

Women's Changing World of Fashion

NEW YORK, March 11.—"Women and lace," writes a French correspondent, "create a harmony as lovely as true." Through which musical and high-sounding phrasing the American women are given to understand that lace is still to be a favored garniture, while some wonderfully pretty house gowns and negligees are sent over to prove it.

Taking their grace of line alone, these indoor things have reached a high point of perfection. The width and fullness which are creeping into street effects are here absent, many clinging cuts taking on an almost Greek simplicity.

For gowns of this classic nature numerous crinkled crepes are used, with ribbon borders and knots of the same for ornament. No lace appears upon such models, though another French design may have an all-lace slip over one of chiffon and silk. A house toilette so concocted is of imitation Burano lace over pale blue silk mousseline. The sleeves of this are tight to the elbow and a heart-shaped décolletage distinguishes the cut of the neck.

The printed and plain wools employed for the less dressy of these house garments are numerous, but sometimes a very elegant get-up will be seen in a wool texture, some plain veiling of exquisite fineness shaping it, with lace or ribbon for garniture. Pale gray and orange being one of the latest color combinations, this radiant contrast is seen in a French robe d'intérieur, whose blousing bodice is covered with a little jacket of gray yak lace. The orange note is achieved by a narrow bias of panne velvet used at the inside of the stock and sleeve falls and in faint touches upon the lace buttons. Bias bands some four inches wide are the only decoration for the skirt of this gown, which, like most house models, is trained.

The sole negligee or interior get-up of any pretention which does not fall in a graceful fall is that which is composed of a jacket and petticoat. Such a toilette being now recognized as seemly and even smart for the breakfast table or informal callers, the petticoats designed for them are bewilderingly charming. Fitting snugly at the top, they spread below the knee into bouffant flounces, held out by others underneath. Festoons of lace, ribbon, velvet or chiffon garnitures of some sort give still further elaborateness, and the short jacket worn with such a jupon will match in elegance.

Maize ribbon and French lace in alternate stripes shaped one dainty loose jacket worn with a petticoat of maize brocade. Printed delaine in pale blues and pinks is the texture of another jacket, which is in form something like a belted kimona.

A variation from sameness in this is made by puffed undersleeves of white lace, which add a dressy stamp to the conventional model.

Quantities of ribbon deck these indoor things, as well as the new hats for that matter, but where the house ribbons are the gayest of the gay those for street use are either in black, white or solid colors. Pompadour colors and designs appear upon the ribbons used on the loose wash wrappers, numbers of which are in French dimité. A loose wrapper of black and white dimité is trimmed with black and white footings, and pink and white pompadour ribbon. One of pale blue dimité has a border of blue wash ribbon and entre deux of French lace. The sleeves of both these models flow loose from the elbow, for the intention of the negligees is to show both the throat and the bare arms.

Then, since this department of dress admits of indulgence in individual fancies, some of the deep collars and sleeve effects take on an old-time quaintness. More capes than collars, the circular falls of lace, which cover the shoulders of many house toilettes, suggest a lavish expenditure of money. But these garnishings, which often button at the back, child-bib fashion, are frequently only of imitation dentelle, which is daily growing more beautiful and less expensive.

Anywhere that it can be used with correctness lace is employed, though many an exquisite get-up will be entirely without a touch of it. Velvet bebe ribbons likewise come into the scheme of spring and summer effects, and for all thin textures that rank under the wash head, footings are employed in many charming ways. Introduced as entre deux and as edgings for frills and flounces, a colored swiss negligee or gown may be made to reach a point of uncommon elegance through this simple garniture. If the texture employed with it is plain, the footing may be of the point d'esprit species, but the plain nets are productive of daintier results.

Much furbelow, therefore, marks the new house effects, when they are intended for the outside eye. But the regulation kimona still holds its own for practical pur-

poses, and surely no negligee ever reached a more popular place in public favor.

"Millions" might be the word one could use in summing up the kimona subject as it is now presented at the shops, for such models in almost every species of material and with the eternal contrasting border are seen on all sides, elegance showing itself in silks of delicate flower colors. Kimonas of the last sort, in cotton crepe with wash ribbon borders, may be bought as low as \$1.98. These are uncommonly

sole any woman for the bondage of skirts, and insure here as well both a clean and stylish summer. With coarse torchon laces in the same colors and hand-run tucks, these country-looking skirts are the latest Parisian fad for summer wear. Even the pounding of the Seine washerwoman is warranted not to damage them, and an important point in the laundering is that no starch is ever used.

"They are to be worn," says one importer, "with linen and duck gowns in the

pink on the outside and the white petals within are of chiffon.

A large hat of a deep shade of purple is trimmed with a wreath of purple violets to match, massed closely together. In the center of the purple flowers is a line of pink rose buds set around the hat like so many plums in a cake.

A charming thing in American pottery is a tall jar of green, small around for its height, with two small handles, one on either side at the top, and a short neck. This is a good height and shape for the long-stemmed American Beauty roses. One of the prettiest of the shirtwaists,



CHINESE DRESSING JACKET AND DIMITÉ WRAPPER.

pretty, and if all white or crocus yellow is chosen, such a wrapper can be made to look fine over a white wash petticoat.

Appropos of petticoats, not only they, but underwear in general, virtually come under the negligee head, for many house things are made with the definite intention of displaying dainty undertogery. So for such sorts there are chemises of fine lawn with deep lace berthas, and lawn petticoats as gay with lace and ribbon as outside skirts, and which show between the fronts of the dressing sacque or wrapper. Ribbon belts with streaming ends hold these in at the waist, and the fad of the moment is to have the kid slippers match in color.

Another pretty and practicable kink is a detachable berthas or rouché for the chemise or underwaist, which may be worn with such a get-up. These details are patterned after the bust pads of the moment, and when one is pinned over the chemise this last may be of the plainest slip description. Ribbon rosettes or bows finish the detachable berthas, which in ready-made form costs anywhere from 75 cents to \$1.

With all this elegance to incline one to the belief that simplicity is a past quantity in both house clothes and under rigging, there are other French garments of dainty homeliness. First and foremost among these are some colored percale and chambray petticoats, four of which would con-

same colors, the black and white ones with any and all hues."

Then the gypsy styles of some of the new hats, admitting these textures, the wash stuffs which evolved two morning frocks, speakingly suggested the old-time calicos. The same chintz-like patterns, the same solidly woven background, the same bucolic mingling of color and rural design; and with these double skirt effects and trimmings—vests, collars, cuffs and skirt facings—of the coarsest white.

"Milkmaid prettiness," said the on-looker, a little puzzled, and the importer smiled and said that the gowns had been created with just such intention.

Rejane setting the fashion last summer for these simple textures they have been ordered this year by grand folk for country use. They will also doubtless grace the many breakfasts given in the Bois, which begin the moment the leaves appear, and are celebrated with numerous rural affections.

MARY DEAN.

Frills of Fashion.

Bands of Russian embroidery come in sets to make up with shirtwaists. One of the pretty new shirtwaists of the season is a heavy linen in a cream shade with an embroidered design upon the front, this in a warm tan. It is a cherry design done in heavy cotton.

An Easter parasol is of white with an edge of lace set on straight and above it fuchsias encircling the parasol. These are

trimmed with embroidered bands, is of linen, the smooth linen, and color of the old-time "duster," the bands down the front, on the tops of the shoulders, and forming the stock and cuffs of white embroidered in two shades of brown.

Hats are looking more and more like parasols or lamp shades. Any of the three could be remodeled a trifle and used for any of the other purposes. One of these big hats, with drooping edges, is of black Chantilly lace over white and trimmed with a cluster of short, bright green, slightly shaded ostrich plumes set on at one side.

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