

Fashionable Fabrics for the Summer.

A very great authority on dress whose opinion I sought the other day unhesitatingly gave to *nuon de soie* the palm of victory over all the semi-transparent materials that are being used for the materialisation of the robes of this year. At the head of the less diaphanous materials he placed *Shantung*, and then mentioned silk poplin and *peau de soie* as fashionable fabrics.

For the white embroidered baby lawn dress he predicted a great success among women who applaud refinement of effect. He told me also that the all-black toilette is coming back into fashion, and that many of his smartest customers are ordering battalions of black frocks for ultra smart wear.



MISSES' COSTUME.

Consisting of pongee, voile, or wash goods, tucked shirtwaist and a 5-gored skirt. Suitable 13 to 17 years.

corsage frilling of rich lace, and the square-cut tunic effect did not escape my observation, for it is one of fashion's latest and most favourite devices.

The chemisette was made of tulle so delicately tucked that at a distance no signs of handwork were observable, and it has the popular net ruffle at the head of a tall collar-band. Long sleeves were worn beneath short square ones of *nuon* and lace, the elbow sleeve being now conspicuous by its absence.

It is delightful to see the shape of the arms again draped by the closely fitting ruffled net sleeves that terminate in a square cut form over the back of the hand.



A GRACEFUL AFTERNOON GOWN.

Some Smart Afternoon Frocks.

Smart frocks for afternoon wear are at present of special interest, and it is pleasant to be able to chronicle the fact that gowns of this kind are at the moment prettier and more picturesque than they have been for many seasons past. In the matter of the fabrics which are used for their making, we find an infinite variety, while the favourite colourings are for the most part of the softest and most delicate description.

Crepe de chine of the meteoric variety, with a satin-like surface is a favourite material for afternoon frocks of the smarter kind, intended more particularly for wearing at home on those rare occasions when engagements permit of a quiet half hour under our own roof tree. In the accompanying illustration a gown of this kind may be seen, carried out in a suitably simple, but very becoming, style, and made in *crepe de chine* in a lovely shade of silver-grey, made up over a lining of pale pink soft satin, just the faintest suspicion of which shines through the delicate grey of the *crepe de chine*.

In obedience to the prevailing vogue for tunics and Greek draperies, the gown of our sketch is arranged with a pointed overskirt, edged with a double row of dark green velvet ribbon. The underskirt, which is made quite separately, is trimmed with a wide band of white *crepe de chine*, upon which scattered roses are embroidered in soft pink, and in the palest possible shades of pink and tea-rose yellow. The draped bodice is arranged with an empiement of the same rose-embroidered *crepe de chine*, and worn over a chemisette and close-fitting sleeves of white ring-spot net. Two large paste buttons and a draped waist belt of dark green velvet complete this very original and picturesque design.



BLUE AND WHITE CHECK DRESS.

With blue silk buttons and sash; the yoke and edging of sleeves of very fine spotted net; worn with a hat of pink roses and black and pink quills.



▲ DESIGN FOR BLUE LINEN, WITH WHITE SOUTACHE BRAIDING.



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