



Suits

Strong Position of Dressy Suits Gives Boost to Those of Silk.

According to the present outlook, an unusual number of silk suits will be sold during the coming spring. Even now many silk suits are being sold in moires, poplins, failles, taffetas and novelty silks of all kinds.

The vogue of dressy suits will no doubt help to make the slit suits popular. Many of these are brought out in the new colorings including Hague and Nattier blues, Rust, Czarina, Fox-glove, gold, cactus, Tokyo, etc.

Staples, however, are by no means overlooked. Navys and blacks are being sold freely.

Not only are many silk suits being shown, but silk trimmings are being employed on many of the dressier worsted suits. For example, a suit of navy blue worsted has the tunic of black moire with collar and cuffs of the moire. A suit of green garbadine has a double tunic—one of green taffeta and one of the material. The vest, collar and cuffs are of the taffeta.

Another suit we show is made of a black and white check, with collar, cuffs and vest of black moire and black moire sash on the skirt. Combinations of this kind are very much in evidence in the market, and are meeting with considerable success.

NEW DRESSES.

Cotton Models in Excellent Demand—Silks Still in the Lead.

Our salesroom has taken on considerable activity during the week, owing to the influx of new customers. There is a good deal of life in the spring business, as there is so much that is

new in the way of styles, materials and colors.

Shoppers like the spring dresses with bouffant paniers, short tunics and tierced flounces, but they realize that extra care in selection is essential, in order to avoid taking models that may prove too extreme for their conservative wear.

Many forms of coat-dresses, as they are commonly called, are being taken, in taffeta, in novelty cottons and in combinations of chiffon or lace with silk. So cleverly are separate boleros simulated that, in many cases, it is difficult to discern at a glance whether the garment represents a two-piece suit or a one-piece dress.

The short, loose bolero finished with soft ruffles carries out so effectively the styles which call for fluffy effects that many smart gowns have these coat styles worked out in chiffon, in net, in silk and in fancy cottons.

Silk boleros are often used with the cotton dresses having short silk tunics, while the diaphanous materials are used in coats on dresses of taffeta, moire, fancy crepes and prints. Many forms are seen.

Another form of coat-dress shown by us has the separate slip-on jacket, this being, in most cases, made of the dress material. Few contrasting colors are used in the dress and coat.

While taffetas are still in the lead, we continue to sell crepe de chine in sufficient quantities to make this material a close second. Moire, faille, crepe meteor, poplin and various other silks are well represented in the suits now being made.

The interest in cottons surpasses the hopes of the most optimistic purchasers. This applies to merchandise for popular prices, as well as to the expensive qualities.

Adaptations of Poiret's "Trousers-Skirt" Idea.

This is clearly demonstrated in the acceptance of a new skirt now shown by many leading houses. The model originated by Paul Poiret has been adapted in several styles and is designed with trouser effect. In one instance, the skirt has no opening at the top, the feet being thrust through vents in the lower part and the skirt drawn up into position.

Again, this trouser effect is obtained by attaching the lower portion of the skirt to a silk foundation and slashing the lower part at the center-front and at the back seam at the foot. One scarcely notes the "trousers," for they fall in line with the skirt.

Longer Tunics.

There seems to be a disposition on the part of the more exclusive shops to bring out longer tunics, some reaching seven-eighths length. In some instances the long line of the tunic is exaggerated by the use of a combination fabric, a decided stripe for instance, although this idea is more generally introduced in gowns.

New Coat to Be Introduced Shortly.

Manufacturers are enabled to give full vent to their originality in the wide range of styles shown in short coats. Several very new ideas will be presented at an early date by one of the model houses in New York, in which the coat has a decided ripple in the skirt at the back, and flares perceptibly at the knee.

The Short Coat to Lead for Spring and Summer.

This style, however, while it is shown in several specialty houses, is not likely to be popularized until fall. The short coat, no doubt, will be the leader for spring and summer.



It is rumored among the local dress goods department heads that challis will be newly popular for the first frocks of spring. The soft material is unusually adapted for the new, slightly bouffant styles. The pretty patterns are adapted from the costly silk or filmy cotton fabrics. Yet challis is more substantial for many purposes than silk or cotton.

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