

Stunning Styles for Women Who Practice Rigid Economy in Dress



By Maude Hall.

The holiday shops buzz with the subdued voices of shoppers—looking for advantageous purchases of materials to be used in their campaign of inexpensive, but smart dressing. To be truly popular a model must show itself in sympathy with the capabilities of the home dressmaker. Many women are willing to continue to buy new materials and trimmings so that the thousands who work in the factories while those upon whom they are dependent give their services to their country may continue in employment but that are not willing to invest in materials that are not practical, nor will they try to duplicate models that are, at first glance, too difficult for them to attempt to reproduce.

There is really a concerted effort between designers and manufacturers in the interest of women who are trying to do their own dressmaking. The models enjoying especial favor

are those designed along the lines of simplest adjustment. One-piece frocks, jackets free from intricate embellishments and trimmings, plain skirts and simple blouses are most in demand.

Many of the most attractive woolen stuffs are so expensive that women are turning to velvet and velveteen, which are considerably cheaper, though one hardly realizes it until proved by appraisal. Satin, too is much liked for formal and semi-formal costumes, a great deal of black being employed by the best houses. Of combinations of satin and velvet, satin and serge, etc., there is no end. All of the leading Paris dressmakers have sent over splendid creations in satin, the models ranging from the simplest of morning or utility frocks to the smartest afternoon or evening models. Some are entirely in black save for some relieving note about the neck. Others are lightened by liberal use of white or gray or beige or warmer colors.

There are dainty little frocks of gray satin, a particularly effective model having a plain skirt, slightly distended at the sides and attached to a simple waist with very deep V-shaped neck. The vest is of cream color crepe Georgette, surmounted by a very high collar of the same material.

Velvet and plaid serge are combined in an attractive costume in which brown dominates. The blouse has panel extensions below the narrow belt, back and front, the sides being turned up apparently for no other reason than to form square pockets. Dark brown velvet is used for the blouse, the skirt featuring two shades of brown and uncertain lines of blue in the plaid. The blouse fastens at one side and has a high collar of kolinsky.

Most of the coats of the best makers are belted, though one sees some attractive designs that are not confined about the waist. The former, however, are more generally becoming

than the jackets without belts. Gray serge makes an effective coat with gathered peplum trimmed with deep bands of opossum. It is worn with a plain skirt which, however, is almost entirely concealed by the jacket. Opossum forms the shawl collar and cuffs of the long close sleeves.

The most fashionable pets for fur trimmings are opossum, natria, beaver, coon, squirrel, and the long-haired brown furs kolinsky, shunk and less expensive kin. Molekin is enormously popular, but it is marked at prices absolutely beyond the reach of the average dress allowance. Many lovely high collars are made of fur trimmed to match the collar, obviating the wearing of a muff. Several of the French dressmakers are featuring high fur collars not only for street but for house gowns, so that all sorts of high collar arrangements are offered in the latest styles.

Although the majority of coats hide the skirts, a great deal of attention is

being paid to the lines of the skirt just now because of shifting fashions. Two and four-piece models seem the most favored for general wear, the tunic and draped effects being reserved for more formal occasions. As compared with last year's designs there is considerable variance in the degree of narrowness and frequently there is marked fullness in the upper part of the skirt, no matter how pronounced the narrowness at the hem.

The woman who is economizing in dress is making a mistake, for as the season advances and the social elect gather for war conferences, charitable entertainments, etc., the striking feature of the gatherings is the number of well-gowned women. A knowing looking one-piece frock that is appropriate for almost any occasion is fashioned of dark green broadcloth. The front is in plaited panel effect which fastens at one side. A motif of embroidery ornaments the belt.

but there is no other touch of decoration anywhere.

There are some splendid straight-line dresses in Indian cashmere, jersey cloth, etc., featuring fly-panels that are attached to the neck and allowed to hang in free style to the hem, if desired. Many of these dresses are belted, but on a certain type of figure they are attractively daring when unbelted. Usually there are bands of braid or a deep border of fur to give weight to the lower edge of the panel. Although, as has been said before, a great many satin frocks are being sent over from Paris, a general survey of the imported things leaves one with swirling memories of dark hued velvet designs, suits of wool velours, duvetyne and similar cloths with interludes of clinging brocade frocks and of rich brocade and velvet coats hugely collared and lavishly trimmed with fur. These are the models which the woman who does her own sewing elects to copy in spite of their rich effect their

line, in most instances are easy to reproduce.

Guide to Patterns.
The fashions on this page are Pictorial Review designs. Numbers and sizes are as follows:
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