Exquisite Gowns For Evening Wear

BY DOROTHY DALE.

The ball and dinner gowns of the present season are very delightful as to material, but it is in the coloring and design that most of the distinction of the models lies. The new gowns shown for the gay holiday season are many of them rather daring as to color combination, but so cleverly are the shades used that the effect is exquisite. It takes an artist in dress, however, to design such gowns, but a great many American women are as clever as the French as to color, and, with the imported models as guides, can design lovely costumes for evening wear.

In selecting tones and materials for such frocks artificial light is required, and the materials should all be selected under gas or electric light, which often changes in a marked degree the coloring of the various materials. Both of the sketches show the high-busted, short-waisted lines of the new imported gowns. All the advance models are made with the Empire or Greek suggestion, with the waist several inches higher than formerly, the skirts fitting very closely over the hips, and very long and trailing, but it must be admitted that such models are only advisable for slender, graceful figures, and must even then be made by a very experienced gownmaker to be successful. However, this new outline is fashionable; therefore, of course, as fashion chronicler I have shown two of these models. Very smart they are, though, if well made, and the gowns pictured were very beautiful in the originals. The coloring of the costume sketched at the right of the plate was particularly to be commended and was very chic and distinguished in style. Pale violet liberty was the material used for the robe, which was made in semi-Princesse shape, the long, graceful skirt being untrimmed. The draped corsage was of gold embroidered black tulle, embroidered turquoise, blue duchesse ribbon being used for the upper sleeves, outside of the tulle drapery. The rosette at the left was of tulle in turquoise blue, the tucked sleeves and folds across the front being of pale salmon pink chiffon.

The effect of these tones in combination was exquisite and very French—the gown being very unusual in style. The other costume pictured was less daring and was planned for a younger woman. The model was all white, but the design would be charming for pale blue, pink or any of the light tints. Soft white chiffon cloth was used for the original frock, trimmed with tulle lace, and ruches of white liberty ribbon and lozenges of lace. At the left of the low-cut bodice was a large bow of liberty ribbon with a white gardenia and buds thrust through the loops.

While, of course, the original models of these gowns are very high in price, and the majority of fabrics used this season for evening wear are expensive, the woman who has a small dress allowance need not despair if she has good taste in color and can design her own clothes, as a search in the shops will prove that there are various inexpensive materials to be had that are very effective and can be made up with excellent results.

For instance, the silk mulles, although they have cotton woven in, are very lustrous and effective and come in lovely colorings among the lighter tints. This material is the best in effect in the plain unfigured kinds, and in certain colors has very much the same effect as material costing three times that amount. For instance, I recently saw a charming little dancing frock which was extremely inexpensive, made of pale yellow silk muslin costing 40 cents a yard. A white taffeta foundation, which had already done duty for a former evening gown, was used as a lining for the skirt and bodice, the trimming consisting of four-inch wide lace insertion and liberty satin of the same shade as the silk muslin. The insertion used was a fine Valenciennes which had been dipped in coffee and tinted a pale ecru. Two bands of this were used around the lower part of the short skirt, between rows of two-inch tucks and bands of liberty satin. The low-cut corsage was made mainly of lace and liberty bands. The satin was folded over the shoulders, with lace on either side, being drawn down toward the waist in fichu effect and finished by bows at the top of the high girdle. The yellow silk mulle was used about the lower part of the waist and was finely plaited, a band of embroidered lace, with the design worked in yellow silk with touches of gold, being used across the top, back and front.

At this season, too, a great many bargains are to be had among the chiffons, bordered materials and other evening fabrics, and even if only a small pattern is obtainable at the reduced price, the styles of the season lend themselves admirably to combination with other materials. For instance, take the lovely border chiffon cloth—in many cases a pattern will be reduced to half price, because there is not sufficient for an entire gown. A great many of the new models are, however, made with a satin bodice with a long trained back—in short, with a redingote so that if this style is adopted the chiffon need only be used for the front and sides of the skirt.



DECIDE TO REOPEN CELEBRATED GRAVE

Mystery Surrounding Duke of Portland's Estates Now in Fair Way to be Partially Solved.

LONDON, Dec. 20—The home office has consented to the opening of the grave of T. C. Druce, in Highgate cemetery, and shortly after Xmas the question whether the coffin contains a body or a roll of lead should be definitely answered. Professor Augustus J. Pepper, of the University of London will attend the exhumation on behalf of Scotland Yard.

London Times Report of British Grain

The American wheat area will absorb nearly 100,000,000 bushels of wheat to seed it, and 84,000,000 inhabitants may be credited with 420,000,000 bushels food wants. This leaves only 105,537,000 bushels available for exportation. In 1906 the exports were 130,000,000 bushels.

The Canadian returns now to hand are not very full but they demolish both the August estimates of a "full crop" and the September alarm about "crop failure" The yield is as nearly as can be estimated 34,201,000 bushels smaller than that of last season, which gave the Dominion an exported surplus of 40,000,000 bushels. We can therefore see with tolerable clearness what has happened, and, seeing that good and bad fortune alternate in Canada as elsewhere, we may fairly congratulate the Canadian wheat growers on the fact that in an unpropitious season they are not only able to meet all home needs, but also to spare a small supply of new wheat for exportation.

There being no estimates of an official character concerning wheat consumption either in Canada or the United States, calculations based on production and exports only complete two-thirds of the proper statistical circuit. With this caution uttered we may say that the presumptive exports of North America from the crops of this season's growth are likely to be 7,333,000 qr. les than for the campaign drawing for its resources on the crops of 1906.

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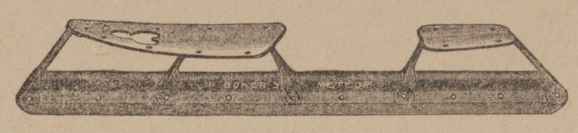
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