

**FASHION LETTER.**

Lady Modish on Paris Models.

THE STYLES OF 1830 HAVE COME BACK TO US.

My Paris budget has arrived!

The very latest news from the ateliers of the French fashion-makers is mine.

I have had a private view of all the new models—I have been shown quantities of wonderful fabrics not yet open to the public.

I have looked admiringly upon all the new fancies in paste ornaments and buttons, which are destined to play so important a part in the ensemble of almost every toilette that aims at perfection this season.

I have seen so much, I have been told so much, my brain is in a chignon wheel and my memory is simply staggering under the weight of the endless sartorial items it is charged with.

Out of the chaotic collection of everything there arises the one great, indisputable fact that each season the house of Paquin is asserting more and more its supremacy.

Last season it was Paquin who revolutionized the skirt just at the last moment by introducing the box pleat in the back, when every other modiste in Paris was building his or her models on the plain tight lines of the season before.

This season Paquin has given his attention to revolutionizing the lines of the sleeve, and has gone back to the year 1830 for his inspiration.

Every one of the Paquin models has the perfectly flat shoulder and bell-shaped sleeve of that period.

Many half-sleeves, with 1830 undersleeves in mull or lace, are shown on Paquin models, but not one of the long, straight, narrow sleeves that we are all now wearing is to be found on models bearing the name of Paquin on their belt tape.

The other big houses like Doucet, Callot, Sœurs, Worth, even, immediately upon the appearance of the Paquin 1830 sleeve, adopted it, in more or less modified form, to their models.

Paquin's cleverness, in always being able to design something new that will render clothes of a season past unavailable, is of such tremendous importance to the exchequer of France—think of the enormous amount of American money that will flow Parisward via his establishment!—that he has been recognized openly this year by the French government. Paquin, who really rejects in the far less euphonious name of Jacobs, has had the Legion of Honor bestowed upon him and has been ap-

pointed commissioner of the Paris exposition!

Fancy an American dressmaker receiving similar encouragement from the American government!

Paquin endeavored to establish the fashion of skirts with fullness about the hips last season, but they did not meet with much success.

Undaunted, however, he is still clinging to the n this season, but it is not certain that they will prevail.

Many of his skirts are as wide at the top as they are at the bottom.

This means that trains must be diminished, and all manners of pleats, shirrings and tucks be used to dispose of the upper fullness.

The tucked skirts are usually done in chiffon or some other thin, light fabric.

They are held in place by motives cr entredeux of lace—Cluny lace preferably.

Cluny lace is in such demand, however, that it is impossible in Paris to fill the orders now on hand under six weeks.

Boleros are still to be worn, and are smart in taffeta, but the taffeta must be embroidered in some fashion.

Everything must be as 1830 as possible to be the dernier cri.

Sara Bernhardt is playing "Camille" just now in Paris, and she is dressing it absolutely on the 1830 lines, which means that one must be smaller at the shoulders than anywhere else, and from the shoulders down the outline must expand until the hem of the skirt marks its widest point.

Not over-becoming lines, I must say, but there they are, and we Modish ones will proceed to adopt them to our own peculiar style as best we may.

Velvet ribbons with their ends clamped in gold are another Paquin innovation, and they appear upon many of the models. They are very smart, and prevent the ends from curling, which is a happy inspiration.

Doucet and Callot have sent over several princess gowns that are as straight and as plain in their cut as possible. One of the best is in white cloth applique a jour in heavy lace.

The bodices has this lace put on to give the appearance of the universal bolero. The smartest of the innumerable separate boleros have collars of embroidered bastiste, edged with Cluny lace.

Medallions of embroidered bastiste are used in many ways on various materials.

They are most difficult to obtain, and promise to be among the most exclusive novelties of the season.

A great many of the models shown have belts so wide as to almost form corsets.

This fashion was attempted last au-

turn with little success.

To only very tall, slim figures is this wide belt possible for a moment, and tall, slim figures, alas! are possessed only by the very fortunate few.

Many of the new coats for evening wear are cut on 1830 lines, and seem a bit grotesque at first, with their deep dip in the front and short lines in the back—some of them that touch the floor in the front, descending in the back only half a yard or so below the waist line.

A very good model built on these lines is in tan Cluny—always the inevitable Cluny—lace, strapped with stitched bands of tan taffeta and lined with chiffon of the same hue.

Many of the new skirts have a yoke arrangement about the hips, done in a design of lace or what you will, from which fall the voluminous folds of the material that forms the rest of the skirt.

This is another mode that is not pretty even when worn the best, and when it is badly worn by women of short stature, or much avoirdupois, it becomes an impossibility. I can see no future for it. In fact, mentally reviewing all the new fads and fancies that I have seen and that I can remember, the bell sleeve is the only novelty that is likely to play an important part in the spring fashion show.

The half-sleeve, with its dainty undersleeve, is going to appeal to everybody.

It is picturesque—it is practical—it is comfortable, and it is smart; and for its revival alone I am sure Madame Paquin deserves the praise of all of us "Modishes," for it is she who makes these big coupe, you know; so we will give her our blessing, and let Monsieur Paquin have his old Legion of Honor. Who cares?—Lady Modish, in Town Topics.

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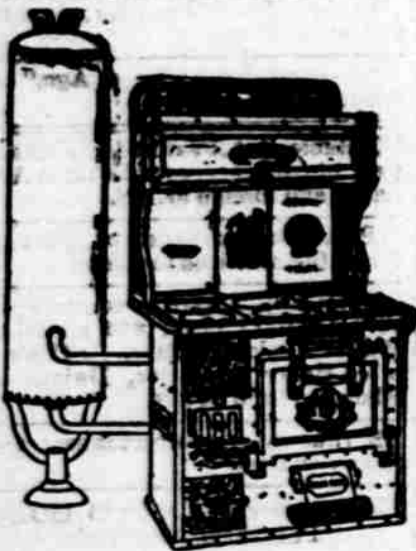
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