

FEMININE WAYS AND WHIMS

Mme. la Mode Gives Us the "Washington"

By way of compliment to America, whose history is more brief and less romantic than that of European nations, a certain suit model is built with a continental coat, which has been dubbed "the Washington." Its salient feature is the springing lines of the coat skirt, which is emphasized into a godet resemblance and is cut a little longer in front than at the back. The waistcoat is an incorporated part of this model. It may be of plain fabric, flowered or striped, but always it is extended below the waist line, and usually it is single breasted and fastened on a sloping line.

The cuffs, too, are Washingtonian—that is, they are wide and flaring, very like those noted in the illustrations of the garments worn by the colonial officers. To wear with suits of this description there are hats of the tricorne or bicorne persuasion that give a consistent finish to the whole.

Because of the greater interest that attaches to styles and fabrics saturated with romantic history the designers have given great care to the study of antique fabrics and patterns. Old palaces have been ransacked for tapestries and laces that have not already fallen into the hands of the various governments and been made part of national museums.

As a matter of fact, the museums themselves offer a never ending source of inspiration to those interested in the serious study of dress and its relation to modern apparel. Europe is rich in its collections of antique stuffs and fashions. Perhaps it is because of this fact that foreign designers can claim superiority over American designers. Not only are the collections available on every hand in the great capitals of Europe, but the men and women interested in dress progress avail themselves of these splendid opportunities to know the sartorial past and to link it with the future.

All this is being gradually demonstrated in models advanced to take the place of current fashions. To the woman who knows her history the evolution conveys a deeper meaning than that stamped on the surface. And for that reason it is again advised that a little knowledge of dress in its more serious phase will lend a new note of enjoyment to the selection and wearing of Mme. la Mode's latest creations.

ABOUT WOMEN.

Women are now taking up proofreading as a vocation.

Over 10,000 women are now out of employment in Cleveland.

Female stenographers in New York city number over 33,000.

Four women out of six who tried for a position as bacteriologist in the Philadelphia board of health succeeded, while but one man of nine passed the examination successfully.

Her skirt is sheer and very short; Her waist is low both front and back.

No wonder, then, that strong men snort.

"Alas! Alas! A lass! A lass!"—Judge.

IF YOU WERE BORN ON WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY



gette crape with trimmings of val lace and rosettes and heading of pink satin ribbon. The kimono sleeves are cut off at the elbow and finished with deep gathered ruffles. A flat collar of dotted swiss is edged with plaited val and finished with a cluster of sweet peas fashioned of ribbon. This is worn with a dotted swiss boudoir cap which droops over the shoulders.

The illustration upon the right is of a very charming oriental evening scarf of cream colored crape. The ends are heavily fringed.

In the center is a bonbon box. It is surrounded by U. S. A. shields and contains a cherry tree of diminutive trunk and large fruit and leaves.

Now a few words about cotton for the summer.

Regardless, it is predicted, will hold first place in fashion's favor.

The printed forms will be featured. Domestic manufacturers have gone



ahead busily on these lovely fabrics, securing on a dearth of foreign imports of sheer cottons of any sort.

There will be, besides printed organdies, embroidered organdies, mostly colored figures on a white ground.

Voiles are going to be used a great deal the coming summer. There were enormous quantities of these shipped to Switzerland from France early in the summer last year to be embroidered for this year's trade. These will be available to American fashionables. Printed voiles are also good, and corded voiles will be seen, with the cords spaced single or used in groups to produce attractive effects.

Cords in cotton goods will be a phase of summer wear.

Borders in printed form are another novelty.

Of special interest at this time is the increased attention given to the perfecting of a permanent finish to popular priced cotton dress goods. Buyers who have made tests of the finish applied to popular priced voiles state that it is unchanged after repeated washings and will remain after long wear.

A GREAT many people were born on the same day as our great George Washington. Most of them are not heroes or heroines, but just plain everyday folk who like to be remembered upon their re-

spective birthdays. Women especially like to be remembered, and pictured here are three gifts which would make any woman happy.

The one on the left is a perfectly stunning negligee of pale pink geor-

NEW CHINA PLAQUES



THESE charming little reproductions in dull china of some famous Millet paintings are among the novelties found in the shops. They resemble Wedgwood and are adorably framed in dull woods tinted to harmonize with the soft colors of the replicas.

GAY HOSIERY IN FASHION. SILK stockings striped around and around in Persian affect—Persian colors arranged in irregular stripes—that do not clash for all their brightness—are one of the stocking novelties of the season.

Other gay silk stockings are variegated from toe to top. At the toe end they are light, soft gray, and they change gradually into deep magenta or deep, bright green. Another pair is purple at the toe and blends and changes gradually into deep orange.

DARK BLUE STILL FAVORITE COLOR.

THOSE who are in the business of selling clothes are interested in the fact that the buying public has not had its fill of dark blue. It asks for it as often now as it did in September, despite the growing popularity of covert, sand and beige, as well as putty. These shades are at the height of fashion, although the manufacturers say that they were not included in the color card which is sent out from the mills of Paris for spring use and which usually rules the output here. The American manufacturers, however, will make and sell these shades, and there is every reason to suppose that the women will continue to like them. For a time they have been ranked as exclusive colors; now they will go out broadcast to the continent. They are admirable for spring, giving one a little relief from the uniformity of blue, but they evidently will not oust it.

For spring it will come out in several kinds of silk, as there is little doubt that this fabric will be the one to reach around in Persian affect. The teta will again be brought forward, but women seem to prefer it for informal evening gowns rather than for everyday frocks. With a billion design of a flowered surface it will be the smart fabric for dinner frocks. It is only fashionable in light colors and in white, in black it is taboo.

There is already much speculation about the joining of soft silks and flaring circular skirts for spring, but if both remain in fashion after the French openings no doubt the designers will find some good way out of the difficulty. Much can be done by borrowing from the ideas used in evening gowns made of silk net, which now have flaring five and six yard skirts held out by a thick bullion cord. A cable cord of velvet or silk can replace this one on silk street skirts.

The advance fashions in dark blue show the usage of white satin in the way of wrinkled stock collars and wide turnover cuffs, in wide belts of white kid with pearl buckles and even in white satin hems when the nature of the frock allows it. This is a good idea for the woman to assimilate if she is given to wearing dark blue. It would brighten that serge frock she has now and make it a bit different from what it has been.

FOREST SPIRITS. THE woman of today remarks that the members of her family are all well and then says she must "touch wood" and she does it, even as the druids in old Britain sought to propitiate the trees and the nymphs presided over the trees. The druids were propitiated with gifts of milk, oil and honey by the Greeks.

Every woman, it is safe to say, has some superstition, and "touching wood" to get the good will of the spirit of the tree is only one of many from which each may choose her own particular superstition.

Has the Manikin Come to Stay?

THE manikin is a personage who has come to stay. This importation from Paris, who lends so much attractiveness to Parisian dressmaking shops and Parisian boulevards and race courses, has become a necessity, as well as an ornament, to our dressmaking salons.

She came in more or less with dressmakers' conventions and the so-called "style shows." She has remained, her function being to embody the artist's dream in dress.

She raises a slim arm and the lovely blended colors of a drapery are revealed. She turns her small well-poised head and a new neck line is disclosed. If she is clever she contrives to do these things without seeming to do them, yet every graceful pose and picturesque attitude is but a ruse to invite attention to the gown she wears.

Enhancing the artificial beauty of the mode with her personal loveliness, she is all that the dressmaker thought when she made the gown.

An essential factor in the launching of the mode, she is at once a conspicuous figure and an obscure one.

The smart world sees much of her and knows little.

Seeking to discover what sort of an individual she may be when divested of the smart trappings which she wears so bravely, one finds many times that she is just a vivacious slip of girlhood. If she is permanently connected with one of the big dressmaking houses one may encounter her early in the morning on her way to the establishment clad in a trim tailored frock, neatly shod and gloved, with a trig little hat atop her perfectly coiffed head.

Should the pink of her cheeks show a tinge too pink under the uncompromising rays of the morning sun let it be recalled that there is scant time for preparation once she reaches her destination and that before noontime comes even youth will find comfort in the fact that weariness cannot fade the essential roses in her cheeks.

For to slip from one garment into another all morning long is tiring in task, and even a silken train develops unexpected weight when one has trailed it innumerable times the length of a carpet salon.

The American manikin takes neither herself nor her profession very seriously. In fact, the manikin in this country is usually a manikin only casually, when some more important occupation flags.

The French manikin lives and has her being for the express purpose of displaying clothes. Her pursuit of her profession extends much further than the time during which she appears in public. Many a tollsome hour she spends in acquiring the fitness of dress and in perfecting her charms.

Dressmakers here are seriously considering adopting the French method of launching their creations, so it seems not at all unlikely that at an early date American counterparts of the fascinating figures which make picturesque the boulevards and cafes of Paris may be encountered strutting down our best boulevards of an afternoon or sipping tea at one of our smart restaurants.

TWO PICTURE GOWNS

TWO admirable gowns that are copied from paintings that hang in Versailles and were there when the Germans made their other raid on Paris, and settled in the palace and from there turned the king of Prussia into a German emperor have been sent over here.

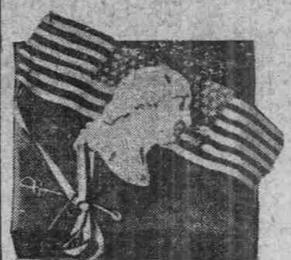
One of these frocks is of yellow taffeta, showing wheels of gold embroidery. The skirt is widely circular and much shorter in front than in back. It is mounted on a fitted, plaited yoke of yellow chiffon.

The bodice is of tinted lace in a square open pattern with a battle-ment edge, which is used as a finish to the top. This lace is arranged in a most alluring way; a single piece is handed for the low bodice over a tight lining of the yellow silk. This piece is more than two yards long, is gathered into the waist and is caught up at each side under the arm to go over the shoulder and form a kind of loose sleeve, which is merely a graceful bit of drapery. Where it goes over the shoulder it is caught by a silver eiderweiss. Between the shoulders the lace falls over on itself, draping like a bertha, back and front.

There is also a reversal to, or, rather, a strong suggestion of other days in England when Cromwell was in power in a charming model. In truth, one girl who chose this model at the first

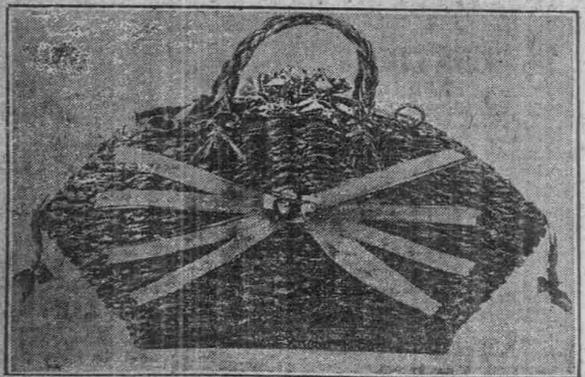
showing of frocks named it Cromwell at once, and the name should stick. It is of putty colored charmeuse, fastened straight down the back, with tight sleeves ending in wide turnover cuffs.

Washington's Birthday Favor For Child's Party



WASHINGTON'S birthday is a very popular holiday for children. Illustrated is a bonbon box to be used as a favor at a child's party.

Sweet Grass Baskets



HERE is a sweet grass sewing basket, and any woman who has never owned one of the fragrant things has no idea of the pleasure derived from one. This one is lined with crimson silk and is fitted up as a workbasket.

ORIGIN OF THE THIMBLE.

SIMPLE as is the thimble, it is an almost indispensable accessory of present day sewing, but it is only for 230 years that thimbles have existed. Before that time the needle was pushed through the cloth, usually with the thumb, without the aid of the little metallic cap. One may be permitted to believe that the needle was sometimes pressed against the table or chair, as sometimes, perhaps, the modern needlewoman supplements her thimble with a handy piece of furniture.

In 1684 the thimble was invented, and it is said it was called thimble because it was a bell for the thumb—first called thumb bell. It is true, too, that there is an Icelandic word thummal that means thumb and that, so the dictionary says, is the origin of thimble.

This first thimble, with many after it was worn on the thumb, just as the sailmaker's thimble of today is worn. His has a hole in the top, but the first little thimble was probably a little metal cap or bell that fitted over the end of the thumb.

It was not very long before thimbles had gone all over the world. Women, in these days at least, were with interested in needlework. They took as much interest in their thimbles then as they now take in the buckles for their tango slippers, and perhaps a little more, for the sort of buckle one wears does not really add much to one's comfort or pleasure, and an elaborate and costly thimble then did add to the pleasure of sewing.

It is said that the costliest thimble that ever was made belongs to the royal house of Siam. It was given by one of the kings to his queen, and it cost \$15,000. It is made of gold, in the form of a half open lotus flower—the emblem of the royal Siamese house. Diamonds and other precious stones are set in it to form the name of the queen and the date of her marriage.

An American millionaire's daughter was said to have the second most expensive thimble. Hers cost \$4,000, but she is not a daughter of this generation. Their interests lie otherwise than in thimbles.

DELICIOUS DESSERT. TAKE a dozen macaroons, put in a bowl and pour over enough hot cream to cover, let them stand a while and then beat up with a wooden spoon. Take two eggs and beat the whites and yolks separately, add to the macaroons, stirring all the time. Butter some small custard cups, pack the mixture in and bake ten minutes. It makes them richer to add a gill of brandy, well mixed in, before putting in the cups to bake, but this can be left out if one objects to brandy. In that case a little more of the cream might be necessary.

ROSEMARY FOR SOAP. RATHER than use impure soap Bernhard's feels that American women eat too many sweets and drink too much tea and coffee.

HOW TO REMOVE GRIME

IT is very difficult to remove dust. A wash cloth and warm water at best remove but little of it. If you really wish to see how much dust the face can take up in a shopping trip take a damp wash cloth when you arrive home and dip it in your cold cream jar. Then scrub your face and neck. The result is rather depressing. The wash cloth is so black that one is horror struck to think that so much dust has been carried on the face even for a short while.

If on the washstand a jar of ordinary cold cream and a jar of yellow Indian meal are kept in readiness, so as to be

within easy reach, the hands can always be kept white and soft. This is the method of procedure: First dip the hands in water; then rub on the cream; then add a bit of the cold cream on the hands, and, last, dip the hands in the Indian meal. This forms a very smooth paste on the hands, and there is just enough grit to the Indian meal to start the dust out of the pores. The hands, thoroughly washed in this paste, are then rinsed. The fingers get delightfully pink and white, and just enough of the cream stays to catch the bit of talcum powder with which they are dusted.

Child's Basket Shaped Hat



THE nifty child's hat illustrated here is of white chip straw, the edge finished with blue ribbon. The garniture is of blue satin ribbon, with small apples and leaves.