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Fashion Notes from Paris.

(By a Parisian Expert).

PARIS, January, 1912.

Balls and receptions will, this month, have a much more brilliant appearance than for some years past. Colour is more lavishly used, and for variety of hue and shade, the materials of the season have never been surpassed.

A very attractive dancing dress in cerise satin has a slim, straight skirt, edged at the hem with a narrow bordering of skunk, and partly veiled by a transparent tunic of ninon-de-soie, chosen in a paler shade of pink, and elaborately embroidered with small white porcelain beads. The front of the bodice and the short sleeves are embroidered to correspond, while the décolletage is becomingly outlined with fur. A shoulder scarf to match has been especially provided for wearing with this gown, according to a pretty fashion which bids fair to become very popular later in the season. The scarf in question is carried out in shaded chiffon, pale pink in the centre, but deep cerise at either end, where the scarf is adorned with white porcelain bead embroideries.

Another charming little frock to be worn at a forthcoming ball is of white ninon-de-soie over white satin, interlined with diamond dew-drop net. The draperies in net and ninon are lightly drawn together into a deep hem of white satin, along the top of which there are trails and clusters of tiny roses, rosebuds and foliage, carried out in white satin, and silver tissue. Small garlands of the same white and silken flowers form a charming berthe while the fullness of the short-waisted bodice is drawn down under a broad sash ribbon, printed with chine flowers in soft shades of pink and mauve, blue and green, and finished at the back with long floating ends.

A pretty little dance frock will be found illustrated. This is arranged with a foundation of silver tissue veiled with dove-grey net. The short-waisted bodice which is cut en-pointe, is most becomingly arranged, and is trimmed with a silver metal lace worked in satin flowers, and incrustated with tiny seed pearls. The same handsome garniture forming an interesting feature of the skirt.

A commendable feature of the present styles in tailored suits is the use of the belt, partially or entirely encircling the waist of the coat, for by virtue of the great vogue of this erstwhile minor accessory, it is quite possible to bring up-to-date the tailor made of yesteryear. But it must be a belt of the straight, stiff variety, calculated to make a straight line, and should consequently be of leather or firm kid, albeit decorated

with handsome clasps, and often combined with velvet, moire, satin, or whatever silken material may trim the suit. The belt is worn in various ways. Sometimes it goes about the waist precisely as the belt of a shooting suit would do, again, it merely crosses the back of the coat, thus taking up the looseness at

quite youthful matrons, if she is only careful in her choice of colours. The woman no longer young should, however, be most conservative choosing soft greys or black, or gentle violets, for her evening colours, and selecting her materials for day-use always with an eye to the same quiet effect, and spending her money more for handsome quality of material, than for texture which is merely the latest caprice.

The trained skirts, or those which fall slightly upon the floor and are topped by a gracefully hanging tunic, are also the privilege of these ladies, such skirts, being part of reception or evening gowns in pale cloths, crepe, meteor, veiling, etc. But with any evening dress unless the lady is going to a ball, and has a fine neck and arms to boot, it is more usual for the bodice to be made with a fine lace stock and long sleeves of the same, than to be low cut. And when there is a slight décolletage with a house gown, such as a middle-aged matron would wear at her own dinner-table or reception, the stylish woman provides herself with one of the narrow scarfs which are so charming for house wear, and keeps her shoulders and part of her throat well draped with it.

The street skirt of the woman no longer young all but touches the ground;

fore, for the beauty and adornment of long evening cloaks in chiffon in velvet and in brocade, as well as for the trimming of other wraps that are made entirely of fur. On some of the handsomest evening cloaks, for example, in ermine, there are large square sailor collars of Venetian lace lined with chiffon, while round the hem very broad flounces of the same beautiful dentelle are placed. In the case of trimmings for blouses, and also for the adornment of lingerie, there is a great demand for beautiful Cluny and Maltese laces.

Hem-stitched pleated frills of bastiste or lawn are often introduced upon silk blouses, finishing the top of a high-tucked collar, falling over the bands, and running doubly or singly down the front. Handsome blouses of crepe-de-chine charmeuse, hand-embroidered in self-colours, and without other trimming, having some note of white or cream at the throat, are being turned out by some of the exclusive blouse-makers, and are extremely elegant without being too ornate for general use.

Women in Business.

The invasion of women into American business life is apparently gaining force every year. During the lunch hour in the business section of New York one sees almost as many women and girls as men (writes the correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph"), and even in the stock market here, which many strong men are shy about entering too deeply, has given way before the feminine invasion. There are many brokerage houses in Wall-street, which, for some time, have provided special rooms, "tickers," etc. for lady customers, but they have not been very popular, women, for some reason, preferring the regular rooms set aside for stock-market speculators. Now the reason for the unpopularity of the special ladies' room has come to light, continues this writer, and a Stock Exchange firm has remedied the trouble by adding to its various departments a nursery. As one member of the firm pointed out, even women who speculate may have babies, and it remained for members of this particular firm to recognise the fact. So in reopening the customers' room for women this year it adopted the motto, "Bring your babies and your sewing." Every day several youngsters, ranging in age from six months to six years, are seen playing near the "stock-ticker," around which the mothers are observing the market prices movements. It has been suggested that the firm will provide cots, so that the youngest generation may sleep while speculation goes on.



that point, and allowing the front forms to fall straight from the shoulders, or the ends are woven through straps set upon under arm sleeves, and then joined directly in front.

Such styles as may be called youthfully skittish, are naturally unsuitable to the woman between thirty-five and forty-five; but she may wear any of the dignified models which are put forth for

her coat too, is preferably long, and her headgear is a toque, for giddy brim hats on a greying head, or over a lined face, only add to the look of age.

So far as the revived interest in lace is concerned, it is pleasant to find that there is a strong feeling in favour of "Old" Italian, Flemish, Duchesse, and Bruges laces, while the Honiton, Brussels, and Venetian are all well to the

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