

vant appears). Look after the fire, Jane, and don't forget to put a hot bottle in my bed.

Servant. Very well, madame. (The door leading to the staircase is open.)

Madame (to her husband.) You go first, Edmond. So at least if you fall.—From the Parisian Illustrated Review.

**FASHION LETTER.**

Lady Modish in Town Topics.

**Elbow Sleeves and Lace Collars.**

The shirt waist suit will be a feature of the summer resort wardrobe. These suits—blouse and skirt—are frequently made of mercerized lawn, though sometimes finer fabrics are used. They look trim and are comfortable for morning wear and indispensable for golfing or tennis. The dress shirt waists, or blouses as the French call them, are more elaborate than any that have gone before, and in design and trimming call forth especial admiration. Soft silks, like Louise and peau de soie, are favored, and light shades predominate and vie with the partiality for black-and-white combinations. These blouses are wonderfully trimmed. Indeed, it seems as if the Modish world had gone mad over lace appliques, jabots, insertions, hem-stitching, tucking, cording and box pleating, until an ordinary plain silk bodice, which would have been considered dressy a year or two ago, looks as antedeluvian as a hoop skirt. This craze for abundant embellishment is nowhere more in evidence than in the collars, which are, if possible, more elaborate than during the winter months. The crush seems to be largely favored on account of its beauty as well as infinite comfort. Those of lace, made on featherbone, silk covered, with all manner of trimmings, will be particularly cool and popular. Perpendicular strips of gold braid, wired to stand erect and joined together by narrow rows of jewel or button studded velvet ribbons, are exceedingly pretty and effective.

Gold is still in fashion, but it is used very carefully and sparingly, and must be of only the best and most expensive quality. It is, however, a heavy summer trimming, and much less attractive than lace and soft, narrow ribbons. It is a boon to be thin this season, as so many of the models are becoming to slender figures only. Many of the fashionables have attained or preserved, as the case may be, this enviable condition, and several modish young matrons wear blouses flounced all over, even to the sleeves. The effect is charming, but not to be thought of except by the sylph-like, with a certain grace of carriage. An effective imported blouse is made of cream crepe de Chine, unlined, with fine wide insertion of black lace. The sleeves are short, to the elbow, and finished in a point of the lace. The collar is formed of lace stitched over invisible wire, and trimmed at intervals with two rows of tiny cream satin buttons. The popular white tulle goes around the top of this collar, finishing in the becoming and softening pompon in the back. Speaking of these bits of tulle, they should be most carefully made. Many an otherwise beautiful toilet is ruined by a careless bunching up, or, worse still, tying this dainty accessory. It should be well made by some one who knows how. It is a thing that looks easy, but is really difficult, and these little things distinguish the Modish from her mere imitator.

Elbow sleeves will be much in vogue this summer, and it will do to look well to your arms and wrists. On this point the plump woman has the advantage of the fragile one, but there are many pretty effects for thin arms, and if the fore arm is not too long, any one can

wear elbow sleeves to advantage. One especially well fitted to a thin arm terminates in several accordeon pleated flounces. Another has wide chiffon ruching next to the skin. Plump white arms are lovely in short sleeves, finished abruptly with a simple black velvet band. A blouse made of pure white lace, and unlined, was worn a few evenings ago by a well known woman, and was ravishing. The lace was a mere web, and the under waist thus discernable was a work of art. The sleeves ended midway between elbow and wrist—a trying spot, but vastly becoming, if at all—and were finished by a finely tucked chiffon cuff turned away from the full white arm. A bracelet of diamonds was worn just below, on the left arm. An elaborate lace hat, utterly devoid of ornament, completed the picturesque bodice effect. There was no color save a large, loose knot of corn-colored tulle, which caught some drapery near one shoulder. The summer girl will have dozens of these perishable, unlined blouses in her wardrobe, and those who pay the bills will realize that they are by no means as simple as they appear.

Tailor suits of heavy linen, made with a flare skirt and collarless Eton coat, are to be much more favored this season than last. About the front and neck these coats show a tiny white detachable vest. The entire suit is man-tailored, and not too expensive. Those in pale blue are lovely. A delicate green linen suit is on exhibition at one of the leading shops, with a moderately plain skirt and a blouse jacket, laced together in front through big, embroidered holes with a black Liberty satin scarf. This finishes in a sailor knot, the ends of which fall over the waist line. This same lacing appears in the back of the jacket, with scarf ends forming the military tail effect at the waist. The sleeve is also laced just above the full puff at the wrist. Never have spring toilets been more handsome and fetching than this year. Some are costly, too—even the simplest ones at the best houses. Eighty-five dollars is the price asked for a suit consisting of a plain white pique skirt, with exquisite lines, and a tiny coat with pale blue pique edging and Russian lace appliqued in the corners of the wider sailor collar. Another suit is a combination of blue and white, with straps for skirt trimming, and belt. The blouse coat is of one color, the skirt of the other. The effect is odd, but extremely stylish.

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