

Signs of Coming Spring in New Dress Delights

NOW is the time for leisurely and appreciative shopping. Genuine bargains are to be found in all of the better shops, and if any money has been saved from the orgy of Christmas buying it may now be invested to advantage.

There are still at least two months of wintry weather to be faced and there is another winter coming, though it lies beyond a distant summer. If one wishes to winter in fur and frocks and coats picked up now will give comfort and satisfaction until spring and will come in most conveniently at the opening of another cold season, but naturally one must not buy the extreme or freakish models if one counts upon wearing them another season.

In some of the shops the prices of high-class winter coat and skirt costumes are cut in half, so that room may be made for the coming spring stock and the old stock may be cleared out, and one may obtain for \$25 or \$35 a severely tailored coat and skirt of manifold material which sold for from \$50 to \$75 early in the season.

In dressy frocks and imported models the reductions are still more sweeping, but frocks of this sort are more likely to be shown and sold and must be chosen with a view to their possibilities of being worn between winter and spring seasons and in order to keep their work folk, yet not keep them in idleness, dressmakers put forward reduced prices for work as a lure.

This last statement does not apply to frocks. A number of the smart tailors and the dressmaking departments of many shops offer tempting rates at this season of the year. The southward-bound crowd, while large, does not by any means furnish such a view to keep the dressmakers busy between winter and spring seasons and in order to keep their work folk, yet not keep them in idleness, dressmakers put forward reduced prices for work as a lure.

Of course, there is no telling just what the spring will bring forth in the line of new fashions, but there are conservative models which are fairly sure to be modish throughout the spring and summer, even if not the last cry of fashion; and it is a sensible thing to have such a frock made now, so that one may take advantage of the between-season prices and have something ready for wear in the early spring.

It seems quite probable that the leaning toward the severe tailor-made for street wear, a tendency very noticeable last fall, will be emphasized in the spring, and a coat and skirt costume made with a conservative cut, either semi-fitting or close fitting, and finished with regulation coat sleeves and coat collar, is a safe proposition and a good thing to have in readiness, for the first mild days. For that matter, there are days all through our winter when such a costume, if not in suiting too light of weight, is comfortable.

The new suitings are not yet much in evidence in the shops, but a few light weight French suitings, tweeds and serges have appeared and are being made up for southern wear. The plain French serge of fine quality, both in white and in blue, is a favorite, and among the blue serges there are several new shades—deep, yet full of color, such as the electric blue, which has been liked in Paris this winter, and the indigo, which was introduced last fall.

The voiles and panamas are being pushed for southern use and are always practical; but nothing new in materials of this class has yet appeared and now that voiles is as much a favorite in winter as in summer, the winter stock of such material may be drawn upon for the purposes of the southward bound.

The spring stuff most conspicuous in this early showing is perhaps the rajah silk which is put forward in many new color combinations and designs and is insisted upon with a unanimity that suggests a determination among the manufacturers and merchants to make this silk a leading feature of the coming season. A majority of the new rajahs are in plaid and check effects, but there are many stripes, too, and the plaids and checks are in most cases of the line stripe variety—a plain ground barred off or checked off with lines of contrasting color.

Gray and white combinations are frequently repeated in these stuffs and, indeed, the liking for gray which has been emphasized this winter bids fair to hold over into the spring and summer, if the color indications of the first spring showing are to be trusted. A soft, silvery gray rajah, based off into a regular three-inch plaid, by a rather heavy line of white, has excellent possibilities and innumerable changes are rung on this theme, the size of the plaid, the width of the lines and the shades of the gray varying in all imaginable ways.

There are also some very smart rajahs in irregular mixed plaid, such as the visible plaids of the winter cloths, many shades of gray and lines of white entering into the composition of the plaid. These same designs are, of course, repeated in other colorings.

A ground of the soft tan, which is the natural pounce color, plaided or checked in lines of almond green or mahogany brown or violet or dull blue, has apparently been a favorite with the designers, and combinations of white and color are legion, some of the smartest of these being in bright chestnut brown on a white ground. Some of the designers, in making definite checks, show several colors charmingly blended.

One of these in soft dull lavender, dull blue, gray and white is particularly harmonious; but there are other color schemes as successful. Inch-wide stripes in tan or white and some soft color, such as lavender or almond green or blue, are extremely attractive, and an effective design, not nearly so conspicuous as it sounds, shows a wide stripe of tan alternating with a Roman stripe, in which dull rose and green and blue appear, but in such harmonious melting tones that there is no striking color contrast.

Plain rajah is offered in all the popular shades which are likely to retain their popularity with the coming of spring, and it is said that this material is to be tremendously worn for motor and traveling coats and costumes. Certain it is that it is being made up in considerable quantities for southern use and that the manufacturers of dust coats are planning a large number of their models in rajah, though these models will not be seen until later.

A few foulards are blossoming with the Swisses and mulls and other summery



GOWN OF SILVER SPOTTED MOUSSELINE AND SILVER GAUZE, A SECOND OF SATIN VELOUR AND SILVER LACE, A THIRD OF MAIZE CREPE DE CHINE WITH LACE AND A FOURTH OF GRAY MOUSSELINE AND SILVER.

stuffs, but hardly enough of them are in evidence to offer convincing testimony as to their chances in the spring fashion program. There are women who will not consider planning a warm weather outfit without including in it at least one foulard frock, and no other silk is quite its equal for general utility wear in warm weather, though at various times other silks have ebbed out of fashion.

There is another design in which tiny leaves, spraying like maidenhair fern, but of different shape, almost entirely cover a white ground, the leaf design being in lavender or green or gray, as the case may be, and showing many shades of the one color, the color being deepest where the leaves are thickest, while at the ends of the sprays it fades to a pale hue.

A blue and white spider cloth has a wide stripe of shaded blue, light even in its deepest tone, alternating with a wide stripe of white, and over all are thrown clusters of little white daisies. It is in the exquisite drawing of the floral designs and in the way in which they appear to melt into the background instead of standing out clear cut and distinct that half the effectiveness of these new silk and cotton materials lies.

The printed silk mulls are beautiful, too, and the embroidered batistes and Swisses of the printed silk mulls are beautiful, too, and the embroidered batistes and Swisses of the printed silk mulls are beautiful, too, and the embroidered batistes and Swisses of the printed silk mulls are beautiful, too.

The all-white embroidered Swisses are always modish and serviceable and there are many pretty new designs in these popular materials. Large quantities of these Swisses have already been sold, and though there will be many more consignments before the spring season is fairly on, it is doubtful whether there will be again as charming an assortment as there is now.

Embroidered Swisses and batistes showing delicate color in the designs are many, but must be seen to be appreciated. One pretty Swiss has a ground of white stripes with closely set black hair lines and is sprinkled with pale blue embroidered dots of water size.

Another is in pale gray and white with lavender dots. This combination is, by the way, a popular one with the designers, batistes, organdies and in fact all the old favorites among cottons of modest price are prettier than ever, and there are several entirely new fabrics of the cotton and silk class which, however they may wear a matter still to be determined, are undoubtedly of phenomenal beauty in color and design.

A stuff called spider cloth is conspicuous on this list. It is very sheer, though not transparent, and of exquisite sheen, while in point of design and color it yields the palm to none of the most costly printed materials.

Imagine a delicate pink ground shading to a pink just a shade deeper behind the graceful sprays of apple blossoms which are scattered over the surface, their pink flushed petals melting into the pink back-

ground and their faintly green leaves giving just the needed touch of relieving color in the harmony of pink and white. Or perhaps you may prefer a design of fine stripes in white and silvery gray, with loose sprays of valley lilies toward carelessly over the surface, the blossoms in white with faint gray shadows and the delicate stems in palest green.

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minute bowknot is a good design in both embroidered Swiss and batiste; and shaded dots on a white ground, while not distinctly new, for they were used last season, are among the effective designs of the new stock.

The best of the new organdies have a bar plaid of heavy white line and a colored design of some single large flower, poppy, rose, orchid, etc. The coloring and drawing of these flowers testifies, as do all the floral designs, to the increasing excellence of the art standards among manufacturers.

Printed batistes, silk mulls and even dimities show many of the designs popular in chiffon cloth and silk muslin this winter. For example, there may be groups of fine black stripes, set at rather wide intervals on a white ground, and the continuity of this striping is interrupted by little flower sprays or tiny floral wreaths in delicate colors set into the stripes.

Or there may be a wide stripe of black alternating with a white stripe and the floral motifs are set down this wide black stripe. The black and white and flower color designs are always charming for their softness and on view, these few are a clear indication of the emphasis put upon such materials in the plans for the new season.

Pale blues, lavenders, yellows, grays, pinks and whites, exquisitely and lavishly embroidered in self-tones, are offered at prices ranging from \$25 to \$50. And since the trimming is all supplied in the pattern and the frock is so neatly made that an expensive dressmaker is not needed to put it together successfully, an elaborate and charming lingerie frock is obtained more easily and economically through the use of such a robe than in any other way.

One piece lingerie frocks, whose blouses and skirts are joined by inset waistbands or girdles of lace, are numerous among the new muslin models, and are more easily accomplished by the amateur dressmaker than are the purely princess models cut in one from yoke or shoulder to hem. Imported lingerie models are wonders of intricate detail, while simple of outline, and hand embroidery and Valenciennes are the chosen trimmings, though heavier laces, such as Irish and cluny, frequently enter

into the trimming scheme.

Little change in last season's silhouette is noticeable in these lingerie models, but the rise of the long shoulder line and the tendency to introduce contrasting sleeves under a shoulder drapery like the body of the blouse or to cut the upper part of the sleeve in one with the shoulder of the blouse is evident in these summery models, as it has been in the late winter models.

The new linen frocks also emphasize this idea, and models which have been popular in cloth or other winter material work out very well in linen, the linen blouse being cut down to show a considerable expanse of sheer lingerie gumples or underblouse and sleeve caps or short outer sleeves of the sheer lingerie material.

Cluny is the lace most in use for trimming linen in this first exhibit of linen models, and the most popular skirt models seem to be those which are trimmed in deep folds or tucks set on the skirt at wide intervals and headed by inset bands of cluny insertion. Very often these tucks start at each side of a plain box plait down the middle front and in some effective models this plait runs up the front of the blouse to meet a low drawn fichu drapery or collar, while the blouse and skirt at each side of the plait are joined by an inset girde of lace insertion.

Plain coat and skirt costumes of heavy linen, severely tailored and made with plaited skirts and semi-fitting coats of moderate length, are as usual much in demand for southern use, and the soft string color, straw color and natural tone linens rival white in number and popularity.

Many dance frocks and evening frocks are being made up in embroidered Swiss, batiste, organdy, etc., but the chiffons, tules and silk muslins are still the leading sheer evening materials, and the soft, simple satins are tremendously in demand for evening wear. A touch of silver appears in a large proportion of the latest evening models of elaborate design, and charming effects are obtained by discreet use of silver lace, silver roses, cloth of silver, etc.

The four evening frocks of the central cut, all sketched from Parisian models, illustrates the possibilities of the silver note. If the yellow crepe, with Bugras lace trimming and big velvet bows upon skirt front and empire bodice, the silver appeared only in paillette embroidery ornamenting the lace tabs, but a frock of satin velour, accented a more important role to silver, the gumples and short sleeves being entirely of fine silver lace. Similar lace, in flounces, showed where the skirt was slit up the left front and a line of tiny silver roses edged the finely plaited revers of mousseline de soie.

White silk mousseline embroidered in silver dots was the material of a most delectable little frock whose full short bolero

was formed of silver gauze almost entirely hidden by motifs of handsome Irish lace. Soft satin ribbons in warm rose relieved the white and silver.

With certain shades of gray, silver is especially effective, and the silk mousseline of the sketch was of exactly the right tone to harmonize with the lines of tiny silver roses and the silver lace which served as trimming for the frock.

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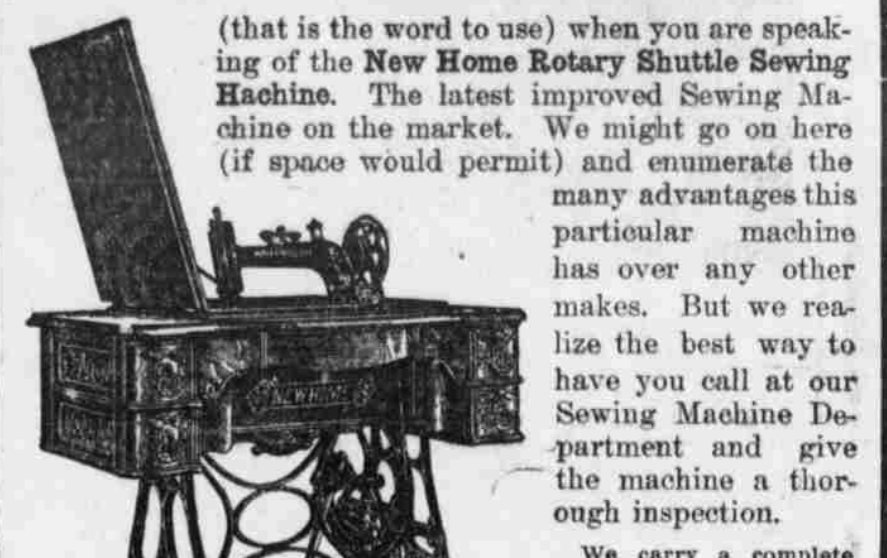
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