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### FASHION LETTER.

"Summer," to paraphrase the poet, "lingers in the lap of winter," and lingers with such marked persistency that it is getting on the fashion makers' nerves. They are beginning to despair, says Town Topics, and wonder vainly when their busy season, that is long overdue, will really arrive.

How can any woman, ever so sartorially inclined, take her winter wardrobe seriously in hand these semi-summer days?

Golf, driving, riding, croquet even—anything that offers an excuse for being in the open—are the things that most appeal to one with the mercury still at summer heat. Of course, there are those who can shop enthusiastically for dotted swiss in February and have their fur jackets made in August, but they are superior beings whose predominance of mind over matter is beyond the ken of the average modish creature. Therefore, while summer coquettes with winter there is no use expecting anything but distinctly demi-saison modes to be exploited, and they, like the season, show a tendency toward winter, with a strong summerish influence against it.

For instance, many of the cloth gowns one sees are appliqued a jour on net and on chiffon cloth, on chiffon being particularly new and smart.

One specially good model of Paquin is done in gun-metal gray broadcloth, with bands of the cloth machine-stitched a half-inch apart on gray chiffon a few shades lighter.

These bands outline the skirt, from the top of the bodice and outline the bottom of the bell sleeve, which has an undersleeve of gray chiffon only that ends in a narrow wristband of the stitched cloth and chiffon.

Another novelty of this parti season is face applied on cloth in what design you wish, and outlined in chenille, silk

cord or gold or silver braid, as your fancy indicates.

Some very smart little coats are made entirely of this lace appliqued on cloth.

The vogue of the fluffy boa, whether it be of chiffon, net, lace or chenille, increases daily, to the exclusion of fur boas.

Some dictators of fashion assert that the fluffy boa will prevail throughout the winter and will be worn with the fur boleros and coats when they appear.

Certain it is that it is to be a boa year.

High collars are no longer the latest thing.

The newest coats, no matter what the material, are made with a simple turnover collar, and it is intended that a boa of some kind be worn with them.

When they are made of fur, the boa, if not in chiffon, must be of some contrasting fur made flat and long.

An unusually smart little bolero that I saw the other day was in broadtail and the boa was in silver fox.

Silver fox boas this season are not considered really smart unless they are made flat and without the heads.

This beheading of the silver fox increases the price of the boa considerably and prevents it a bit from being too generally worn—it being an unwritten rule with the modish that nothing is smart, no matter what its charm or value, after it becomes the property of the mutable many.

Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs is wearing a very smart demi-saison frock of beige cloth, and with it she wears a boa of chiffon of the same color, edged with chenille a bit darker in hue.

Biege and tobacco—it sound better in French, tabac—are among the newest colors.

Hats that are meant to be worn with everything are done in these elusive shades. Mrs. Henry Clews is wearing a hat of the mushroom-gendre done in mushroom shade, it being a flat affair of

layers of beige tulle, edged with tabac colored velvet.

Black and white skillfully combined make a special demi-saison success, and are worn so universally that the combination has detached itself from all suggestion of half-mourning.

Mrs. "Jack" Astor is wearing a smart knockabout gown done in rough cheviot, striped with black and white.

The bolero effect, which promises to fall through everyone having it, is stimulated by heavy black braid. Mrs. Astors wears with this frock a toque of blue velvet with black ostrich feathers; black and white and blue being, incidentally, one of the best combinations of color worn this season to the modish eye.

Black cloth gowns dotted in white are another demi-saison fad, proving that Paris does not hesitate to repeat a success of a season or two past, the black-and-white dotted frocks of today being all but impossible to distinguish from the black-and-white dotted frocks of last autumn. Then they appeared in velvet, with their tiny spots done in the same hard white substance; now they may appear in cloth or grenadinish material, with hard little pellets as before.

Mrs. "Dick" Irwin, who is always well gowned, wore one of these white pellet frocks a day or two after she arrived from abroad, and looked charming in it; yet, if anybody in this country had persuaded her to buy a year-old material she would have been very cross.

Many people have asked me many questions concerning elbow sleeves. Would they be worn this season, and who would wear them?

I am especially fond of elbow sleeves—and, in my opinion, they are always good form when worn for the proper occasion.

They invariably gracefully bridge over the awkward discrepancy that exists between demi-toilettes. They have their ups and their downs in the scale of fashion, but I, for one modish, am constant to them ever, so I was delighted that Mrs. "Ollie" Iselin, who is home again from nearly a year abroad, shares my views regarding them. Mrs. Iselin wears to the play a charming gown of gray crepe de chine, which, though much tucked and crossed by effective entre deux of cream lace, remains simple in outline, and the symmetry of which is completed by close-fitting sleeves that end at the elbow.

The collar of this dainty gown is transparent, and with it Mrs. Iselin wears a long pair of white suede gloves. If every woman would copy Mrs. Iselin in gowning herself for an evening at the play she would solve the problem of being a thing of comfort as well as a thing of beauty.

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#### APHORISMS.

A man looking for opportunities passed two of them on the road.

Said one to the other: "What a hurry he is in. He never even noticed us!"

"Let's make a see saw," said Joy to Grief.

"All right," replied the latter. "Find a man."

"There's very little difference between us," said the History to the Novel.

"Oh, yes, there is," replied the latter. "We are both liars, to be sure, but I am proud of it."—Tom Masson, in November Century.

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