

Christmas Fashions and Small Talk of Paris

PARIS, Dec. 5.—On Christmas eve in the Place de la Madeleine will gather a host of people from every civilized clime. Crowded as this center of modern Paris is at all times, the concourse that gathers on this particular night comes but once a year. This merry Christmas throng awaits admittance into the magnificent Madeleine cathedral, all eager to assist at the gorgeous ceremony of the midnight mass.

Precisely as the great clock on the boulevard sends forth twelve peals announcing the midnight hour the electric lights flash out from the sacred edifice, the great organ breaks forth into a triumphant welcome, and the crowd decorously moves into the church. Fortunate are the lucky possessors of cards admitting them to the narrow side galleries that are opened only on high festival occasions. From this point of vantage are seen the surprised choir of a hundred sweet voiced boys and the superb altar, with its myriads of candles and flowers. Suddenly the solemn stillness is broken by a single voice crying in exultant tones the word "Bethlehem." The service has now begun, and on until the early dawn of morning the mass continues.

This celebration is a religious function which no American spending the holidays in Paris ever fails to witness. The religious ceremony of Christmas having been observed by every good Christian, the worldly side of the festival claims the attention of the volatile and gay Parisian. This year house parties will carry merriment into a number of homes. Especially will this be the case at many of the beautiful and historic chateaus and modern villas situated but a short distance from the gay capital.

The masculine contingents of these parties, like the lilies of the fields, do not have to spin or toil over their wardrobe. Regulation clothes tucked into a grip by his lordship or his man is all that is required. These lucky creatures give to the dress question, except, perhaps, to his monocle, which little piece of English adornment is driving the Parisian exquisite to even more abashment in the efforts to assume this eye attachment with a "to-the-manner-born" air.

But the feminine guest meanwhile is agitating her poor brain almost to the verge of lunacy in trying to determine exactly what to take in the way of costumes. How difficult it is to select suitable clothes for a week end visit! One does not wish to appear as if the stay was to be indefinite or that one intended to inflict oneself upon her hosts for a long time. Yet it is impossible to squeeze the requisite number of voluminous modern clothes into a small space. We travel to our destination in a tailor made gown. We require a short walking skirt and two or three wash blouses and thick boots for walking and sports. Then there is the gown, without which you cannot visit a country house, not to mention a smart dinner frock for one night and a picturesque empire gown for the other, while if the wardrobe still boasts another attractive evening dress you will want to take it to wear on the third evening. Then there is the everyday toilet, as well as lingerie, matinee, a dressing gown and at least three hats. So, you see, it is no wonder that madame is almost on the verge of hysterics trying to get much into little.

There is a word of comfort to be given on the subject, however. It is

wiser to take one dinner gown if it is really chic and pretty and appear in it every night than to wear several inferior costumes. Some people avoid many complications by dressing always in one color. Black is a favorite selection, but we often tire of its somberness, and unless the black creations are beau-

tifully mingled with chiffons, laces and expensive passementeries the effect is apt to be anything save elegant.



FOUR PARISIAN CHRISTMAS COSTUMES.

The season's materials for evening frocks are exquisite, and the Paris stage has an exceptional interest for those who like to study the caprices of fashion, particularly in ball and reception toilets. Simplicity is a striking note in these gowns, the simplicity that hides its cloak under a bushel of elaboration. It requires a creator of modes to turn out a simple dress such as Parisians have adopted this season with more marked distinction than ever. There are any number of lovely fabrics for the evening gown—double chiffon, gauze voile, crepe de chine, crepe de linon and all the different laces ranging from chantilly to malines, and not to be forgotten are the ubiquitous spangled nets in all shades.

There is a new invention, the work of one of the Tussauds of waxwork fame, by which the most gossamer

to hear a great deal of the invention later on.

Bernhardt in her new play looks astonishingly young in a long, clinging, spangled black net dress. The arrangement of the bodice is very original and may give an idea of the effectiveness of white lace on the neck of a black frock. This long collar, which reaches from the throat some distance on the shoulders, is made of embroidered lawn inserted with motifs of guipure lace. From the throat in front hangs a long scarf of black mousseline de soie tied in a bow, with the ends falling almost to the bottom of the skirt. This black scarf relieves the white collar and harmonizes with the black, spangled gown. An arrangement of this character would be ex-

ceedingly easy for the home dressmaker to accomplish, and she could compete in chic even with the divine Sarah.

Lace sashes are a feature of the new evening dresses. An adorable model from a well known Rue de la Paix house is a white lace robe covered with a veiling of clair de lune blue mousseline incrustated with alecon lace. The corsage, which has an emplacement of embroidered silver, is held at the waist by a belt of mille green taffete, while a long lace sash falls to the hem of the skirt behind.

Another toilet not so elaborate, though quite as charming, is of pale blue chiffon decorated with embroidered satin medallions edged with guipure lace and finished with a belt and ribbons of a deeper shade of velvet.

Soft ivory white silk with a flounce of white chiffon appearing under one of lace and attached to an upper skirt of plaited silk adorned with black lace medallions is a charming study in black and white. The waist is carried out in the same design.

A very simple and attractive even-

apartment on the Rue de Cersolle and awaited the arrival of the illustrious guest. At length the door opened, and Consul appeared—a chimpanzee—a monkey dressed in all the ceremonious garb of a man of fashion. He received his guests with quite the manner of a man of the world, but it was a sickening sight to see great artists and the cream of society pretending to be amused at the antics of a monkey. What are we coming to?

The costumes worn at the chimpanzee reception, however, were of interest. A recherche bolero was taken to pull long stole ends and a cozy rolling collar was one of the new styles in fur noticed. Many smartly dressed women moving in the very best circles of Parisian society cannot afford the costly sable and furs, and they do not attempt to vie with their more richly endowed friends. It is considered better taste to content oneself with a small quantity, though the quality must be above reproach. A velvet or taffeta collar edged with a good fur will give distinction and the wintry touch which is so becoming to a cloth gown.

Hats of plaited tulle and lace are the smart headgear to wear to matinees and restaurant suppers. These dainty chapeaux have bands of silver or gold galloon outlining the brim or crown.

CATHERINE TALBOT.

Jewelry Easily Cleaned.
Every few months all rings, brooches and such articles as are in constant use should be brushed with a toothbrush which has been dipped in eau de cologne. If the setting is open it must be brushed from the back. Then lay the articles in a heap of boxwood sawdust which has been slightly heated beforehand and leave them for some thirty minutes.

Gold chains may be washed in soap-suds, drying them on a soft towel by pulling the chain backward and forward, but care must be taken to pull it the right way of the curb or link. These may also be placed in sawdust, the particles of which can be easily blown away afterward. The least dampness between the links is very likely to cause them to wear more rapidly.

A Christmas Present Novelty.
A dainty creation from Paris is a chateaine opera bag. This charming novelty has the outward appearance of a small chateaine bag made up in all the fashionable leathers and mounted in mother-of-pearl or nouveau art designs. In reality it is a fine opera glass which is suspended conveniently from the lady's waist belt. It opens with a slight pressure of the finger, and the glasses turn automatically into place again. These opera glasses are easy to adjust and will appeal to every woman who is fond of the theater as a charming Christmas present.

An Appropriate Christmas Gift.
An appropriate Christmas gift for a bookish friend is the little register for notes concerning the books read. These registers have special places for the title of the work, the name of the author and the reader's "impressions." They are nicely bound in leather of different colors and are inexpensive.

Hats For Bridesmaids.
Smartly attired bridesmaids are wearing flower hats and look irresistibly charming.

A USEFUL Christmas Gift

The pretty winter dressing gown sketched is a useful and attractive Christmas gift. It is carried out in soft flannel of a lovely turquoise blue spotted with white.

A Paisley border of mingled shades of pink, green and blue trims the wide



bell sleeves and the stole effect at the neck. The gown is made in empire design, with a thick cord running around the figure directly under the arms. In this cording the full skirt is neatly gathered. The fronts are made sufficiently wide to admit of being closed at will.

Christmas Novelties.
In the shops as Christmas novelties are the daintiest little wreaths and sprays of flowers made of ribbon to be worn in the hair. A pretty bandeau of daisies, although hardly true to nature, is carried out in light blue ribbon with yellow centers. These flowers are very simple to make, and either in ribbon or chiffon are dainty and becoming little Christmas presents.

Chiffon rosebuds are not a bit more difficult to make than paper ones. Cut the chiffon into narrow strips, the width depending upon the size of the rosebud desired. Fold the strip in half lengthwise and roll over and over to give the effect of a folded blossom. Then fasten carefully at the base. Mingled with some artificial foliage, the effect is very realistic.

Celebrating Christmas In the Remodeled White House

SANTA CLAUS will hardly know how to find his way around in the new old White House this Christmas. The half million dollar improvement project completed have transformed what used to be termed a public office with stat accommodations for the head of the nation into a residence suitable in dignity and beauty of appointments for the home of the chief executive of the richest country in the world.

This Christmas will be the first "sure enough" celebration the Roosevelts have had in the White House. The tragedy at Buffalo darkened the first holiday merriment, and last year the work of reconstruction interfered with the pleasure of the occasion. But this Christmas the executive family, all of whom so well understand the meaning of a "jolly good time," will make merry right royally amid their new and charming surroundings. To Mrs. Roosevelt's exquisite taste and judgment is due in a great measure much of the interior beauty of the new White House. She herself supervised the drawing of the plans, which in every case were carried out as nearly as possible with the original ones found by the architects in the Congressional Library. These alterations have come none too soon, as most of the presidential families have made a "dash" into the perilous art of interior decoration and often with conspicuous lack of success. In a lamentable number of instances this "dash" was effected by a lot of patches and tinkering which made the White House look as though its "modern improvements" had been nailed to it with a hammer. In this latest instance the architects and decorators have worked with delightful harmony, and the original colonial scheme has been adhered to perfectly, and only in one place—that of the state dining room—has a wall partition been taken down.

The basement has felt the reforming touch most, and a beautiful oval apartment in that region immediately under the blue room formerly given over to the heating apparatus is now transformed into a charming cloak room for guests. On New Year's day the diplomatic corps and especially invited guests will enter this apartment and ascend the new colonial staircase to the east room to pay their respects to the president.

Christmas dinner will be cooked in a kitchen boasting all the conveniences domestic science has yet discovered, and the old rat trap of a kitchen Mrs. Harrison struggled so nobly to improve is now a matter of history. The new culinary apartments, together with the laundries—the latter when situated in the front basement such a constant

source of amusement to inquisitive visitors—have been removed to an obscure part of the eastern terrace, which will hereafter minister to the domestic utilities.

The finest systems of heating apparatus, electric light and plumbing in the world have been installed in the remodeled building. It is difficult now to realize that the presidential residence of the early executives was lighted by candles and whale oil lamps and heated by fireplaces and that the only bathing facilities were afforded by tubs carried by servants from room to room.

The first floor, with which the visiting American public is familiar, has been little changed, the red, blue and green

entrances to the executive mansion. It will doubtless surprise most persons to know that the Pennsylvania avenue approach is really the back of the house. When the mansion was built it was customary to face the great Virginia houses on the river front, and it was only natural that the founders of the capital should have built the president's palace on the same theory. This entrance will now be reserved for the

time each year as a present to the chief executive, regardless of party, from the poultry farm of Mr. Vose of Rhode Island. Should a large company of guests be invited to the family board the magnificent state dining room will be used for the first time on Christmas day.

Mrs. Roosevelt's excellent taste is again evident in the decoration of this exquisite apartment. Panels of beau-

tiful English oak and Flemish tapestries furnish the walls, and the unique effect is helped out by great heads of buffalo, moose and other wild animals brought down by the president's gun. A massive oak dining table capable of comfortably seating 100 guests is matched by chairs of the same wood. The serving tables, whose tops are supported by American eagles, are of exquisitely finished mahogany. A striking feature of this artistic room is the marble mantel, with its ornamental androns. But the masterpiece is the new colonial sideboard ten feet long of picked mahogany upheld by the outspread wings of great eagles.

When illuminated at night with electric bulbs in silver plate fixtures and framed in by rich curtains of green velvet the room presents a picture of marvelous beauty.

The new \$25,000 Wedgwood set of china will grace the Christmas board. This set numbers over 1,000 pieces and is beautiful in its simple colonial design, cream coloring and gold bordering relieved from monotony by the seal of the United States done on each article in colored enamel.

Nearly all the presidents have been generous patrons of the ceramic art. The Cleverlands bought extensively of table ware, and the Grants ordered for the White House an exquisite Haviland set. But the most prized is the Lincoln

china ware, which has a red border with scalloped edges and bears in the center the American eagle and the motto "E Pluribus Unum." The famous punch bowl of the Lincoln collection invariably holds the Christmas brew of punch.

The executive hostess will not have to borrow plate from her neighbors, as the White House silver room boasts a generous supply. In the line of table silver there are nearly a thousand forks of different sizes, 300 knives and 700 spoons, besides a unique collection of 434 plate, including a huge plateau of French gilt with thirty-six gift figures to be used with it. It is interesting to know that once a single small oak trunk bearing upon its brass plate the name "James Monroe" contained all the White House silver.

The distribution of the expenses of running the White House between the president and treasury is a complicated affair. The president pays for food and most of his servants, but china, household linen and furniture are provided by the government. Mr. Roosevelt buys his own horses and carriages, while the stables are maintained by the treasury. Mrs. Roosevelt, who is fond of flowers, especially orchids, has a charming new conservatory opening out of her boudoir, and as the output of a dozen rose houses is at her disposal the interior of the mansion on Christmas day will be filled with roses. At all times of the year sixteen great vases in the rooms and corridors are kept constantly supplied with flowers. Christmas carols will doubtless be played on the new \$15,000 piano which is one of the remarkable White House additions. The entire instrument is overlaid with gold and mounted upon three eagles standing on square pedestals draped with laurel wreaths.

A Handsome Christmas Centerpiece.

A centerpiece which is particularly acceptable as a Christmas gift is of brown linen worked in white. It is novel in coloring, and only a small amount of labor is necessary in the making. A large circle is cut from brown linen of a fine weave, the edges of which are scalloped and finished with a lace braid. This braid is carried in a scroll design toward the center of the linen circle. Each scallop ends with a wheel of toaro lace. These wheels may be bought ready made. The heart of the centerpiece is merely outlined with a circle of lace wheels. From these, spreading out to the edge of the centerpiece, are delicate sprays of leaves embroidered in mercerized cotton.

The brown centerpiece is very effective for use on a dining table between meals and is equally appropriate as a center covering for a library table.

DELICIOUS CAKES FOR CHRISTMAS

BLACK FRUIT CAKE.—Fifteen eggs, one and a half pounds of brown sugar, one and a half pounds of flour browned in the oven, one pound of butter, one dessertspoonful each of cinnamon and nutmeg, the grated rind and juice of one lemon, three pounds of currants and two of raisins, one and a half pounds of citron, two pounds of chopped pecan nuts and one teaspoonful of black molasses. Bake three hours and a half.

Fruit Pound Cake.—One pound each of butter, sugar and flour, ten eggs, one glassful of rosewater, half a pound of citron and two pounds of currants or seeded raisins. Flour the fruit well and bake in an earthen dish with a funnel three hours.

English Walnut Cake.—Half a cupful of butter, two cupfuls of powdered sugar and three of flour and two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Bake in layers. Filling—Make soft icing by mixing the beaten whites of two eggs with confectioner's sugar. Into this filling stir one pound of chopped walnuts and half a pound of raisins. Spread between the cake layers. A few halves of the walnuts laid on top of the cake improve its appearance.

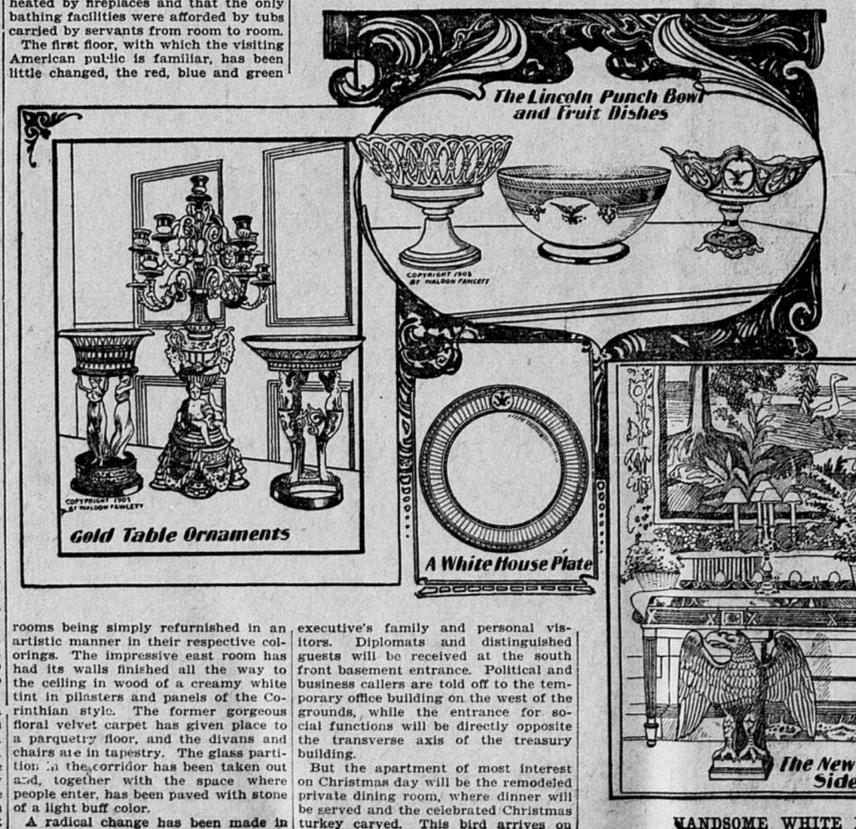
Sugar Cakes.—Half a pound of butter, quarter pound of lard, one and a half pounds of sugar, six eggs, four enough to roll out, one grated nutmeg and a little shaved lemon rind. Roll out thin, cut in a fanciful shape and cook in a hot oven.

Crisp Ginger Cake.—Take three pounds of flour, one pound of sugar and one of butter; mix these together with three tablespoonfuls of ginger, some cloves and nutmeg. Wet this mixture with molasses, roll it thin, cut in shape and bake in a quick oven.

For the Christmas Table.

The newest idea for the Christmas table decoration is a centerpiece of bright red satin ribbon. The wide, double faced ribbon is arranged in up-standing loops in the center, and smaller bows and ends finish the decoration. On some of the bows artificial or real holly is dotted, but most of the centerpieces depend for artistic effect upon their own graceful arrangement and beauty of coloring.

Long streamers radiate from the bow and end at each plate. All the shops either keep these centerpieces or will make them up in any color desired.



WANDSOME WHITE HOUSE FURNISHINGS.