

PARIS FASHIONS

Lace Trimmed and Embroidered Silk and Chiffon Gowns and Wraps,



Elaborate Gown of Salmon Pink Liberty, White Fillet and Gold Lace Tunic, Maline Shoulder Drapery.



Evening Wrap of Shaded Green and Silver; Green Tulle Upper Section Embroidered with Silver Flowers.



Blue Liberty Satin Gown with White Lace Fichu

BY MRS. A. T. ASHMORE.

THE Lenten season is a most suitable time for the preparation of the summer outfit, and surely there could be no more chastening atmosphere than the one that surrounds the woman who tries to evolve a satisfactory wardrobe for even a fair amount of money. February 15 sees the horde of dressmakers and department house buyers in Paris, one and all engaged in selecting the only exclusive (?) models. They are home again by the middle of March, but long before that time the models arrive and are displayed to just the favored few of the many customers, and the great turmoil and strife of spring and summer dressmaking is on with a rush! It is a delightfully exciting, the styles are so markedly different from those that have been seen (sometimes); the materials are quite unlike last year's (sometimes), and the extraordinarily high prices demanded and obtained give the finishing touch of excitement and interest. But the prudent woman, even though she be possessed of a most satisfactory bank account, does not wait for the foot of enthusiasm to engulf her and to sweep away her judgment. She has had, if she be a person of importance socially and financially, advance sketches and information from her own dressmaker and designer in Paris, and long before the general public has caught on she is busy having her little gowns made up so as to have time to spend selecting carefully what she most prefers from the quantities exhibited later.

Bargains in Fabrics.

This is the season of the year for the little dressmaker, the clever seamstress who can grasp an idea quickly and who is a born artist. Such a woman is invaluable, for she can be relied upon to copy any gown she sees or make a gown from a fashion illustration so that it will have some air and style, and who only lacks experience in clothes, "knows clothes," as the saying is, to become a first class dressmaker.

The shops are full now of wonderful bargains in all sorts and descriptions of materials. Brocades, silks, satins, all the transparent fabrics and, of course, the novelties, so-called, but the latter have not to do with these schemes—it is the marked down fabrics of last autumn and this winter that are selected and made up into the most attractive and fascinating, or, as one woman says, the most aggravating of inexpensive gowns. Exact copies one-third the price asked for the original model only a few short weeks ago and the model gowns themselves, marked down to unbelievably low cost, are worth inspection, often requiring merely the outlay of a few dollars to put them in perfect order.

Unquestionably are we threatened with paniers, furbles, founces and ruffles without number, and the long, graceful lines may soon be lost under the on-



Front View of Afternoon Gowns in Pansy Tones or Violet.

slaught of the elaborate and "fussy" styles that are contemplated. The absolutely plain skirt was long ago doomed. Whether the many founced model will take its place remains to be seen.

The elbow sleeves are finished with two of the same ruffles. The belt is placed high in accordance with the short waist and is trimmed with a wide fichu of fine white lace. Down the front of the gown is a succession of stiff bows, much in the same order as are seen on slipper. As may be easily understood, this style of gown affords an unexampled opportunity for dressmakers to demand higher prices on account of the high cost of skilled labor, such as is necessary for the making of ruffles.

Embroideries are to be as fashionable as ever, but there is a decided modification of the overdone, too conspicuous work in favor of much simpler and more artistic patterns. The embroidered muslins are fascinatingly attractive, while in soft satin, crêpe de Chine, mousseline de soie and chiffon there is an endless variety. A most popular model for a simple evening gown appeared late this winter and is now being copied for the summer. The gown is of liberty satin, pale pink, with overdress of white mousseline de soie embroidered in pink silk and finished with a narrow half fringe.

The waist is on the severe order that is most becoming to a good figure, and while the waist line is high, it is placed to give the best and longest lines to the skirt. This gown is one of the best models for the over-skirt of a different material, and the skirt can be taken as a good one to copy in darker materials for the street, only then it must be made short.

Exaggerated simplicity is to be a marked note in fashions for the summer. Expensive materials are tucked and gathered so that the beauty of the fabric is quite lost, and the most inexpensive of materials are trimmed with costly laces, while in absurd contrast there are the most expensive materials combined with imitation laces and embroidery—the so-called Hamburg edging, a machine-made eyelet embroidery is, for instance, fashionable and trim. India silk and satin street gowns. There is a model that for some unknown reason has achieved popularity,

that at first glance looks like a tennis or simple morning gown, but which a second glance reveals to be a quite expensive gown. It is made of finest pink mousseline de soie, trimmed with guipure lace, a wide band finished with silk fringe, that shows beneath the lace edge that is 1 1/2 deep points.

One of these pretty French afternoon gowns composed of several layers and tones of chiffon, and which have become so popular for wear under the fur coats, or elaborate afternoon carriage wraps, has, over the princess foundation slips of white satin, several veerings hung and draped, of pansy colorings from mauve to violet. There is a touch of embroidery on the narrow and inconspicuous belt that defines, rather than accents, the waist line, which, with an attractive little turned about collar jabot, completes a graceful gown of elaborate and artistic simplicity.



Back View of Afternoon Gown in Pansy Tones; the Foundation is of White Silk.

fashion, we may soon expect to see many striking examples with the return of the American buyers and dressmakers from Paris, for the latest models are heavily lace trimmed. Like the tunic of white fillet lace, combined with gold lace, here shown, the under dress of salmon pink satin, veiled with maline set over the shoulders, is plainly visible only below the tunic.

Lace in Demand.
Lace and embroidered robes, laces and embroideries in the all-over designs, were never more in demand than at the present moment. Putting white over color brings out the pattern of the lace marvellously, while the unique idea of combining white and black lace is most cleverly worked out. In these days, when the low cut evening gown is accepted as obligatory for restaurant dining or for the theatre, many more evening gowns are required in a season's outfit, and lace and satin gowns are most popular. The same gown copied all in black and white is most effective with silver embroidered black lace or all silver substituted for the gold. This last makes a more sombre gown, but an even smarter one than with the pink satin.

Evening wraps are becoming more and more gorgeous. Made of rich silk, satin and tapestry weaves, with gold and metallic designs, or, like the one here pictured, of green silk so heavily interwoven with silver threads, its green transparent tissue, embroidered with silver flowers, it becomes a shimmering mass of beautiful lights when slipped over the elaborate evening gown that takes on an added lustre from its glittering proximity. The early models were fur-trimmed, and now some of the later ones show wide velvet facing bands and deep cape-like revers.

Coiffures Concealing Ears Grow in Popularity.
THE fashion of wearing the hair so that it entirely covers the ears is gaining popularity in Paris to such an extent that now hardly a woman is to be discovered among those who make any attempt to keep up with the fashions who has so much as an ear tip showing. All sorts of devices are resorted to to make this style acceptable to the majority of women, to whom it is not naturally becoming. The girl with a low forehead and round face is best able to wear this style of coiffure easily and becomingly, as she has only to part her hair in the middle and bring it down over the forehead, using it in a low knot in the back to complete a very attractive arrangement. But for the woman with a high forehead and a narrow face there is no end of difficulty in arranging her hair to be both becoming and smart. Sometimes she parts her hair on one side, waves it and allows it to fall over her forehead in a deep, wavy puff before carrying over the ears. She also resorts to the fringe across the forehead, using it in connection with hair parted in the middle and fastened on the nape of the neck in a loose, curling knot. It is possible to pull the long hair down around the forehead and ears after it has been curled and fluffed sufficiently and then fasten it down with a bandeau. The ends of the hair are then heaped on top of the head in soft puffs. So exaggerated has this fashion become that sometimes the hair is brought half way across the cheek in front of the ears, and the effect when it is flattened down is almost that of Lord Fauntleroy curls, or, when the hair is straighter, of side whiskers. This exaggeration, however, the woman of good taste is bound to avoid.