

"At Home" Gowns for Winter Afternoons

TO THE woman who has an afternoon "at home" the selection of her gown should be a matter of vital importance. "It should set the keynote of the 'at home,'" said a well known woman of fashion. "It should decide whether it is intended to be a cosy half hour over the 4 o'clock teacups, or an elaborate 'crush.' In the former case she should select something which is sweetly simple, but for the latter nothing can be too regal, too costly. The gown can thus run the gamut from inexpensive silk wools and velvets, through every grade of chiffon, silk and velvet extravagance."

It is noticeable that the fashionable arbiter makes no mention of the once popular tea-gown. It is a thing of the past. In England dainty lace and net coffee jackets over silk slips of white or some brilliant shade have usurped its place. On this side of the water there has been no substitute. The fall brides will have negligees of bewildering beauty, but these are for boudoir wear only.

For her first "at home" the bride picks out her prettiest reception gown, for then she makes her first bow as a married woman, and it behooves her to support the new dignity in a suitable fashion. One of the late brides who is "at home" every Friday afternoon has thus far not repeated a single gown. Perhaps the prettiest of the series is a dress of panne velvet of the most delicate apricot shade, combined with white lace spangled with opalescent tints and medallions of Venetian point.

The spirit is of spangled lace. It seems a pity to cover such loveliness, but it is trimmed with shaped, graduated flounces of the velvet. The spangled lace is worn over a silk foundation of the same apricot shade, so that the effect is delightful. The

flounces themselves are again encrusted with lace medallions and headed and finished by narrow edging of the same pattern lace. The full corsage is also of the lace, but is again covered by an unusually long bertha flounce of the medallion encrusted velvet. This part in the front by an interval of three inches, which is bridged by three velvet straps, studded with opal and silver buttons. The bouffant sleeves are of white chiffon run with many tiny ruffles, each finished off by a narrow fold of velvet. The deep cuffs are of the spangled lace and extend far over the hand.

This style of cuff has a marked popularity for the moment. It is not every woman who has a pretty wrist. For such a woman the cuff covers something which she would fain conceal. In any case, the hand seems more delicate and slender when thus appearing between the soft folds of chiffon or lace.

Lace ruffles are used for the same purpose and with even more graceful effect. A simple gown can be quite transformed by a bertha of lace and chiffon, with wrist ruffles to match. The shops are showing these sets at every price and in every style. The prettiest ruffles are of accordion pleated chiffon, but lace is more durable, if more costly.

White will be worn at receptions by women of every age. The time is past when black or gray was the only shade permissible to the woman past middle age. It was the Vienna fashion makers who discovered that white had a far more softening effect to the old face than the more uncompromising black. American mothers and grandmothers are gaining courage to follow their example.

White cloth is one of the prettiest fabrics for the reception gown, especially

if it is relieved with embroidery or insertions of some contrasting tint.

A charming afternoon toilette is of ivory white nun's veiling, trimmed with applique bands of the same fabric hand embroidered in sage green and dull gold. The clinging skirt is divided into panels by triple groups of narrow tucks. Narrower stitched panels come up to meet these from the bottom and the meeting point is marked by a green and gold button. These stitched panels are of graduated height, so that something of a flounce effect is given to the bottom of the skirt.

The tucked waist has a V shape yoke or shallow vest of cream lace over white taffeta. The blouse fastens over this, surplice fashion, and the edge is cut out in odd points and trimmed with the hand embroidered bands. The points of the bands are finished off by green and gold tassels. The sleeves are tight fitting to the elbow and adorned by short stitched tabs, held in place by buttons. Below the elbow each sleeve widens out into a decided puff, but this is soon drawn into a narrow, embroidered band cuff. This outer sleeve only reaches to the wrist, while a tight fitting under sleeve or cuff extends far down over the hand in the fashion described above.

White is often first choice in selecting a gown, because it makes a pleasant background for the pastel colored appliques now so much in vogue. The embroidered flowers for applique are particularly lovely. Indeed, it would take an expert to distinguish them from real handworked embroidery. They can be had in roses of many shades and in many-hued chrysanthemums. The new French heliotrope shade is as delicate as the perfume of the flower from which it is named.

A fetching white gown is applique with chrysanthemums of this fashionable nu-

ance. There are buds as well as full rounded flowers, and they are sprinkled lavishly over the skirt flounce and on the smart bolero. These applique flowers are particularly effective on both lace and chiffon.

Since black velvet has developed into one of the season's favorites, it is being used for reception dresses not only by milady, but also by her debutante daughter. Nothing is more striking than a sumptuous velvet made in a princess fashion and untrimmed except for some lace garnishings in the form of a cape collar or bertha.

An effective black velvet gown has a yoke of hand-meshed silk netting. The oddly shaped bertha is edged with black taffeta ribbon ruchings and finished with a deep fringe. The fullness of the waist is drawn down under a high girdle of black taffeta. This is well boned and shaped to the figure. The sweeping skirt is shirred into the band. It is trimmed in flounce effect by ribbon ruchings, while a ruching edged band of black passementerie forms the hem at the bottom. The widely flaring sleeve is similarly decorated, though its beauty is lost sight of when its flare reveals the dainty ruffles of the white chiffon and lace undersleeve.

Another striking reception gown is of metallic velvet. The corsage and the upper portion of the skirt are of the velvet in a spangled design. The chiffon yoke is also spangled and ornamented with sketches, motifs of Bruges lace, with pendant pieces of modern Italian lace. The sleeve is a large circular puff of double black chiffon, drawn into a cap of the spangled chiffon edged with lace. The curve of the cap is paralleled two inches farther down the sleeve by a lace applique. The circular flounce of the skirt is decorated with double chiffon ruchings, whose fullness relieves the heavy folds of the velvet.

HARRIET HAWLEY.

Toys for Curious Boys and Girls

IAM sure Reginald is going to be a great mechanical engineer," said a fond mother recently. "There is nothing in the house which he has not taken apart."

Unfortunately, this investigating habit is also a destructive one. If the grown-up Reginald fails to attain distinction as an engineer, he will still retain the reputation of a breaker not only of images, but also of all things visible. It is for children of his type that parents of limited means are seeking for indestructible toys.

Importers and manufacturers of toys nearly all have families, and practical experience makes them fully realize the importance of meeting the demands for indestructible dolls and toys. The fad of children, generally, for having dollies in their bath tubs, and trying to teach swimming to a heavy sawdust doll and steam-face mannequin, has led to the production of the floating doll and of several varieties of really indestructible dolls.

The floating doll is an imported article and is really beautiful, with its exquisitely formed limbs, body and face, even to the dimples in the baby knees and elbows. The floating doll reconciles many a child to its bath, and some children need reconciliation to it, as was illustrated in a prominent New York church recently, when little Margaret Aurelia slipped from the side of the font, where she and her baby brother were about to be baptized, and hid under a pew, from whence she had to be dragged

out and back to the font, yelling, "I don't want to be washed!" all the way.

Babies from 3 months to 5 years of age love a floating doll in the bath. As this species of doll is a novelty, pleasure is in store for many a child this Christmas. The doll is of aluminum and is colored and made in such a way that it can be knocked about in any sort of fashion and still float serenely on top of the water. It is made in all sizes and is dressed and undressed, and frequently comes in a tub of its own, with a folding bathroom and wash stand all fitted up with towels, combs, brushes, mirrors and every accessory for the toilet of a baby, even to the nursing bottle and ivory ring with its rubber tip.

Another indestructible doll is of brass or copper, made like the floating doll, only fashioned with moveable heads and limbs. The color of the skin is perfect, and the rippling of the short metal hair artistic.

Composition dolls of the indestructible variety share honors with these metal novelties, grow in every size and are adorned in garments suitable to either high or low life. What these composition dolls are made of it is impossible to tell, but they are pretty and valuable, since one will last an indefinite time. Of course, nearly every child who has one will try to find out what it is made of. "How is a child to learn any other way?" asks modern mothers, plaintively, when this destructive element in their offspring is called to their attention. So some baby may yet be able to tell the construction of an indestructible

doll and the component parts of its system.

The endeavor to provide unbreakable toys has not ended with dolls. All the Midway delights have been provided for this Christmas and the "loop-the-loop," the "shoot-the-chute," the Eiffel tower, the Ferris wheel, and all the other whirligigs which make a child yell with delight are made of the strongest metal, contrived so that it would require a good deal of force and much trouble to destroy them.

Dolls are provided with vehicles of every description known to the world. One would learn much about the amusements of distant peoples by looking over the array of wheeled vehicles of all sizes, made for and occupied by dolls attired in the costumes of the countries to which their carriages belong. These run the gamut from a first-class automobile to a garbage wagon and a Russian drozky to a Chinese jinrickshaw. All are made to wear well and to stand the rough handling of careless owners.

Nor is the mercenary spirit of the age unrepresented among the Christmas toys. Dolls have strong and well-furnished houses built for them and also shops of every character likely to be congenial and profitable to a doll, from a millinery to a drug store, a laundry to a candy shop. Needless to say, the latter is a favorite among children. They well know that no parent will refuse to fill the jars that stand upon the shelves and counters with dainties.

If imperishable dolls and their belongings promise lasting delight at Christmas-tide, the cheap novelty of an inflated rubber doll will be no less appreciated. These have grotesque faces, which lie in shriveled wrinkles until a concealed tube is filled with air, when ludicrous characters from Dickens or the Sunday "Comic" immediately take shape, dressed in costumes to match the characters, made from tissue paper, bits of cotton batting and a little wool.

Frills of Fashion

Drawnwork medallions figure on all kinds of wash neckwear.

Siberian blue, a medium tint, is one of fashion's favorites.

High class milliners are using soft crushed leather belts as hat bands.

Peacock feathers are mounted on brooches, hatpins, buckles and charms.

The newest handbags are fashioned from patent leather in a variety of colors.

Four hatpins are required to securely anchor the modish types of headgear.

To lend a touch of brightness to gray costumes, dark orange velvet is employed for garniture.

Some of the new satins are exquisite in texture, particularly one variety which is as soft as spun silk.

Pretty little chain bracelets of gun metal, with watches having cases of the same material, are much less expensive.

Bracelets from the severely plain to the elaborately decorated varieties are expected to have a greater vogue this season than for some time past.

Patent leather belts, so glossy and alluring in their dainty shades, have not escaped the fad for open work notions, some of them showing off very bold designs, through the vacant spaces of which gleams the color of the blouse.

For the duchess of Westminster a London jeweler has produced a costly ornament in diamonds. It may be used as a necklace, a hair ornament or a corsage decoration. It is a flexible ribbon of diamonds and cost \$100,000. The ribbon is formed on a foundation of platinum hinges. The ends are fringes of small stones. The ribbon may be tied in a bowknot to be fastened to the gown. Another way the duchess wears the jewel is to have it entwined in her golden-brown tresses. The diamond band, which is a foot long and two inches wide, admits of many possibilities as a hair ornament. Again the duchess may wear it tied about her neck. London society wonders why the duchess wants an ornament of this sort. She has enough handsome necklaces to fit out a half dozen women and her tiaras and demitresses number five. The Westminster emeralds are wonders.

For and About Women

Miss Alberta Gallatin, who is a daughter of the confederate general, Albert Gallatin, has been denied honorary membership in the Virginia Daughters of the Confederacy because she is acting in the play "Ghosts," which the Virginia daughters condemn on moral grounds.

Evanston girls are nothing if not original. One of them accepted the attentions of a "masher" and lured him to the police station on pretense of letting him accompany her home. It was a good stunt, but it required a quality of nerve that few girls outside the immediate vicinity of Chicago possess.

The power of Hawaii's political boss is waning since Princess Theresa Wilcox failed to carry the home rule convention. For Hawaii's political boss is a woman and also a princess of the royal blood. That is, she says she is a princess, and no one who has felt the sting of her tongue dares to say her nay. The Princess Theresa is the most prominent person before the Hawaiian public today.

For the first time the board of trustees of the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh has elected a woman to fill one of its positions. Miss Sara E. Weir has been chosen assistant secretary in recognition of her long and faithful service as private secretary to the different treasurers. In her new position she will practically have supervision over the disbursement of a building fund which amounts to over \$5,000,000.

Fencing among women promises to achieve a popularity this season never before accorded the sport by fair devotees. This is especially noticeable in the larger eastern cities, nearly all of whom have fencing clubs. Many competitions are scheduled, indicating women's appreciation of this exercise, which can be indulged in by them without public displays and without fear of acquiring "manny" characteristics. The Fencers' club of New York offers to its female members advantages that tend to advance the game. The officers of the National Amateur Fencers' League of America contemplate a series of "fraternity" team contests between the fencing clubs of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington.

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