

**IN FASHION S REALM.**

**This Is the Year of Lace Instead of Grace.**

So much lace is seen this season that one may call it the year of lace instead of grace. Scarcely anything is made now without it somewhere, even the most unpromising materials, such as hopsacking and burlap. When actual lace is not added, the fine and ornate castle braids come in, and they have almost as much lightness as lace itself. Lace is put on waists, on sleeves, on skirts and flounces, and whole dresses are made of it, and these are trimmed with still more—that is to say, the dress is made of all over net, and the trimming is added in so many ways that it would be a difficult task to mention one-hundredth of the number. But most often black is added to white and white is set on black. A case in point is shown in the illustration, where the dress is made of black chiffon, which should come under the head of lace, and there are



**BLACK CHIFFON DINNER GOWN.**

rows of white insertion in even lines above the hem. This skirt is cut quite straight and gathered at the waist. The two rows of white lace around the bottom are but part of the general scheme, for the belt is the same, and the deep flounce to the sleeves is also trimmed with it. These insertion laces are so planned that they can be set on edges by gathering the upper edge and sewing it as though it were a border. Flit lace is quite a new one for this kind of trimming, and it has proved very effective. The Irish and other real laces are quite as popular as they have been, but the very heavy varieties are in less demand, as most of the gowns and other garments are of lighter material, and to look its best the thick lace requires cloth, velvet and other rich material.

An innovation in sleeves is to have the sleeve proper end at or just below the elbow in a puff and a deep flounce left open on the forearm or cut so that the back portion is at least three times longer than the front. Of course this relates only to the regular dress sleeves and not to the separate waists or shirt waists.

The shirt waist, as a whole, is too great a subject for complete discussion, but a few words may be said regarding a few of the newest ideas. The waists differ very little from those of last summer. Whatever difference there is consists more in the arrangement of the plaits and the front fold than anything. The very newest is to have the fold laid at the shoulder just above the arm size, and this goes diagonally to the center of the front at the bottom. This leaves the whole front looking somewhat like a shield bosomed shirt. In many instances these fronts are then left perfectly smooth, but in others there are many fine tucks along the front fold. All waists are pouched quite as much as they ever have been, but the pouching is all brought quite close to the middle in front. This leaves the back and sides trim and neat, with no bagginess. There are no yokes to the shirt waists of whatever kind for this season, and the most of them have no plaits or tucks at the back. The back is finished with a couple of plaits taken in at the bottom only.

Perhaps I should not say that no waists are tucked at the back, for many are, but the tucks reach to the shoulder and do not finish with a yoke. Some of the shield shaped fronts are ridiculous, but others are pretty—for slender persons, but let the stout ones beware of them. It would appear that the object of them is to produce the appearance of width over the shoulders. Some of these shield shapes have bretelles down the back to the belt.

I see but few waists buttoning in the back, while many of those fastening in front have such pretty arrangements of the buttons that they are really ornamental, besides being useful. The taffeta waists are laid in tucks, some both back and front. The tucks are in clusters of small ones, with one large one between. Sometimes this wide one is overlaid with lace or fine fancy braid and ribbon, silk or velvet, and in between the holes.

Black velvet ribbon is still largely used to trim such waists and also fine silk. In short, one can have almost in any way a shirt waist that will be all right.

HENRIETTE ROUSSEAU.

**TIMELY FOOD.**

**What to Eat in March and April, Including Hints For Lent.**

The last month of winter and the opening month of spring are the most difficult months of all the year to cater for the table. The heavy, rich food of winter begins to pall upon the appetite and meat of all kinds becomes distasteful. In view of this the New York Tribune offers these hints:

At this season, when meat is sometimes forbidden, except in a limited amount, the cattle and poultry have been shut in for months in the stalls and barnyards and are in the poorest possible condition for food. Beef and mutton are hardly fit to eat after a long confinement of this kind. Veal and lamb are not old enough at this season nor as good as the flesh of animals which will be born later and fattened in the open air and sunshine. Poultry of all kinds is so inferior now that it is far better to buy the refrigerated poultry packed away in the fall when poultry was fat and in its best condition than to use fresh killed stock. Eggs are usually abundant this season. Oysters are better in March and April than in any other months of the year.

Spring is the season for fish. The shoals of fish that appear in the spring waters are full of spawn and their flesh at that time is firm and excellent. After they drop their spawn they are unfit for food. In some cases they are actually poisonous.

While Lent is usually too early for the market to be supplied with all the varieties of fish found in the spring months, there is, however, an excellent variety of fish to be had in Lent. Among them is always an abundance of excellent live cod, haddock and halibut. Among fresh water fish winter pickered are especially excellent and are considered among the best.

The housemother will find her family is better in health if she introduces fish and green salads freely on her table in February and March. Sweet and sour pickles and acid fruits should now be substituted for sweet preserves.

In February desserts should be composed of light batter and other easily digested compounds, with enough acid fruit juice or pulp to correct the effect of the cloying sweet desserts of December and January. Canned and dried fruits are more valuable at this season and at the beginning of spring than at any other time.

**JEWELED HAIR NETS.**

**The Society Woman's Very Latest Whim in Hairdressing.**

That the society woman is growing fonder and fonder of fancy headresses is proved by her latest fad in this line. She is wearing her hair done up in a pretty little net of gold or pearls, with just enough of the unique about it to make it extremely fascinating, says the New York Herald.

With the knot fastened at the crown of the head and the pompadour puffed



**NET OF PEARLS COVERING THE KNOT.**

out and rolled high, in modish fashion, the net is put on to drop below the twist. It curves to fit around the knot, extends almost to the ears and rounds at the bottom.

Another variety of the net is the cap-like affair, and this is usually made of pearls, though a few of golden threads have been seen. This arrangement is worn with the hair dressed moderately high, after the modish style, and the flat knot is covered with the cap of jewels. Sometimes, too, with the very low knot the pearl beret in this round cap shape is worn in quite the old-fashioned, quaint style.

Sometimes two kinds of beads are used, combining two sizes of pearls, gold and pearl, turquoise and pearl or, in fact, any pretty and effective combination that one finds becoming.

Usually pearls will be found more effective and becoming than other gems, yet on one fascinating head was noticed a more than merely pretty turquoise and pearl novelty.

The diagonal strings of pearls crossed each other to form the mesh of the net, and they were held together with cabochon turquoises just a trifle larger than the pearls.

**Silver Table Appointments.**

Among table appointments are many novelties, as instance the serving spoon for Saratoga chips—the bowl fluted and deep, the handle heavy and ornamented in raised flowers.

The macaroni server is popular—the broad, gracefully shaped blade pointed at the end and one side finished with deep points that the utensil may cut as well as lift, the handle flat and the ornamentation in a twisted pattern.

The new asparagus tray is a thing of beauty, oval in shape, with removable drain in the bottom. Little claws raise the dish above the damask and without the perforated inner dish may be used for ice cream, frozen puddings or even fruit.

The sliced tomato server is another attractive novelty, showing also in its round ended bowl a very beautiful perforated design. It may be used for serving cucumbers also—Table Talk.

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show more plainly than a brunettes, but these discolored spots greatly mar the beauty of either.

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