Transparent Coat of Lace or Net

THE transparent coat of lace or net has not lost its place among fashionable fads. Indeed, with the increasing prestige of the princesse robe and associated coat, these elegant and picturesque garments are likely to be more than ever desirable, and the importers are already showing beautiful models of this kind.

There is great variety here, as in all coat lines, and everything from the close fitting cutaway to the loose paletot and the empire coat is permissible, provided it is successful in its own way. The closely fitted coats are newer than the loose models and less suggestive of the negligee, but, on the other hand, they are not so generally becoming as the looser coat and not so generally adaptable, requiring a frock designated especially to accompany the coat, while the transparent or semi-transparent coat of flowing lines may be worn over any summer frock of suitable material.

TWO LACE COATS AND ONE OF EMBROIDERED NET AND LACE.

Some of the close fitting models, however, are extremely chic when well worn. A popular actress recently wore a stage costume from Drecoll which won the admiration of every woman in the house.

It was a very simple princess robe of white chiffon, trimmed chiefly in many tiny tucks and made over the palest rose petal pink. The high guimpe and sleeve finish were of valenciennes.

Over this was a close fitting half length cutaway of handsome Irish lace, meeting at no point in the front and sloping away to a long rounded point in the back. At the bust the coat was held by a wide crushed fold of rose petal taffeta passing through big crochet lace circles at each side and finishing in one big loop and end just beyond the confining ornaments. A big white hat with a pink taffeta scarf and big upstanding egret of huge pale pink roses completed the costume.

Another close fitting cutaway coat seen last week was in handsome black Spanish lace and accompanied a princesse gown of rose Du Barry silk mousseline.

Irish lace does not lose its hold upon feminine favor, though the fastidious woman now wears it only when she can have the real lace of handsome quality, the imitations having reached a point of tawdriness and plenty which has discounted all save the obviously genuine article. In this effective lace one finds every shape of coat from the short, loose, of semi-fitting paletot to the long ample cloak, and even little loose boleros of fantastic shape are offered, a survival of Japanese armholes or sleeve ideas being a feature of most of these coats.

There are, too, many picturesque creations, hardly collar, hardly bolero, which fall loose straight to the waist line, front and back, and are cut with an extension over the sleeve tops which suggests a cape or big, short Japanese sleeve, though there is no under arm part to the collar bolero arrangement.

Lace coats fitted, but girdled and made with basques or skirts, short or long, are also among the offerings, all of these closer models following the general tendency toward displaying the lines of the figure and emphasizing the high, rounded bust and slender hips that are now the correct thing in corsets and in figures. Very chic empire coats of lace also show girdles, with long straight or cutaway coat skirts falling below these girdles.

Variations of the chasuble and stole ideas are introduced into the coats of lace and of net, and the lace wrap, which is little more than a very wide, long stole, sleeveless and with cord or other ornaments holding back and fronts together under the arms, is liked.

Sleeveless coats of lace or embroidered net are, it is said, to be popular during the summer and advance models have been sent over which are half length or more, semi-fitting, sleeveless, but extending out over the sleeve top and comparatively large of armhole. They meet over the bust, but just below the bust line are cut sharply back and upward, to fall in straight lines with a wide opening between, so that the slim curving waistlines of the frock beneath may be seen.

Other models like the one of the sketch have, if not sleeves, at least late drapery which may pass for a sleeve, this drapery being usually rather short on the outer arm and falling in long points front and back, the points finished with heavy tassel or balls.

Cluny is as popular as Irish lace for the coat and wonderful combinations of cluny and valenciennes, cluny and embroidered net, cluny and soutache net, cluny and valenciennes and Irish crochet are made by the lace coat designers. Cluny is dyed more often than Irish lace and takes the colors more successfully, and another lace which dyes beautifully and has gained a hold upon fickle Parisian favor is the handsome heavy, yet soft, Spanish lace.

As for the nets, they, of course, dye well and are much used in color, embroidered with floss or fiber silk, in self-tone or contrasting shades. Some of these net coats are remarkably handsome and the nets are in all grades of fineness, from course fishnet to blonde. The shape of the mesh varies, too, filet being still a favorite, though the round and octagonal meshes are as well liked.

Embroidery in silks is frequently combined with soutache embroidery in the handsome coats, and laces with soutaching are used for excellent effects, the lace being introduced in motifs surrounded with whirling scrolls of fine soutache. Then, too, one sees whole coats of rather fine net entirely covered with soutache embroidery, the whole dyed to match a frock and made up with soft facings and big buttons of liberty satin of the same shade.

A conspicuous but beautiful evening coat worn at the opera last week was a long, graceful, loose affair with draped sleeves, and was of what appeared to be a very coarse, heavy silk net in feu (an exquisite pinkish red), embroidered heavily in coarse, gleaming, black silk and faced down the fronts and around the wide draped sleeves with black liberty.

An adorable little French coat of handsome guipure fastens with one big jewelled button over the bust, and has a beautiful scarf of soft silk embroidered in many dull tones folded about inside the neck line and falling in two broad straight tabs to the waistline under the coat fronts so that it gives the impression of a waistcoat.

Coats entirely of embroidered or braided net, made in loose full paletots and bordered all around in plain six inch bands of soft satin, are a specialty of one Parisian house.

And while pelerine or scarf draperies hardly come under the heading of coats, one cannot end a discussion of the season's transparent wraps without mentioning the shawllike draperies of bordered chiffon or mousseline which accompany some of the French model frocks made of the same bordered stuffs. These draperies fall in long slender points quite to the knees in front and in one point to the waistline in the back, but are plaited over the shoulders so that they fall only a little over the arm.

The flowered border of the material is so handled that it runs all around the wrap. Only a tall, slender woman with a capacity for the picturesque should venture upon one of these new shawls, but properly worn, the entire costume should have extraordinary charm on a summer day.

What the Women Are Doing

Domestic Science in Colleges.

NOTABLE among the many educational activities of women is the marked advance in teaching domestic science in schools and colleges. Prof. Helen Kinne of the Teachers' college of New York City, in a recent address sketched the progress made in this direction. "Twenty-five years ago," she said, "there were not twenty-five women teaching domestic science in the United States. Now there are thousands. Twenty-five years is not a long period in any era or any movement. Yet twenty-five years ago in Boston there was just one public school kitchen, where girls went after school hours if they liked. It had an English teacher and was supported by one woman, Mrs. Mary Hemingway, who had begged permission to start it as an experiment. In New York also there was one small school started by an association of women and it was attended by a few young women who wanted to learn to cook. In the west the honor of initiation lies between Kansas and Iowa, for, young as the movement is, we have already lost the beginnings of our history and both those states claim the honor of starting the first school of domestic science in the west.

"Today almost every university in the west has a large and well developed department of domestic science, and it is a fact that one woman has won the degree of Ph. D. by graduate work done in domestic science, the University of Chicago giving enough in household economics alone for the winning of this degree. In that university I found the professor of architecture giving courses of lectures on household architecture to the women taking the household economics course, the professor of chemistry lecturing on the chemistry of cooking, and so on.

"Many persons do not appreciate all that is included under the head of 'household economics.' Dr. Taylor, president of Vassar, for instance, declares himself against household economics in Vassar. He does not want it there. But there is a course on house sanitation at Vassar. I said to Dr. Taylor: 'But house sanitation is a part of domestic science.' And then he changed the subject. To many people 'domestic science' means nothing but cooking.

"Some of our teachers have had curious experiences in the west. Within the last few years domestic science has been introduced into the farmers' institutes out there. A woman from the University of Illinois gave a practical illustration of scientific bread-making before an audience of farmers' wives at such an institute one day. At its conclusion a man came up to her and said, with the most naive exhibition of sex superiority: 'Why, this sort of thing isn't for women; it's for bakers. You have no business teaching these women; you ought to be teaching men.' The man was a baker and as a result a state association of bakers made formal application to the president of the university for scientific instruction in bread-making.

"Another woman from the University of Tennessee was sent to talk about domestic science to a farmers' institute in that state. When she reached the platform she was confused to find herself confronted by an audience of 1,200 men, farmers, with a small sprinkling of women. They were so pleased with the talk that they wanted the subject made a regular part of the course thereafter.

"In Germany, where, if anywhere, one would suppose that old-fashioned home training was still in full force, the state has established the course more thoroughly and systematically than anywhere else. They have their housekeeping schools, where young women of well-to-do families go every day, and all day, and study nothing else. They do everything connected with housekeeping. They market, clean house, cook, keep household accounts, wash and iron and study the chemistry of food and the cost of living."

Girls Are Good Sleuths.

Nellie Storrs and Margaret Hickey, both 12 years old, were responsible for the capture of three alleged burglars at Jackson, Mich.

The Storrs girl visited her school friend, Miss Hickey, at the latter's home in rooms above the Dewey drug store. In the night they were awakened by noises at the rear door, and, looking out of the window, saw two men. They had broken a window and were trying to unfasten the catch of the sash when the girls screamed and the men fled. In the morning on their way to school the girls saw three men, two of whom they identified as their visitors of the night previous. The girls ran to police headquarters, told their story to officers, and the men were arrested.

A Substitute for the Rib Theory.

The poor Hindu was sadly put to it to account for woman, lovely woman, but no more so than many wiser ones since his time. According to the legend, Twashtri, the Vulcan of Hindu mythology, created the world, but when he arrived at the final object which was to be his chef d'oeuvre he found to his annoyance that he had run out of materials. He had not a single chunk of solid matter left.

With a mental execration upon his carelessness he fell into a profound meditation, the result of which was that he took "the roundness of the moon, the undulating curves of the serpent, the graceful twist of the creeping plant, the light shivering of the grass blade and the slenderness of the willow, the velvety softness of the flowers, the lightness of the feather, the gentle gaze of the doe, the frolicsomeness of the sunbeam, the tears of the cloud, the inconstancy of the wind, the timidity of the hare, the vanity of the peacock, the hardness of the diamond, the cruelty of the tiger, the heat of the fire, the chill of the snow, the cackling of the parrot and the cooing of the turtle dove."

He mixed these together in equal proportions and the result was woman. After all, demands the Kansas City Journal, isn't this an advance upon the rib theory?

Leaves from Fashion's Notebook.

A pretty gown for spring is a princess jumper made of Delft blue foulard. The yoke and sleeves are of embroidered net lace, with large overhanging shoulder capes.

If one desires a dress that will be useful for a long time, one cannot do better than select one of the little novelty suitings of smooth surface and fine weave. It can be in a soft almost invisible stripe, and its color can be any one of the new tones.

A pretty little cap for the baby may be made a faille with narrow ribbons drawn along the back edge in two cord tucks for strings. The crown is formed by tying these narrow ribbons at the back of the head, and others are drawn on the sides to meet at the back of the neck.

It is a difficult thing to predict the most popular pattern in spring suits. It remains for time to tell which of all the styles offered is the most generally accepted. There is the popular skirt and coat design, and this will probably be worn, in spite of the princess dresses and the shirtwaist suits which have made their appearance in renewed strength of numbers.

A little touch of trimming that is becoming more and more popular is a soft lace ruffle on the under side of a broad-brimmed straw hat. The lace is wide and is fastened only at the under corner of the brim and crown, so that the effect is something like that of a Charlotte Corday cap worn under a hat. This will be extremely becoming to certain faces.

Sleeves are immensely interesting and as for armholes they have disappeared as though they had gone completely out of style. Temporarily the armhole is invisible and almost every artifice is employed to hide the way in which the sleeve is joined to the waist. There are wide shoulder caps that fall nearly to the elbow and there are the Japanese jackets with broad, short sleeves falling not quite to the bend in the arm.

The most important note to be made in connection with the new spring color scheme is that monochrome effects prevail to an extent not known in many a long season. In many of the more exclusive models, foreign as well as domestic, no vestige of contrasting color or even tint is in evidence, and on others there is, perhaps, a delightful little touch given in a fold that outlines a yoke or furnishes the top of a high, shaped stock.

A new and original skirt that is equally adaptable for all materials, cotton, wool and silk, has seven gores, alternating ones slashed to allow the introduction of triangular-shaped pieces. These pieces may be of embroidery or tucking. In one model, where the gown material is of cashmere, the triangles are braided allover and set in with a narrow piping around them, while a simple gingham frock shows these pointed pieces of Hamburg embroidery with the same triangular effect carried out in the decorative scheme of the waist.

In hat trimmings there are as much variety and elaboration as ever. Flowers and foliage take rank as first favorites and flowers and grasses are made up into aigrette and pompon effect even more than before, especially the tall colonial pompon, which is popular in Paris. Not only roses, but flowers that were never before seen on hats, are much in evidence now, in sizes from a forget-me-not to a flower ten inches in diameter. Some of this season's novelties are beautiful magnolias in white, with touches of green and baby pink, as well as pond lilies, iris and even peonies and lilies. These long-stemmed flowers are worn erect, adding greatly to the height effect.

Chat About Women.

Barnard girls tall of borrowing their Columbia brothers' custom of presenting a loving cup to the valedictorian or other distinguished class member, and the press is trying to find out what they would drink from it.

Mrs. Caroline M. Severance, who is honary vice president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, celebrated her eightieth birthday anniversary on January 5 at the clubhouse in Los Angeles.

The finest collection of gems in the world is said to be owned by the queen of Siam. Some of them she wears in ornaments that are of massive size, but many of them are only hung on wires and she drapes herself with them.

Ohio stands second in the number of clubs in the General Federation, and seventh in club membership among the states represented in the General Federation, with 36 clubs and 12,200 clubwomen enrolled.

According to the Manhattan Trade school the millinery trade is not a very good one for women, as there is a slack season that takes away the profits of the busy season. The trade school found difficulty in selling hats made by the apprentices, and now will merely train milliners' assistants.

The National Educational association will meet this year in Cleveland. One new branch will be the department consisting of representatives of all the women's organizations that are federated, the object being to get information as to the best ways these societies may co-operate with teachers.

Mrs. I. L. Rice of New York, who has organized the society for the prevention of noise in the United States, is now interested in the organization of children's societies. They will be taught not to play in the vicinity of hospitals, the school teachers to help in the instruction, for, of course, another burden must be added to the work of the teachers.

Miss Anne Morgan, daughter of J. Pierpont Morgan, is interested in the work of factory girls, and a society has been formed, the members being society women of New York and other cities, the purpose of which is to improve the conditions of factories in which girls and women work. There will be a meeting on March 6, and as the society is to be a national one, there will be representatives from many places. The new society is a branch of the National Civic federation, in which Mrs. Gertrude Beeks, is interested. Miss Morgan will be the president of the new society.

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Sideboards

Large solid oak, handsomely polished Sideboards, canopy top, French plate mirror 13.75

Exceptionally finished quarter-sawed oak Sideboards, newest designs, remarkable values 22.50

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Buffet in solid oak, weathered finish, extra special value 15.10

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Cobbler seat solid oak, dining chair, large and comfortable 1.68

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The best selected solid oak is used in these extension tables. They have extra heavy base, large tops, and are brilliantly polished. Greatly underpriced for this week.

China Closets

Bent end design, double strength glass, china cabinets, each 12.98

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94-piece English Semi-Porcelain Dinner Set, handsomely decorated 12.25

56-piece Porcelain Decorated Dinner Set, big value 6.75

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Six-foot round top Pedestal Extension Tables, each 18.50

Large square top 6-foot Extension Table, heavy legs, turned and fluted 6.75

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This bed is of handsome design, with large tubing joints and chills, heavily enameled. The mattress has soft top and durable ticking. The springs are of the best pliable steel, strong excellent and comfortable.

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Five Drawer Chiffonier, with French plate mirror, massive design 7.95

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Oak finish Washstand, large drawers and compartment, well made 3.58

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Solid oak Bedroom Suite, made throughout of solid oak, design of universal favor, nicely polished 23.50

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Printed Linoleums, best grade, all guaranteed, square yard 49c

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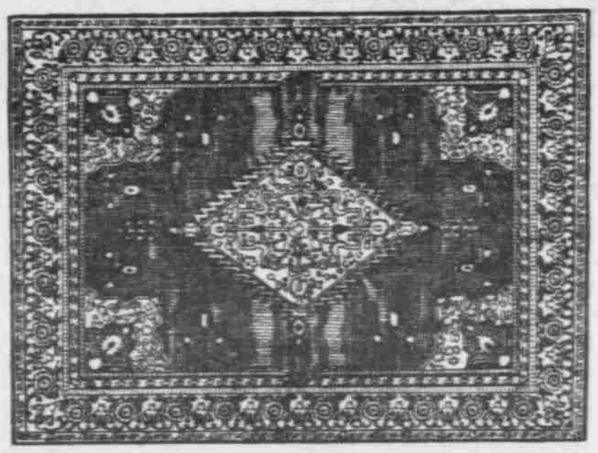

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A new and handsome design of Couch, imported velour coverings, all steel construction, at 8.75

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Massive Davenport Sofa Bed. Figured velour covering, automatic adjustment, all spring construction 26.75

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Solid oak Roman Chair, elaborate carvings, handsomely polished, very massive design 7.89

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Parlor Cabinets, very handsome designs, made in polished mahogany, has large French plate mirror, at 8.75

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