

IN THE DOMAIN OF WOMAN.

FASHIONS BETWEEN SEASONS.

Fancy Buttons and Gay Slippers Among the Certainities in Sight.

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.—Entirely new styles are impossible at this moment, Madame Mode being as yet in the brooding stage which precedes her revolutionizing activity. Not before October will all the autumn chiefs of fashion be hatched, and meanwhile it is to variations on the old effects that we must turn.

There are new stiffs in plenty in the market—some soft wools, in rich enamel-like blues, among the importations—but no made-up things as yet distinctly original. The influence of old beauties are seen everywhere, many skirts still showing the horizontal tucks and circular flounces of the summer. Sleeves are only a shade more picturesque, and taffeta and plain cloth bands are still conspicuous trimmings.

A slight change is accomplished in the cloth decorations by now shaping the pieces edgily and putting them in as fantastic ways. For instance, the old, straight banding is varied by long, slender, half-moons, circular bands which cross in two points somewhere on the skirt, and narrow strips put on in irregular, but not haphazard, patches at the bottom of gored skirts, the wide spaces between being, of course, untripped.

Stunning Gowns.

A batch of stunning gowns lately shipped to Newport for golfing and outing purposes stylishly illustrate some of the late methods of trimming. A very fetching rig was made of green and white moiré tulle, with stitched bands of the same. On the skirt the decoration took the form of narrow vertical strips, crossed at the flounce quarter by a band made of short, wide pieces, with one end pointed. The blouse bodice was cut with short fall and striped Norfolk fashion with a stitched belt.

One pretty gown of red and green striped golfing cloth depended entirely upon a novel yoke for ornament. Four deeply pointed V's distinguished this, one falling at the back of the round bodice, one at the front and one over each shoulder. The yokes were of bright scarlet cloth, stitched with green, and the plain ankle-length skirt flared smartly at the bottom.

None of the new outing skirts are very short, which makes it possible for their lucky owners to bring them in town for rainy-day use. During the cool, cloudy weather of the last month Broadway fairly blossomed with smart outing frocks, the leaders of the haul setting the fashion and the rest of the sensible world following it. Society does humanity a good turn sometimes and surely, to inoculate next rainy-day attire is something that may be reckoned among philanthropic deeds. Until the smart people give up the tip we are all poor cowards.

Many of the blouse jackets of these trim suits show short yokes, and if there are no tails elsewhere, those who like a rear fin fish still cling to the position tail. Many double-breast slightly, the lap being widest at the bust and narrowing to a point at the waist. Sleeves for the heavier material are a goring cloth, tweed and covert, are always "with a touch of the sea" in fact. Other sleeves run to small bishop models and all of the thinner textiles are lined with brilliantly colored silks. Stitching, in grouped rows, is a favorite ornamentation, as well as collars and cuffs in contrasting velvet, which, if touched with bright color, even if it is only in the double facing of the goods, is considered indispensable for smartness.

As to outing hats, it is quite plain that the best dressed women go to the man milliner for their millinery. Even the most carefully chosen hat, if it lacks the feminine modishness, lacks the trimness accomplished by masculine fingers. So it is to the "hatter" that you must go for your outing chapeau, whether it is for golfing, mountain climbing or what not. Certain little sailor shapes shown by these people, in bright straw hats, are very charming. Scarfs of white or red Liberty gauze, and white or red wings, trim these effectively, the scarf ends sometimes bunching under the back brim, but never falling in the long ends seen elsewhere. Indeed, this back cascading trimmings is everywhere on the scene, having been long to death by exaggerations carried beyond points of reason or beauty.

Outing Hats.

Noticeable garments among first autumn fashions are the long coats stylish women are wearing for railway and sea traveling. Made of brilliant, flared, and taffeta, these long, loose wraps entirely cover the costume, supplying in themselves a toilet as elegant as dashing. Two lately trotted by a New York fashionist of modish clientele for a Lane, heavily embroidered pattern the seeker after traveling coats would do well to consider. "Duster" was the homely and familiar name given to one. This was of dull red brilliantine, with black stitching, black and red bone buttons and black satin facings for ornament. The satin took the shape of a narrow rolling collar running down in facings for the front; the bottom of the wide sleeves, with oddly shaped bishop puffs at the inner arm and flared plain at the back, were also faced with this and turned over. Stitched epaulet bands, held down by the buttons, crossed the shoulders, two shorter ones, with the same pointed ends, serving as front fastenings. Ivy green covert cloth realized the second coat, which sported a short cape collar, trimmed at the top line with a black taffeta band with diamond stone ends. Tucked green silk filled in the center of these ends, whose blue black border, as well as the band about the shoulders, was dotted with small green and black buttons. Larger buttons held the double-breasted front together and fastened a stitched flap at the outer edge of the short sleeves.

Novel features with this coat were a pair

of graduated box pleats running down each side of the front, with stitched edges, and the way the neck was arranged.

There was absolutely no collar. The neck was cut out a little below the stock line and finished with a black taffeta piping. The front crossed with a slight surplus suggestion, and the throat was allowed by the whole arrangement seemed a great relief after the high collars with which we have been so long afflicted.

Fancy Buttons.

Advice from Paris state that fancy buttons will be once more used as a trimming. A colored plate with painted designs sent over for mercantile inspection likewise revealed the fact that they will be huge in size. One sort is called the pompadour, this being no more than a wooden mold covered with pale silks thick

with rich embroideries. Black silk buttons with white lace covers will also appear in discreet numbers, and big lace ones all in white are already appearing on the more elegant evening wraps.

One bewitching evening coat seen in a Waldorf parlor displayed two black and white lace buttons at the bust as big as butter plates. The coat was of heavy white lace applied to opaline chiffon, black chiffon ruffles between others of pale pink, blue, yellow and green, making a thick ruching for the bottom and front. The wide flowing sleeves only showed the opaline lining, but the narrow surplus edge, which gave the shoulders a drooping effect, was bordered with the ruches.

The colonial shoes which so lately rained upon the world are no longer the beloved of fashion. For smart wear she now decrees high heeled kid slippers—Spanish heels and nothing else—with one or three straps fastening over the instep. The fanciest footgear is worn in the street, even headed toes and vamps with lace insets being allowed. Then when the bounding skirt is lifted there is a

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Novel Form of Shopping on Commission Operated in Philadelphia.

A woman in Philadelphia is making a comfortable income for herself by a novel phase of "shopping on commission." As a matter of fact, she does no shopping of any kind herself, but she is registered at all the first-class stores as a professional shopping agent and gets 10 per cent commission on all goods purchased there in her name. She began business in a modest way, having saved \$250, which she entered as security at one department store as a start. Now her business has grown to such proportions that she has obtained credit at many shops and will take no more patrons upon her list.

This list contains the names of women drawing fair salaries in almost every profession and field of endeavor open to the business woman of today. Each patron furnishes the agent with satisfactory references as to her reliability, and is thereupon given a list of the stores at which the agent has accounts and receives permission to buy goods at any of these in the agent's name and charge them to her.

If a large article, such as a piece of furniture, is bought the agent will accompany the patron and arrange to have it sent at once to its final destination. But ordinarily the patron goes shopping any day she wishes and allows the packages to be sent to the agent's house, where she calls for them later. The agent keeps strict account of everything bought by each patron—when and where purchased. At the end of each month she pays up her bills at all the stores promptly.

In the meantime her patrons are returning her the money they owe in weekly installments varying from 50 cents to several dollars, according to the whole amount due. In addition to this each patron pays the agent 10 per cent of the amount advanced for her in return for the accommodation. Thus the agent makes 20 per cent—10 from the store at which it is procured and 10 from the woman who ordered it. She does not, however, lead an idle life, even though she does not shopping for her money. At present her list of patrons numbers 500 and this number grows by half of them pay up as they should. There is no end to the tricks which even the women holding the most responsible positions will play one. And you have to be on the alert and constantly investigate, or they may lose their positions and afterwards run up large bills with you without mentioning the fact. Then you have to call week after week on some of them to collect what is owing you. When this happens once with any patron, however, I promptly drop her name from my list after collecting the first amount due. It doesn't pay to deal with such people, no matter how many customers one loses. There are always plenty more to take their place. I have to do the time as I can possibly accommodate and depend waiting.

"It is a business which pays splendidly if conducted on strictly business principles. On a bill amounting to \$25 I ask \$5 down, and the remaining \$20, with the 20 per cent commission, is paid in weekly installments of \$2 each. So I gain 20 per cent on the money advanced in eleven weeks' time. That is at the rate of 95 per cent on every dollar invested for the year."

"Last Christmas time I netted over \$1,000. I have to limit all my patrons to a certain amount during December or the bills which the stores would send on January 1 would be more than I could stand for. I never allow my patron unlimited credit at any time. I regulate the maximum amount for which each patron pays upon me according to her work or position."

"The spring season, when the women lay in their summer wardrobes, is another rush season with me. Indeed, I don't know

of any time which can be called dull, for my patrons are almost all business women who are in town even in summer, except for three or four weeks' holiday."

WOMEN ARE AT A PREMIUM.

Great Shortage of the Fair Ones in the South African States.

South Africa presents an inviting field for women who are weary of single blessedness, for there is a great shortage of fair ones in that part of the world. The deficiency of women in Cape Colony in 1918 amounted to 14,925. So far as can be learned the excess in numbers of white males over white females in British South Africa is represented in the following table:

Table with 2 columns: Location and Number. Includes Natal (15,000), Orange River Colony (2,000), Transvaal (43,000), Rhodesia (3,000).

Total shortage of females..... 83,000 "In a population of whites only numbering about 800,000 in all, this deficiency of women seems at first sight almost incredible," says a writer, "and it is the more remarkable and deplorable inasmuch as be-

lieve the dress of taffeta, or foulard, or chiffon, have lately yielded place to those of pascamento and silken fringe.

Appliques of black velvet combined with lace are very pretty indeed on light materials.

On short-back sailor hats, with the broad rolling brim curving downward over the face, scarfs of either dotted India mull or chiffon, and fancy white bronzes flecked with bits of black plumage, are popular for morning wear, and also for golf, yachting and similar uses. Pure white crests, wings and gulls are also favored for the summer rough rider, sailor, shepherdess and other hats worn with shirt waist costumes.

All sorts of stockings are fashionable with dress shoes and slippers this season, the one restriction regarding them being that they must match the tie or slipper in shade. Plain and openwork hose are always in good taste and for those who desire something more fanciful there are lace-embroidered, embroidered, thorn-stitched, beaded and even hand painted stockings, which for elaborateness and expense keep pace with the newest of the French evening dresses.

With day gowns and dressy afternoon toilets are worn the smart gusset call Oxfor tie with arched instep. Cuban heel and tasseled ribbons fastening the three-strapped sandals with modified Louis XIV heel, the buckled colonial tie of polished French kid and the Bernhard model of dull-finished kid, with an odd heel that presents a combination of the Cuban and the Louis Quinze. This tie has a seam down the center of the vamp and is very high-cut over the instep. For evening wear

these ties are designed in all kinds of delicate silks, suedes and dressed kids, but it requires a perfectly formed foot to either comfortably or gracefully wear this kind of shoe.

For and About Women. Mrs. Edmund Rice, wife of the colonel of the Twenty-sixth regiment of volunteers, has put in a claim of the War department for \$500,000, alleged to be due as royalty on a device for rolling up and carrying shelter tents used by the army since the civil war.

Miss Elizabeth Marbury, the American dramatic agent, has received another honor in France, that of being promoted from the rank of chevalier to that of officer of public instruction, by special order of President Loubet. Heretofore, the noted playwright, presented the insignia ornamented with rubies and diamonds, and Sardou made the congratulatory speech.

Mrs. Bridget French, said to have been the originator of more inventions than any

other woman, is dead at Rochester, N. Y., aged 72 years. She was the inventor of the typewriter device, holding patents for them. The most important was the French butgier proof look, from which she got considerable money. Mrs. French was born in Ireland in 1826 and when 22 years old came to this country, settling in Rochester, where she lived until her death.

Henry P. Blackwell says that there are in Boston 15,000 women taxpayers, who last year paid taxes on real estate in that city valued at \$10,000,000, "but who are not permitted any voice or vote in city affairs."

About one-seventh of all the taxes collected in Boston he adds are paid by these unrepresented women property owners, while, on the other hand, some \$500,000, or more than two-thirds of the city's present voters, pay no tax whatever—not even the poll taxes, for which they are legally liable.

Miss Minnie Bronson has been appointed superintendent of elementary and secondary education at the Louisiana Purchase exposition in St. Louis. For ten years Miss Bronson taught mathematics in the St. Paul (Minn.) High School; in 1910 she became first assistant to Howard A. Rogers, director in the department of education and social economy of the United States exposition at the Paris exposition. In the year necessary for the proper preparation of the educational exhibit, Miss Bronson edited nineteen monographs on "Education in the United States" under the coordination of Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, by the ablest educators of the United States. At the close of the exposition Miss Bronson was appointed to arrange for the transfer of the department of education and social economy to Buffalo for the Pan-American exposition in 1917.

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The tassel is much in evidence and dangles from scarf ends, neck and coat. The tassels made of the same materials as

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NEWPORT GOLFING SUITS.

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