

# Commencement Dance Frocks

Soft-Tinted and White Charmeuse and Chiffon and an Occasional Black Poplin Are Best to Meet the Demands of the Keen Rivalry of the College Promenade and Party.



This Black Crepe Relies Entirely on the Girde of the Shiny Side of the Material for Its Trimming.



I Suggest This Very Simple Costume of Black Silk Poplin for the Very Simple Affair.

**The Fashion Forecast**  
Lace for the summer dinner gown is as flattering as it is smart.  
*Frances*  
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At Left—An Ideal Dance Frock Can Be Made from Varying Shades of Mauve Chiffon and Mauve Net Striped in Silver.



She Does Not Wear Her Head on Her Sleeve, but on Her Bodice of Daintily Embroidered Charmeuse.

## By Mme. Frances

The Famous Creator of Fashions

THE season of commencement dances, "proms" and other gala affairs of the college year is here. The smart young girl thinks of frocks in the same moment in which she accepts the invitation. A commencement dance is above all the place where one must strive for individuality. The philosophy of the younger set has traveled far in this direction. As one gathers from spirited conversations I overhear among the sophisticated "proms" and commencements, there is competition.

"My dear, competition is what keeps us going," says the seasoned "prom" trotter to her young friend who is planning her first invasion. "Yes," she continues with a wise shake of her bobbed head, "there'll be hundreds of girls all trying to get away big. And, my dear, some of them are perfect knockouts!"

### Designed for "Someone's" Eye

Then the younger "prom" aspirant declares she is "scared stiff" and goes calmly ahead planning what frocks are best to make her look a bit different from the other hundreds who will pack the ballroom floor. It must be smart and becoming and not too usual, for she doesn't want that Divine-Dancer-who-is-a-Senior, or the Young-Intellectual-from-the-sophomore-class to cut in on Someone.

Her chances of returning next year doubtless hinge upon her success this time, and then she wants to make Jim proud of her, and above all, she wants to have a good time.

And then she has heard the girls at school talk of the ways to make a successful drive. Hadn't her roommate boasted during "prom" although she had two other new ones? She said she had had such a good time in it the first appearance that she knew she could be more easily spotted if she wore it again.

This is a season of white and of lovely pastel tints, so I think we will find that the commencement dance will divide honors between the two, with a scattering of blacks. While the latter are not so prevalent as formerly, they are still very smart and every girl likes to own at least one black frock. Her modiste, too, has doubt-

less told her that no matter what her coloring there is always the right black frock for her if she will but find it.

As simple as it is effective is the black silk poplin second from left on the page above. The front and back are perfectly flat, with a bit of fullness and an attached piece of the material at either side. Two old gold ornaments make its only trimming note. Many of the new frocks use this neckline, somewhat of a compromise between the round and the bateau.

Black lace, too, is smart for the summer dance frock. There is, perhaps, nothing quite so flattering, and the new patterns are very lovely. The mesh is fairly coarse and many of the designs are Japanese in effect, showing pergolas or birds of queer plumage. These are shown to advantage against the white background of neck and arms. They are usually made with a simple slip beneath, and often the lace falls to the heels, the slip stopping somewhat above.

One stunning frock in black combined chiffon and sheer lace and outlined the irregular skirt lengths in sparkling drops of brilliants.

The frock I call "Nightingale," to the right of this, is a mauve and silver exponent of the vogue for pastels. Mauve net striped in silver is combined with circular layers of chiffon in tints of mauve.

### Circular Skirt for Dancing

Each reappearance of the youthful and becoming circular skirt seems to be initiated by dancers before the footlights. This type skirt is undoubtedly the most becoming for the agile dancer who must allow herself much freedom of movement. And to see it on the stage is to realize that its becomingness by no means stops here. It is youthful and charming on the ballroom floor, and is most often developed in chiffon with varying tints used in the successive layers. Sometimes satin is used, and then it is of one layer on the true circular which hangs in becoming ripples about one, and is worn shorter than the skirt, which is straight.

At the right appears in all her glory of embroidered charmeuse and chiffon the gown appropriately named "Beautiful Lady." Bugles and rhinestones embroider the bodice and panels, while circular layers of chiffon edged in brilliants fill in the

spaces between. Notice that the shorter front and back length is effected, the chiffon falling much longer at either side.

A striking note is achieved in the heart-shaped cut-out appearing at the centre of her slim white bodice. "Cutie," at the left, relies entirely on its own material for trimming. It is of black crepe, which uses its dull side for the body of the frock and its shiny side for girde, sleeve panels and lattice work trimming. The afternoon frock, which can be worn for semi-formal evening affairs, is always useful and is usually preferable in a darker color of simple design. Often the only difference between it and the evening dress is in the sleeve treatment. The evening frock is always sleeveless and the afternoon one takes almost any liberties in the direction of sleeves.

They may be abbreviated, but this sea-

hem. Costume jewelry still enjoys high favor and appears in even lovelier designs. The craze for fancy bracelets for daytime and evening has reached such proportions that the supply has become short. One never goes abroad these days without many requests to make a sharp search for attractive bits of jewelry, and the craze will doubtless increase, with so many of our friends heading for Europe during the summer months.

One has more frocks in summer and the pastel shades in batiste or linen are

even lovelier when one has a charming pin or necklace which seems made to go with the frock. One young miss is following out this inspiration and collecting amber beads to wear with her favorite yellow frocks, a pin with a cloudy blue stone for her blue-gray linen and a slender string of coral to wrap around her wrist when she wears something simple and all-white for evening.

Cut crystals are extremely smart with frocks of darker shades, and clouded crystal pendants are being worn on cords and narrow ribbons.

In the summer dress, daintiness and fineness of detail are becoming more and more to be telling factors. Dresses and blouses made entirely by hand and trimmed in drawwork and embroidery are offered for summer, and they rely entirely upon these bits of trimming for their touch of difference. In all of them the general line is simplicity itself. In fact, many of them are perfectly straight from shoulder to hem.

In dinner gowns, chiffon and lace give their airy touch and the design again is simple. Lace is becoming not only the favored trimming medium, but it forms the main part of the dress. Self-colored ribbon binding, pinwheels of ribbon and fine French flowers are the telling signs which bespeak care to detail.