

however, against the dissimilar blouse and skirt it does spoil the symmetry of an outline, and it has an unpleasant habit of seeming to divide too sharply in two a figure that would not be noticeably imperfect in a blouse of the same shade as the skirt.

Unless worn with a corset skirt, too, the white blouse calls for a belt, and belts, unless very carefully and tastefully chosen, act too often as tell-tales.

Flowers Under Hats.

Last week I wrote that plumes were again being worn under the brims of hats. Since then, flowers are seen, and, introduced deftly, these are very becoming, a pink or red rose resting on dark hair, violets or cornflowers on very fair locks, for instance. Some of the very smartest models have a wealth of flowers resting on the hair and a further trail falling over the right shoulder, but not all faces would this style become.

Recurring Fashions.

In spite of the long innings that beads in their many varieties of ornamentation have had, bead trimming is unmistakably returning to fashion, and again in the brightest colours. Handmade embroidery on thick canvas and with beads very closely set together, is the first to herald the return of this old-fashioned embellishment.

Eastern ornaments for evening coiffures also return to fashion, though not in the form of the somewhat voluptuous purple, red, green, or gold, or many-coloured swathes we know before.

One of the most novel is a sort of head harness of bands of gold embroidery meeting at a point in the centre of the forehead, then strapping the hair over the ears with a single band, also, from the forehead to the roll of hair at the nape of the neck, from which springs what is known as a sunburst of feathers—that is, a generous fan-shaped bunch of ostrich, for instance.

Caps of gold and silver lace, set with garlands of small flowers, and made with a full of the lace resting on the neck at the back are also seen, and another example is a band of pleated tulle worn practically on the forehead, a couple of inches wide, in some bright colour laced with gold, and with elaborate ornaments or flowers poised above the ears.

Another is an American idea, and is a latterly low fashioned of pale pink crepe. The hair should be worn parted in the middle for this, dressed low, and a pleated band of the soft crepe laid almost on the forehead. The bow is quite large and formed just like a great butterfly.

Coats and Skirts.

If all the prophecies come true there should be great catholicity of styles in costumes in the autumn, a state of things surely as it ought to be, considering that few figures are really alike. Of coats with very long tails at the back, of those with and without revers and sometimes collars, I have written. Now a variation of the Russian idea arrives. It has three-quarter sleeves with turn-back cuffs of dark velvet over undersleeves that match the vest and collar, and a rather wide coat collar of the same velvet that, forming revers, falls off into a mere piping above the waist in front. Below these revers are others of cloth in a lighter shade than the costume.

Yellow, in the various soft shades from lemon to tan, though so popular in the spring, will, it is foretold, be the ruling colour of autumn toilettes.

Tartan silks appear again, but only for blouses which are veiled in pique to match the costume.

Fashion Notes from Paris.

(By a Parisian Expert)

PARIS, July, 1912.

Things We All Want to Know.

Although the Grand Prix has ushered in, and to a notable extent, the revival of the short train skirt, there is small likelihood this will in any way stem the exuberance of elaborate hosiery. We are too deeply immersed in the craze to resist the on-slaught of the choice that is now poured upon us in the shape of stockings inset with lines of lace motives, such as butterflies, etc., together with hand embroidery. The last is becoming quite a feature, and is beginning to take form in bold floral devices, that may perchance appeal to those who have a penchant for startling foolgear. Very

charming, however, are the small contrasting spots, such as black on grey, verise on navy blue, old gold on brown—in fact, the combinations are endless, the large establishments keeping quite a stock of this spot hosiery, together with a striped variety, as of plain colours.

The hobble skirt is dead, but the hobble cloak has made its appearance in our midst. Made of transparent gauze, drawn into a band of embroidered net or satin, it has a distinctly restraining effect upon the dress which it bites. With the exception of the huge and wis-pish train a cloak of flame-coloured chiffon drawn into a crescent-shaped band of

prevailed before all others. The large chapeau is still here, but it has to share, the situation with a host of rivals, among which by no means the least attractive is the high-crowned postillon-shape with curly brim that is almost universally becoming. There is a unanimous opinion among artists in millinery that black is the most favourable colour for the complexion, and everywhere in Paris are the hats underlined in black velvet, whatever the colour of the hat. Occasionally, though, one sees a dark coloured hat underlined in pale pink velvet. It is a very pretty idea, and becoming to some faces. Black lace hats with enormous lace bows are also creating a furore in Paris.

Horicultural mancherisms, too, are just now rampant. The latest recruit is offered in pale blue oak and maple leaves, a white straw hat so adorned carrying in addition a giant mauve rose, and completed by one of the all-over needle-run lace veils in a delicate putty shade. These veils, by the way, are a great improvement on the splash pattern varieties, recalling the Brussels lace fancy of long-time approval.

Stripes Much in Vogue.

Stripes will be more in vogue than ever this season. The width of the stripes and their colourings, however, vary a great deal. Black is frequently combined with royal blue or strawberry red. The latter tint has already been so much adopted that it really looks like being one of the favourite colours of the season. And, then, striped materials are so becoming, accentuating as they do a faultless and slender silhouette. The remark might particularly apply to a costume of royal-blue ottoman, striped in white, which I saw recently. It had a very short habit back, the stripes in the skirt following the patterns of the coat in very original designs.

For morning wear dainty walking suits are fashioned in grey and black or blue and black striped materials, the broad revers showing contrasting colours, such as strawberry red or royal blue. In some models, great simplicity is affected, and really these are just as smart as the others. For instance, a trotteur in blue serge had no other trimming but a very broad silk gallow set at the bottom of the skirt, and only sewn on the upper side. On the jacket, similar gallow encircled the hips. It looked exceedingly smart and uncommon.

Our Sketch.

Some of the new tailor models affect the modes worn by the "Merveilleuses." Although this shape is exceedingly smart it is not easy to wear. Our illustration depicts a smart little frock of this kind. The coat, which is of dark blue and white striped liberty, is made "a l'envoyable" (falling in two tails at the back of the skirt), and with the popular Voltaire collar and cuffs, the simple skirt being of the same material. The tunic, which has a pretty scalloped edging, is of dark blue liberty, while the very becoming chapeau is a pale pink Tegal straw, underlined with black velvet, and having for adornment a magnificent pale pink ostrich plume.



satin, is a reminiscence of the shawls that women used to wrap closely round themselves some fifty years ago. Other cloaks are made with straight flat fronts, and backs are modelled upon ecclesiastical vestments. A piebald effect is produced by the top half of the cloak differing entirely in material and colour from the lower one.

Millinery of the Moment.

The millinery of the moment, even when at its most extravagant, as it must necessarily be at the Grand Prix, is infinitely more becoming and far more varied in character than was the case this time last year. The one idea, that of the gigantic hat massed with flowers,

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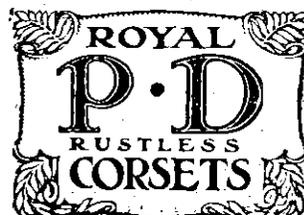
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