GLAD CLOTHES FOR SUMMER

Garments that Are Luxurious, Some Within the Average Reach.

FROCK COATS OF LIGHT WEIGHT

Evening Clothes Brightened with Ruffled Shirts—Colors of the Rainbow in Men's Hat Bands.

The number of men able to change the weight of their dress clothes to suit the summer season is not large. To have a frock coat, for instance, which shall be so light in texture as to be suited to summer wear is a luxury pure and simple.

The spring and summer uses of the frock coat are few, writes a fashion oracle in the New York Sun. It may be worn possibly at a few town weddings, and after the middle of June the number of them will be limited. Guests at a country wedding, at whatever season it may be, are not required to wear a frock coat and only the ushers are condemned to this penalty for their importance.

There are three buttons to the new frock and only one of them in the roll. That should never be buttoned, even if habit does inspire the wearer to button close the other two. Occasionally these coats have the edges braided, but there has already been some sort of a rebellion against the braiding, which, in spite of its great popularity, was never considered the best style for the frock coat. Blind stitching, as it is called, which shows no sewing at all, is really the smartest finish for these coats.

The materials for the summer frock are, of course, in black and very dark gray, unless the coat is meant for driving, when very light gray or even brown is the smart color this year. For the dress frock the typical soft gray worsted show a herring-bone or other pattern, almost invisible; and in blacks, whether they be woolens or cassimeres, the soft, dull finish will be used. There is, indeed, little demand for the hard, shiny finish for dress garments of any kind. In the evening dress suits, whether the cut be full evening dress or merely a dinner coat, the materials are the soft, rough finish goods.

Smooth Finish Appropriate.

For the rough frock coat to be worn on the top of a coach—few other places are suited to such striking dress—the smooth finish gray or brown is appropriate, although one often sees at the races coats so rough, as far as the material goes, that they look like homespuns. In the brown frock coats the smoother finish is invariably used. Brown is always a less dressy color than gray, just as it is so much further removed from black. Alfred Vanderbilt, who wears these sporting frock coats on top of his coach, with his white high hat and the black band about the bottom, always prefers the light, rough grays.

The half dress coat, or cutaway morning or walking coat, as it is variously called in this country, is made in the same light textures that are used for the summer frock. It, like the frock, is either but half lined or is lined with the thinnest silk only about the front bodies. It is now braided, if the material is dark gray or black, of the kind used in the frock, and this one detail adds a note of dressiness to the garment that it gets in no other way. If there be an invisible diagonal, check or herring-bone in the black fabric the braid makes it more modish still. Extremely conventional dressers, on the other hand, hold to the old theory that braid is suited only to goods of a hard, smooth finish and take the blind stitching as the most appropriate finish for a half dress suit.

There should be breast pocket, braided if that finish is used, a change pocket with a flap and tails that are well cut away from the front. They are of moderate length. The skirts are cut in at the waist to give the necessary look of trigness and either two or three buttons are used. The lapels are peaked. The coat is cut low enough at the neck to show the waistcoat, which, if a waist coat of the same material be worn, should be finished with a white dickey inserted in the collar. Sometimes the change pocket is omitted, which adds an element of dressiness to the cutaways.

Half Dress and Cutaway.

The half dress or cutaway coat may be made in a variety of materials which are not possible to the frock, since almost any material suitable for a sack coat may be used for a cutaway; but such a garment will not be any more dress than a sack. Only flannels seem to be excluded from the list of materials available for the cutaway. This is in the real sense of the word, however, a walking rather than a half dress coat, and certain peculiarities of the cut emphasize that difference. The tails of these coats, when made up in mixtures or checks for instance, are somewhat wider than in the dress cutaways and they have broad flaps over the imaginary pockets at these points. The ticket or change pocket in front also has a flap and often the seams are strapped throughout. Then the handkerchief pocket is likely to have a flap, which in some cases buttons down. There is indeed no end to the sporty details that a tailor may add to the cutaway when it is made of rough goods. But it is a mistake to think that such a rig can be regarded as dress. At the utmost it might be possible at a country wedding.

There are few changes in the summer dress suit, which is usually made of a cloth so thin that it needs a lining to give it the necessary body. The collar is provided with the peaks which in the smartest coats are covered with satin down to the edge. The trousers, which are also of such thin material that the prudent man buys two pairs to begin with, are usually edged with braid, although it is somewhat of a fashion to have them made in these summer suits without braid or with such a thin line of cord as to be almost invisible.

The summer dinner coat is perhaps the most necessary of all these dress garments for hot weather wear. Men who stop in town for the summer are likely to put on a dinner coat every evening. Thus it happens that a summer dinner coat is in the wardrobe of many New Yorkers who would not think of spending the money necessary for summer dress coats.

Coats for Evening Functions.

The dinner jacket as usual varies in no important particular from the sack coat, being the same in length and in the closeness of its fit. In order to have the greatest benefit of the thin cloth, the tailors leave the coat without any lining other than that to be found on the collar, which has peaked lapels as a rule, although there is a tendency just now to return to the roll collar, which was always more suited to an informal garment like a dinner coat. These shawl rolls, as they are called, are not in the least appropriate to full evening dress. They are much better for the short dinner coat, however, as they are more in keeping with a sack coat and usually make the fit of the dinner coat better. The soft tropical worsteds in gray and black are used for these suits, which are a delight to men in the habit of dressing every night for dinner.

The summer evening dress, just like its winter pendant, must be worn with a white waistcoat, and the finest duck serves best for that purpose. It is of course single breasted, V-shaped at the opening and ending in the two points. Three buttons are the usual number, and whether or not there be a collar is wholly a question of taste. The better form for a waistcoat for a dinner coat is some dark gray, black or drab, and these come in linen and cotton goods as cool as any white waistcoat would be, although they may not look so. And the black tie that accompanies the dinner coat may be of the thinnest and softest black china silk.

A wholly appropriate detail of the summer dinner coat is the soft pleated shirt, which is in fact suitable nowhere else in the whole range of man's wardrobe. It is by no means uncommon to see in London and Paris, especially Paris, men wearing with formal evening dress soft white shirts elaborately embroidered, pleated and ruffled. They are permissible in this country with dinner coats, and in fact are just now distinctly modish; but the American taste has never yielded to any substitute for the plain white linen shirt for full evening dress, whatever the season of the year may be.

"The line of headpieces they are dealing out to the male portion of the dear public this year would make the late Solomon, in all his glory, look like a Quaker at his grandmother's funeral," says a critic in the New York Tribune.

"Look at 'em," he continued. "Gaze cautiously at that log-winged Panama, for example, the one with the modest streamer on its tasty band, a foot long and six inches wide, smeared promiscuously with all the colors of the rainbow and some others no respectable rainbow ever dreamed of. That sort of thing's made to pay election bets with. And there are those soiled pea-green derbies with the broad, red, white and blue bands. Oh, it's a shame they can't circulate some of those through the country districts! What a joy they'd be to the beef critters!

"And ain't this the sweet young thing, the dainty, pure white derby, with the heliotrope band, beautifully pleated! Oh, I could go to church with that thing on! There's something so suggestive of innocence about it—that is, the innocence of the full-grown man who would appear in the street with one on. They've got the same thing with polkadot bands, and I saw one cream-colored dream belted with a cheap imitation of a dew-laden rainbow.

"And what a bunch of awe-inspiring Scotch plaid caps they are showing! Ought to be great things to keep crows from eating the golf balls. Then there are the round, brown plush affairs. I'd want to pet a man who wore one of those; makes him look like a dear little Teddy bear. And there's the slouch, with frizzly bands, like turbans, made of strips of old lace curtain, attractively dyed. The cowboy felt is in the running again this year, too, only it couldn't help decorating itself a little more than usual.

"A brand new one on me is the stiff felt, made in the exact shape of the low, narrow-brimmed stiff straw hat.

"Do men really pay good money for those freaks? Not often. A man's mental make-up is revealed by the style of hat he wears. Not many of us will admit we have cerebral wheels that emit that kind of sparks. A fellow will see one of those gay topknots in a show window a mile away. He'll hasten over for a nearer view. Perhaps he'll admire its architecture out in front till the watchful clerk inside thinks he's got a sucker. Then the prospective customer will walk in and say: 'I want a hat, plain black derby, please.'

"Yes, gents' hatmakers are sure crowding the milliners hard this year in the way of the fearful and wonderful."

Spring Hats Are Very Attractive

AN EARLY spring and a late Easter have combined to make the Easter hat a matter of fact as well as a matter of tradition this year. Straw hats bloomed early, and while there are exaggerations and monstrosities, as there always are, the percentage of attractive hats is large.

For a time it was rather difficult to get used to the fashion in which the hats nestle down upon the head, and even now some of the heavy shapes set very low with bandeau are amazing, but the late winter French hats, prepared as to some extent for this freak, and American women as a class are not carrying the mode quite so far as do the Parisians.

Possibly the one of the new hat shapes most susceptible to burlesque is the new sailor, and though a few women succeed in looking chic in the most enormous type of this hat as turned out by an expert milliner, swarms of cheap imitations are already on view, and the chances are that the fastidious woman will loathe the very word sailor by the time the spring is past.

There are more large shapes than small and yet among the small and medium size hats there is a great variety, and indeed were it not for the height of crown many of the models at first thought classed as large would really fall under the heading of medium.

It is in this height of crown that the dominant characteristic of the season's millinery lies. High effects are the rule and in some instances this tendency to soaring lines goes to most spectacular extremes.

Ostrich plumes, set stiffly on end, wings of great sweep pointing sharply upward, aigrettes of great roses or other flowers nodding high at front or side, pheasant plumes, gourah feathers, etc., extending to an astonishing point beyond the hat and head lines—all these have grown familiar to us; and yet, as we have said, the rank and file of the new hats are delightful, and every woman can surely find something becoming, provided she has the taste to know what is becoming to her and is not led away by a love for the merely bizarre.

Among the small hats there are two general types, the somewhat heavy turban, usually of draped straw or other material, and the hat of high, sharply defined crown and close curling brim, but there are multitudinous variations upon these two themes.

The heavier turbans trimmed with sweeping feathers of one sort or another or with flowers call for a face somewhat large and a profusion of hair, and when not too heavy are comfortable, practical shapes over which a veil goes well, but they are not so new as the small hats of sharper outline; and, though these last are not for every woman, when they are becoming they have a tremendous smartness and piquancy, especially in connection with trig tailored trailing costumes.

The small models of the sketches are of the less severe and trying lines, the crown angles being filled in by trimming, but small, sloping crowns or jam pot crowns in combination with narrow curling brims and trimmed simply by some flat band or scarf around the crown and some stiffening or feather brush are immensely popular in Paris and are shown by all the importers.

Among the larger hats, leaving the new sailor out of the question, there is some general conformity of line despite the apparent bewildering variety. The high crown and the wide brim, turning up more or less sharply at the left front or left side, are the rule.

The genuine cloche and mushroom shapes are out of date, though some of the Louis XVI models in net or lace suggest the familiar lines, but many of the brims, a majority of them in fact, droop low on the right side and back. Setting low on the head, as they do, these hats sometimes suggest a possible eclipse of the face beneath, but the full mass of fluffy hair universally worn and the upward curl of the left brim save the day.

One of the most popular shapes in this class is very heavy in effect, the crown being large as well as high, the medium wide brim dipping sharply, so that from the right side there is practically no view of the face, and the right side of the brim turning up as sharply. This model is actually becoming to only a few, but the fashionable milliners show it in very handsome models.

Flower trimmed hats of the rose trimmed kind illustrated here are charming and generally becoming and the wonderful beauty of the season's artificial flowers and of the ribbons so much used with these flowers afford the designers ample opportunity for triumphs in such headgear.

Roses of all kinds from the most Brobdingnagian of silken beauties to the tiniest of spraying button roses, and in every imaginable color harmony that nature or art could suggest, lead the floral procession, but there are other popular and beautiful flowers. The hydrangeas in all the delicate shadings of pale lavender and pink and blue and greenish white are prime favorites and are massed in all these harmonizing tints upon summery hats of leghorn, Tuscan, yedda, etc.

Geraniums in many vivid and beautiful colorings are liked by the French designers, as are primroses, and there is a fancy for combining numerous colors in these massed blossoms, a thing requiring such color sense as the French appear to possess by right, and failing lamentably it there is the slightest disconant chord in the odd melange of lavender and rose and blue and purple, etc.

A FEW OF THE EASTER HATS.

Orchids and striking pole lilies, with curling petals spotted lightly in darker color are among the larger flowers effectively used.

The Tuscan braids are enjoying a new lease of life, but, indeed, it seems as though all the braids known to millinery were in evidence this spring. Horsehair, chip, milan, Yedda, Tuscan, panamo and a host of which we do not even know the names are offered for choice, and charming things are made up in corded net, in lace and in lingerie.

Among the most picturesque of the French models are the Louis XVI calottes, already mentioned, with their soft draped crowns of net or lace or lingerie or even straw and their falling plaitings or frills of lace. Some of these rise to great height through the airy drapery of net in the crown or great bows of net or lace in front. Others are fairly high, but have no soaring trimming.

A fold and knot of soft ribbon with a single large rose thrust carelessly through this scarf, an encircling wreath of little roses or rosebuds, a scarf of ribbon knotted and falling in long ends down the back—these are some of the trimming devices employed for the delectable little or big draped models, and for the woman to whom such a hat is becoming nothing could be more attractive for wear with lingerie frocks and other sheer summer toilets.

These latest models are a far cry from the frilled "bebe" hats worn to such excess in earlier seasons and are successful only when turned out by an artist's hands. If one cannot afford to patronize such a maked one of the pretty straw shapes is a wiser choice.

All of the burnt straw and yellowish braid colorings are modish in millinery and there is an immense amount of blue used in combination with apparently any and every color, although the combinations are carefully studied. The peacock blue tones are well to the fore, and straws in the lighter greenish blues, trimming in many peacock lines, are particularly chic.

Rose, coral, cerise, all the new pinkish reds, are considerably used and there are lovely things in the light browns and the smoky gray hues.

Hats of cream point d'esprit with shirred and corded brim and high crowns, softened by ribbon, lace and flowers, will be much worn with summer frocks, and the designers are producing some very original and delightful effects in these models. The hat of the sketch, for example, had great charm and quaintness.

A wreath of rather small roses in creamy pinks lay around the angle 'twixt brim and crown, and around the very top of the crown was folded a soft blue ribbon which was tied in a bow at the front. Over this ribbon fell a frill of lovely sheer lace and a second frill coming from under the ribbon fell over the upper edges of the roses.

Pongee figures, conspicuous in millinery as in costumes and coats, facing brims, forming whole draped crowns, folded into scarfs, etc. The pongees printed in beautiful designs and colorings are especially liked for trimming purposes and one of these smart pongee scarfs in vivid yet harmonious coloring is as chic a trimming as can be selected for simple outing hats.

IN PRAISE OF PYJAMAS

Superiority of One Slumber Garment Over Another Pathetically Pictured.

Eddie Foy, the emient comedian, at a theatrical supper in New York, made a funny speech in praise of pyjamas.

"Always wear pyjamas," he began. "Never wear a nightshirt. I have never worn a nightshirt since I heard the horrible experience of Fritz Sausage, a German waiter of Chicago had with the pesky things.

"Fritz Sausage used to come home every evening from the cafe with his pockets full of dimes and quarters—his day's tips, you know. His wife, after he had fallen asleep, would get up and raid that silver mine. Fritz said nothing, though he thought it was an unkind thing for her to do.

"At last he decided he wouldn't stand those nocturnal raids any longer. So the next night he came home he waited till his wife was asleep and then got out of bed, took all the silver from his pockets, climbed back under the sheets again and very quietly tied the money up in a corner of his nightshirt.

"Then he smiled to himself. He couldn't help thinking how disappointed his wife would be when she tiptoed across the dark room in the cold and went through his pockets and found nothing.

"He fell asleep as happy as a child. He awoke in broad daylight. His wife was bending over him tenderly.

"'Oh, Fritz,' she said, 'thank you for the present.'

"'What present?' said he.

"'Why,' said his wife, 'all that money tied up in my nightie.'"—St. Louis Republic.

PASTE THIS ON THE MIRROR

Chicago Jury Relieves Husband from Responsibility for Wife's Bills.

A Chicago jury declares that a husband is not responsible for his wife's finery bill contracted without his consent. Whereat the Inter Ocean chuckles gleefully in this style:

Oh, joy, and also Eureka, likewise tickle

When a collector comes around to garnishee your pay for didoes that the missus bought because they were marked down from $50 to $15.29, refer him to her for payment, or suggest that he might stand out on the corner and whistle for it.

For this momentous decision give thanks to a jury of nine benedicts and three bachelors, who officially verdicted in Municipal Judge Newcomer's court Friday that Lawrence W. Ferguson, 254 Oakwood boulevard, is not to be held responsible for the hats and shirt waists to the value of $165 purchased from a woman's haberdashery on credit by Mrs. Ferguson.

Ferguson told the jury when he was on the stand that he did not know that the other half of the family had purchased the raiment until the bills came in, and the married men, picturing themselves in the same boat, and the bachelors, in sympathetic accord, officially permitted the company to collect from Mrs. Ferguson—if it can—by returning judgment against her for the entire amount.

Wherefore, some more joy and extra hurrahs.

Attorney J. J. Thompson, for the complainants, made a motion for a new trial, but by the time it is heard all of the wives in Chicago will have purchased their Easter bonnets, and, of course, many hubbies will know nothing about them until the bills come in and will deny that the new "lids" are luxuries such as plain waists, skirts, petticoats, drop skirts, and cor—oh, joy!

Throughout the trial, in which efforts were made to secure only married jurors, the somber court room had been turned into a veritable bazaar of feminine finery. All of the purchases that Mrs. Ferguson had made at the fashionable furnisher's were on exhibition, causing the place to look like a flower garden in mid-June.