

## A VOGUE FOR VELVET LOOMS ON THE FEMININE HORIZON



Black restaurant gown.



Blue chiffon velvet calling costume.



Reception gown in green velvet.



Golden brown costume trotteur.

By KATHERINE ANDERSON

NOTHING appalls the woman of moderate means so completely as the prophesy that velvet is to be a fabric of the season. And this is the prophesy that hails from fashion's centers today.

In truth, the problem is a serious one for the woman who can afford to buy only one really smart frock, for velvet is a hard fabric to keep clean. It resents a touch of water and, unless of the best quality, it quickly loses its color and lustre.

For many generations, in fact for two centuries, it has been held that the Lyons silk-back was the one dependable member of the velvet family, on the grounds of suppleness and its permanent color. From four to seven dollars a yard has been paid by the over-particular woman for the material in her velvet gown, and Lyons velvet at its widest is not more than from twenty-two to twenty-five inches. But for the past few years there has appeared upon the market a German

velvet nineteen inches wide, sold all over the country at the uniform price of three dollars a yard, which, on the surface, cannot be detected from the Lyons velvet, retains its lustre, and possesses wearing qualities that rival those of the French manufacture.

The experienced woman buys an entire piece of velvet for her winter suit. This measures twenty-two yards, and will allow for a skirt with a slight train, a wrap, a high-necked bodice and an extra evening bodice. Even when she does not expect to make the evening waist or the wrap she buys the full piece, with the understanding that she is to return and get credit for what is left over.

This arrangement is made by the better class of shop-keepers not entirely for the protection of the customer, but for their own interests. The various shades of black which appear in velvet make matching a difficult problem, and if a woman is short a yard or so on her gown and fails to return to the store she becomes a dissatisfied customer.

On the other hand, the few yards which she brings back, if the entire piece proves too much, can be sold at the regular price for dress trimming.

All the good shop-keepers advise the steaming of velvet before it is made up, as this will insure it to a certain extent from becoming water stained.

The plain velvet weave is preferred for general wear by women of good taste. Velour is too heavy for a whole suit, though it is much used for wraps. Corduroy will be popular for pedestrian suits and hard wear, but it is not a dressy material. Panné and chiffon velvet are more supple and pliable than the plain velvet, but they are not as good for general wear. The panné velvet is glossy, with a satin sheen; the chiffon velvet has a longer pile than panné and looks as if it had been freshly dipped in water. Velvet brocades, mirror velvets, velvets ironed in imitation of moiré silk, metal and embroidered velvets are shown in bewildering variety, but they are not for the woman of medium purse.

Some of the importations of fancy velvets come as high as ten dollars per yard, but as quickly as they are imported from France they are imitated at a dollar or two a yard in the cheapest of American factory fabrics. The imported fancy velvets will play a large part in the sartorial scheme of

rich women, as they make the most effective dinner and restaurant gowns. Hunter's green, navy blue and a rich brown will be used for velvet gowns by women of limited means, but in the long run black velvet is by all odds the most satisfactory selection, as the woman with a single colored velvet gown is naturally more conspicuous than she who wears black with various combinations of lace, net and so on.

In planning her one velvet gown, the woman of moderate means must consider the circumstances under which she will wear it.

If she does not own a carriage and expects to appear on the street in this gown, she will have it made either in walking length or with a train so slight that she can carry it easily. In this case the gown should be developed on tailored lines with a Louis coat, into which she can insert a fancy vest and lace half-sleeves or ruffles.

If it must serve as a dinner as well as a calling dress the slight train is essential. The extra bodice should be made simple, and there is no better finish than a bertha of real lace. Cheap lace kills the effect of a good

velvet gown. An effective yet not expensive bertha for a woman of mature years to wear with velvet is of black Chantilly over white chiffon. Rose point and Irish point are, of course, the ideal laces for berthas to be worn with black velvet, but they are not within reach of every woman of discriminating taste.

One of the peculiarities of velvet is the fact that in the hands of a good dressmaker it will make the stout woman look thinner and the thin woman look stouter. Many women of small stature are afraid of velvet on the ground that it will make them look overdressed. In reality, if properly handled by the dressmaker, it will give them a certain petite, piquant air which appeals particularly to the masculine sex.

For women of more generous dress allowance, the velvet gown may be designed more elaborately. The train may be as long as the functions for which it will be worn demand. There is nothing more stately at the afternoon reception or the dinner than the graceful, trained velvet skirt.

The most extravagant of trimmings and the dressiest of wraps will be

used with a pronounced train. A striking combination on the reception or calling gown of black velvet is a broad band of Irish point lace edged with tiny fur heads or ornaments. For the tall woman the favorite lace band is from twelve to fifteen inches wide, run around the skirt just above the hem. Tiny sable ornaments two inches in diameter are used at the top and bottom of this lace band so close as to make them an extravagant item in the gown's composition.

Despite the decree of fashion in favor of the one-fabric costume, separate blouses will be worn with velvet skirts.

The wise woman will have a three-piece velvet suit—skirt, bodice and wrap—but she will have also several extra blouses developed on lines and from fabrics which will combine well with the velvet skirt. Spangled black nets in iridescent shades, spangled chiffon, showing metallic paillettes or embroidered in silver or gold threads, lace run with gold or silver thread—all these will be used either solidly or in combination with chiffons, nets, crepe de chine and the softest of silks. These blouses will be worn with elaborate girdles.

The long-front restaurant dinner-

jacket has many advocates among women who make a practice of dining in public places and it will combine well with velvet skirts.

Such a jacket recently imported for a successful theatrical star, to be worn with a velvet costume, has for its foundation black mousseline, while the jacket proper with long stole-like fronts and a short belted back is of solid jet paillettes. A dash of gold or gold embroidery appears in nearly all of the dressy blouses and dinner jackets.

In the costume trotteur, or smart walking suit of corduroy some striking combinations will be worn. An imported suit of this sort is developed from brown corduroy in a nine-gored skirt laid in box pleats and cut to clear the ground all around. The double breasted coat is of the Norfolk design, semi-fitting back and front, with applied pleats and a belt that passes loosely over the hips rather than the waist.

The sleeve is cut on rather straight lines, and has a cuff of hunter's green cloth which is also used on the collar. The pleats on the skirt are held down by coiled watch springs of black soutache braid relieved by a touch of gold.

## EASILY COOKED DINNER DISHES

BY MADAME DE RYTHER.

THE light housekeeper must learn to compose the dinner menu of those foods which do not have to be roasted or baked. There is almost an endless variety of dishes that may be cooked without the tedious process of roasting.

In big and even in small towns the housekeeper can always buy bread which, as a rule, is far better than can be made at home. Dinner rolls, muffins and biscuits fine and light, which are indispensable with certain dinner dishes, can also be purchased.

Many sorts of soups may be made by those who are doing light housekeeping, but as most soups require both time and careful attention in their preparation, it is better to choose those that are easily and quickly prepared, and for which soup meat and a lot of vegetables do not have to be bought.

Among soups that are easily made are clam and oyster soups, than which there is nothing more nourishing. Then there are many other light soups easy of preparation, such as onion, cream of tomato, cream of asparagus, potato, cream of cauliflower and any little soup that may be made from the bits of meat, poultry and vegetables left over from the day before.

A cup of hot consommé is always a delightful precursor to a dinner. It may be easily made in five minutes, either from extract of beef, of which there are many brands put up in little earthen jars or in small capsules. All the housekeeper has to do is to put a capsule in a cup, pour boiling water over it, let it dissolve, then season with salt and pepper, and serve. If the extract from a jar is used, put as much as is required in a saucepan, pour boiling water over it, season with a little extract of onion, which comes in small bottles, add a little celery salt, season with salt and pepper and keep the consommé hot till ready to serve. A few croûtons may be added before serving.

A delicious vegetable soup or a dainty Julienne soup may be made with any of these extracts by following these directions:

Either buy fresh vegetables and prepare them yourself, or get the dried, shredded vegetables put up for Julienne soups, which may be obtained at any first-class dealer in imported delicacies. These vegetables are prepared and packed in China, France and Italy. They are carefully selected, shredded and dried or evaporated as fruits are done in this country.

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Then they are carefully put up in paper bags of several thicknesses, sealed and labeled ready for market.

Take from the package the required quantity of vegetables, put them in a saucepan, pour enough cold water over them to cover them to the depth of two inches, set the saucepan over a slow fire and let the vegetables simmer gently till quite soft. Then add the required amount of beef extract, first dissolving it in boiling water. Add for seasoning a little Worcestershire sauce, a suggestion of sherry, a very little sugar, a palatable amount of salt and pepper, and you have a light, nutritious soup which cannot be excelled.

In selecting fish for a light housekeeping dinner it is better, if boiled fish is desired, to have a thick piece cut from the halibut, the salmon or the codfish. These fish have so little bone and are so compact and meaty that a small piece weighs more than a whole fish like bass, sheephead, red snapper and other fish that are much used for boiling.

For broiling or for pan-fried fish for light housekeeping, there are fresh mackerel, weakfish, kingfish, porgies, small flounders and fluke, small bluefish, tommy cods and many other varieties which are quickly and easily cooked.

Other dishes which suggest themselves are broiled steaks and chops; chicken and squab, either broiled or cooked in a casserole; a broiled shoulder of lamb; a dainty French steak made of the rack of lamb, tomatoes, onions, green peas, and, with or without potatoes, chicken, fritasseed and chicken fried.

In vegetables there are corn fritters, cauliflower, egg plant, corn in the ear, potatoes boiled, fried, creamed or roasted; boiled rice, green peas, string beans, lima beans, onions and many others that require little work in preparing.

Then there comes the salad. This is the easiest of all things to prepare, as it requires no cooking, and the scope of salads is almost limitless. The light housekeeper may have cucumbers, onions, tomatoes, water-cress, chicory, romaine, escarole, endive, lettuce, potato salad, fruit salad or dozens of others that may be fancied.

A good dinner may be served with just a light soup, a salad with cheese, plenty of bread and butter and a cup of black coffee.

As to desserts there is a large variety that may be easily prepared. Among them, all, not one is more easily made than ice cream.

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## The Disappointment of a Princess.

Among the women of royal blood who have visited this country recently was Princess Abbas Halim, sister of the Khedive of Egypt, with her husband. She arrived very quietly in New York and waited on board the vessel until all the curious throng had departed. A representative of the State Department was at the pier to greet her, and when asked by this gentleman where she expected to stop, the little woman replied that her secretary had the card of a hotel which had been recommended to them by Egyptian friends who had traveled in America. The secretary produced the card, which proved to be that of the Windsor, whose burning in 1899 was a holocaust of more than national horror. It took some time to explain to the travelers that the old Windsor hotel was no more, but they were finally taken to one of the fashionable hostleries of the day.

## The Modern Girl's Weapons.

The present-day girl carries about her person at least two concealed weapons in the form of the newest hat pins. The breadth of the crown of the up-to-date hat has made it necessary to add two inches to the length of the already sufficiently dangerous hat pin, and the result is astonishing. The old-fashioned gold or silver pin of seven or eight inches in length is of no use whatever in securing this summer's hats. The new pin measures ten inches from tip to handle and is made of an inflexible metal to pierce the heavy straws. Plain gold heads, either round or oval in form, are seen on many of the new pins, although some of the more expensive designs are set with jewels.

## Bracelets Coming in Again.

Bracelets are once more coming into vogue, a fact probably due to the return of the elbow sleeve for house gowns of all sorts; a charm bracelet is the latest fad, and it is hung with marvelous little replicas of famous statuary animals, insects in precious stones, and mummies, presumably bringers of good luck.

## Gift for a College Girl.

An appropriate gift for a college girl returning to her studies is a small suit case about a foot or a trifle more in length. When a girl does not live in the college dormitory, she finds this case useful in carrying her books and notes to and from lectures.

## Ropes of Big Black Beads.

Big black ebony beads are being forced on the feminine world by Parisian milliners. Ropes of them are used to encircle the high-crowned hats.

## TALE OF A JAPANESE MIRROR

CAPTAIN WILSON, who commanded a warship that took part in the battle of the Yalu in the war between China and Japan, is retired now, and lives at a club where he is wont to tell the stories he came to know while he was serving the Mikado. Not often does he fall into the mood, but when he does he seems to adopt the mental attitude of the people of whom he talks. It was when in this mood one day that he told the story of "The Mirror of the Mother."

"You must know," he said, "that the mirror is a sacred thing in Japan—they do not have the atrocious looking-glasses of western manufacture there, but bronzes of marvelous workmanship—so." Here the Captain took from his pocket a tablet of bronze wrapped in a silk bag. Only one side was polished, but it was polished wonderfully, and reflected clearly the faces of his friends as they examined it. On the back were carved dragonflies and flowers, cherry blossoms and a ship, all marvelously wrought.

"That," continued the Captain, "is a real Japanese mirror, and it was given to me at Matsuyama by a samurai whom I came to know and love. It was given to him by his mother, and it had been given to her by her mother, and through many generations it had passed from mother to daughter. Now, my friend had no children, and when he fell sick after the wounds he received in the battle of the Yalu and was about to die he gave this mirror to me and he told me the story of it. It is written in the Japanese, you must understand, that the mirror is the soul of a woman, and that it reflects her joys—yes, and her sorrows—and that the shape of the mirror is the shape of the moon, and the moon in Japan is held to be the most beautiful thing in all the world—like the soul of the mother."

"Long ago, in the province of Echigo, there lived a samurai and his wife, and they had a daughter. Their names have been quite forgotten, but the daughter was a beautiful woman—as was her mother before her—and she it was who gave this mirror to her daughter in the forgotten times at Matsuyama in the province of Echigo."

"Upon a certain day the samurai went to Yeddo as retainer in the train of the lord of Echigo. When he came again to his home he brought gifts to his wife and to his little daughter.

For the daughter there were sweet things and a doll, and for the mother there was a mirror of bronze, and this was the first mirror ever brought to Matsuyama. Then the wife, not knowing the use of mirrors, asked the samurai whose pretty, smiling face

## Royal Jewels in New York.

Many jewels owned by New York women are interesting for the reason that they have some time belonged to Mrs. Astor's collection of rings is the noted Napoleon ring, as it is called. It belonged to Napoleon III, and represents a lily in diamonds, with drops of dew upon the petals. The dewdrops are pearls. Mrs. Astor's famous bowknot of diamonds was bought at the sale of the French crown jewels.

Phillipe Egalite's sapphire ring, purchased at the Hope sale in London for several thousand dollars, was in the collection of the late Mrs. August Belmont. Mrs. Bradley Martin's necklace of rubies formerly belonged to Marie Antoinette. A good share of the late Queen Isabella's jewels, sold to pay that royal lady's debts, were bought by Mrs. Leland Stanford. One set in this collection has tiara, necklace, bracelet, brooch and rings to match. Mrs. Stanford's rose-pink diamond necklace is perhaps unsurpassed. She has also a blue-tint diamond collar; these stones, the rarest of all diamonds, emit a blue or violet radiance.

The only black diamond necklace in this country, or England, belongs to Mrs. Celia Wallace, of Chicago. She spent fifteen years collecting the stones. The gems are set with white diamonds—one an Indian stone, for which \$6,000 was paid. A black diamond is as jetty as a piece of coal, perfectly transparent, and with all the lustre of a white diamond. Black diamonds are the mourning stones of the Russian court.

One of the most perfect emeralds in the world is the central stone of a diamond necklace owned by a New York lady; the emerald was once a jewel in the crown of a Shah of Persia. Mrs. Arthur Paget inherited from her mother, Mrs. Paron Stevens, a wonderful ring which once belonged to a member of a Turkish harem. There is an intricate band woven of fine silver. The setting is a diamond lizard; in the tail is a spring, which, when touched, opens the mouth of the lizard, disclosing the little animal's throat—a mass of rubies and diamonds.

A Debutante's Wardrobe.

Among the imported outfits for debutantes during the first season is a frock of sheerest lawn, done in white taffeta. Not a ruffle is to be seen on the entire frock, but the skirt gives the effect of a shaped flounce. White taffeta ribbons will be worn with this frock.

## The Up-to-Date Girl's Shoes

WHILE Dame Fashion draws the line quite positively between summer and winter footwear, this is no reason why the economical girl should not make a canvass of the contents of her shoe box on her return to town. A woman's shoe bill can be materially reduced by giving to her footwear the same attention which she accords to her ribbon and veil boxes. If shoes of a good quality are purchased, their life can be doubled by good care.

Summer shoes should be laid away as carefully as winter furs. Rust and black shoes should be thoroughly cleaned, then oiled, but not polished. They should be set away on trees, or if their owner cannot afford a number of wooden trees, she can stuff the shoes with tissue paper or cotton. Physicians claim—and they are backed by shoemakers—that no girl should wear low shoes the year around, as the tendency is to make the ankle large, and the first of October should find the girl wearing walking boots on the street. If a girl clings to her low shoes for early fall, she can match them in gaiters of light weight, which gives her foot a neat, trim look.

Patent-leather shoes should always be put away on trees and oiled with a dressing which comes especially to keep them soft. White shoes should never be put away in a soiled condition. A paste for cleaning white shoes can be bought at any shoe shop or department store for twenty-five cents a bottle, and stains are much more easily removed now than after the shoes have stood for five or six months. After the white shoes are cleaned and stuffed with cotton or paper, they should be packed away in blue tissue paper. Any girl who has tried this method of packing away summer shoes in a neat, clean condition, will testify to the comfort that comes on opening her box at the first call for summer shoes the next season.

Many a girl discards her slippers, which have done service at the summer hops, when they can really be put to further use. House wear is harder on shoes than street wear, and the particular girl always keeps on hand a fair array of house slippers. Fancy slippers which are not quite fresh enough for party use can be utilized for house wear. If the heels are too high, the shoemaker will take off a layer or so. The slippers are then polished, and a prim little bow across the instep, with an inexpensive buckle, will give a pair of house shoes at a cost of not more than fifty cents.