

So, we meet again! Isn't this a lovely season, with the nice crisp weather and the excitement and anticipation of Christmas? Yes, the Christmas season is here again with all its gaiety and glitter--the season of presents wrapped in red paper and green ribbon, the season of relatives we haven't seen since last Christmas, the season of varied foods (and calories), and, of course, a vacation from school! Another exciting aspect of Christmas is the parties, and a grand part of the parties is the fabulous fashions that are worn to them. Let's consider these parties for a while. Come dream with me.

First, let's take a look at the most informal party--those that happen when friends just get together--maybe for a snowball fight (if there's snow) or for an afternoon of bicycle riding. Popular for such activities are the stretch-pants in a variety of colors. Wool slacks are very much on the scene here, too. Worn with these are bulky coordinating sweaters. One of the sweater favorites for this mode is the ski sweater. Boots make a dashing ending to this fashion story, but loafers or other flats serve the purpose just as well.

Now let's take a peek at one of those parties that happens after the sun goes down. Let's pick one in a huge room with a blazing fire in a big fireplace and mistletoe here and there to catch the unaware--or the aware! Seen here are soft pastels. Soft, flattering skirts with softer, more flattering sweaters or shells fit in well. Remember the suits in my last article? Exchange the blouse for a soft, mohair shell and leave off the jacket, and there, you have it! The "little wool dress" is nice for an affair like that too. Why not add a little interest, with a necklace that's really a watch, or even a pin that's a watch. They're absolutely beautiful, and make a nice beginning for a conversation that could be the beginning of almost anything! A string of pearls adds interest and elegance to the simplicity of these party fashions. Let's wear heels to this party. The cut-away styles are pretty and fun to wear. The two-inch height is pretty, but a lower height usually makes for more comfortable dancing.

We must move on now. There is another kind of party that's always fun--the formal party, with crystal, punch, Christmas cookies, and a combo. The two piece "torch-singer" gown with the straight skirt rates high on the fashion scene. Illustrated, is a sleeveless shell splashed with sequins and ending with a sleek, satin skirt, dipping in the back. Satin heels are worn with the gown shown. I think heels in a tapestry print would add glamour to the elegance of this wardrobe.

