

Women's Charming World of Fashion

NEW YORK, April 29.—Notwithstanding the fact that summer styles yearly put in an appearance long before this period, it is really the month of May which decides them in Paris. Then the conventional coaching parade which America knows is replaced by a splendid pageant of fashion which, with horns and what not, likewise winds itself through wooded ways.

The Avenue des Acacias, in the Bois de Boulogne, is the route chosen for this procession, which is gazed upon and applauded by thousands. Every fair one tries to outdo her neighbor in point of costume, and when some specially charming getup is cheered somebody says: "Behold! a chef d'œuvre. This will live."

The extreme fragility ever expressed by these early toilettes often confounds the spectator from over the seas, more used to chill winds than balmy airs at this moment. But the Parisian spring comes early, and by the second week of May the trees are generally likewise in their spring clothes and the summer flowers have begun. So the thin silky gauzes, and pale voiles, and ball-like designs—for flower fete fashions are often elaborate to this degree—do not seem out of place; and if, to speak truly, the belle Parisienne is a bit cold sometimes her pride keeps her from showing it.

Year after year the toilettes which are designed for the Parisian Fete des Fleurs are reproduced for the American market. This season is no exception to the rule, and since the dressiest of the new styles are extravagantly picturesque, some of these gowns are adorably lovely.

Taken en masse it is noticed that the most effective skirts with these elegant costumes train to some degree and are made to look only moderately full. The prevailing bodice is in blouse form, and the laces used are of the thinnest variety, chandilly and lerre abounding over other sorts. Among the novelty laces, employed upon the silks especially, are some black webs with figures in colors and various spotted and odd meshed nets which are made up into narrow ruches. More elaborate laces form blouses and bolero effects, in combination with plain voiles and self-colored silks.

As to these materials, silks and voiles are more numerous than other textures, a number showing colors exquisitely delicate in some cases and rarely rich in others.

Matching parasols also accompany many of the toilettes. But where some of these seem unusually large, others are very tiny, being in size and design exact replicas of the carriage parasols used these many years. The larger sorts and those of medium size are more numerous, and are often bewilderingly furbelowed at the bottom. The hats, for there are Fete des Fleurs hats, too, are both large and small; and along with pale violets, cloud-like mauves, misty grays and opaline and sea tints, scarlet is a frequent note.

One gown of exceptional beauty is of chiffon voile in this flashing tint. A blouse waist and trimmed skirt composes the model with sulphur-colored lace for the yoke and undersleeves. The tricorne hat supplied for this toilette is of scarlet panama, with a saffron brim and pure white roses, and the parasol is of white and saffron lace over red chiffon.

A detail remarked as a favorite one with fashion was a shoulder trimming shown by the bodice of this gown. Taking the form of a sort of cape in folds, edged by a band of lace, this shoulder covering was repeated on other gowns in numberless other ways. One displayed a sort of Puritan collar of magnificent lace placed over chiffon and garnished with black and white spotted net.

Other yokes possessed a straight or shaped flounce fall, or a lace or chiffon surplice scarf, which crossed at the waist, but whatever was the device the shoulder seam was always hidden, or else elaborated with all sorts of lengthening trimmings.

Another point extremely charming is the absence of seaming in many of the short jacket effects, which are seen in legions this season. A thin silky crope bolero, in burnt ivory, had the sleeves and body portion cut in one, or rather in two pieces, for the halves met at the back. A delightful looseness was expressed by this trick, and several soft shades of brownish net composed the rest of the toilet.

Violet and blue, strange as it may sound, was the color scheme of a voile gown whose skirt displayed huge flowers and garlands of chiffon and lace.

Not a single skirt of the whole of this imported batch was untrimmed. Each and every one displayed a garnishing of some sort, some mounting as high as the waist—narrow ruches of silk or net above frills of lace; wide folds put on to simulate tucks and also headed in some way; and flounces

and insets and applications innumerable. Then each and every one fell in a way to ravish the eye and distract the soul that would copy it, and, though all seemed to be very wide when the skirt was tried on, the drop linings were observed to be carefully fitted at the hips.

The seeming looseness of the bodices was also deceiving, for never were waist foundations more scrupulously adjusted than

now, the long seam, running to the shoulder, at present employed instead of the old bust dart, making a great improvement in the fit. The best skirt linings are shaped at the back and front with folded pleats instead of the former stitched darts. The apron gore is cut out very much at the waist, so that frequently the side breadths can be drawn over the hips without fullness, thus lessening bulk at a point where

it is important to appear sylphlike.

But no matter how sedulously the foundations are looked after the new costumes are expressive of too much fullness to suit entirely any but slender figures; so those inclined to embonpoint had better see to it that the dressmaker is not led into flight of modish fancy in the way of fussy sleeves and skirts aux volants.

For such figures the jupes with horizontal garnitures or side pleats are advised. For the bodice bolero effects are always good for thick figures, the gathered blouses in airy textiles, over which these are placed being also slimming in tendency. Medium sized sleeves likewise aid in the good work.

But bolero effects will be worn by everybody, and more than one imported gown with such a detail will show a chiffon underwaist. Indeed, it is stated, a number of the fine mid-summer carriage and racing frocks will be entirely of chiffon, with marvellous finger manipulation of the same texture for trimming.

A wonderful flower fete gown in shaded violets and white is trimmed with fuchsia fringes made in this way. The double skirt, whose tunic is slightly pointed at the front and edged deeply with fringes, escapes the ground all around. A pelerine cape bordered in the same way hides all of the bodice but the plain puffed sleeves, which come barely to the elbow.

Delightfully coquettish accessories with these toilettes were several perfectly straight scarfs of chiffon or net, with flounce or lace borders. These, which are entirely for ornament, will be worn in many ways, some very low on the arms, others close about the throat, but all with gowns of matching elegance.

But, coming to airy details—things which fall gracefully and float behind you when you walk—the furor for lace veils is on the increase. Out of a dozen Flower Fete hats seen five were veil draped in Chantilly webs in beautiful tints.

With a "straw" raffia turban, massed with purple and white cherries, a purple veil was arranged to let down over the face when wanted. Apple green, scarlet and brown lace veils are also to be worn, though very likely these will be employed chiefly as hat trimmings here. At the races or out of town they will not seem so conspicuous, for it is really for such use the colored veil has been designed.

Paradise plumes are also a feature of the new millinery, and cherries hang temptingly from many a delightful headpiece.

The suggestion for this motive is obvious. France grows wonderful cherries and Paris sells them by the ton—black cherries, red cherries, pink cherries. So these delectable dainties in many other hues and sizes as big as plums we are once more to wear upon our heads. MARY DEAN.



SHOULDER AND SKIRT TRIMMINGS WHICH ARE FEATURES OF SUMMER STYLES.

Frills of Fashion

Dyed shantung, navy and brown in particular, will be a favorite silk of the summer.

Emeralds are the costliest of gems at the present time. Next in value comes rubies and pearls.

Rows of stitching and pretty buttons constitute the decoration of the newest tailor made costumes.

An all-violet toque has at the back, set in among the flowers, on either side a rosette of pale blue chiffon.

In tussah and biscuit tints veils with embroidered borders are expected to be in demand for country wear next summer.

Some of the new feathers shade from dark brown to orange and finish in a deep cream tone. In red the shading is from cherry to a pale coral.

Here is something a little unusual in a lingerie hat. These hats of lace and muslin are, as a rule, the largest of their kind, with fluffy crowns and broad rims. This hat is a toque, which is one claim to distinction, but it has another in being trimmed with a beautiful shade of ribbon, a pale yellow, which encircles the center of the rim in a manner in which trimmings have been put on hats recently. The ribbon is caught here and there all around the hat with cross straps formed of tiny yellow roses to match.

"The rules of good taste in wall paper never change, though they sometimes seem to do so," says Harper's Bazar. "The wall should be treated from the baseboard up. If there is a dado, it should represent the darkest tone of all those employed for the wall; the division above it should be several shades lighter, the border, if any, still lighter, and the ceiling lightest of all, and for this reason, which always exists, the ceiling receives less light than any other portion of the room, and the border less than the wall below it. The effort, therefore, must be to counteract the darkness above by supplying the missing light. A darkly papered ceiling should always be avoided in any but a Turkish or Indian room. Cool yellows, deep creams, golden tans, are the best ceiling tones, as a rule, though there are occasions where a soft blue or a rose flushed ceiling is to be advised.

Chat About Women

Miss Sadie Gompers, a daughter of President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, is about to go on the concert stage. She is 29 years old.

Mrs. Mary E. Hart, woman manager of the Alaskan World's fair exhibit, has arrived in St. Louis, where she will remain until the close of the exposition.

The dowager duchess of Abercorn is the oldest living British peeress. When she was born to the sixth duke of Bedford by his second wife, Napoleon's retreat from Moscow was still before him and George III was king, with eight years more to reign. Thus this venerable woman has lived in five reigns and through the whole of three, although one of those was the longest on record. She was married nearly seventy-two years ago and has lived to see a grandchild's grandchild.

Mrs. Gertrude Atherton, the American author, is enjoying unusual social attention in London. On April 21 the exclusive Writers' club, composed wholly of women, will give a luncheon to her—the first thing of the sort they have ever done. This club has one large public dinner annually, but hitherto has conservatively refrained from entertaining guests in a similar way at any other time. People who are acquainted with British conservatism will appreciate the honor thus paid to an American woman author.

One of Mrs. Clarence Mackay's peculiarities is to wear a favorite jewel morning, noon and night, to the exclusion of every other gem she owns. A few years ago her prime favorite was an elaborate diamond brooch with an emerald center. The large emerald could be detached and worn alone, and this had been the wedding present of Mr. Mackay. The attractive young woman seldom was without the brooch or its central stone. But a tremendous pear-shaped opal is the latest. This is a brand new gem and is mounted in a setting of small diamonds. This hangs in the "la-ligue" fashion from a diamond-studded chain. Everyone asks Mrs. Mackay if she is not superstitious. For some reason the fiery opal never has been popular with women of fashion. It may be the evil reputation of the opal or the fact that only the large ones are expensive.

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