

Modesty Hats and "Ear Nets"

Lady Duff-Gordon Discusses the Simple Themes of Fashion for Summer and Describes an Odd, New Head Decoration



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Lady Duff-Gordon's Paris establishment brings her into close touch with that centre of fashion. Lady Duff-Gordon's American establishments are at Nos. 37 and 39 West Fifty-seventh street, New York, and No. 1440 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago.

By Lady Duff-Gordon
"Lucile"

IN fashion's symphony for the Summer months the theme is simplicity. Saffron details of the costume suggest the subtle charm of serenity. If there is elaboration, it is the elaboration of the unpretentious. The simple theme, impressing the note of lightness, ease, comfort, with the charm which lies in those effects, may be performed with variations—and here enters the exquisite coloratura melody of the hats.

For Summer fashion's symphony does not reflect the mind of the great German music masters, though, indeed, it might bear the signature of Gluck or Mozart, who could not resist the joyous inspiration of Fragonard or Watteau, whose brushes appealed to the eye as do the flutes and violins to the ear. Yes, for variations on our theme of simplicity, let us consider the possibilities of hats—modest, simple, retiring, but none the less potent hats.

Here I give you a hint of such variations—with a strong note of contrast. The latter is the bold yet gracefully flaring shape of black velvet, softened by its generous aigrette plume. Perhaps you would not call this a modest hat, yet it is not ornate. In construction you will see that it is simpler than one or two of its companions on this page which seem to proclaim their simplicity with infinite emphasis. It is a bravura passage that redeems the variations from insipidity, and the beauty here and there who can wear it with becoming unconsciousness will earn the gratitude of her sisters whose calculated demureness as to head-dress is enhanced thereby.

Never before has the dainty white purity of the sunbonnet of our great grandmothers been revived with a stronger appeal to the judicious eye. Here I show it to you in the nth power of its charm. There is so little stiffness in its structure that its outlines instantly conform to the individuality of the face which it softens so indescribably. Just the simplest of frames, and a bit of chiffon or sheer muslin gathered and ruffled and stitched according to your fancy—not forgetting the ample strings loosely bow-tied beneath the chin.

More elaborate, yet charmingly simple

A Real Modesty Hat—Charmingly Simple, of White Satin, Lace and Ribbon with a Bunch of Satin Flowers in Front. Lucile Model



and modest is the flattened toque-shaped hat of white satin, lace and ribbons, with its bunch of satin flowers in front. Here is modesty in a hat which is to be achieved only with the aid of consummate artistry. Note how finely the material is shirred about the wires of the shape—at the edge of the brim, at the band and at the crown, leaving the gath-

ers between to form themselves into a graceful fullness. There is labor here, and fine needlework; but that labor might well be termed a labor of love, for the result certainly is a "love of a hat."

A subtle variation on the hat theme is the fascinating ear net. You see here a pair of them, and the head to which they



A Contrast—A Sun Bonnet Made By Lady Duff-Gordon for Herself and a Rather Sophisticated hat of "Bold Yet Graceful Flaring Shape of Black Velvet, Softened by Its Plume."

are applied, gains a seductive witchery thereby. Without at all belonging to the family tree of hats, yet they produce a result more hat-like on original lines than almost any other conceivable head-dress device that fashion has authorized.

Thin silk net discs supported on a hoop of wire and fastened to the coiffure on each side of the head with gold hairpins, these ear nets form a unique and lovely frame to a face that is not too pronounced in its main features. Upon the face of the net is a conventional embroidered design in gilt threads—just a touch of yellow metal color, a hint, perhaps, of their barbaric origin. These silver and gilt ear nets certainly are not

hats, but their presence at once reconciles the beholder to a hat's absence.

The display I am giving you on this page really amounts to the headings of a classified index to the season's hat-book, leaving out those conventional forms and materials which are always with us. The chastely simple and charming sunbonnet stands for the whole species of fluffy, chiffony headgear, in a general way. Fluffiness in hats, however, is not a prominent note in this season's hat symphony. The present mode in costumes for the street and the garden party does not encourage vagueness, lack of form in the crowning touch of the toilette. Originality and precision of design, with prodigality of labor in the construction, are qualities which distinguish the present vogue as to hats.

A revival of silk fringe for hat garniture is noted as one of the results of an earnest search for something new. Fringes are draped from the crown and from the brim of large forms and small forms in a great variety of designs. The device can be used to add an effect of novelty quite often, but as a substitute for originality ab initio it cannot be said to be successful.

Leghorn in its natural tone combined with velvet is a good deal in evidence, with some really fine results. One of these is the velvet tam surmounting a sailor brim. These brims are also of millan or hemp, usually narrow and sometimes closely curled.

The season is not one naturally to

favor the choice of small hats, yet the cheapeau of turban-like lines finds many fair adherents—women and girls whose personal style warrants them in efforts to appear "chic." For women of the opposite type Paris is sending out some effective Summer models on the cartwheel order—some of the brims measure twenty-four inches in diameter. As the season advances into Autumn it is quite likely that these large shapes will appear in the majority, except where the taste for genuine creations on less striking lines predominates.

Everything considered—the individual predilections of women of fashion and my own sense of the "eternal fitness of things"—this is the day of the modest, unpretentious hat. It is appropriate for the other sort to have gone out with the abomination of trailing skirts and exaggerated waist lines. The elaborate headgear which these seemed to call for are not suited to the present charming and rational models. The designer of hats should take a lesson from the boot-maker, who, inspired by the new opportunity to display his art to the multitudes in every fashion's thoroughfare, has surpassed himself beyond all natural expectation.

One thing is certain, the day is past when women of sense and taste will carry unnecessary weight upon their heads. Since the hair is her "crowning glory," woman will refuse to hazard its health and beauty by making it bear needless burdens.