

Fashion Letter  
By May Manton

The New Summer Fabrics.

If one were to judge from the appearance of the shops to-day he would surely be led to believe that summer is near at hand, that his notion that Christmas has only just passed is an error, that he was dreaming when he fancied the streets a mass of half melted snow and ice. By some curious evolution it has come about that summer fabrics are to be shown immediately after the holiday rush. Somehow, January has come to be a month of summer buying, of sales of dainty cotton and linen stuffs, of shirt waists made therefrom and of all that pertains to the summer wardrobe. Theory has it that dressmakers fill in the midwinter lull with their making, that wise women have learned that the spring brings its own pressing demand; further that Lent is to be planned for and that its hours of quiet are to be filled with sewing. But while I recognize all these statements as possessing force, while I am ready to admit their plausibility it still remains true that one needs sunshine and warmth to make organzies and embroidered muslins, dimities and lawns attractive in any compelling sense. We may buy, and doubtless we will buy, but genuine enthusiasm will not be found until snow disappears, and, in my secret heart, I doubt the wisdom of so general a showing at so early a date. However, whether my theory be true or false, the fact remains. Here, in these closing days of the old and opening days of the new year, all sorts of lovely materials for summer wear are being shown and certain advance styles in shirt waists have appeared. While, no doubt, we shall see more and other styles will be added as the season advances, sufficient is spread before us to indicate what the styles are to be, and ample opportunity for interesting contemplation is offered.

Never have such beautiful weaves been seen. It would seem that to the possibilities of mercerizing there literally is no end. In addition silk and cotton and silk and linen are combined in truly fascinating ways. To call such materials washable is absurd. No one thinks of sending them to the tub when soiled they must be cleaned by the dry process or lose their beauty forever more, but they are so beautiful and so alluring that one is quite willing to meet the extra cost, or to take such care of the garment that it may be worn again and again without soil. Among the novelties are a lovely cotton gloria, a most beautiful silk and cotton grenadine known as potelaise de sole. In addition old and familiar friends have taken new guises and mercerized fabrics are to be found by the score.

Among these last chevets take first place, and are varied and really elegant. White with small geometrical figures in color is a favorite. In fact, the heartiest I have seen in dainty and lawns, but color seems to be no law as to design. Stripes and all over designs have equal place. White takes precedence of all colors for the handsome waists, but pale blue and pale green on white will be worn, and many tans with black, with white and with both are seen. The chevets are handsome in the extreme. Lovely striped designs are worn with the colored threads pressed in and out, so that the two distinct colors give a richness and a depth of color not possible without. As a matter of course, they are costly, ranging from 75 cents to \$125 a yard, but they are substantial and will withstand the laundry, coming forth unharmed. Ordinary care can be taken. For shirt-waists designed for general wear and for shirt-waist gowns of light colors nothing prettier or more attractive could be asked. As both figures and stripes will be worn, there is ample freedom of choice and every opportunity for suiting the wearer's needs. Slender women can be made to look less slender, stout women to look more slim, only let us hope that each will choose aright and not change about as they are so wont to do.

Buying gowns for their beauty alone is a dangerous practice. Unworn women never allow themselves to lose sight of their special needs—and the demand they create. It is the unwise and the unwary who are led astray and who thereby bring about such direful results. Madras, too, is shown in new forms and with the beautiful mercerized surface. Some of the all over designs are not handsome in judgment, as they suggest table linen too nearly to be desirable, but there are others that are lovely and that appeal to the best taste. There are colors—who could imagine a season without—but those white ones are new, and for that reason claim special notice. There are stripes as well as scattered designs, and there are floral motives as well as conventional ones. "White linen, of the heavier sort known as butchers," is to have all its former favor with increased interest, it would seem. Waists hand-embroidered are seen in numbers, with every indication of an increase, and the material in color has the combined merit of style and durability, so that there is every reason to look for general use.

Suiting materials are beautiful and serviceable in one. We may look for a season of smart linens and cottons made with both jacket and shirt waist suits. I am told, by the way, that the more exclusive tailors and dressmakers are frowning upon these last, but believe me they will be worn nevertheless. We women are capricious, often fickle and unwise, but once a thoroughly satisfactory garment is found we are not apt to let it go. Other and newer things will come and will be worn, but the simple, severe, satisfying shirt waist suit will not easily surrender life. The new fabrics seem best suited to their needs. Linen etamines, which we knew last year, have been marvellously improved, linen crash is shown in fascinating forms and the mercerized and plain ducks and vestings are as smart as anything that could be thought of.

Natural colors are to have great vogue, but blue will be a favorite and many other tan shades and browns and blacks are seen. Black, at first thought, seems to be beating in appearance for supremacy, but some of the ducks and vestings are so woven with figures of white or color as to relieve that suggestion while remaining durable and quiet in tone. A novelty, and a most welcome one, is etamine and crash woven with a border in colors. As a rule the foundation is in the natural color the border in dull blues and reds combined to give a Bulgarian effect, but dull hues and greens are seen. The effect is most charming, although seen only in the piece as yet, one's imagination immediately pictures the smartest possible gowns. It is a bit too early yet to tell you of the cut and style of the jackets that are certain to be seen, but before many weeks I shall be able to tell you just how best these exceedingly chic materials can be used. The borders are essentially elegant and the entire effect is one much to be desired. The new fabrics are woven after the manner of canvas or heavy grenadine. Potelaise de sole is the name the importers use but whatever the name, the result is the same and undoubtedly to give a rich dark gray is compulsory, but greens, blues, and all fashionable colors are to be found. Over the surface is a dimly suggested motif effect that greatly enhances the beauty and richness. Linen with silk, we are told

BALL GOWNS FOR DEBUTANTES OF SOCIETY.



The time is at hand when the air is filled with "sounds of revelry by night." Carriages dash to and fro in all directions, leaving excited debutantes and their older sisters and their anxious mammas, to dinners, dances and opera. Lovely gowns, the result of time,

thought and expense are donned in fear and trembling, by the debutante, in calm assurance, by the more experienced members of the family. One beautiful gown to be worn by a debutante has an under-skirt of white embroidered liberty gauze,

the foot being finished with an applique of white Venetian points. The full sleeves and tucks are of liberty gauze. The over-dress is of white panne velvet, edged with silk. It is fastened at the waist with an ornate silver buckle. Another lovely gown is of white chiffon, over a black taffeta slip. The skirt is edged with black Chantilly lace, and trimmed with appliques of the lace and black velvet rosettes. The waist has a bertha of chiffon, edged with the lace, and caught up in front with a huge rosette of black velvet.

Very pretty for a slender woman is a dress of palest pink satin, the skirt being trimmed with shined ruffles right to the waist. Each ruffle is herring-boned to the skirt. A little bolero of white lace is fastened by a cluster of deep pink rosettes. A wreath of rosettes forms the sleeves, which are the merest apologies for a sleeve.

that it is, but were the confession not made one would fancy it all of the silk so lustrous, and so brilliant is its surface. It is costly. Such materials must always be used; but for handsome summer gowns I know of nothing that would give greater satisfaction.

Thinner, more delicate and dainty fabrics are here by the score. If signs fall not, it is to be a white summer, and it has been a white winter, and the white materials are so lovely as almost to defy the pen. Embroidery is to be much worn, and hand-wrought and that done by machine. Fine French muslins are shown with small all over designs, with fascinating little weaves and in stripes. Swiss muslins, too, are shown, but the French material is finer and more exquisite, to my eye at least. In addition to the lovely all over embroidered designs, it is offered in waist patterns that combine tucks with embroidery, and are as charming as can be. Organzies, in squares, organzies with stripes woven to represent lace, plumets, fine lawns, dimities. Swiss muslins, the new cotton gloria and wonderfully lovely crepes and grenadines all are seen. The grenadines have taken many new forms and are more lovely than ever before. As a matter of preference, they are striped, although so wide is the range of choice no law can be laid down. Daintily beautiful are the better sort, but in a dozen varied hues. The newer materials are embroidered polka-dot brilliant, or a silk and cotton fabric that is embroidered in self-color and has a peculiar brilliancy of its own, the color glossy, referred to above and the lovely silk and cotton crepes.

The mercerized Swiss muslins are Swiss muslins glorified, and the lovely organzies, dimities, and lawns are new in design and beauty at least. Carreaux designs are much in evidence and are charming for the tall, slender sisterhood. Pretty ones show a single shadowy flower in each square, the dividing lines being narrow and of flat color. Many of the muslins and the grenadines are in tan color, with figures of white or black and white and are very effective and smart. We may rely upon much tan or natural colored linen and upon cotton fabrics woven in the same color. Swiss muslin so treated is exceedingly handsome, figures of black and white and many fine organzies and lawns show similar coloring.

Dimities and all the simpler materials are seen in a multiplicity of designs. Dresden rosebuds and little wreaths of tiny flowers are dainty and much liked. The printed plumets is exceedingly handsome and shows many new designs, while itself a familiar friend. Floral designs on a white ground, with lace-like stripes are attractive and afford opportunity for really charming simple gowns. The flowers are of the shadowy sort, rather than aggressive, and are as lovely as can be. We long since outgrew the notion that color must be brilliant or aggressive. We have learned the secret of driving cottons if of nothing else within these past few years, and as a result, we are offered marvellously beautiful things at a very small price.

It being no longer necessary to buy the best in order to get good color and good design we should see a season of truly good dressing, but I fear some other influence will set things astray. Summer, with its light and filmy gowns, is always the season of aesthetic danger. The quiet tones of winter are far less likely to lead the unwary astray than these tempting, lovely fabrics that show such color and design. Some way the sense of relation between the colors and the design, the art of blending and combining seems to be most rare. It is not enough to choose a pretty fabric for one's gown. Each detail must be thought out with care, each bit of trimming chosen with an accurate eye. No one quality has been so powerful in placing French designers where they stand to-day as their subtle sense of color and of relation. If the women who plan their own gowns would only bear this fact in mind and study a bit how to unite and blend the tones and numbers near at hand, but for taking down notes that may come over the phone.

**To Save a Fall.**  
Curl in your toes, is the advice given to the fearful woman who dreads to slip down these frosty, icy, days. The efficacy of this slipper recipe is vouched for by a man who was formerly a freight bakerman, who says that it saved his life many a time when he was running on the tops of icy cars. The remedy he offers is a simple one. It consists only in curling your toes. The man who advises this says that he does not attempt to explain it, but that it never fails, and for the women young and old, who dislike an icy pavement it is offered for a trial.

**Care of the Eyes.**  
Eyes do not have sufficient care and attention from their owners, especially when one realizes how much is owed to them. An excellent plan is to bathe them and to keep the lids wide open while the ablution is taking place. To do this a bright silver coin should be tossed into a bowl of clear cold water. It will of course, sink to the bottom, and when the face is plugged into the water the eyes should be firmly fixed upon the glittering silver bit. Then let the eyes be kept open and the head gently moved from side to side. The men and women who will persist in this daily habit will soon find that their eyes are brighter and stronger, and it will preserve the sight beyond what is supposed to be its allotted time.

**Garnation in All Tints.**  
Garnation will be the tint of the martinee girl this winter. Fashion turns toward pink, watermelon pink, pinkish red, crushed strawberry, claret, American Beauty and pineapple red. The more indescribable the tint the more fashionable it is for these wear.

**Diet for Nervous Women.**  
An entire milk diet is an excellent thing for the woman who is troubled with insomnia. It is also good for the one who is so nervous that when she does sleep she has the sensation of falling, and in such cases exist it is well to subsist on milk alone for quite a period. A grown woman should take a pint of milk at a meal, but to keep up her strength she should take four meals a day. Instead of the usual three. People with weakened nerves require a large quantity of water than those whose nerves and brains are strong. Water aids the digestion of food by making it soluble, and seems to have a direct tonic effect. Fish of all kinds is an excellent food for women who are suffering from nerves, while, as a rule, salt meats should be avoided. Good bread, sweet butter and lean meat are the best food for the nervous. Eggs may be sparingly partaken of, but they should be thoroughly well cooked, the common opinion that raw or underdone eggs are good for weak or ill people is an erroneous one.

**Muff Ribbons.**  
Muff ribbons, with bows to match, are a new and pretty idea. The bow is made best in order to get good color and good design we should see a season of truly good dressing, but I fear some other influence will set things astray. Summer, with its light and filmy gowns, is always the season of aesthetic danger. The quiet tones of winter are far less likely to lead the unwary astray than these tempting, lovely fabrics that show such color and design. Some way the sense of relation between the colors and the design, the art of blending and combining seems to be most rare. It is not enough to choose a pretty fabric for one's gown. Each detail must be thought out with care, each bit of trimming chosen with an accurate eye. No one quality has been so powerful in placing French designers where they stand to-day as their subtle sense of color and of relation. If the women who plan their own gowns would only bear this fact in mind and study a bit how to unite and blend the tones and numbers near at hand, but for taking down notes that may come over the phone.

**Hello! Hello!**  
In this day and age, when a telephone is almost as much of the household furniture as a dining table, a telephone book is a necessary accessory. These useful trifles should always hang with a long cord to the telephone desk and a sharpened pencil should be attached to another cord. Some pretty appropriate pads have been fashioned for this purpose, and on the cover the "Hello Girl" is painted in attractive colors. That no one may mistake their use, the telephone greeting is on the outside of the pad. These are convenient not only for keeping special numbers near at hand, but for taking down notes that may come over the phone.

**Handkerchief Lingerie.**  
With two dainty handkerchiefs, a bit of lace, a piece of embroidery, another bit of insertion, and a skilful needlewoman, the most exquisite underwaist is made. These fascinating corset covers are among the latest bits of underwear. They are not difficult to fashion, and when finished nothing is prettier for a charming maid than one of these bewitching handkerchief corset covers. The first and chief essential is that the handkerchiefs must be fine ones. Those chosen should have a hem not over a quarter of an inch in depth, and inside the hem should be a delicate tracing of embroidery. The handkerchiefs, of course, form the body of the corset cover and are put together with the lace insertion, which is about an inch or a trifle more in width. The handkerchiefs are cut diagonally in two, from one point to the other. The raw edges are hemmed with a tiny hem and two halves are used for the fronts of the waist, while the others are made into the back. Those forming the front are made with the point at the waist line, that the fullness may be across the bust, while in the back a reverse is done. At the top the lace insertion is finished with the beading, and above that is a narrow edging of lace. The belt is open-work embroidery.

**Carried in the Hand.**  
Purses play a decided part in the costume of every woman, for she young or old, rich or poor, the little article is sure to be in plain sight. The correct pocketbook this year is noticeably smaller than in several seasons, and is quieter in color, decoration and design. Indeed, the gentleman likes a really unobtrusive pocketbook, and the purse this winter are rather long and narrower than those carried in the summer, and the smartest ones are in soft, lovely red, and are used conservatively, just a line of it on the edge of the purse, but the effect is exquisite. On a purse of dark rich brown leather or a narrow line of the copper is wonderfully effective. Gold is a metal that is always pretty and a slender line of this on a purse that has small gold corners makes one that no woman ever wishes to put out of sight. A smooth, glazed leather that makes up well for pocketbooks is Levant. This is a particularly fashionable article at the present moment, and when the catch has a semi-precious jewel in it any woman would be excused for always having the purse in her hand. Unique is the purse that has a place for a tiny photograph. The newly engaged girl will be pleased at this, for it gives her an opportunity to carry her sweetheart's picture right in her hand. The purse itself is very smart, having a long slender ornament on it in gold. The catch is about the size of a nickel and when it is raised it discloses a tiny frame for a pictured face.

**Jewel-Studded Corsets.**  
The maid or matron who is ultra in following the dictates of Madame Fashion now has the clasps of her corsets studded with semi-precious stones. The jewels used are of the less expensive kind, and those shown in the dainty stays are of turquoise, rhinestones, garnets, topaz and amethyst. These are supposed to carry out the thought of the delicate embroidery that adorns the body parts of the corsets. The choice of the jewel depends upon whether the delicate flowers are violets, forget-me-nots or little pink daisies.

**Milk for Enameled Shoes.**  
To keep enameled shoes in good condition the best thing that can be done with them is to wash them in sweet milk. They should be thoroughly washed with it, removing all mud or dust, and then wiped with a soft cloth. They should then be permitted to stand a few moments and be rubbed again with a dry soft cloth. This will give them a polish almost equal to new, and the enameled shoes that are treated in this way will retain their smart appearance for a long time without using any other dressing on them.

THE STEEL-SHOOD GIRL IN HER NEATEST GOWN.



Blood Red Garnet For January Girl

Written for The Times.

Within the blood-red garnet, a hue A subtle power to magnetize. And hold all faithful constant, true. After all of which, what fair maiden who owns January for her natal month will neglect to adorn herself with the talismanic gem of blood red hue? Garnets are not so fashionable as pearls, so costly as diamonds, so rare as rubies, nor so popular as turquoises, but smart ways are not lacking in which the January-born maid or matron can wear her superstitiously assigned stone somewhere about her person. The gem is most attractive and effective when it appears in the guise of a carbuncle, which is the garnet cut with a smooth, rounding top just at present a very fashionable way of finishing garnets. Blouse Sets are a useful as well as a popular way in which the January girl can wear her birthstone. She can have an entire set consisting of collar button, sleeve links, buttons for front and back, the garnet in cabochon form. Or any of these pieces can be bought separately. A smart belt pin is a gold wire, in the centre of which is a wide-open dial, the petals being formed with wonderful fidelity to nature, and set with a garnet for a gift of love than a belt pin, the slender gold wire of which has in the centre a heart of the stone of "blood red hue." The long chain, now so popular for watch, locket, fan, purse, or pencil comes with its golden links punctuated at intervals with round or elliptical-shaped garnets, or quaint little heart-shapes of garnet; other chains have their golden links strung with little pendants of all sorts of stones including the garnet of "subtle power to magnetize." Bracelets are also garnet-set. Bangs bracelets of Roman or polished gold are embedded with garnets, five or seven, discs for the fair feminine arm have a series of garnets bound together with slender links of gold. Sometimes the bracelet clasps with a small garnet heart. Rings are one of the most popular ways of all to convey birthday greetings to Mademoiselle January. The gift may be a golden band set with a single stone or with twin stones mounted diagonally, or a circle of three, five or seven gems. Cluster rings to grace the tapering fingers of maid or matron are composed of a garnet surrounded by a circle of pearls or diamonds. Hat pins are garnet adorned. Pins for the chapeau are now fashionable bridal gifts and quite as smart birthday presents. Modish hat-pins are surmounted with a ball of filigree gold in the top of which gleams a carbuncle. A lovely pin has a hemisphere of the filigree gold which supports a carbuncle, the two being bound together in a perfect shawl with a band of pearls. Another pin is formed of a lotus flower in rose gold holding a large garnet. Longons of gold, exquisitely jeweled with garnets mingled with other gems are dainty bits of extravagance for fair hands to wield. Vignettes of cut crystal have their ornate tops of gold similarly embellished—for instance in the gold top of a vinaigrette, a large garnet glows like mineralized fire, tiny diamonds and sapphires shimmering around it like stars. The designer who combined these two white and blue stones in the top of this vinaigrette for an American girl. Pendants to hang on slender neck chains of gold which are called by the name of La Valliere, the famous French beauty whose romantic life story Dumollet has recited, combine garnets and baroque pearls in dainty and graceful designs. Branches also are mounted with garnets and pearls in ways that are very beautiful, and garnets and diamonds are used together. Where in the matron's birthday comes this month who would not be pleased to receive one of these branches having a very large garnet, either circular or elliptical, surrounded with a circle of pearls or diamonds? Branches of pearls and garnets make brooches effective, and not so extravagant in price as when the regular pearls are used. A pretty pin for a young girl is a chrysanthemum formed of baroque pearls, the stems in conformity with which realistically reproduced the shape of the shaggy petals of the Mikado's pet bloom. At the heart of the flower lies a garnet.

**The Nicest Way to Shamroo Your Hair.**  
Draw the water exactly as for a full bath and get into the tub. Have the shampoo mixture ready and rub it thoroughly into the scalp. Then take a large jug or pitcher, which should be at hand, and rinse the shampoo out of the hair. You can keep the pitcher from the faucet, getting water any temperature you choose, and without any inconvenience can thoroughly rinse the hair. Twist the hair up on the head, fasten it with a hairpin, let fresh water run and take a quick all-over sponge, rinse and get out and dry the body. Put on a loose bathing gown or wrapper and proceed to dry the hair at leisure. Done in this way, one is saved much of the fretfulness that usually attends a home shampoo.

**His New Year's Diary.**  
1901. Nineteen hundred! Married—never. Thirty-three and never caught. Write it "Bachelor forever." Nineteen hundred—knotty—not. 1902. Met a mailman from the city. Courted her a month-for fun; Married her for love—or pity—Now it's "Nineteen hundred—won." 1903. Bought a cottage last September. Bills are piling higher—wheew! Thine a thousand to remember—Debts for "Nineteen hundred, too."

**Retired—The Old Year.**  
The old year is a soldier brave. Whose march is ended now. His cloak is rent with wind and storm. Their scars are on his brow. He started out a slender boy. With youthful fervor fired, But that was twenty-two months ago. And now he is retired. The frost is white upon his beard. The snow is on his head. He's aching from the daffodils. What a change!—Once fine and single! Now, in "Nineteen hundred, three!" —Aloysius Coll. In Leslie's Weekly.

**With laughing eyes and cheeks rosy from exercise, the Winter girl is once more to the front. Day after day sees her, swinging with buoyant step, to take her daily exercise at the rink, for she skates well, this sweetheart of Jack Frost, and is never more happy than when swaying slightly to the music as she glides around the rink. Needless to say, she has a costume suitable to the occasion. Her dress is of rough navy blue serge, strapped in bright red, the straps being fastened on both skirt and waist with brass buckles. A jaunty little turban of blue beaver, with a sausy aigrette at one side, is perched upon the head, and her furs are of the fashionable fox.**