

IN THE DOMAIN OF WOMAN.

THEATER PARTY STYLES.

Matinee Girl and the First Nighter in Fashionable Regalia.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.—More and more elaborate grow the winter's cloaks, those for theater wear especially resorting to every device for effectiveness.

Stole bands of velvet applied with embroidered edges are seen on long cloth coats, the velvet shaping at the shoulders a collar of some sort and often running down on the sleeves in odd ways.

With the ornamentation, in itself extremely decorative, embroidered applications in separate flower sprays may be used. They are of the cut-out cloth, the needlework done in silk of the same color and the ornaments placed wherever they show to greatest advantage.

One elegant matinee coat of pale beige cloth displayed a spray on the puff of each sleeve, and another at the ends of the stole bands at the front of the coat. Velvet in a deeper shade shaped the stole and at other points heavy shaggy stitching formed a smart decoration.

The most swagger of the theater coats are in the palest colors or white, though these last are usually reserved for evening use. However, a white coat is not an uncommon sight at the matinee and nothing

are in loose box shapes and almost invariably lined with white.

Cluny is a lace just now much in favor, and in dark white, cream and string color is seen on the most elegant of the French importations.

Queer Opera Raiment.

Not the least charming features of opera raiment is the muffling in which fair women envelops her head for the short street run.

This, to ensure the safety of the elaborate culture as well as becomingness, must be of some airy textile, such as lace, chiffon, tulle or net, though many box owners wear fur-trimmed hoods, whose solidity is no drawback to their charm. These are attached to long circular capes, with wadded silk or fur linings or, if the wearer is a young girl, the hood may be separate from the wrap, with the wadded lining turning over to form a simple face border.

The gauzy head muffings are commonly in squares, in the dimensions of the usual liberty shawl muffler. Feather and flower edges appear on the chiffon ones, which coquettish borderings frame a pretty countenance seductively and add something to the warmth of the ends, which are wrapped around the throat.

Other thin head scarfs display silver or

Bills of embroidered trimmings and galeons and braids in many decorative varieties are seen among the bargains of the season's presents. The buttons in more or less quantity embellish the gowns of the hour and with careful selection one may make even such fragments do stylish duty. For example, wide and narrow braids are put together, fancy and plain, round and square. The "Pillbox" hat of tinted embroidery or heavy lace will do for fancy stock, this detail rarely matching the bodice with which it is worn.

Buttons, too, provide charming ornamentation, if too many are not used, and some of the handsomest of the season's buttons can now be bought for a song. Smoked and white pearl are desirable sorts, especially if they are large and shanked, as in limited numbers such kinds are put on all the new shirtwaists.

For a smart bodice in silk, lace or velvet the gaily flowered pompadour buttons are most embellishing, but at the most only should be used—two fastening the postillon to the belt at the back, two closer together at the front of the belt and two on the stock or vest.

MARY DEAN.

WOMAN'S PRIVILEGES.

The Most Valuable Possession a Normal Woman Can Acquire.

Whoever says an unexpected thing at a public dinner, and says it well, is entitled to the gratitude of the company, comments Harper's Weekly. No matter if the unexpected thing runs counter to the conventional notions, the speaker is licensed that is issued to an after-dinner speaker carries the right to relieve the mind, otherwise no one worth hearing would take such a license out.

The remarks of Miss Josephine Dodge Daskam at the "Pilgrim Mothers Dinner" last week, in New York, had this surprising merit of being unexpected. The dinner was given on the anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrim mothers, by members of the New York Legislative league. Most of them are pronounced woman suffragists, solicitous for all the rights that woman can obtain by legislation or constitutional amendment. Miss Daskam's theme was "The American Girl of the Future." She was not very strenuous about rights, reminding her listeners that the recent multiplication of women's rights had not perceptibly loosened the hold of "our brother" on the advantages he had always possessed, nor increased the strength of women, she suggested that the girl of the future may have to choose between her present privileges and her rights. In which case, said she, "I should advise a young girl who asked me what to choose, to hang on to her privileges and let her rights go." When we read that in the paper the next day we all smiled, and said it was a joke on the "mothers." Miss Daskam went on: "If you cannot in this generation get your vote you can always get your voter. I don't think the young girl has changed very much. She has no more mind than she used to have, though she may use her mind a little differently. There are two things which woman must always have had to be successful: she must be good, and she must be charming. If she is not good, the world cannot progress; if she is good, and nothing else, she will be as dull as any thing the world ever made; but if she can be good and charming her heritage and posterity can ask absolutely nothing better."

Miss Daskam spoke for the majority. Most of the rights—the legal rights—that have been won for American women in the last fifty years were due and overdue, were well worth winning, and are well worth keeping, but they have not put her in a position where she can afford not to be charming. A large share of success in this world goes by favor. There are women who make their way and win their dues by sheer ability and persistence, but the commoner experience is that the women who get what they want win it more by grace than by main strength. A lot of valuable qualities go to the making of a charming woman—intelligence, the quick sympathy which lies at the bottom of what we call "tact," kindness, unselfishness, sweetness. Charm has not much to do with physical beauty, except as that itself is a reflection of the inner spirit, for charm is mainly spiritual. Nobody should, scarcely anyone does, disdain it as an attribute of weakness, for, rightly understood, it stands out as a form of strength.

After all that has been done for American women by legislators and educators, and college builders and reformers, it still remains true that the most valuable possession a normal woman can acquire is a suitable and satisfactory man. Nothing else is so serviceable in promoting the fulfillment of her destiny and her content with it. It is in the process of fulfillment, nothing else if she is normal—and there are very few women who are not considerably normal—quite takes a man's place with her. One of her most valuable privileges is that of selecting her man, of picking and choosing and taking her time about it, and possibly even of changing her mind after she had begun to think she knew it. It is observed that women who are good, and have the luck to be charming also, have great advantages in carrying this important process of selection to a successful issue. More men are available for such girls to choose from, and once the choice is made the resulting contentment is more apt to endure and to wax, instead of diminishing. The most that legislators can do for married women is to protect them from bad husbands. Choosing good ones is a matter of personal enterprise which laws can do little to promote. But of course a woman who has few rights and is in complete possession of a satisfactory and competent husband is better off than if she had more rights and no satisfactory means of realizing her destiny. If the American girl ever has to choose between her rights and her privileges—including the privilege of being charming, and this invaluable privilege of selecting a man that suits her—she will undoubtedly do well, as Miss Daskam advises, to hold on to her privileges and let her rights go. But she will hardly have to make such a choice. She will retain her privileges, anyway, and all the rights she can make up her mind to want, besides.

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The more gossamer the sleeves the more fashionable. The newest tortoise shell comb resembles a twisted Louisie bow. Latticework of chenille forms the trimming for some separate waists in satin. Spanish shaped turbans of the same material as the gown, relieved with a band of suede, are in vogue.

A white satin striped gauze for evening has autumn leaves painted on it and a delicate ruffling of flowers borders the skirt. Rich embroidery in pale green silks and ribbon work upon a somewhat darker green gauze combined with fine lace, makes a most effective trimming.

Some of the newest and prettiest gauze gowns show an applique of lime daisies, delicate blooms forming a border at the hem of the skirt and around the neck of the corsage.

An example of the elaborateness that distinguishes the newest winter bag is one of biscuit colored enameled suede, embroidered with daisies. In the center of each flower is a pink pearl encircled by chenille petals outlined with faint tan threads.

The clover leaf is a favorite design in the jewelry of the moment. An exquisite tinsel brooch is set with three big diamonds with an emerald in the center, while the oval adorns another pin. In four-leaf clover pattern, a sapphire brooch in tinsel effect shows one leaf sage green, another pink as ruby, and the third in the familiar deep blue tint.

Necklaces have come into such universal employment that a woman who wears without one is conspicuous. Yet necklaces is not the proper word. Chains of precious, semi-precious and valued stones, and beads are worn twice, three times, a dozen times around the neck, and then the dainty pearls, perhaps, to the ground.

The newest way of wearing a chain is not in necklace form. Beads are strung to a length of say, three yards, and the string is weighted with tassels. The string is twisted around the neck a couple of times and its pendants swing freely and clatter. The variety, length and weight of these ornaments are astonishing. In black tulle or bogwood the size of the beads is enormous. A usual sort of chain is made by stringing small, vari-colored beads, such as a year ago would have been left to children or squaws, separating them at intervals by larger and more complex ornaments. The making of novel chains has become an occupation, at which college girls and reduced gentlemen make a gregarious living.

For and About Women. Countess Salazar, an Italian writer of note, is receiving much social attention in Boston. Mary Johnston, the novelist, begins her literary work at 4:30 in the morning. Perhaps this may be the reason she leaves her readers so much in the dark. Diane county, Wisconsin, women have invaded the fields of industry regularly occupied by men to a remarkable extent. The women of the International Council, which will come in the year 1903, shall be held in Canada, in accordance with the invitation of the Canadian council, and she also wishes it to be understood that when that time arrives it may be impossible for her to accept the chief office. Lady Aberdeen was the first president of the International Council of Women and women say that it was her wealth, energy and social prestige more than anything else which brought the organization into existence.

Mrs. M. Agnes Garrett of Garrett, Wyo., asserts that she is the only woman justice of the peace in this country. She was regularly chosen for the office at the last election and has already had experience in public service, as she was postmistress of Rock Creek, Wyo., for five years. She is the mother of six children and has voted for sixteen years. Jennie G. Keith of Goldfield, Ill., became the recorder of her county on the first of the year, leaving up her position as editor of the chief paper of her town in order to do so. Finally, Miss Alice J. Manson has been nominated by the republicans for the superintendency of the schools of Kane county, Wisconsin, and for the past three weeks she has been stamping the county, making three and four speeches a day in her own interests. She is 23 years old and pretty, therefore is likely to win.

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OPERA MUZZINGS—CLOTH MANTILLA AND ERMINE STOLE.



GOOD BARGAIN GOWNS.

ing could be smarter for a box party, which semi-social occasion calls for something more elaborate than common in dress. With it a black velvet skirt, combines beautifully and the white lace or felt hat, which tops the costume may show wreaths of velvet flowers in natural tints.

The flowers now blooming in millinery gardens are invariably of velvet, and though all the flora of summer is seen, the leaf, berry or spray, which imitates the sparse and wistful growth of winter, is more the thing. Among these deckings holly and mistletoe appear, these forming with green leaves the entire hat in some instances.

A very stunning coat worn with a white melre hat, trimmed with a soft wreath of gardenias, was in a soft cloth with a nap-like elidown. This somewhat clumsy material was curiously and clumsily treated though the result obtained was eminently satisfactory. Made in a three-quarter box shape, the skirt the garment hung in inverted box plaits. These were tied at intervals with silk cords and produced a slot-seam look. The same treatment appeared at the outer line of the large sleeves, which were puffed into pointed cuffs, heavily stitched. The deep cape collar was of a very handsome white lace, with the tie strings of the same cords, with spike finish used elsewhere.

Long, half-fitting coats of black or blue velvet are worn by some of the stylish matinee goers. These may be entirely plain, with only fur trimmings, and then off, but many a velvet coat severely simple on the outside will show front facings of white satin magnificently embroidered. Again, this facing may display at the outer edge only a narrow line in ribbon velvet, generally black, but not infrequently sky blue. This device for a little additional elegance is as pretty as it is inexpensive, and as such coats are made to lap at the front, the inside trimming need only show on occasions. Then, of course, the fronts are worn open and slightly turned back.

In open wraps smooth cloth in ivory white and in a soft shade of old red are materials approved by the ultra-fashionables. The cloaks are made in various ways and all models which lean to quaint and picturesque effects are immensely admired. A stunning wrap in mantilla style displayed pointed "angel" sleeves reaching almost to the bottom of the skirt. At the top the sleeves were short enough to reveal arms glossy from transparent, and back and front the full skirt of the wrap came only to the waist.

White cloth embroidered in white composed this elegant creation, whose edges were bordered with brown sable. Further contrast was made at the neck where, over a round collar of the embroidered cloth, fell a second one of turquoise velvet, also fur edged.

Deep collars of white eluay and other fashionable laces deck the red coats, which

gilt spangles and when these match the costume—white with white and black with black—the effect is bewilderingly beautiful.

Looking Her Best.

More than ever is it the aim of woman to consider primarily her looks and anything which tends to her beautification is accepted with open arms. With this state of things styles which have no other virtue than novelty cannot exist long, and having run their brief career they come to the usual finish—bargain counters.

And here let us tarry a moment, for Christmas is over and all the shops have caught the bargain fever. Everywhere one sees things which, at the beginning of the season were often three times the price now asked, and here and there something really desirable may be picked up.

First among these things may be reckoned the sets in gray squirrel, which a panic of fear lest the skin should not be worn next season has greatly reduced in price. A long stole collar finished with three fox tails and a "milliner's" muff—the fat sort with shaped founces at the openings—composes one of the prettiest of the squirrel sets. Originally \$75, the price of this is now \$40, and such furbishings would give a look of splendor to the plainest gown. The flower hats have also fallen much in price, many \$25 models now going for \$12, while a street gown, which was once \$50 or more may be had for \$20 or less.

The price asked for the bargain does not alone depend upon freshness of condition or splendor of materials. The usefulness of the garment and the popularity of the model are the main things considered, so that elaborate finery and the plainest wear may often be found in the same heap.

Useful Street Suits. Two pretty reduced gowns, shown by a good Broadway firm offer pleasing suggestions to the women needing a useful street suit. Made in pale brown cloth, the skirt is of one half length, and has two deep founces. Brown soutache outlines the founces, as well as the hems of the bodices. The same trimming also shows on the bodice, which is made with double basques. The sleeves are in long puffs, doubling under a close shoulder cap and ending at light broad-trimmed cuffs. With this frock a brown cloth turban with a Persian lamb trim and a lamb collar and muff will be found stylish accessories.

The second dress is of blue and black broad cloth, with a large collar and a wide border of the fur, which on the jacket overlays a deep collar of the blue. A slashed Eton in two sections, the odd little coat is made over more unique by wide, double sleeves, which suggest the sentimental arm coverings of long ago. These are slashed and trimmed, like the rest of the garment, with black bone buttons in groups of three.

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