

SIMPLE DESIGNS FOR NEW FROCKS

Following After-the-War Extravagance in Clothes Reverse Reaction Prevails.

TAFFETA DRESSES IN FAVOR

Fabric Bids Fair to Be Popular for Spring Wear—Summery-Looking Hats for Southern Visitors.

As a violent reaction, clothes became widely extravagant almost as soon as the war was over. There were a few months of readjustment, while dressmakers were getting their establishments back into normal working condition; but this period was surprisingly brief. No sooner was this done, even in a limited way, than the market became flooded with an avalanche of clothes, as extravagant as any that the world has ever seen. Now we are experiencing a reverse reaction, observes a prominent fashion correspondent.

While it cannot be claimed that our frocks are any less expensive than they were six months ago, they are a great deal simpler in design. There is no mistaking the indication that women want all of their dresses built on the simplest and most youthful lines, and that they will pay more for a dress of this character than one elaborated with applied trimmings.

Season Calls for Pretty Clothes.

We tire, in time, of all our clothes, and now is the time when we especially feel the need of something fresh and different. Then, at this season, we have so many more social engagements that we like to have a great variety of pretty clothes in which to appear. In both the early and late autumn this need was filled by one-piece cloth dresses and beautiful furs. Later, these frocks were topped by coats of either cloth or fur. Now, we feel the need of a suit that is completed by some sort of an attractive blouse, unusual enough to make the costume something quite different from the old-fashioned coat and skirt.

A suit, by Doeulliet, was created to fill this need. Its arrival may be heralded as the most popular suit that this famous house has launched for the winter. The strong one-side movement and the long coat are its features. The portion which laps across the front, buttoning under the left arm, to give a semi-belted appearance, is cut in one piece with the right front of the jacket. The color combination



Tailored Suit of Brown Duvetyn, With Jacket Showing Yoke Effect and Skirt Having an Overhanging Panel at Front.

worked out in this is remarkably pleasing. Copper brown velours de laine is the material selected for it.

The tendency in tailored suits is toward the use of pronounced colors. The erstwhile popular dark blue is, for the moment, neglected. Much of this is doubtless due to the fact that in rough wool pile fabrics dark blue is the least attractive of all shades. There must be some changing depth to the color tone to bring out the beauty of the fabric; hence, browns and greens are chosen in preference to blue or black.

The vest and collar are of broad-tail fur, although it has been made with these trimmings of the heavy plush which is often substituted for fur this season. While the broadtail

is decidedly more luxurious, the plush is most economical, and has the advantage of being equally fashionable. Doeulliet completes his costume with a smart bodice of black satin, embroidered in copper color. This makes the suit beautiful and practical.

Taffeta Dresses Midwinter Favorites.

It is surprising to find taffeta dresses meeting with continued success in the midwinter season. Those who look ahead in fashions will see in this indications of a considerable use of this fabric for spring. We have come to think of it as such a practical material that it never has had the attention that it deserved from the artistic standpoint. It was always featured in evening gowns for members



Suit of Copper Velours de Laine, Affords an Outfit Quite Different From Old-Fashioned Coat and Skirt Suit.

of the younger set, but we rarely saw it in handsome daytime frocks, as for some reason or other it has come to be considered a somewhat informal material. Now our greatest designers have taken it up and are exploiting it in a way that makes everybody wonder why we did not realize its possibilities before.

Taffeta Popular With Designers.

Probably the puffy skirts of this autumn gave it the first boost toward success for it does come into prominence whenever we have a wider silhouette, due to the fact that its stiffness makes it suitable to these designs. Now those who make dresses are using it for straight-line models which wrap about the figure. Of course it is not a fabric which lends itself to a long-line drapery with any degree of grace, but it could not be surpassed by any other material for short, puffy drapery.

Lanvin especially has had great success with her taffeta dresses. She makes them with and without embroidery. Black and navy blue are the colors most in demand in taffeta.

This winter hats have reflected the uncertainty of the silhouette. There has been a war between the dress with the puffy hips and the one of slender lines and the question of a choice between the two has had an important bearing on all fashions. As both these types were worn, it was natural that there should be both large and small hats as well as those that were plain and those greatly trimmed.

We always see the full skirt accompanied by a rather large hat of picturesque shape, which is topped by trimming of a fussy character; while the straight-line dress has in its wake the small hat. Fur toques are fashionable bits of headwear for this midwinter.

Please Southern Visitors.

Those going South are beginning to think more of springlike things, and for them quite summery-looking hats are already making their appearance. Glazed chintz and cretonnes are featured in some of them. We have had chintz and cretonne hats for the country in other summers, but the glazed, or shellacked chintz, has not been used before. It is indefinitely more practical than the ordinary chintz, as it sheds the dust easily and may be wiped off with a damp cloth. Then, if one is caught in the rain with one of these summery-looking hats on, there is no fear of its turning into a bedraggled mass of cloth, for even a rubber rain hat could shed a downpour no better.

Quite a remarkable trimming appears on the glazed chintz hats. It is a fringe of straw. Although you may not be going South it is a very good idea to get some of these hats, for they are most attractive and in the hurry of getting ready for an exodus from town in the spring it is not always easy to find just what one wants in country hats.



MOTHER POLAR BEAR.

Mother Polar Bear was all alone and she was talking softly to herself. "Ah," she said, "in such a short time my two little baby bears will come to me. Either one or two will come along and I am waiting for them in this little snug den on the great ice covered water up north.

"I am away from the great world, away where no one can harm my babies, away from everything. But should anyone come near me I would defend my babies and look after them even if it cost me my life.

"I would try to save my life, of course, for I need it to look after my babies, but if that was impossible in order to save them I would save them first and then hope that they would be all right.

"We're a funny lot, we polar bears. We're wild and we are fierce and we are strong.

"In the summer we all live far from the coast and the shore. We're off where there is ice and weather as cold as there can be.

"In the spring we often take long swimming trips out to sea and along the coasts and in the winter we are near the coasts for we must be near food whenever the times become hard.

"They say it is wonderful that we can find food, no matter where we may be, or no matter how terribly hard a year it is.

"Sometimes we've been known to attack human beings in the winter time far up North where the ice was so thick and the food so thin.

"At least, I suppose you would call the food that when there wasn't much of it. But in the spring and in the summer and most of the time we can find food, for we're smart and clever and hard winters and lands and waters where there isn't so much food, will never discourage us.

"For years we have been able to live, and for years more we will live,



"It Means the Ice."

looking after ourselves and our own, and our tummies and the food we get.

"How delicious a meal we do have often of perhaps seal or perhaps walrus. Both those are delicacies for any polar bear.

"And we can capture them. We are stronger and we are so clever and so wild and quick we can capture them and kill them and then eat them with relish and with joy.

"But while it is good to think of all the fine meals of walrus and seal I have had, and while it is good to know that there will be more of those meals, the joyful thought I have now is to know that before long my little cubs will arrive.

"And they will be quiet with their old mother while they are young and the winter is hard.

"But they will be strong enough when the spring comes to follow me along and jump right into the icy water after me and swim about in it.

"Sometimes they can jump in very, very young, but I will wait with my cubs until the weather is springlike which means that I will wait until the ice is breaking up into great packs and gigantic pieces.

"Spring to a polar bear doesn't mean warm weather and such things as buds and flowers and soft breezes; it means the ice sailing along in enormous pieces, floating down the rivers and down the coasts of the sea.

"But no one will harm my babies. No, a mother polar bear loves her little cubs and she will protect them with her own life. Nothing is so much to her as their lives.

"Ah, it is so wonderful to wait for them, and soon I will see the little dears, or the little dear as the case may be.

"And when I take them out into the great world I will be able to hold them safely between me and my forelegs when I'm swimming, if there is danger around and if anyone should shoot.

"For, if they were well out of the way by the time the bullet hit me they would be able to swim to safety before they could be captured.

"But I am a quick swimmer and they won't get me. No, old Mother Polar will be safe and so will her precious darlings.

"Ah, the winter," she said to herself, "the cold, cold, bitter winter, how I love it. For it is warm to me, warm to my mother's heart, for the little cubs come to me then and they keep Mother Polar's heart so warm and so happy."

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