

FEMININE FADS AND FANCIES

By DOROTHY

Written for The Observer.

Just as our waists and coats have about reached the stage of "lightness," news comes from across the sea, that, as the season advances, gowns, coats, blouses, in fact, everything is growing curiously looser. In fact, the very close fitting lines that were put forth as novelties six months ago seem now the stamp of the second-class pieces. This is a note

these tight-fitting garments with us for any great length of time. The clothes which were, for a number of seasons, built upon the loose lines, look such a hold upon beauty-loving people, that these have never gone out entirely, and are really almost sure to return. For a number of years the love for the Greek idea of beauty, has surely had a hold upon us—and now that this form of the dress art has

best New York fashion journals, for instance, surely give the slender, close-fitting garments first place. Even now it is rumored that the wearing of these materials over colors is going to be one of the fancies of the spring and summer time. This attractive fad for waists, nay, some times entire suits, has been popular for some months past—but especially for the waists, and simply bids fair to become "the" suit with the advent of spring. It does not follow, either, that these costumes, are necessarily expensive ones; of course they may be, when costly top material is selected with silk for lining, but all this may be as one desires or can afford. That gentle little ruelle of the silk undergarment, is yet dear to every feminine heart, and of course one such suit will do for wear under a number of dresses. On the other hand, there are so many beautiful cotton fabrics now that resemble silks so closely, that after all, it may be much wiser for us of the moderate purse, to get some material of this character, and then have a number of different colors, if we so desire. In this way one may seem to have many more suits than, in reality, she possesses, simply by wearing the different colors under the one top garment. All sorts of thin wash material are selected for these gowns, as well as the various thin silks. China is a popular fabric for this style of suit, "and although it takes yards of this material to make up satisfactorily, yet, at certain seasons, it can be bought at a low figure, and it makes up beautifully." Another idea which, I believe, is going to be both a pretty and useful one, is to have a skirt of some heavy material, say cloth, in color matching—or at least in perfect harmony, with the under-color of the waist. Certainly this is as attractive as can be, and makes a costume decidedly pretty and appropriate for evening wear—and indeed well suited for any informal occasion.

The use of embroidery continues in good favor, and really for such suits as the above mentioned, will, I am sure, take yet a new hold on life. To me what will be prettier than any

fastened invisibly in the back. As for sleeves which are worn with such separate waists as these, and also entire suits, we read that: "Sleeves fit the arm closely below the elbow and are not particularly large above. In fact this is the prevailing style for all sleeves. Invariably fitting the arm from elbow to wrist, but not necessarily plain, they are more often an effect long cuffs or lace or tuckings or embroidery. Above the elbow there is more or less fullness and the fashion most anything the customer or fancy of the wearer dictates." The half or three-quarter length sleeves continue in style for those who care to wear them, but are not, perhaps, quite so popular as they were in the fall. No doubt it is on account of these short sleeves, that bracelets have come to be so much worn again. They are pretty, too, in a way, but the short sleeves are desirable in my opinion, only for the plump, white arms of the young lady—and surely such arms as these need not adorning. Here again, however, we have a mere matter of taste.

The use of fur in all of its many forms of coats, scarfs, bonas, and as a trimming, remains one of the season's sure things. It seems to be a time when every well-dressed woman must have a bit of it about her in some way. It is said that in Paris, the hats which are considered the very perfection of style have fur upon them somewhere, some how. This is not so true with us, but here, too, we find it to some extent, and also used as a trimming for dresses. We are most familiar with the pretty neck piece of some description and the attractive muff to match. As to the style of fur most worn we read that: "Ermine is as popular as ever, and there is a fancy for coats of all white ermine with the touch of black and lemon color furnished by the tail of the admired animal. Mink is a stand-by, and is rarely out of fashion. The same is true of chinchilla, that fragile and exquisite silver gray fur. Only a well filled purse can afford these in their perfection." I suppose it is true that in no line of materials used for wearing apparel, are we more often fooled,

—have come in, and present a pretty scene on the gloomy day. Truly this is not a bad idea, for we are all the better for as much of the brightness as possible, in our lives. Of course the real sunshine is always best—but if we can't have that, then the manufactured sort is not to be spurned.

MRS. RAFFLES.

(Continued from Page Two.)

man's Club for four weeks for ungentlemanly ungentlemanly behavior in consequence. Black as my eyes were, however, I was on hand at the breakfast table the following morning, and of course Henriette observed my injuries.

"Why, Bunny!" she cried. "What is the meaning of this? Have you been fighting?"

"Oh, no," Mrs. Van Raffles, I returned, sarcastically. "I've been straining my eyes reading the divorce news from South Dakota."

"She gave me a sudden start. 'What do you mean?' she demanded, her face flushing hotly.

"You know well enough what I mean," I retorted, angrily. "Your goings on with Colonel Scrape are the talk of the town, and I got these eyes in a little discussion of your matrimonial intentions. That's all."

"Leave the room instantly!" she cried, rising and haughtily pointing to the door. "You are insufferable."

But the color in her cheeks showed that it had hit home far harder than she was willing to admit. There was nothing for me to do but obey meekly, but my blood was up, and instead of moping in my room I started out to see if I could find Constant-Scrape. My love for Henriette was too deep to permit of my sitting quietly by and seeing another walk away with the only true coveted prize of my life, and I was ready on sight to take the colonel by the collar—he was only a governor's staff colonel anyhow, and consequently to great shakes as a fighter—and throw him into the harbor, but my quest was a vain one. He was to be found in none of his familiar haunts, and I returned to Bolivar Lodge. And cannot the shock. As I approached the house I saw the colonel assisting Henriette into the motor car, and in response to the chauffeur's "Where to, sir," I heard Scrape reply in an excited undertone: "To New York—and damn the speed laws."

In a moment they had rushed by me like the flash of the lightning express, and Henriette was gone!

You must know the rest. The papers the next day were full of the elopement in high life. They told of how the Scrape divorce had been granted at five o'clock in the after-



A Leading Style in Long Coats

A glance at this illustration will hardly convince one that the style is for a long coat, so much does it resemble a suit of some character. The belt worn with this garment is the main cause of such an effect. The design, which is built of chestnut brown face cloth, is plaited both in the bodice, and below the circle of chiffon velvet, and insertions of heavy

lace are let in between the plaits front and back. A flat collar of the velvet lies over an embroidered vest in the beauty imparted to the coat. The sleeves are quite plain, but are stitched in odd effect with narrow bands of soutache braid and finished with a touch of the velvet at the wrist bands.

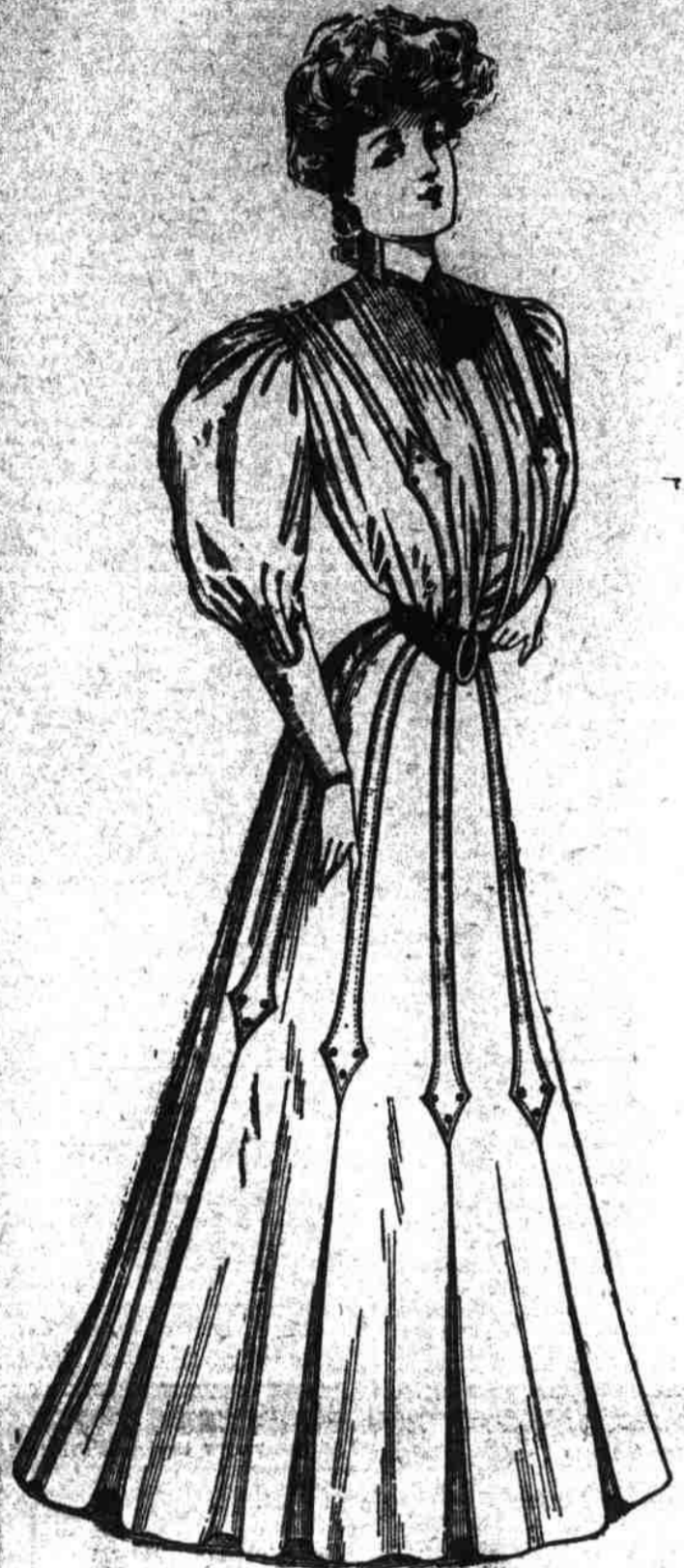
minute I saw him I felt that I must have him. It's the most successful haul yet and is the last adventure I shall ever have. He's worth forty million dollars. I'm sorry for you, dear, but it's all in the line of business. To console you I have left in your name all that we have won together in our partnership at Newport—fourteen millions five hundred and sixty-three thousand nine hundred and seventy seven dollars in cash, and about three million dollars in jewels, which you must negotiate carefully. Good-bye, dear Bunny, I shall never forget you, and I wish you all the happiness in the world. With the funds now in your possession why not retire—go home to England and renew your studies for the ministry? The Church is a noble profession. Yours sincerely, Henriette Van Raffles-Scrape.

I have gathered together these meagre possessions—rich in bullion value, but meagre in happiness, considering all that might have been, and to-morrow I sail for London. There, following Henriette's advice, I will enter the study of the ministry, and when I am ordained shall buy a living somewhere and settle down to the serene existence of the preacher, the pastor of a flock of human sheep. My misery is deep but I am buoyed up by one great hope in every thought. These Newport marriages are so seldom for life that I yet have hope that some day Henriette will be restored to me without its necessarily involving any serious accident to her husband the colonel.

THE END.

Note of Foreign Life.

The London Vegetarian Messenger commands footwear "without animal taint." The soles are made of "Balata"—which is made of canvas and rubber. canvas is used for uppers and "bright American cloth" for toecaps, straps and trimmings. The management of the London Olympia is giving away \$50 nightly to the members of the audience who most nearly estimate the number of people in the building at 8:30 p. m. The first prize is \$25.



A Suit of Dust Grey Taffeta

If one is desirous of a suit especially adapted to morning-calling, shopping or traveling, such will be found in this attractive design of dust grey taffeta. The skirt is made with inverted plaits over which are shaped straps of

the same material finished with black silk buttons. This simple trimming is repeated on the blouse and adds a very dainty finish to the sleeves. Belt and tie of black silk.

From Paris, so I suppose we need hardly be alarmed—or rejoiced, as the case may be—that we, too, shall have the same sort of styles in the spring. These great leaders have, as a rule, had done with a series of fashions, and flung them aside before we get them; and yet, Paris notions are not so long in reaching New York—and then all aboard for the Southland! I suppose, then, that we shall not have

fastened itself upon the creators of styles—and not only this, but upon the great "wearing" public, we are not likely, I believe, to return to the stiff, ungraceful tight-fitting clothes, at one time the acme of the well-dressed person—for any length of time. It must be said, however, in the time being with us, garments are surely more constructed upon the tight basis. A glance over some of the latest and



In Heavy Embroidered Linen.

After all, one must look far indeed to find anything to take the place of the wash shirtwaist. Attempts have been made to offer a substitute, and even to abolish it, but both have failed. It surely seems to be with us to stay. The wash shirtwaist is an all-year-round favorite, as attested by the designs to be seen in the smart shops. Here is sketched a pretty model in heavy white linen with a vest of the same material laid in wide tucks and finished by bands of embroidery. The opening is effected, under a strip of the same trimming of which the belt and cuffs also are formed.

than in these very furs which we do so adore. A paragraph recently in regard to this thing says: "A great many persons know that ermine is weasel. How many know that muskrat, pulled and dyed, is so sold as seal; pos si posiva sarpagus sarpagus tui; -vesa si pappes tui; taevesa do juse un ed is sold as seal or electric seal; that pulled and dyed otter is regularly sold as seal; that marmot dyed is sold as mink and sable; that fitch dyed is sold as sable and rabbit also sold as sable; and so on almost ad infinitum. Surely, here is indeed a case where at least 'ignorance is bliss.' So long as we do not know we are humbugged—what's the difference?"

For Afternoon Wear.

It is really two years now since shirring began to be so much used—and yet we find it still in good style. It is quite likely, too, that this method of ornamentation will be more used this spring than last. In the above design, therefore, one will find a most attractive suit so exploited. "If one is in search of a frock that is simple and at the same time charming, this model is highly commended. It is developed in cream-colored nun's veiling, the skirt having plaits and several rows of shirring about the waistline. About the hem there are two appliqued tucks. The blouse is stitched with embroidered straps simulating plaits, and has a yoke effect outlined with shirring, above which is a collar of all-over lace."

noon the day before, how Colonel Scrape and Mrs. Van Raffles had sped to New York in the automobile and been quietly married in the Little Church Around the Corner, and were now sailing down the bay on the Hydrostatic, bound for foreign climes. They likewise intimated that a very attractive lady of more than usual effectiveness of manner, whose nuptials were expected soon to be published for the second time, had gone to a sanitarium in Philadelphia to be treated for a sudden and overwhelming attack of nervous prostration.

It was all too true, that Miss Henriette's final coup had been successful, and she had at last stolen her husband, her landlady's husband, and her neighbor's fiancée. To console me I left this note, written on board of the stamper and mailed by the pilot. On Board the Hydrostatic. Dear Bunny—I couldn't help it. The



Waist of Red Mohair

The separate waist pictured here truly a most attractive one. It is decidedly chic, made of linen, or any of the white wash materials, and is a design we may count upon for spring wear. The waist as here shown, is made of "bright red mohair" stitched with dark blue silk, and having a

stock and cuffs of red taffeta embroidered in blue. The combination is an effective one, and the effect exceedingly "Frenchy." Mohair in many qualities and colors, remains a favorite for all sorts of styles in the separate blouse.



A Girl's Bracelle Belt

For the young girl looking for a pretty and serviceable suit, I am sure none can be found more attractive than this represented in the accompanying illustration. It is truly a dainty model carried out in dark blue silk satinet with tiny pink dots. In an unexpected shade of green, the skirt is plaited and the suspender are draped for the sake of variation, and returned to fancy buttons. With the suit is sent a simple blouse of blue taffeta.