



A DANCE FROCK.

Fashion Notes from Paris.

(By A PARISIAN EXPERT.)

Charm of New Dress Goods.

If only every woman knew what is becoming to her and had the courage of her convictions, what a delightful summer that of 1913 might be! Materials, costly and cheap, are lovely. Styles are so elastic that it would be almost impossible to achieve a costume, beautiful, yet quite without authority from at least one of the designers who rank among the fashion makers. No one man in Paris has things his own way in the Parisian dressmaking world to-day; and apparently no two men have the same way, though the houses do fall into groups according to the degree of their conservatism and radicalism in their ideals of successful dress.

Possibly one would put Worth at the head of one group. Certainly Poiret stands at the head of the other. Mme. Paquin holds an admirable vantage point between the two, which does not mean

that she is lacking in originality or force, but that while viewing new and daring ideas with an open mind, she refuses to lend herself to the bizarre.

Meanwhile it is distinctly interesting to watch the experiments, particularly the experiments dealing with that vital matter of the skirt.

More Width in the Line.

In a host of cases the increased skirt fullness has to do chiefly with the upper part of the skirt, and is held into comparative narrowness at the bottom, an effect unspeakably ugly if bungled, as many models have proved within the last year, but charming enough if skillfully handled in appropriate material and with proper weight. The boldest vagaries in this line are to be seen, and it is rather amusing to hear the opinions of the women who view the various versions of the new revolutionary model, which has a sear very full at the waist, caught up in a puff by a sear or band a little above the knees, and falling full but perfectly limp and straight from

there. The confining band runs upward a little toward the front, and the line is piquant and charming on a properly slender figure.

New Fashions Tempt Women.

Whether one is buying marked down furs or muslins, shopping is particularly interesting just at this season. There are exquisite soft pinks among the new linens; the cool delicate rose petal pinks of the winter, and while no one would assert that these are practical, no one can deny their charms. Even in the best of qualities, such pink will fade in tubing or in the sun, but it will be a strong-minded girl who will let that thought influence her when she is confronted by some of the delectable frocks in such pink linen. A simple trim little frock of this fresh delicious pink, a bit of creamy white in collar and cuffs or undersleeves, a dash of black in some chic little cravat—and there is an ideal frock for a summer morning, if the wearer can close her eyes to the hereafter. If she can't, she had better turn her back upon temptation, and choose a white or ecru.

So Attractive.

A very pretty idea for a spring afternoon costume is illustrated on this page. Of pearl grey charmuse, it is made with adorable simplicity and trimmed around the tunic and at the sleeves with a little Maltese lace. The pretty little lady in our sketch carries a dainty muff in pearl grey chiffon lined with rose-pink satin, and trimmed with frills of Maltese lace, while two "La France" roses in a lovely shade add a finishing touch to the ensemble.



MORNING COSTUME.

For morning wear, the coat and skirt finds first favour, at any rate for the next few weeks. Slight differences have appeared in the cut of these garments. A novelty is the fashion of splitting the front of the skirt—either to one side, towards the front, or to the back. Coats are mostly small, the models for the coming season of easement cloth, silk, satin, and other of the less weighted fabrics all showing small, rather light-fitting specimens. A fashion likely to come into being will be coats and skirts of Siennese or thin alpaca. Much will, of course, depend upon the season, but amongst the thin stuffs these are certain to rank high. Either fabric lends itself most pleasingly to the neatly cut and simply trimmed morning coat and

skirt. Buttons are on all the coats and are usually set three, two, or one to the left side. Stitching and braiding and, later, in the case of linen, insets of lace and embroidery, will be much used. Blouses will be made to a great extent of white-embroidered or lace-trimmed batiste, mercerised lawn or muslin. Silk shirts matching material of the suit in colour, very dainty, and with these the wide frill of kilted lawn edged with lace will be worn.

Fashion Notes from London.

LONDON, March 14.

The rigid humanitarian is going to find her path of kindness hard to walk if she is attracted by the latest of the piquant, toques that are filling milliners' windows, to-day, for not one of those but shows an osprey or a feather ornament such as the humanitarian desires to see abolished and very gay and spring-like they appear set as they are, towering high with a sort of graceful abandon at the back of a small brimmed, round-crowned hat, the crown covered with soft silk, sometimes black or of a dark colour, sometimes in old dainty patterns and sometimes in something very bold in design and shade.

SKELETON FEATHERS.

though never very graceful or artistic have enjoyed a long run of fashion, and set out this season on a new lease of life. They are trained to terminate now in the note of interrogation top that is le dernier cri in featherdom.

CORDED RIBBON

that, last year, adorned the girdon and bowler hats that were then new, is still more used than any other, but it is a season of ribbon bows.

MARABOUT TOQUES.

If it be thought an advantage to have a hat that appears heavy and that is, in reality, very light, a moujik toque of marabout does so. This can be bought now dyed in the latest shade, and is trimmed with lancer plumes.

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