

FIREWORKS for the Hair Coats of Mail for Gowns.

By Lady Duff-Gordon
("Lucile")

THERE is no doubt now that, for the coming season at least, all your new models must be of American creation. Your beloved label "Imported" will no longer be a recommendation for the gown or hat to which it is attached.

And why not? I'll tell you a secret. I know many goods—not necessarily dresses—that for years have been labelled "Imported"—and yet they never saw the sea!

But one word of warning. It does not follow that because America will create the newest fashions, any American who launches a new idea can take upon herself to say that her creation is the new and particular note for the coming season any more than any French woman in Paris can do the same thing unless she has a reputation behind her for unerring judgment in what is good.

Being young, you must experiment and await the survival of the fittest that you wear at



A "Lucile" Semi-Classical Full Dress, with an Aluminum Coat of Mail, a Greek Bodice and Black Velvet Overdress.

your theatres, your horse shows and your operas. At such places, as in Paris, the best comes to the top, and is universally taken up. Just think of the hopeless chaos of six leading New York dressmakers, each strenuously insisting that he or she has the real and only style which is to be for the coming season.

One hates to speak of an "ill wind" at such a time as this, but through its blowing the close of the war may quite possibly see Paris, London and all the rest over here buying their models for Europe. Who knows?

And now for the photographs which give you glimpses of some things that are newest and best to-day.

First, there is what some are pleased to call a "Fireworks" headdress. The hair, as you will notice, is drawn well back. A most unusual "Catherine wheel" of paradise bursts from the forehead, where it is held in place by a band of sapphires. Unfortunately the photograph shows only a wee bit of the magnificent brocade and lace dinner gown with which this hat is worn. But later on I shall hope to picture it for you, because it is a dress every woman will admire and wish she might own.

Brocade is also the material used in the dainty tea coat shown on the other side of this page. The model is Russian in design, and woven in shades of gold tissue, violet and green. The transparent front is of blue chiffon bordered with sable and



One of the New "Fireworks" Headdresses, with a "Catherine Wheel" of Paradise Bursting from the Forehead, Where It Is Held in Place by a Band of Sapphires.

tied with blue and violet bands. The underdress is entirely of lace.

Another charming tea gown which I think you will like is entirely of chenille in the softest oyster shades. It is faced and piped with very pale green satin, the chiffon inside being of flesh color bound with satin.

Nothing could be dearer than the little cap which accompanies this gown. It is of lace and flowers, with a chin strip.

In the semi-classical full dress you have a very effective type, but one that is, of course, suitable only for large women. The combination of an aluminum "coat of mail" with a Greek bodice of black and diamonds and an overdress of black velvet, which suggests an old scholastic gown, is quite unusual.

The headdress is of wings arranged from the back and crossing in the front with two up-standing ends.

It would seem that daintiness rather than display is the note of the season's jewelry designs, the pioneers of the change of device being certain pendants and brooches fashioned of the finest crystal hand-carved with tiny figures of gleeful, dancing Cupids, or equally diminutive and graceful, but more pensively posed nymfs.

These pendants are of various shapes—square, oval, octagonal or round—and they are encrusted in little softly shimmering pearls and shining diamonds, with, perhaps, a pale star-sapphire introduced here and there, though the effect is really loveliest when only the three subtly different degrees of whiteness are represented and contrasted—first the cool clearness of the crystal, then the milky, satiny sheen of the pearls, and finally the fiery flashes of the diamonds.

Always, however, it is almost needless to say, the setting is of the platinum, which has now so completely ousted gold from its original position and prominence.

Sometimes the pendants will be attached to a slender, almost invisible chain of platinum, but they look even more strikingly uncommon when they hang from a fine black silk cord, and are further finished off with a soft silken tassel, their white brilliance and beauty showing up wonderfully well between these two telling touches of black.

Besides all this there is something almost daring as well as very distinctive in their unexpected breaking away from what has become an accepted and, it might have been thought, an unalterable tradition, and the real elegance will assuredly be appreciative of this chance to wear something different, and to score a triumph by simplicity instead of by splendor.

For some other lucky woman, too, there waits a pendant in the form of a tassel, the upper curves formed of pearls, while the actual tassel part is formed of countless shimmering, swaying strands of platinum chain, as fine as silk. Pretty, is it not?

Imagine, too, a corsage ornament in the form of a widely looped bow of crystal, so cleverly carved that it takes all the folds and apparently the suppleness of silken ribbon. And while two of its loops are edged with diamonds, the others are bordered with pearls, so that you get a wonderful play of light and delicately different shadings on its shimmering, ever-changing surface.

By the way, the watch bracelet is now more than ever a necessity of fashion, as well as convenience, and though many are—and will be—still made with an expanding bracelet of platinum, the real chic of the coming, as well as the past season, is the tiny square shaped watch of platinum and diamonds, which is set in the centre of a narrow band of black moire, stitched and buckled like an ordinary leather wrist strap favored by the men folks.

Then of two other novelties worth noting by those who want all their possessions to be up-to-date, one is a "motor companion," made to open and shut just like the familiar roll-top desk, there being a real convenience in the arrangement, which will make as great an appeal as its novelty.

Very Surprising Current Fashion Novelties De- scribed by Their Creator, Lady Duff-Gordon, the Famous "Lucile"

LADY DUFF-GORDON, the famous "Lucile" of London, and foremost creator of fashions in the world, writes each week the fashion article for this newspaper, presenting all that is newest and best in styles for well-dressed women.

Lady Duff-Gordon's Paris establishment brings her into close touch with that centre of fashion.



A Dainty "Lucile" Tea Coat of Russian Design.

Why Science Has Blacklisted Pussy

THAT cats are the worst of frauds and do mankind more harm than good is one of the latest edicts of science. The sprightly kittens and staid old tabby cats which for ages the human race has ranked among its best friends have all been placed on the blacklist along with the horses which the automobile has displaced and the dogs which New York City's Health Commissioner declares unfit for civilized communities.

According to the Biological Survey, the bureau of the Department of Agriculture, which has been investigating the claims of all sorts of animals to our consideration, the cat has been tolerated altogether too long. We have been deceived into thinking that it is a very useful creature when, as a matter of fact, it is doing all that any animal could, and more than most animals do, to destroy our health, wealth and happiness.

The cat's case has been decided only after the most careful deliberation. Arguments for and against the creature have been heard, but after weighing them all the court of science gives the cat the most unsparring condemnation any animal has yet received.

One of the strongest counts against pussy is its unpardonable cowardice. It masquerades as the protector of the household from mice and rats. The truth is that not one cat in a hundred has the courage to attack a rat. Where rats are at all numerous they are quite as likely to run the cats out of the house as is the opposite thing to happen.

Mice are so impudently that they might be attacked with impunity were it not for the cat usually disinclined to give them battle. Dr. A. K. Fisher, one of the government's authorities on cats, recently caught twelve mice under the bed in which he slept, despite the fact that there were four cats in the household.

Cats might possibly be forgiven for not ridding our homes of rats and mice, but there is

nothing to excuse their slaughter of chickens and young birds, of whose flesh they are inordinately fond. Larks, robins and all the other little feathered creatures which add so much to the beauty of our city parks and country lanes would be far more plentiful if they were not being constantly slaughtered by the treacherous cat. Cats are too cowardly and lazy to attack rats and mice, but they find keen delight in preying on harmless birds which are too small and weak to escape from their claws.

"Many an innocent hawk, skunk, owl or weasel," says the government bureau, "has been shot for the deeds of that sleek highwayman, the house cat. It is safe to say that this marauder, which enjoys all the comforts and protection of the home, destroys in the aggregate more wild birds and young poultry than all their natural enemies combined."

But the government's main reason for declaring war on our feline pets is that they carry disease to the children and others that handle them. Even the most aristocratic cat enjoys roaming through all sorts of unsanitary places, and its fur makes an ideal lodging place for the germs of diphtheria, smallpox, tuberculosis and other things which it may pick up there. Ringworm is one of the lesser diseases whose prevalence is attributed to our having too many cats.

The fact that you can get hydrophobia from a cat's bite and that its scratch often causes blood poisoning gives science an additional reason for placing pussy on the blacklist.

If we must have cats, science urges that they be kept in outhouses and never allowed to have the run of our homes. Before children and others are allowed to handle cats their germ-laden coats of fur should be carefully cleaned and treated with some powerful antiseptic. But even when the cat's possibilities for spreading disease have been reduced to a minimum it is still a far less safe and satisfactory household pet than even the displaced skunk would be.