

Aids to Grace and Beauty

By Priscilla Dean

ARTICLE XIX.

Color and Ornamentation.

Trimming should not be more assertive than the dress, and the dress should not be more assertive than the woman.

The object of personal decoration is to enhance the beauty of the face. Any decoration which asserts itself above the thing decorated, detracts from that object.



PRISCILLA DEAN

The gleam and luster of textures modify their color to a great extent. Many women forget this fact when making a choice of materials.

Here are some facts about colors which may help settle vexing problems for those who have heretofore not given the matter much thought.

A woman of medium tone of coloring needs surroundings that are harmonious. She should wear old pink, odd shades of blue, dull reds, greens that are not too pronounced and all of the pastel shades. There should be nothing about her costume to vie with her flesh tints.

Some blonds look beautiful in black. Black absorbs something of every color near it and is favored by flord women who know its value. Women who are fair and plump and have no care lines can wear black effectively; if there are strong character lines in the face it should be avoided because it sends up dark reflections which deepen every wrinkle and increase apparent age.

Brick red lends a little glow to pale, fair complexions. Very few women look well in violet shades. Sallow complexions are given an orange tint and fair skins appear a yellowish green.

Gray, if just the right shade, will make an elderly face look youthful, but very delicate shades of grays, greens and blues will give a fragile person an almost corpse-like expression.

To strengthen any color use a touch of white. Unless a dress is becoming its most important quality is lost. Because you looked well in a certain color some years ago is no assurance that you will look equally well in that color now. Time may have changed you. You may not have the bright glow of health now that you had then. Or, you may have been sallow then and now be flushed with healthful color. Try colors against your face. Select those that make your complexion appear clearer, warmer or brighter. Observe what color you are wearing when your friends seem best pleased with your appearance.

Don't wear colors in summer that make you look warm and uncomfortable. Red on a warm day is intolerable, no matter how thin the material.

And don't be too lavish in the way of ornamentation. Because you

chance to be able to afford some costly lace, fringe or dazzling bit of trimming don't mar the artistic beauty of your gown and make yourself look inferior to your clothing by applying the trimming in greater quantity than the appearance of the gown requires.

Large women look like portly, moving mountains when overdressed and small women appear obliterated, weighed down and smothered by their trappings.

Many gowns look lovely in shop windows, but when on an individual, unless especially suited to the person's type, are a beautiful delusion; merely a snare for the thoughtless and extravagant spender.

Only the most radiant beauty can endure the added blaze of light. That is why people who appear under the rays of the calcium have to "make up." No matter what natural beauty one may possess, it will pale into insignificance under dazzling rays. I know of a short, plump matron who attended a fashionable ball and expected to attract much attention by the display of her husband's newly acquired wealth in the way of diamonds and costly raiment.

To her surprise, her name was not even mentioned nor her gown described among those listed in the next day's papers. Nobody questioned the cost of her equipment. Everybody questioned the taste which had prompted her to wear it. Its very brilliancy had obscured her.

Mothers with more money than taste or judgment are often responsible for the over-dressed appearance of school girls. They forget, or do not know, that the keynote of good dress is to be simple, white edges to a degree that was unobtainable and which added immeasurably to her self-consciousness. I will never forget how she wept at having to wear that dress nor the unattractive picture she made when she had it on. Its mental effect upon the wearer was such that she failed miserably when her number was announced on the program.

Her mother was a sensible woman ably designed by her mother. But for a certain entertainment her grandmother sent her a white frock. It was of heavy quality, cross-barred with satin stripes. It would have been very effective for tailored shirt-waists or as a skirt to be worn with a dainty blouse or sweater.

As a complete dress, however, made as it was, with harsh severe lines, it was ugly and unbecoming. Its dead whiteness made the poor girl's face look dark and angular. Her neck and wrists seemed to protrude for either youth or advanced age is simplicity.

I do not mean a plain, somber style that only accentuates the "awkward age" of a girl. I remember a schoolmate about fourteen years of age who was tall, thin and of pale complexion. She was considered one of the prettiest as well as one of the most talented girls in the school. Her clothes were most suit-

and promptly gave the offending dress to a plump, blond, rosy-cheeked girl and for my chum purchased a dainty, dotted swiss, made with considerable fullness, puffed sleeves and tiny. The transformation it produced was remarkable.

A law of decoration requires that it must be appropriate to its place. It must suit the surface it is to adorn. Individuals differ. Each one has distinct personality. A dress which will suit one woman will not suit another.

Some women say they hate to appear conspicuous. They have not the courage to dress in a manner that differs, radically, from the great majority of the persons they see every day. They like to follow the crowd and are willing to be lost in the shuffle.

But suitable and attractive clothing always makes the most of the wearer's good points and the least of her defects. Clothing which reflects personality will not draw attention to itself, but will convince the observer that the wearer is not a nonentity, but an individual.

The clothing in which a person feels most comfortable and at ease is that which most fully reflects that person's character and individuality. (Copyright, 1920, Universal Service Syndicate.)

Priscilla Dean

Harvard has discovered another star and, so far as known, its intentions toward the earth are entirely friendly.

While congress is considering the coining of a 2 or 2 1/2-cent piece, it should legislate something into costing that amount.

The relative cheapness of lemons may be the reason why we are handed one so frequently in try-

A Detroit health expert says that garlic aids in the fight against flu by dispersing crowds. But the remedy is worse than the disease.

It is said that only twelve men living understand the Einstein theory of light. That doesn't keep a thousand wise-looking fellows from stating positively that there's nothing in it.

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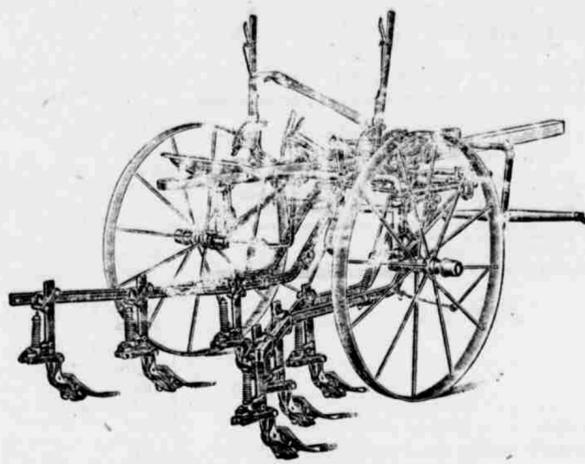
Prohibition experts foresee a dry England within the next five years. America is now setting some of the most prominent fashions for the world.

At least we shall be sapped, in the coming campaign, those stories telling how the other side is financed by the breweries and backed by the saloon vote.

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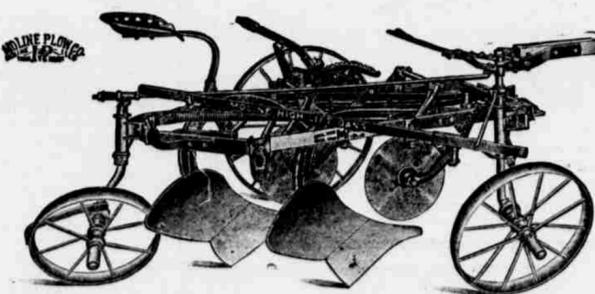
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