lives in St. Charles avenue to a New Orleans Times-Democrat man. "Just now there is a good joke going the rounds on a well-known lady who lives uptown, and it is all due to the fact that she was just a little thoughtless a few days ago. She might have made a life-time enemy out of a member of her sex if it had not been for the peculiar



DOG RUSHED TOWARDS HER.

circumstances which surrounded the incident.

"She was walking out St. Charles avenue. About a block away she saw a dog rushing toward her, and a few feet behind the dog was a man. He had his right hand shoved in under his coat and seemed to be pursuing the dog for the purpose of killing it. The lady thought the dog was mad. It was a mean-looking animal, and, from the way she looked at things generally, the man was not at all good looking. She did not know what to do. Finally she concluded that she would rush into one of the houses. She picked out the largest place. She rushed upon the gallery and jerked the bell sharply. A lady came to the door. 'You may excuse me,' she said; 'but here comes a mad dog.' 'Where?' asked the lady of the house. 'Why, right there,' she answered, pointing to the dog which was being pursued by the man. 'And he is such a horrible-looking creature,' she continued, 'and the man is after him with a pistol—such a horrible, desperate looking man! He has a pistol under his coat, and she was gasping for breath all the while. The lady of the house looked at her curiously after she had seen the dog and the man. 'That dog is not mad,' she said with a toss of her head. 'That dog is simply sick. The man has no pistol. That's a bottle of milk he has under his coat, and he's my husband, and that's our dog, and he's one of the greatest and best dogs in New Orleans and—'

"But the frightened lady broke into the conversation and there were a few disdainful exchanges, but couched politely enough, and the little woman who had sought refuge in the house bowed out into the street and started toward her home."

GOOD HOUSEKEEPERS.

After All Is Said and Done, They Are the Only Girls Who Can Make a Happy Home.

To fit herself for married life, every girl should learn to fulfill the duties of a good housekeeper. No matter how old she may be, if she is not capable of managing a house in every department of it, she is not old enough to marry. When she promises to take the position of wife and home-maker, the man who holds her promise has every right to suppose that she is competent to fulfill it. If she proves to be incompetent or unwilling, he has good reason to consider that he has made an unwise contract.

No matter how plain the home may be, if it is in accordance with the husband's means, and he finds it neatly kept, and the meals (no matter how simple) served from shining dishes and clean table linen, that husband will leave his home, morning after morning, with loving words and thoughts, and look ahead with eagerness to the time when he can return.

Let a young woman play the piano and acquire every accomplishment within her power—the more the better—for every one will be that much more potent to be used in making a happy home. At the same time if she cannot go to the kitchen if necessary and cheerfully prepare an appetizing meal, and serve it neatly after it is prepared, she had better defer her marriage until she learns.

If girls would thoroughly fit themselves for the position of intelligent housekeepers before they marry, there would be fewer discontented, unhappy wives, and more happy homes.—N. Y. Weekly.

Nice Way to Cook Bacon.

The nicest way to cook bacon is to slice thin, remove the rind and lay the pieces close together on a fine wire broiler. Lay this over a dripping pan and bake for a few minutes in a hot oven until crisp and brown, turning it once. Drain on brown paper and serve on a hot platter. The dripping will be clear, rich fat, excellent for frying purposes, and the bacon crisp and easily digested.