Practical and Artistic Ways of Employing Odd Pieces of Fur

Old Garments Long Out of Fashion and of No Earthly Use, are Being Cut Apart and the "Good Places" Used for Trimming Winter Clothes.

HAVE you a fur garment or smaller pieces of fur among the archives of your trunks or wardrobes?

Then my dear, by all means trot them out and employ according to the hundred and one ways approved by the great designers this winter.

To say that the craze for furs as garments and garnitures has assumed the proportions of a passion with women is putting the situation mildly.

Furs are cut and slashed in multitudinous ways to add to the glory of feminine apparel.

The smartest and most costly evening toilettes, ethereal creations of chiffon and laces, are individualized by discreet touches of fur. Elegant afternoon gowns of supple cloths and velvets, turbans and large dress hats, besides all sorts of dress accessories, bear convincing proof of their extreme vogue.

Many women doubtless will not want to sacrifice their furs to the shears; but of what use are furs when impractical in their present condition? The idea of hoarding them for years, packed away where they are not doing any service except to furnish sumptuous meals for Madame Moth, is the very acme of foolishness or rather wastefulness.

Yet there are many women, sensible enough on other matters, who have in their possession old-fashioned garments, coats, muffs, stoles, pelerines and what not, who would deem it sacrilege to cut them up for practical wear.

Well, these misguided dames are doing themselves the greatest injustice, so what's the odds?

FUR EMPLOYED ADVANTAGEOUSLY

No matter how small or insignificant your pieces of fur, all may have a showing.

In coats and smaller pieces of fur as capes, collarettes, and muffs there is always a portion which has escaped the brunt of service and in many cases is quite as good as new. These better parts may be employed, being cut from the shabbier portions. Revers and collars of fur may be designed, large or small, according to the material at hand. Old-fashioned tight sleeves admit of plenty sweep for narrow collars, and the pieces remaining may go for the revers or touches on the cuffs.

Other portions are readily employed as hatbands, for crowns, facings for vests, bows or small bow-ties indeed there is no limit to the chic and attractive ways of employing pieces of fur, which, at first thought, seem impossible and impractical.

AN OLD COLLARETTE

A clever woman has just completed a most enviable trimming for a Burgandy-red cloak from an old-fashioned collarette of black astrakan. The collarette was gracefully shaped so as to form a shallow V at the throat line. (This detail was necessary, as the piece was worn and shabby looking.) The top, extending a trifle over the shoulders, was gracefully simulated an inch or two below the bust line. From this point the collarette terminated into two deep stoles. This new collarette did not meet for fully four inches over the chest, the steel shears again having removed a worn and undesirable portion. Two small bands extended over the chest, thus keeping the sides intact. Large velvet buttons ornamented with cut steel buttons decorated the front, there being eight altogether. The deep, tight-fitting cuffs were also of astrakan with button embellishments.

IDEAS IN GARNITURES.

An evidence how strongly Paris favors fur as trimming may be seen on a single page of a French fashion magazine, the organ of the French stage (for which, as every one knows, some of the greatest sartorial masterpieces are conceived); it contains many interesting examples of furs employed exclusively as garnitures.

A stunning model of London smoke velvet, combining a princess and redingote with capes, is trimmed with silver fox. The double shoulder capes and tunic skirt, besides the sleeves, are edged with fur. The muff and large circular buttons are also of the same exquisite fur.

A long, loose cloak of laurel green panne velvet has a deep pointed yoke of ermine, the gauntlet cuffs also of the same skin.

A regal Empire wrap has its yoke simulated by bands of sable, and the foot line also carries trimming of this princely fur.

Band trimming of fur is very noticeable alike on gowns, street costumes, evening toilettes and wraps.

A dashing coat suit of Queen's purple, in a beautifully soft broadcloth carried a narrow vest effect of fur, Alaska sable, Louis cuffs and an edging on the deep ruffles which formed the skirt. A foot line of fur, the wider the border the more elegant and, needless to say, costly, is a style coming into vogue, which was the acme of elegance some years ago, when tightly fitted coats, bodices and enormously large sleeves were the smart caper.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS DESCRIBED.

Two very effective examples of employing fur for millinery purposes are shown. In one instance a band of ermine outlines a late crown, a very smart way of employing a small piece.

The dress hat displays a brim outlined with fur, a wreath of roses just above forming a charming contrast. The crown of gold tissue is partially veiled by a tall white aigrette.

This chic headpiece is typical of its kind and very effective. Pink and blue roses are most always combined with brown or white fur.

When one has sufficient fur at command, very good results are obtained when combined with cloth or velvet for street costumes. As one sketch depicts, the vest, collar, cuffs, muff and hatband are all of the same fur. Little pendants of gold or silver braid lend a charming air when employed near or on fur.

A very good-looking ermine bow-tie was fashioned from an old-fashioned piece, and lined with white satin.

From the inside lining of an old-fashioned "Circular" the ermine has been called to splendid service, as is shown in one of the sketches. The cravat and border of muff, besides the cuffs on the sleeves, were cut from the generous lining of the ponderous garment of other days.

The velvet on the muff was simulated to form a fan plaited effect, thus producing one of the up-to-date shapes.

Bows of fur are admirable additions on cloth or velvet gowns, and particularly chic on Empire or princess toilettes. On many of the very elegant evening gowns of lace and chiffon cut in a deep V decollete, a bow of fur nestles within the folds, a French trick that tapers the size of the waist, which must be small and shapely according to present demands.

MARJORIE.

Comedy of a Persian Cat

A LARGE and dignified white Persian cat with a blue ribbon around its neck, blinked lazily out of the recesses of a bag on the solicitors' table at Tower Bridge Police Court, London, recently.

Two matronly women, who had been exchanging chilly glances, simultaneously manifested extreme emotion, and began to call the animal in tones of anxious tenderness.

"I will swear that is my cat! Dick! Dick! Come on, Dick!" said Mrs. Sarah Ann Brown.

"I have fifty witnesses to say it is mine, Whitey! Whitey! Whitey!" responded Mrs. Harriet Gertrude Jones. Mrs. Brown had summoned Mrs. Jones for detaining her cat, declaring that it unaccountably disappeared, and had since been recognized at the other claimant's shop.

The dignified Persian blinked impassively at the rivals, and proceeded to wash itself.

"It does not seem to take much notice of you," observed Cecil Chapman, the magistrate. "It does not even come out of the bag when you call it."

"It is frightened," suggested Mrs. Jones.

"It is my cat," declared Mrs. Brown.

Moving impulsively to the bag, Mrs. Jones took out the cat, placed it on her shoulder, and retorted defiantly. "It's mine. It never had another mother but me. You can see I am the rightful owner. It has never been out in the street but once in nine years, and that was when we moved."

"The cat and Mrs. Jones certainly seem on very familiar terms," thought the magistrate.

"Dick! Dick!" called Mrs. Brown plaintively.

"Keep quiet," said a policeman.

A photograph of Mrs. Brown's cat was produced, and a witness assured the court that she identified the animal now sitting on Mrs. Brown's shoulder as that lady's property—"because of its small face and the way its fur curls up."

"Dick! Dick!" cried the other claimant seductively, but the Persian looked the other way, and the policeman rudely exclaimed, "Shut up!"

Then it transpired that Mrs. Brown's pet had a black spot on its nose, and another on its neck. An attempt to examine the cat in court led to the animal bolting. It was chased by Mr. Corble, of the Thames Conservancy, who captured it under the solicitors' table.

The verdict was that there were no spots, and the magistrate thereupon decided that the cat belonged to Mrs. Jones, and that Mrs. Brown must pay the costs of the summons.

"Very well," snapped Mrs. Brown. "But I think Mrs. Jones might have treated me better when I called on her."

Novelties in the Stores

A NEW idea for monogram stationery is to have the letters in color done on a mother of pearl background.

Novelties in table silverware are openwork silver receptacles for holding porcelain jars of cheese. Silver racks for sauce bottles are also attractive for the table.

Geishas or morning jackets of flowered Japanese crepe, lined with silk, are to be had, tastily arranged in decorated boxes.

A novelty counter in one of the large stores shows most attractive miniatures of popular pictures framed in French gilt and outlined with rhinestones.

Exquisite silk petticoats, made with a deep flounce of English eyelet embroidery of elaborate design, are to be had in all colors.

A small leather box, containing pen, pencil, miniature ink well and a package of combination paper and envelopes, is a novelty for travelers.

A pretty thing in the way of a long scarf is made of chiffon, with a flower design border of silk applique. Another scarf novelty is of fine net, covered with gold or silver spangles.

High velvet carriage boots, in dainty shades or in black, fur trimmed and lined, would make an attractive birthday gift for a debutante. These are to be bought for $4.

Women and their Love

NOWADAYS we learn a great deal about the young men and maidens as well as those of maturer age from what some people count dry-as-dust Blue-books. It is surprising what an insight these gloomy, unattractive-looking volumes give one into modern lives, and how differently love, matrimony, and other matters which one would expect to learn about elsewhere than in official reports appear as viewed, so to say, through the statistical spectacles of commissioners, medical officers of health, and other practical folk. One would never have expected to make a study of love in the annual report of the Lunacy Commission of London.

The obvious reply of the wag will be, of course, that love and lunacy are inseparably connected, but it appears to be otherwise in these days. At all events there is ever-increasing evidence that people no longer lose their heads because they have already lost their hearts. As a matter of fact, Cupid must be having what the boys call a "thin time." He is out of date; true love, eternal devotion, lifetime slavery, broken hearts, and all that sort of thing are, in the language of the day, decidedly "off."

Whether we shall be better or worse by reason of our more rational methods of wooing and wedding must be left for discussion during the next silly season. Certainly it seems a very good thing that we are at least saving our heads; but even in this respect, it appears, woman has not attained equality with man, for the truth must be confessed that still there are three times as many females as males who become mentally deranged by love.

After all, woman remains at best a contradiction still, and one ventures to think, whatever she pretends to be or demands or tries to aim at, she will always continue to give her heart and devotion to the sex who are for ever finding fault with her.