

HANDSOME DRESSES & FOR THE SPRING WOMAN

HAT OF BRONZE
AND VIOLET

One-Color
Scheme to Be
a Guide
of Fashion,
Says the
Critic.



BY AUGUSTA PRESCOTT.

I KNOW a woman who is sensible in her dress," said a modiste whose words are law to a very high-priced clientele. "And she is the best dressed woman I know."

"Sensible dress no longer means ugly dress. It means something fashionable, sensible and well adapted to your means and standing in society. And these points cover a great deal. Dress sensibly is the first rule of the wardrobe these days. And each woman interprets it for herself."

"In my clientele I have an old lady, a famous leader of society. She has grandchildren married, but she is, nevertheless, the leader. When I make a gown for her I make it rather full around the hips, as she is seated a great deal of the time. I use shirring or tucking. I make the train long and graceful in its lines and I trim the front elaborately. Frequently I make a deep corsage or stomacher for her of satin, of mock gems, or of velvet. It is very becoming to her."

"On the other hand, when I am building a dress for a society leader of more youthful lines, I work differently. I build her a gown which is more appropriate to her style. The skirt I make after the new French models, which are exceedingly tight about the hips. Often she looks as though she were actually molded into her gown. I manage this by fitting the hips upon her and inverting plaits and stitching seams until it is perfect. Tucks are taken; there is braiding and strapping and a hip yoke, anything and everything to accomplish the effect, which is that of a glove-fitting skirt. Then comes the foot flare, which is very pronounced."

"It is sensible to wear a train in the house for several reasons. For one thing it is prettier and more graceful and for another it looks dressier. A very inexpensive material looks elegant when made up with a tight-fitting hip yoke and a long train. The style makes it appear more elegant than it really is. That is my experience in making up gowns, and I make up hundreds every year. Make them as elegant as you can."

A Woman Who Dresses Well.

"I have one customer who is marvellously sensible. I never knew a woman who could dress as well on as little as she. Her dress allowance would sicken a woman accustomed to a great deal and would seem only a small amount to the average woman, yet she dresses exquisitely upon it. And the secret is the way she buys and the way she manages."

"She takes advantage of the bargain counters. That might almost be taken for granted. She buys when things are cheap. She picks up dress lengths when she sees them. In this way she always has material in the house. Now, keen woman that she is, she is watching for the new Japanese summer materials and particularly for the white Japanese silks with satin stripes running through them. They are low priced any way and, getting them at odd sales, she saves a great deal of money."

"But her main piece of economy is to be observed in the manner in which she preserves her clothes. I have just remodeled a violet colored cloth which has visited me regularly every season for three years. I have now turned it out as good as new and for a cost of \$5. It needed a little fullness at the shoulder; the sleeves had to be shortened and velvet cuffs put on; the jacket, which was an Eton, had to have wide rolling lapels added and corded with narrow gold cord and the skirt was treated to the finest trimming of violet cording. It was very little work and the result is a new gown."

"This woman who, by the way, boasts that she never wears out her clothing, is always very well dressed. She makes it a point to be very exactly gowned—as the French say. Her station in society is such that she cannot afford to be otherwise. Her dress is a model in beauty always and she always looks as though she had just stepped out of a bandbox."

"Her first rule is to buy carefully. She pays good prices for her gowns. She buys at least two a year, and these, with her remodeled dresses, keep her looking very smart. This spring she is buying a handsome plum-colored cloth gown. Her hat is a plum-colored chenille, calculated to be worn all the year around. And at the side, which is slightly raised,

she has placed a handsome artificial bird, one of the new creations of the millinery world which will be popular this Easter.

The Woman in Plum Color.

"Throughout she is to be plum colored. Owing a pair of patent leather low shoes, she is having plum-colored uppers made to wear with them. These gaiterettes come very low over the feet and they are to be high. They exactly match the skirt, of which they are a piece."

"The suit, all a lovely shade of bright plum, is made with a skirt whose top is very snug. Around the hips there are some extra plaits set in so that the skirt makes like a full plaited skirt. There are rows of braid coming from the belt downward—all plum colored. And there is a plum-colored girdle with an amethyst buckle and there is an Eton with adjustable sleeves."

"Adjustable sleeves are things a woman should know all about, for the reason that they are so useful and also because they will be so much worn this spring. To make a pair you cut your sleeves off just below the elbow. Then you add a turn-back cuff, usually in velvet, but perhaps in this case of cloth. You have now a handsome pair of elbow sleeves. But you do not always want to wear elbow sleeves, and here is where the new wrinkle comes in. You must make a deep, handsome sleeve just long enough to reach from the elbow to the wrist. And this you must button in under your elbow sleeve. When it is in place the joining cannot possibly be detected. But on mild days, when you would wear long gloves, you can unbutton your sleeve, take it off and wear your smart elbow sleeves. The idea is certainly worthy of much copying. Many of the new French gowns will have this detachable lower sleeve."

"But to return to the plum-colored suit which is now complete even to the long plum-colored suede gloves. There must be added, to make it entirely as it should be, a plum silk umbrella. This can be bought in full size, or made to order upon your own umbrella frame. And when you have secured a dyed leather handbag, just to match, you will be as complete as one could wish to be. Your outfit will pass muster anywhere. It can be slightly altered in the fall and again next spring."

Save Your Old Clothes.

"The clever dressers are those who save their suits from year to year, making the slight changes necessary. As they accumulate a considerable number in the course of three or four years, they can always appear well gowned. There is no sameness in their appearance. Three or four suits of navy blue is not too many, providing they are all in good condition and well reshaped for the season; and the same with brown and tan and with other standard colors."

"This is quite a little sermon on dress. But it may solve the problem which so many women tackle every season of keeping well gowned on a limited allowance. Many women complain that they get tired of their clothing. They would not do this if they were to preserve it, remodel it, touch it smartly here and there with new buttons and braid, and hang it away to be worn when needed."

"But in concluding this little sermon, here is a parting shot: Don't try to remodel your gown yourself. You may be able to make up new material so that it looks very well. But you cannot handle old stuff and have it come out creditably unless you are very clever indeed. It takes the practiced hand of a professional to make an old gown look like new. The amateur will certainly come to deep grief."

Very soon it will be the street gown that is most important and the Easter parade will be under way. Then will come the hunt for something pretty and becoming and a long hunt it need not be. Sand color will be seen in all kinds of cloth and made up with brown or with pomegranate red it is beautiful. A dressy touch is given by a little velvet upon the cuffs and around the neck.

The day of the little velvet collar is returning. Nearly all the spring gowns, especially the imported ones, have velvet collar and cuffs. The latter is by no means heavy; often there is only a tab of velvet placed upon the cuff or a narrow strip around the neck, just enough to afford relief and make a bit of color.

The Colors for Spring.

Such pretty color combinations as there will be this spring! Everything either matches or is in harmony, yet the tones make such a bright note of color. In the blues there is a pretty deep blue, quite a new dark blue, and, to trim it, there comes a shade of indigo velvet which makes the prettiest of collars and cuffs. Then there is a lighter shade of blue which is pretty for pipings and for narrow bands. And, so, one gets a variety of color, yet the main tone is well preserved.

It is a very fashionable woman who stepped into the shop of a modiste the other day and asked to see the new spring colors. Some very handsome yellow browns were shown her and a variety of reds. She also saw the heliotropes and the handsome spring violets and plum colors, of which there are several.

"For my spring wardrobe," said she, "I shall select tan and burnt orange, sand brown, pavement gray and coral red. With these tones I can succeed in getting something harmonious." And she succeeded she did, for her recent street gown is charming in its simplicity. All of brown check, tiny brown and white, it is piped with coral and worn with a pony jacket of brown cloth trimmed with brown braid. Her hat is a pretty thing in brown felt with coral quills.

Another suit is in burnt orange brown, trimmed with seal brown braid, and set off with touches of black braid and a little gold. This makes a very fetching combination for the dull days of early spring.

Three women walked into a handsome restaurant the other day for 5 o'clock tea. They wore gowns that were a little too nice to be called shopping dresses, yet not quite fine enough for receptions. The dress of one was a purple plum cloth, with an invisible stripe of black running through it. There were the narrowst cordings of gold braid around the edge of the long coat, for it was a suit consisting of skirt and seven-eighths coat.

The second one wore a typical spring suit, for it was a violet cloth made with little straight pony jacket and plaited skirt. There were bands of heliotrope velvet upon the front, bordered by bands of very pale lavender velvet, while the hat was violet trimmed with bunches of the same flowers.

The Pretty New Trimmings.

The third wore a spring check. There are to be so many checks this year! It was a dainty little woolen check in coral and white. It had no trimming whatever, unless one can count a very little coral colored velvet to exactly match the checks. And this formed the collar and cuffs and the girdle also.

A great deal might be said about the new trimmings, both for day and for evening. A fashionable evening color is butter color, and there are lovely wraps of butter colored cloth, made for wear now and later. Trimming plays a very important part in the making of a fashionable wrap.

In buying a cloak or evening wrap one should be careful to get something that can be worn later. And this is not a difficult task just now, for a great variety is offered. Chiffon is not quite as popular as it was. Still, one sees very beautiful effects in chiffon over silk, with handsome hand embroidery to make a fine design. There are lovely cloaks of butter colored silk, covered with lace, with a silver thread outlining the design in the lace. This is fashionable to be worn now and later and kept for nice wear next season.

But there are more serviceable things, and among these one can count the white



A PARIS COAT

cloth cloaks, made up with many appliques of tan colored lace and ecru lace and white. They use three or four shades of lace to trim the white cloth cloaks, with the result that the cloak looks smarter and keeps clean longer.

A pretty idea popped into the head of a modiste who had a soiled old white satin waist to remodel. Taking it to the cleaner's she brought it back quite renovated. Then she trimmed it with torchon lace in a deep ecru tone, with ruffles of the same around the elbows. The waist looked like one of the new French waists just imported for evening wear.

Among the new things one can mention sand color, which this year is the color of New Jersey sand, quite red and made up with a deeper shade resembling terra cotta. Another variety of sand color is a rich brown of a hue which one might almost call mud color. Indeed, these three tones, sand color, terra cotta and mud color, formed the background and basis for one of the handsomest of spring outfits.

Buy Your Spring Trousseau.

In these days everything is a trousseau. The bride orders one for her wedding; the baby is furnished with one; the woman in Europe buys her holiday trousseau to bring home and the girl who is preparing for summer buys her summer trousseau. It means a pretty outfit of new garments, wherever and however used, and by whom.

In the new things, recently observed in a bridal trousseau, there were some which will prove of interest to the woman who is getting up her spring outfit. One was a gown of pavement gray velvet, made princess. It was cut without a break from neck to train, and was made up faultless in fit and without one speck of trimming of any kind—save around the neck. Here there was set a deep square yoke of Irish point lace with a pair of black velvet suspenders going over the shoulders and fastened with silver buckles.

The woman who may happen to have an old princess gown in her wardrobe, whether it be of velvet cloth, of silk or of any other material at all, can bring it up to date by shirring the sleeves until they are at elbow length. Shirr them on the inner side and pull them to the elbows.

Now make your yoke, which may be of any kind of white lace or of ecru or even



BROWN ETON COAT TRIMMED WITH PINK AND GOLD

up for spring wear either with or without a coat. The gown was made with plaited hips, laid ever so small and stitched ever so flat. Then came a great fullness which gradually increased until the skirt lay in voluminous folds around the feet. The waist was made in blouse fashion, buttoning down the back, and the sleeves were the conventional elbow sleeves.

But the main feature lay in the trimming, which was complicated and beautiful. Yet it consisted of nothing but hand embroidery. The waist had two empire

ers and cuffs all made of embroidery. A great many gowns will be cut this spring absolutely without necks. The fronts will be crossed, making a V shaped neck, while the back will be cut rounding and quite low. This allows for the gumpo, the necker and the chemisette; and there will be many a variety of these articles. Beautifully finished neckers will be worn, the embroidery all done by hand upon silk; and there will be beautiful embroidered yokes to be put on as one puts on the waist, separate and detachable, as ready to be worn with any gown.

wreaths embroidered in Alice blue silk. The wreaths were connected by a pretty chain of embroidered leaves. Below there were diamonds of embroidery with an embroidered ornament at each point.

The skirt had a square of embroidery upon the front and in the middle of the square was an embroidered flower. This design was repeated at each side and down the front and back and everywhere diamonds and wreaths and sprays. All was done in the selfsame Alice blue tone so that the gown was not too conspicuous for street wear, though it was a little long, being draggily front and back and sides, in the accepted French style.

Something new in a street dress was seen the other day at a women's luncheon. The gown was in sand color, and trimming it were panels of ecru embroidery put on from the belt downward. The waist was trimmed in the same manner. This was as smart as it could be, and it was another of those styles which appeal to the woman who does her own dressmaking, for it was very simple to make.

"We trim a great many gowns with made pieces of embroidery," said a modiste. "It saves lots of worry and lots of time. The customer brings the gown to us, usually a handsome piece of tan colored cloth. Then she goes away and comes back with some lovely panels of ecru embroidery, usually pieces of Oriental silk of an ecru tint with a great deal of work indicated. These pieces can be purchased everywhere, with the embroidery in any tone desired. And with these a gown can be trimmed very handsomely. We apply the strips of embroidery to cloth, to silk, and to all other materials used in dressmaking. They will be quite the sensation of the summer."

"What are the newest things?" asked a wealthy patroness languidly of her modiste.

"Tabs, madam," said the modiste. "And as many of them as you can find. Tabs are employed to trim waists, vests, sleeves and sleeve caps and tabs trim fronts, backs, belts and bodices. Tabs everywhere made as fancily as possible."

It might be remarked that, under the head of tabs, comes paillettes, bits of fringe, metal ornaments and crocheted worked pieces.

Along with the dainty effects come the new buttons which adorn all the smaller trimmings and then come the fancy ornaments which are taking the place of the buttons and which must be seen to be appreciated. Flowers embroidered upon circles of canvas make handsome ornaments for reception dresses and circles of cloth with roses embroidered thereon, so that they set out as though they were stuffed, are handsome bits of trimming for a calling dress. Then one sees the embroidered bands and the very handsome neck-