

Woman and Her Work

Variety is a very telling point in fashionable summer dress if it is worked out with thought and care for the fitness of things. Although we may bemoan the many and frivolous changes in fashion, they are useful adjuncts in the scheme of variegated dressing which at present is the summer girl's especial delight if she is ambitious to be up to date.

Various kinds of gowns, for as many kinds of weather, for morning, afternoon and evening wear, are a fashionable necessity, and besides these there are the special costumes suited to the sports which have become a vital part of summer life. Fortunately the modes are favorable for the girl with a limited income, and she can make a very good showing with a well-made wool skirt, one of black taffeta, two or three pique skirts and an assortment of well-fitted shirt waists. The pique waist with a polka dot of color is the swell thing if it is well put on a slender figure and the accessories in the way of shirt studs, neck band and belt are according to the very latest fancy.

Leather belts are too common for true elegance in shirt waist attire, so moire or double-faced satin ribbon matching the dot in the pique, is substituted. It is completed with a fancy buckle or a bow, as you prefer, and the collar band is made of the same ribbon, shirred into a tiny frill where it fastens in the back, and a tiny little band or point of lace-edged hemstitched linen lawn tucks over the edge. The ribbon belt helps out fashion's scheme of slenderness, while the leather band makes the waist appear larger than it really is. It is safe this season to adopt anything which can produce any illusion of slenderness, as it seems to be a leading feature in a fashionable appearance.

The white linen collar is still worn to some extent, but it is not the latest mode of dressing the neck by any means, while it is by far the most uncomfortable neck-gear a woman can wear. For the few to whom the severe linen collar is becoming, it is very stylish worn with the pretty narrow white or colored silk ties, but the large folded scarf so often seen is an abomination on any woman unless she wears a waist-coat like a man and disposes of the ends in the same manner. Many of the new silk shirt waists have a tucked collar of the same silk with a sailor knot finished on the ends with a hem of white silk hemstitched on. Then there are all sorts of little points and narrow collars of embroidered linen lawn and Swiss which add much to the dainty effect of the simple silk waists. Stocks of colored taffeta silks made with points and a sailor knot with hemstitched finish can be purchased all ready for wear, and besides the silk neckwear there are all sorts and kinds of bows made of net, chiffon and lace.

Cotton gowns of all kinds are prettier than ever this season, especially the organdies trimmed with innumerable tucks, tiny ruffles and frillings of satin ribbon. Gingham and chambrays are embellished with ruffles of white braid, and wide collars made of alternate stripes of white batiste or Swiss muslin, and cream lace insertion edged with lace. A pale green chambray made in this way has a chemisette vest of muslin and insertion and a white collar band with hemstitched points of pink silk at the back. White lawn, very sheer and fine in quality, is very much used for blouse waists made with a yoke of alternate rows of lace and embroidered insertion. These are pretty to wear on hot mornings with linen or pique shirts.

Silk mulls are very much in evidence among thin gowns, and tiny ruffles of tulle and mousseline de soie, or ruffles of the same edged with satin baby ribbon, trim them very prettily. One stylish white silk mull, patterned in black and made over a black silk lining, is trimmed with ruffles of black chiffon. The square cut neck, filled in transparent black, has a folded collar band of black finished with a narrow edge of cerise velvet. Pippings of plain white silk or satin and black and white stripes are very much favored for

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trimming foulards, white being especially pretty in silks of any color, if patterned with white. They are cut bias, folded very narrow, and sometimes used like little folds, circling the bodice in rows a little distance apart, and covering the flounce in the same manner.

The most perplexing feature of fashion just at present is the diversity in skirts. With the many variations of the circular flounce, the double skirts, the many designs in skirt trimmings, to decide which particular mode will pass muster in the ranks of fashion a few short months hence is a puzzle which no one can solve. If you settle on one style which especially strikes your fancy you are informed that it will go out soon, then you tentatively take to another and another, with much the same result, until it does not seem to matter very much which one you choose.

Dainty tea gowns, luring sacques and lingerie cannot fail to cast a spell over any woman with feminine inclinations. no matter how energetically she may wrestle with the temptation. Whether she can grace the pretty dainty things or not, she longs to possess them. Some wise authority on harmony in teagowns says that 'it is only the woman of leisure who can defy the garment.' If she works in any capacity she can never adapt her tense poses and independent manner to the true æsthetic spirit of a loose gown smothered in soft laces. In other words, a tailor-made body and a negligé soul can never combine harmoniously in one woman.

There is infinite variety in tea gowns, and while they make many concessions to the ruling fashions of the day, they are perhaps more independent of the changing modes than any other kind of dress. The newest tea gowns for summer wear are made of china silk, organdie, trespé de chine, lawn, and silk crepon, especially dainty in white lined with a color which shows through its meshes. Matinee sacques are made of the same materials, cut short and straight in the back, shaping down longer in front, and trimmed with insertions of lace in vertical lines, and a lace frill on the edge. The Watteau effect is still seen among the tea gowns, but as this is not becoming to every figure, the fulness is sometimes arranged in tucks all around the bodice and below the hips on the skirts. Insertions of lace are lavishly used for trimming, stripping some of the gowns the entire length. Yokes and wide collars are the prevailing style of finish, trimmed fully with lace. Pretty little negligé wrappers of colored lawn and cotton grenadine, lined with batiste, are made in the Japanese style, with wide sleeves, and finished on the edge with a wide double band of white lawn, which also forms the little yoke.

Some of the pretty breakfast jackets are semi-fitting in the back, loose in the front, and tied in at the waist with ribbon, while others are short and loose all around, reaching only to the waist line and hanging full from the shoulders like a child's plaited refter. They are finished with yokes or wide collars trimmed elaborately with lace or embroidery. Sleeves are elbow length, long and fancifully trimmed, or made in cape style, falling just below the elbow.

Petticoats are an important feature of this department of dress, and while the silken variety predominates, there are lovely dainty things in fine white lawn, tucked and trimmed with lace, without limit, and made with the wide flounce which distinguishes all the skirts this season. A pale blue silk skirt, illustrated, shows the new shaped flounce, rounding up in the back, trimmed with corded ruffles and lace trills. Another model in heliotrop has bow knots in lace insertion above a lace frill. But there are skirts and skirts, of every grade and condition—skirts of blue, pink, and yellow taffeta, with an elaborate trimming of black applique lace; brocaded silks in light colors, trimmed with chiffon flounces and cream lace, and white taffeta skirts with yards of lace insertion and rows of gathered white satin ribbon. Flounces ornamented with scroll motifs of lace insertion outlined with tiny chiffon ruches are another fancy, and the accordion plaited ruffles are quite as popular as they were last season. The special feature of all petticoats this season is the close fit around the hips and the extreme frout-frout effect at the bottom. A wide accordion-plaited vanlykad flounce falling over a cluster of narrow ruffles at the foot is (one very desirable style, and all the edges should be pinked if you want to insure good service.

ASTRA.

LISTEN, BACHELOR GIRLS.

A Matron's Lecture on the Most Independent Woman.

Woman is by nature dependent. Indeed there is no such thing as an all-around independent woman. Few men are wholly independent. Many young women are wholly independent. Many young women calling themselves girl bachelors think that they have sought and found real independence. Then there are the aggressive spinsters who are firmly convinced that they alone of all womankind are truly independent. They join in with the girl bachelors and pity their married sisters for being tied to a man. The married women do not answer them, for they are satisfied with their lot as a rule. And well they may be, for the most independent woman in the world is the woman who is not only married but also mated. Some people say that a woman poorly married is happier than the woman not married at all. A matron gave two girl bachelors some points along this line not long ago. They spoke to her in a rather patronizing way about her not being able to join in one of their larks because she was married; it was like touching a match to kerosene.

'Such talk shows your ignorance,' she exclaimed in a tone that carried conviction. 'You girls and your boasted independence afford me no end of amusement as well as food for serious thought. You see, I can read you like books because before my marriage I was an independent bachelor maid myself. I thought I wouldn't exchange my sweet liberty for the best husband and the finest home in the land, or, at least, I tried awfully hard to make believe that I believed that just as you two girls and your kind are trying to do.'

'Why, what do you mean?' asked one of the girl bachelors.

'Sour grapes,' said the other, with a gesture of contempt.

'Merely this,' answered the matron, 'that it is against nature for women to be wholly independent, and when we go against nature she squelches us in one way or another. Now you claim to be two girl bachelors, don't you? And you represent the two types of so-called independent women. One of you is independent by choice, and other through necessity. Fan has a very generous allowance, and she has elected to leave her home and spend her life in study and also to do absolutely as she pleases. Nell has been forced to leave her home and earn her own living, and she, too, has set her head to think, speak and act as she sees fit. There you are, and you are two out of thousands. You are both attractive to men and have had and now have no end of beaux, and say that you can't fall in love with any of them, that you are proof against such nonsense, but I warn you you aren't. You are merely bent on shutting love or anything like it out of your heart. Some day a man will come along who will drive such notions out of your head in a hurry.'

'Bosh!' exclaimed the one called Fan. 'You don't know what you are talking about. I lead a life of absolute independence, and the man doesn't walk the earth who could make me give it up.'

'And so do I,' chimed in Nell. 'Them's my sentiments, too.'

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'It would be preposterous to say that the average bachelor girl is not independent in a way,' answered the matron serenely. 'There are lots of meanings to the word independent, you know. I'll grant you that the bachelor girl is a creature of independent mind, of independent means, of independent manner, but she is not, never has been, and never will be independent when it comes to her heart, her affections. Man can do without love in his life, but woman can't. Not every man is subject to control by other people or things, but every woman is. The more a woman talks about her independence and brags of it and plumes herself on it, the more firmly am I convinced that at that very moment is this woman dependent for happiness on the affection of some one. Usually it is a man. Berate me all you have a mind to for speaking this way, but I am having the satisfaction of knowing that I am striking home. You see I was once a bachelor girl myself, and all off my friends said that I was a fool to give up my career and marry.'

'Have you regretted it?' asked both girls.

'Well, I should say not,' answered the matron. 'There is only one truly independent life for a woman and that is a life with the man she loves. Love is the only thing that can set a woman free. An all-wise universal Father has made this so to preserve the race. I never knew what independence was until after I was married. Single women are apt to mistake license for independence. I know every trend of thought that the so-called bachelor girl, the so-called independent woman, has. She gets up early in the morning thoroughly in love with the lot she has chosen and starts out on her day's work. She meets rebuffs gets discouraged grows physically so weary that she longs to fly to some one who loves her better than all others, and have a good cry. By the time night comes she hates her lonely room or apartment and not infrequently seeks herself to sleep, about what she knows not, but I do. It is simply because her woman's nature is revolting against a life of independent loneliness or lonely independence, just as you please to look at it. All that is best in her is stretching out after a home of her own, after family ties. When she made herself independent in mind, manners and finances she enslaved her affections, chained them up, rendered them inert. No woman can be really independent until she unchains her affections and opens her heart to receive the love of some true man. Perhaps you two won't own it, but you know I speak truly.'

'There is no use in denying that two and two make four,' answered Fan, rather flippantly.

'You've opened my eyes to a thing or two,' put in Nell, 'and for my part I shall expend some of my energy from this time on in opening my heart to love rather than wasting it in trying to find absolute independence. You've made me own what I've known all along, and that is there is no such thing for women as independence, and I'm thankful to say that I don't believe there is for man, either, as far as the heart is concerned.'

Bringing it Home.

'Woman,' he hissed, 'woman do you thus spurn my heart after leading me on?'

'When did I lead you on, as you call it?' asked the girl.

'Did you not tell me that that fortune teller had told you that you were to wed a handsome blond young man, with the grace of a Greek god and the voice of an Æolian harp?'

A LITTLE HEROINE.

She Recovered her Mother's Body From Amid the Awful Carnage.

Baron Lejeune, who played a conspicuous part at the siege of Saragossa during the Peninsular War, narrates in his 'Memoires' a singular story of that terrible time, a story that speaks equally well for the chivalry of the soldiers of France and for the courage of a Spanish girl.

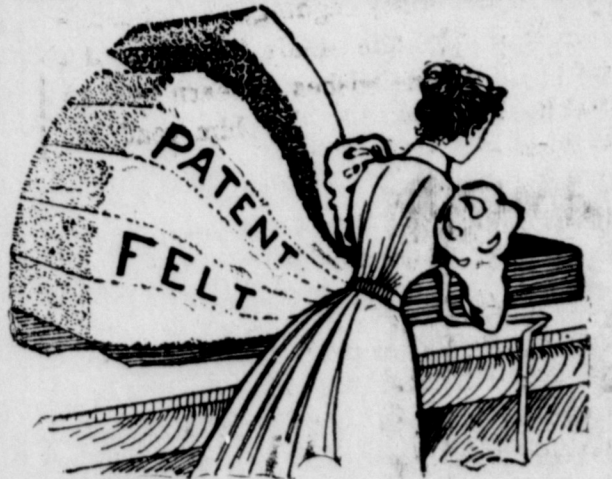
There had been fearful carnage within the walls of the unfortunate city; even the convents and monasteries were reeking with evidences of warfare, and the inhabitants of Saragossa were in a desperate plight.

A band of Polish soldiers, belonging to the French army, had been stationed on guard at a certain point, with orders to fire upon any Spaniard who might pass them. Suddenly a girl of about fifteen years of age appeared among them. A cry of warning was heard on every side as she approached, but the child seemed not to hear. She only continued to utter one ceaseless and piercing wail, 'Mia madre! mia madre!' as she hurried from one group of dead and wounded Spaniards to another.

It soon became evident that she was in search of the body of her mother, and the pale, agonized face of the child, whose filial love had made her almost insensible to danger, touched the soldiers' hearts with pity.

A moment later a despairing cry announced that she had found that for which she had risked her life. The Polish guards watch her movement with something like awe as she stooped and tenderly wrapped the mutilated form of the dead woman in a cloak and began to drag it away. Suddenly the girl paused and seized a heavy cartridge-box that lay in her path, with an energy that seemed almost supernatural. Her frail, delicate form swayed and staggered beneath the weight of her burden, but she did not hesitate.

A thrill of mingled horror and admiration filled the astonished watchers as they perceived that there, before their very faces, she was taking from them an instrument for future vengeance upon them.



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