

WOMAN'S DOMAIN.

SKATING SUITS.

Smart Costumes in Which to Skim Over the Ice. NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—When the skating season comes round it is interesting to see how many stunning and suitable rigs have apparently evolved themselves out of chaos.

Naturally each modiste or tailor has her own opinions and models. One declares that an ordinary walking dress, made in warm textures, cut snugly and trimmed with fur, is all that is necessary for skating. The skirt should perhaps be a little shorter and narrower than for walking, and a brilliant touch of color in the hat or at the throat, is in keeping.

If liked, indeed, the entire costume may be of a bright cloth, a rich red or a zouave blue and with three gilt or black braid in a handsome addition to the fur.

Black fox, sable or Persian lamb are furs that will combine with either cloth, though chinchilla and silver braided velvet, perhaps be the more charming trimming for the zouave blue. In this case a muff and cap of the chinchilla will be handsome additions, and a scarf quilt across the front at the waist would be a safe note in the cap.

A skating suit shown by one of our smartest dressmakers would be a splendid model, where price is not considered. This consisted of an ankle-length skirt and tight-fitting jacket, with basques that fell below the hip, of cardinal-red cloth. The trimmings were a skirt panel, collar, cuffs and pocket flaps of Oriental embroidery in black and gilt and black Persian lamb fur. This edged the jacket all round in a narrow roll and fringed the front in cords that looped over small heads, used as buttons.

There was also a roll of the lamb at the

width of the material, of magenta chiffon, to be worn at times instead of the boa.

A bonnet, quartered in the yard down the ends of the scarf, and when adjusted it wrapped twice around the throat, the long ends being allowed to float over the shoulders. With all due respect to their majesties, the dressmakers, it is really at the shops where sporting goods are sold that one gets the best hints on skating regalia.

At these places the skating costumes shown are all much on the order of wheel gowns, both in cut and material. Only a few are made of the more decorative and expensive main, strapped seams, leather bands or black braid.

The models comprise almost invariably three pieces, a skirt, jacket and knickerbocker, being generally agreed that knickerbockers are distinctly out of place on the ice. The constant clipping over the posterior, and the with their straining round the lines, it is easy to see how hard colds and any other calamity might follow.

A device for keeping the skirt hem dry is to face it with a light-colored leather or a bias band of mackintosh rubber.

To keep warm and dry. The skirts of the suits are longer than those for the wheel, coming to the ankle and often below. The jacket is commonly short, but may be loose or tight fitting, or a Norfolk shape.

Where much warmth is required the coat is interlined with chamola, and in every instance this is profierated, as physicians demand for heat.

The knickerbockers are also sometimes lined with the perforated chamola, and where the coat is without chamola, the chamola vest with long sleeves can be had.

Materials most in favor are English whipcord, Scotch chevrons and homespun, corduroys, serge and toboggan blankets. This is made with the easy border of the blanket running around the bottom of the skirt and at the tail of the long blouse, which is commonly belted with a cord and tassels.

Such a suit, topped by one of the warm toboggan caps, could get up at home at eight o'clock, and be taken to the rink, never, to choose a blanket of very light weight, as they are commonly so heavy as to hamper movement. Under the blouse of a skirt, a light-colored leather or a bias band of mackintosh rubber.

Some of the new sweaters provided for ladies of sporting tendencies are very stunning.

A stylish and becoming one is in two shades of wool, honey-combed, and with stripes across the bust and hips.

These fasten on the left shoulder and have big puffed sleeves, and sometimes a small brocade pocket on the left side.

A mackintosh jacket is said to be a warm and dapper garment for skating. A mackintosh jacket shown was made much on the same plan as the one with long sleeves can be had.

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comes at 25 cents per skin and is easily put on. With a little thin brooding halion thread dash a few grains of silver in the center of every flower, and the effect alone, as one woman concluded rightly, is worth \$50.

Of course you can actually lay out \$25 on a non-pile, if you like, and the handle in it and most of them are covered with embroidered slips done by Armenian women.

As needle women these perverted creatures are only outdone by the Russian runs and their work, in gold and silver-embroidering, is equal to the best Japanese or Chinese embroidery.

It is told of one fashionable bride of last season that she insisted at the last minute upon regarding the old saw, but as no provision had been made by her maids for such an emergency, there was nothing of the requisite color to save her from a black and blue cover and a portiere, neither of which was adaptable. At last a little notice of the bride's attendant, a turquoise ring, which was fastened inside the corset, and so fulfilled the demand for "something borrowed and something blue" at the same time.

Many gowns, some having wedding gowns made of blue where the ceremony is less formal. Brown and gray are also often used, but no matter how popular or how becoming, pink or any shade of red is usually "abandoned." It is singular that red is usually abandoned for a bridal dress, even among the Italians, who are ordinarily as fond of its warm hues, and who do not hesitate to use other colors which are just as warm.

Green and yellow are both commonly seen in Italian bride's dress, and the purple of Tyro, Parma are especially popular for that purpose. The Russian Jews of the east side are particularly faithful to the old custom of "robing the bride in the color signifying innocence. The greatest care is taken to

exclude all color from the bride's apparel, even to the little bits of jewelry about her person. Such a skirt is a tabby, steel and buds from the bridal wreath suspended in them by means of white thread. Less conservative brides have used silver wires to fasten the buds to the rare, but these are regarded as a violation of the custom prohibiting colors or jewels. The green leaves of the wreath give the only tinge of color to the outfit, and in that connection are regarded as a necessary accessory signifying hope for the future.

The old superstition which makes it unlucky for a bride to use in her wedding attire any pins which have done duty in any similar office is found to exist in other nationalities than American.

SOME COSTLY SLIPPERS. Footwear Adorned with Diamonds Worth \$60,000. "It would surprise most people," said a West End bootmaker to the New York Jeweler Review, to know of the huge sums which some of the rich aristocracy spend on shoes, and especially on slippers. Only the other day a countess, whose name is familiar to every one, had a pair of slippers made which were decorated in a picture pattern, like a pair of worked slippers, with precious stones, in gold and silver, and diamonds. The result was exceedingly beautiful, but the cost was over \$4,500.

There is one accomplished workman in London whose sole occupation is that of mounting fancy slippers with jewels. The present dowager countess of X—some years ago had made her husband when then alive and gave the order—a pair of slippers, in which she was to appear as Cinderella at a fancy dress ball, given by the Duke of Manchester, which she was to wear on the diamonds, the value of the stones being considerably over \$12,000, while the cost of mounting them was upward of \$10,000.

A South American nobleman not long since presented to a foreign prince, then in London, a pair of slippers ornamented with two butterflies of different patterns in precious stones, which were valued at \$10,000. But, in reality, it is quite a common thing for slippers ornamented in gold threads and jewels, and valued at from one to a thousand guineas, to be given to the bride and her attendants. The slippers are furnished with even ordinary blue shoes and slippers to the value of \$200 or so.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS. The Divan Pillow Always a Grateful Remembrance. The charm of the divan pillow as a Christmas gift is that whether you buy it, or make it yourself, whether it is costly or simple, it is sure to find a warm and welcome and a hungry nook, where its presence will be always gratefully remembered.

Women who plan to make pillows for holiday distribution should know in time that, no matter how many ticks the feather stuffing is enclosed in, and no matter how clean the cover is, down from barn yard fowls or elder ducks, will eventually work their way into the proper precautions are taken.

An expert pillow maker says that in the factories they hold the feathers in check by ironing out, with a hot iron, the inside of the twilled cotton tick, with beeswax. On a hot flatiron the wax is rubbed and this spreads a thin coating, impervious to feathers, all over the goods. The cotton slip is invariably put over the coarse ticking and then the pillow is ready for use as elegant or as simple as desired.

A great many of the holiday pillows are cut three-cornered, covered with expensive pale yellow chamola skins, the very kind used by housekeepers for window and curtain trimmings. The three corners are fastened with the heaviest sewing silk twist to be had, and huge pompons of satin ribbon set on a finish at the three points.

is put twice around the neck before being tied. They are the most interesting of gowns, and are in great demand. They are the most beautiful of gowns, varying in richness not only with the temperature, but the mood of the wearer. The Hindu believes opals change with sorrow and joy, and that they are the children of the sunbeam and the moonbeam.

Muffs of velvet to match the hat are very fashionable. They are shaped like a butterfly, with a fur body and large wings of velvet beaver, and large velvet pompons or orchids which harmonize in color with the dress.

Marie Antoinette flous give a quaint touch to many of the new evening gowns. In shape they are like a three-cornered shawl, one end being fastened to the bodice at the front, the other to the back, while the other two, after being drawn over the shoulders, are crossed over the corage in Quaker-like simplicity, or are merely drawn over the front, the bodice at each side, then fastened at the waist line, and the ends allowed to hang over the skirt.

Revers of many of the new waists are not only covered with a braided design, but basques are elaborately braided, and sleeves receive their share of this trimming. Black and narrow gold braid are wrought together in effective design, and silver braid is also used in combination with black to good advantage.

Queen Margherita of Italy is said to appreciate a book rather than a book. Her experiences as an Alpine climber.

Mrs. J. K. Barney has been lecturing throughout Rhode Island, detailing her experiences in mountaineering, as a woman, and perhaps the most enthusiastic and, perhaps, one of the best horsewomen in this country.

Mrs. John Stetson of Boston is one of the most enthusiastic and, perhaps, one of the best horsewomen in this country.

Miss Carolyn H. Whitteley of Cleveland is one of the most noted lady artists on this continent. She studied many years in Spain and in Holland.

Mrs. Alexander Zola, the wife of the celebrated French novelist, is now in Rome, and has been assisting her husband in finishing his new novel, "Rome."

Mrs. Oliphant's handsomely illustrated edition of "The Makers of Modern Rome" has now been announced, and is a companion to her "Makers of Florence."

One of the leading socialists in New York, a young woman, who devotes her entire time to the culture of flowers, is now in Rome, and has been assisting her husband in finishing his new novel, "Rome."

Mrs. F. M. Chendennin, formerly Miss Gabrielle Greeley, is to undertake a new and arduous journey, as a wife of her father, who has long been collecting correspondence and other matter to this end.

Miss Isabel Violet Burgess has recently won the queen's scholarship at the queen's most celebrated school, Eton. This scholarship was founded at the time of her majesty's jubilee, and it is a great mark of distinction.

Queen Victoria has developed such a strong aversion to tobacco that strict orders have been issued prohibiting smoking at Windsor castle, at Balmoral, and at Osborne. Formerly the queen enjoyed the odor of a cigar.

Mrs. Charles S. Browne of the Shinnecock Hills (New York) Women's Golf association, has recently won the women's golf championship of the United States. A handsome silver pitcher was her prize. Other ladies won gold and silver medals.

CONNEXIALITIES. A 17-year-old husband was divorced from a 10-year-old wife in San Francisco the other day. The husband was a messenger boy.

The feud among the Vanderbilts has attained so bitter a stage that the Cornelius Vanderbilts will have their daughter's wedding strictly private and unostentatious, simply to be different from the Willie K. Vanderbilts. Therefore, young Miss Gertrude will be married only in the presence of her immediate family.

It is a curious fact, noted by the New York Sun, that dancing and toy-making seem to go hand in hand. In between Christmas and Easter there are few marriages and fewer engagements. In the early autumn, after the summer wanderings, and then again when Easter dispels the gloom of Lent, young men's fancies turn most readily to thoughts of love.

Mayne Pence and Frank Stanley of Anderson, Ind., are about to be married, putting an end to a romance in which bloodhounds and all kinds of stage effects have played a part. Stanley, during the time he has been staying at home in the young lady, was constantly harassed by his rivals, who stole his horse and buggy on several occasions, necessitating him to swim the river going home.

Some three months ago a 70-year-old groom, who was making his third debut into matrimony in Milwaukee, handed the minister a \$20 bill. Great was the rejoicing in the minister's household, and the rejoicing did not cease till a few days ago. Then the minister changed his mind, and the groom was forced to the effect that in the excitement attendant on a third marriage he had mistaken \$20 for \$5, and now respectfully requested the return of the \$15 change.

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Mrs. Mary H. Kingsley, who is now exploring the interior of Africa, is the daughter of the late Canon Charles Kingsley, the famous novelist and preacher. She has made a valuable natural history collection for Dr. Quain at the British museum. She says she has met with the utmost kindness from officials and others of all nationalities.

Miss Helen A. Whittier has for some years been proprietor and active manager of a large cotton mill at Lowell, Mass. She is building a new mill at the south and in fact the product of her southern mill shall be the coarse and cheaper fabrics, which can be made there to good advantage, with inferior help, while the head looms in Massachusetts are exclusively equipped with the finer grades of manufacture.

The queen of Italy is now studying the Hebrew language and literature with diligence in making great progress. Lately when in Venice, she received in audience Rabbi Caen Port, with whom she conversed in the ancient language of the Jews. The queen of Portugal is at present devoting all her spare time to the study of medicine, which science she is working at in a very thorough manner. In the home of her example will be followed by the somewhat indolent Portuguese ladies, and that they will be spurred on to take an interest in the great questions and movements of the day.

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SEALSKIN COAT AND CAP.

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BLUE CLOTH AND PERSIAN LAMB.

skirt bottom and up the sides of the embroidered panel, which was at the left, and a muff and box of the same. The head covering was a small toque of the red cloth, laid in folds, with two lamb heads and a black paint brush stripe at the left front.



CHINCHILLA COSTUME.

tom with black leather. The buttons of the short jacket, which was loose and studded-breasted, were hidden with a fly strap, and to be worn under the jacket, and to show at resting moments, there was a cute double-breasted vest of magenta cloth, that fastened with polished gilt buttons.