



Evening gown in white tulle with tiny pearls, also a rich design at the waist.—Lelong.

Robe in white ottoman silk with black pipings.—Bechoff.

Evening dress in purple velvet, trimmed with chinchilla and pearl motif with fringe.—Colette.

[Smart clothes at Beath's, Christchurch.

Rahma Studio, Paris

SUMMER fashions this season have been both dainty and smart with their trimming of frills, pleats and godets, which have added a charm the straight silhouette lacked. From a review of the latest fashion journals indicates that the autumn and winter modes are to follow these attractive styles in modified form in, of course, seasonable materials.

The popularity of the *ensemble* still holds sway, usually in contrasting colours, although many smart *ensembles* are shown in black; which, however, must have a touch of some very vivid colour or grouping of colourings for trimmings.

To the fashion of the *ensemble* costume belongs the credit for making women more conscious of colour now than they have been for many a day. When the coat and dress that matched each other were first put together and proclaimed as an "*ensemble*," colour harmony in clothes was dramatized.

Women were amazed to see how much better they looked in these *ensemble* costumes than when they chose their colours in a haphazard way. They looked more interesting than when they played safe and clung to black. They began to consider seriously this question of colour in the costume. Out of the first *ensemble* idea grew a more sophisticated sense of colour.

THE term "*ensemble*" now means not only a matching coat and dress, but any costume in which there is an underlying harmony between the two parts. One of the new discoveries that women have made is that too much meticulous matching is apt to be monotonous. They have begun to reach out for

other less obvious combinations than that in which the coat is an exact colour counterpart of the frock.

From now on, women will adventure more and more into colour and combinations of colour. It will take more thought, more time, to compose a costume now that intricate colour harmonies play so important a part. But no one who feels that clothes supply our first opportunity to express whatever discrimination we may have, will doubt, for a moment, that the effort is well worth while.

THE two-piece jumper frock is shown in all their smartness. It is practicable, it is youthful, and it is becoming. For these reasons it is well to know that the jumper frock is not to hold sway after the long days of summer have passed.

It seems as though capes are to have a revival. Short hip-length *crêpe* creations, with a bias treatment, is the latest novelty, and this gives them a very graceful and clinging effect. They are, of course, worn with sports clothes, and some are three-quarter length, and even longer.

Skirts do not seem to have any tendency to become longer. Fourteen inches from the ground seems

to be the prescribed length for smart walking skirts; but naturally skirts are relative. One's legs must be considered! However, skirts for sports wear are not likely to appear any longer, which will be very consoling to the more active and well-developed younger set.

Fashions for Sports Girls

MANY changes have taken place at the call of fashion—and in the name of commonsense—in connection with sports clothes. This is only as it should be, now women take so keen an interest in outdoor pastimes and active recreations.

It's not every girl who, if she plays golf or tennis, is keen on walking, boating, etc., can afford to invest in special kit. What she must do is to be sure that she includes among her clothes at least one frock that will give her freedom of movement for games, and that won't come to grief if it gets wet; bearing in mind that there's no reason in the world why she shouldn't have both a smart and becoming model.

There was never a year when she had a wider choice, and one of her greatest problems will probably be whether she shall have a "one" or "two-piece."

The one-piece frock is a prime

favourite, especially for the beach. Its success depends beyond all else on its cut and the neatness of its detail.

Tobralco is now woven in many charming patterns that will puzzle you for choice; also, there are the delightful new gingham, cretonnes, and sponge cloths that load the shelves of big shops so tantalisingly. Whatever we choose, we shall be right in our choice if the tone is one in which we look our best. That is the only and the safest rule.

Whether a "one" or "two-piece" frock is chosen, trimmings, etc., will be carried out on much the same lines. These must, needless to say, be exceedingly simple—buttons are much used, and buttons put to a practical use (that is to say, a frock or jumper will have the line broken by a row of buttons, from neck to hem, that actually fasten the garment, placed close together). So are pockets (a practical form of decoration, these!) of every conceivable shape and size.

Often a Batik handkerchief, peeping from one of them, will give the needed touch of colour. Then again, collars and cuffs, or collars alone, in linen, in holland, in piqué, in muslin, in cotton and silk crepe, give the freshest of touches.

Inverted pleats, knife pleats, box pleats, indeed, any sort of pleats, are the newest and most practical method of making skirts easy to move in, while at the same time, retaining the narrow effect, without which a costume is never smart these days.

THE wise woman won't choose for her little sports frock a fabric that is too fragile or crushes

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