

IS FASHION TO TAKE UP SHEATH SKIRT?

GARMENT CAUSES CONTROVERSY

Many Varieties and Shades of Opinion Offered--Managers of Mountain Resorts Welcome Innovation--Expert Denies There Is Psychology in Dress.

New York.—Mixed in with all the other burning questions of the hour is the problem, to sheathe or not to sheathe? You can get as many different opinions as there are people to consult. It does not seem to affect the seaside hotels so much. As long as there are beaches and bathing the importance of the feminine costume with regard to the success of the season is small.

But with the managers of the mountain resorts it is different. To quote one of them:

"It's all very well to talk scenery and sanitation, the lovely views and the good food—that used to go, but when a man can take a boat or an auto and get all these in an hour or two from Broadway he isn't going to take a hot, dusty ride for the same result. If we could sprinkle a few of these sheath skirts along the mountain verandas there is no doubt that the extremely painful sight, so familiar to the managers at present, of an Adamless Eden without even a serpent would pass away."

One of them with imagination pictures the scene as he has witnessed it and as it might be:

As Affecting Women.

"Did you ever watch a lot of women trying to make out that they are perfectly happy, sewing and playing bridge and gossiping on the hotel balcony, every one mad as a hatter because she has been beguiled there in the belief either that she would have a flirtation herself or the opportunity

of making remarks about one? Note these same women when a man is seen approaching, pretending to be indifferent if they are unmarried, and if married leveling opera glasses to see if it may possibly be husband giving them a surprise.

"If you have not had this experience you know nothing about the happy moments of a hotel proprietor's life, who is confident from past knowledge that when the cloud of dust resolves itself into a human figure it will be the henpecked swain of the most uninteresting woman in the bunch and who suffers from the thousand and one complaints which can all be traced to that source.

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When it strikes the kitchen.

The woman of the domestic variety, whom magazine editors study closely to find out what to give the world to read, asks with a deep wrinkle between the eyes that denotes unaccustomed thought: "What will happen when the style strikes the kitchen?" "It always does," she says. "Get something new and next week Aggie or Nora or Mary has it in an exaggerated form.

"Our maid at present wears striped stockings, not stripes running up and down but round and round. These she varies with large plaids and her visible means of support look like dropsical barber poles.

"I agree with my husband, who says that there is nothing more attractive than the sight of a charming l-e-m-b-g costumed in silk openwork through a side opening, but not the cook's l-e-m-b-g, if you please. I look forward with horror to the time when she will pass the soft shell crabs and the Charlotte russe in a costume of that description. No split skirts in my household, if you please."

"The physical culturist puts it on the ground of economics.

"Anything," says she, "that will save the expenditure of nervous force is to

petticoats need not be worn and the waist and hip lines should not be destroyed by a lot of unnecessary material. These bloomers fit closely to the figure and are pulled slightly above the knee—not too much, mind—and have a few rows of lace put on without very much surplus, just sufficient to give the dainty and feminine touch to a garment which is not essentially attractive.

"All the models in his place wore these bloomers at first with the sheath skirts. Now silk tights or fleshings are worn if required, as many women who wear the sheaths prefer them, just as many prefer to spoil their shape with the intrusion of the old style petticoat or drop, which should never be worn with them.

Producing the Soft Fall.

"The soft fall about the feet which is so much admired by the aesthetically inclined is produced by various devices, usually small shot which are sewed to a band of tape, which in turn is fastened to the edge of the skirt or a few inches from the edge, as preferred. Paquin used a rubber band at the knee which went around the skirt and drew it in to give the required effect when walking, and some of the sheath skirts have two rubber loops through which the foot passes, but this style, although it gives the sheath walk all right, is very trying to an active minded woman, as she must never forget them, and while she may not mind the self-consciousness she does mind the discomfort.

"I remember one of my first views of the new sheath skirt was at the Paquin establishment, and a model—one of those lovely girls they have there—began joking and laughing and insisted that she could step just as far in a sheath skirt as in other kind. She tried it and tore the costume all to pieces along the sides. After that the sheath walk was adopted, which is the necessary result of the bands and shot."

Another buyer thought there had been unnecessary fuss over the sheath skirt.

Puritanical Ideas Criticized.

"The very people who will sit on a beach and watch the short skirted swimmers, standing, sitting and running about, displaying lines and curves with generous abandon, are the very people who have these Puritanical outbursts at the mere idea of showing the same amount of figure on the street. Why is it?" she asked.

The pulpit has denounced the sheath skirt, which ought to encourage the makers, and one of the leading lights

drawing room, of the auto, not of the business or the professional world.

"A few years ago business and professional women saw in the adoption of the tailor made, the short walking skirt and various other utilitarian modes a disappearance of the lines of demarcation between classes. To-day they are looking with dismay at the chasm that is opening.

"Take the sheath skirt as example. A working woman must eliminate that from her wardrobe. She could not appear in court, at her business desk in it, not only because it would be physically impossible for her to do her work so swathed, but also because it would bring into business and professional life the very feminine element she is trying to keep away.

"The sheath skirt woman is opposed body and soul to her sex's freedom. The gowning of to-day is a challenge. Use all the arguments you have at your disposal, one woman says to her sister of the other world, and we will destroy them with the waving of a scarf and the curve of a figure in a clinging gown."

An expert on woman's dress who has given 37 years of his life to its study poochpoos the idea that there is any such psychology in dress.

"Nothing of the kind," he says, firmly. He says it as one who knows. "I do not think it is necessary to find occult explanations for such obvious facts.

Paris Needed the Money.

"The truth of the matter is that Paris is hard up. She has suffered severely from our little panic. Russia too, one of her wealthy patrons, has also fallen off in her orders. Paris hasn't known what to do and has put her wits to work to evolve something to appeal to a jaded taste and above all to the American market.

"Whether we will prove gullible I cannot say, for it is as difficult to prognosticate here as in the publishing or the theatrical world. When 'The Old Homestead' runs a thousand nights you are surprised when the people suddenly demand 'The Soul Kiss'; when the romantic drama seems to be absorbing the literary world and writers are busy studying history, the taste veers and nothing but 'Dolly Dialogues' will sell; when you think women are at last cutting out the futile and adhering more closely to utilitarian standards they shriek for sheath skirts with rubber bands to hamper their walk, as a Chinese woman's shoes bind her feet.

"One thing we do know. Fashions never really present anything new. There is only a continual turning of the wheel. The sheath skirt is not any

LATEST PARIS FASHIONS IN MILLINERY.



Already the intense desire to get away from any semblance of the round, flat sailor shape has brought about a return of the mushroom, or more properly speaking, the bowl-shaped hat. In no way the mushroom of a year ago, with narrow brim in front and wide brim at the back of the head and possibly on one side also, the bowl or bell-shaped hat of the present season is of nearly even proportions all around and the brim is only curved down slightly, while the hat itself instead of being raised up somewhat from the head rests as flatly as possible upon the soft waves of hair and clusters of puffs which comprise the fashionable coiffure of the moment. If the all-around flat effect is not becoming a slight tilt on one side will at once alter the too even lines and will give the desired height to the wearer. This style of hat in light-colored straw or lace trimmed with artistic combinations of flowers, feathers and ribbons is the one chosen for special vogue with the lingerie gowns of midsummer.

Motoring and Shopping Hat.

The second style of hat that is now in fashion is diametrically opposed in every line to the flat bowl shape, yet for the purposes for which it is designed this hat is in its way quite as smart as the other. For traveling, motoring or driving, or for the occasional day's shopping tour into town, a medium-sized toque, with unusually high crown, but a narrow brim bent perhaps down on one side and tilted up on the other, is now to be seen as an adjunct to a smart walking gown or coat and skirt costume of silk, linen, pongee or light-weight serge. When a net veil is worn—as is always necessary in traveling or driving—a small hat is infinitely the most comfortable and convenient, while for hot summer weather in the country the shade afforded by a wide brimmed hat is most grateful, and fortunately both these designs are equally in vogue at the moment.

On the whole the hats of this summer are exceptionally becoming. Even without the masses of puffs and curls which one is given to understand are obligatory if one desires to look truly sweet, even without these added points of beauty, it is always easier to get a good effect with no great abundance of curly locks when the hat nestles down flat upon the crown of the head than when it is raised up some inches by a wide silk or velvet bandeau, which in turn must be hidden from view by strands of hair plumed up over it. Then, again, while large hats are distinctly fashionable, any great exaggeration has already been ostracized, while if so preferred quite tiny hats made of feathers and lace may be worn for formal afternoon wear.

Charlotte Corday Style.

Only with the daintiest of lace trimmed lingerie frocks is the revived Charlotte Corday, with its inner ruffle of soft lace or net falling over the hair, really attractive, and only to certain types of beauty is this hat even possible, but given these two conditions and this model is altogether charming. With masses of hair, preferably light in coloring, and worn extremely soft and full about the face, a Charlotte Corday hat of white or Neapolitan straw and trimmed with delicate rosebuds or forget-me-nots, is exceedingly attractive. Made without the lace fringe and having the soft brim bent up against the crown, and apparently held in place by a long, full ostrich plume, which, ending on the left side, falls down slightly over the edge of the hat, this model is especially pretty in the pale shades of green, blue, pink and mauve, worn with a silk, a chiffon or a fine linen or batiste gown of the same tone. In shape the Charlotte Corday of the present is quite unlike the model which only three years back had such widespread popularity that it was quickly frowned upon by Dame Fashion. Where formerly the frame was oblong in shape, it is now nearly round, and in all likelihood will have become quite round and much like the one-time mushroom hat ere it

With simple morning gowns of linen and batiste white and yellow straw hats, trimmed with ribbons and feathers rather than flowers, will be worn this year in place of the lingerie hats and the stiff sailors and soft panamas of the last few summers. These morning hats border closely on the sailor shape, but a slight tilt or curve in the brim is always noticeable, and the height of crown makes the hat appear different from the conventional sailor shape. A stiffly wired bowknot of taffeta or satin ribbon placed on one side or perhaps directly at the back of the hat is all sufficient trimming, although if the hat is to be worn with embroidered and lace trimmed gowns then white or light colored quills and feathers are used in its adornment. An extremely smart hat for wear with a plain shirt-waist and separate white skirt is of rough yellow straw, with the brim bent flat up against the high crown on the right side, but on the left curved slightly downward. The only trimming is a large double bowknot of satin ribbon placed quite flat against the crown on the left side, and this bow is changed according to the color of the gown or to correspond with the shade of the ribbon belt and tie. This last model is also an excellent style of hat for traveling, made in a color to match the gown or of Tuscan straw trimmed with the correct shade of ribbon. If comparatively small in size it will be easily held on even in the stiffest gale, while owing to the lack of any feather or flower trimming there need be no anxiety experienced from either rain or dampness.

Styles in Straws.

White and yellow straws, with trimmings of the shade of the dress with which the hat is worn, are more noticeable this year than are the colored straw hats, and from an economical standard certainly this fashion is an excellent one. At the same time, a hat the exact shade of the dress is apt to make a far more effective costume, and, after all, a summer hat is not expected or required to give more than six or eight weeks' wear, and white will change color in the sun almost as quickly as a light shade will fade out to white.

Unquestionably cretonne as dress and hat trimming is but a fad of the moment, and a very fleeting fad at that, but for the time being the novelty which it suggests gives to it a certain desirableness. For a severely simple morning hat a large white straw faced with an effective French chintz of dull artistic tone and having a large bowknot in front or at one side, or directly at the back of the hat—it apparently makes no difference just where the trimming is placed—is undeniably pretty, and is conspicuously attractive if the linen suit is finished with collar and cuffs of the same chintz. While such a combination may be worn occasionally, it would, however, be a mistake to insist too heavily in collar and cuff sets of cretonne and in cretonne trimmed hats, for the fashion is sure to have but a brief existence.—New York Herald.



The negligee or flowered mull is finding great favor with milady just now.

There is a great vogue for barred materials—lawns, batistes and muslins.

The present sleeve is close, but not tight; it molds the arm without binding it.

Embroidered swisses, either flowered or in plain white, are much used in the making of tea gowns and jackets.

For a dress of silk or velveteen, the collar, yoke and sleeves may be of lace or embroidered net, and the inserted vest sections may be of bear



of making remarks about one? Note these same women when a man is seen approaching, pretending to be indifferent if they are unmarried, and if married leveling opera glasses to see if it may possibly be husband giving them a surprise.

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FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL WOMEN HAVE HELD THEIR DRESSES UP.

in the suffrage cause has come boldly forward in its favor. The stage backs and fills.

A club woman interviewed on the subject says that she considers the new style to have a distinctly psychological significance, as all fashions have.

"I consider it tremendously important as showing the trend of modern thought," she says. "Every epoch of transition and change in political and religious matters has had a corresponding reflection in the sartorial.

"Look about the streets to-day and in other public places and you will notice that the tailor made girl is conspicuous by her absence. If a sailor hat is worn or a Panama masculine in severity, like as not it is swathed with a chiffon veil and plumes and wings are added.

"All along the line you will notice a frantic effort on the part of the women to show the world that they are clinging fast to the womanly charms of seductive dress, to the frills and fancies and fads that woman has been taught to believe are the symbols of her power, and that she has little real sympathy with the republican simplicity that would be foisted upon her by a minority of her sex. She eschews everything that is severe, rigid, masculine, and riots in the distinction drawn between her gowning and that of women who are trying to waken their sex to something more important than chiffons.

newer than a gray hair or a wrinkle. During the Directory it was one of a thousand styles. Paris was mad, crazy at that time. License reigned in everything, especially in dress and manners, but even Paris did not care for the style any longer than the three months, and if dear old naughty Paris drew the line it would seem that we ought to cut it out."

New Problem of Watchmakers.

H. C. Carpenter, a representative of a watch company of South Bend, Ind., held up a sample watch as he stood in his room at the Hotel Baltimore yesterday.

"And now the jewelers have a new job—that of inventing something that will make watches used in skyscrapers keep correct time," he said. "Don't suppose you know it, but the perpendicular steel construction of these high buildings forms a magnet that acts on the wheels of the watches, accelerating or retarding the balance wheel. That's why so many watches in skyscrapers won't keep the correct time. Now the manufacturers must remedy that defect—if it's possible."—Kansas City Times.

Glass-Bottomed Boats.

At the popular seaside resort of Avalon, Santa Catalina islands, off the coast of Southern California, there is now a regular fleet of glass-bottomed boats. They are specially designed to enable passengers to see not only the fish, but the wonderful submarine growths in the Pacific ocean. In build these craft resemble ordinary row boats, and they hold from eight to a dozen persons, who sit round the "well" and gaze through its glass windows into the ocean below.—Wide World Magazine.

Simply Swing of Pendulum.

"Paris showed the same tendencies right after the simplicity enforced by the French revolution, and every crisis of history there has had a similar effect. The prevalent fashions of to-day are the fashions of the boudoir, of the