

HINTS FOR THE HOME DRESSMAKER.

SMART WHITE FROCKS For SUMMER WEAR

By MARY ELEANOR O'DONNELL



WRITE the smartest and the most successful of the white frocks for afternoon wear are the simplest. The great fashion authorities are everywhere emphasizing the charm of the graceful outline and attaching the greatest possible importance to bringing this result about without any extraneous help from furbelows.

The dominant white frock is made over a one-piece lining that is cut on the simplest of lines and has no bones in it. The skirts are of three styles, the flounced, the puffed, and the straight and smart model finished with a four inch hem. At first glance the voluminous skirts appear to be of endless width and fullness, but although a great deal of material goes into their make-up, they are invariably mounted over the closest fitting and narrowest of foundations, so narrow oftentimes that it scarcely seems as if it were quite safe to attempt a step that is longer than an inch or two.

The thin chiffons and voiles that are mounted on these linings are treated to all sorts of handlings that give them voluminous effects. Accordion plating is again seen, used sometimes in combination with the drooping tunics forming the lower portion. Skirtings are popular, and flourish one above the other, as in the 1880 period, are seen in the most fascinating models. The preference is for the extremely tight fitting waist skirt, however, and there is no question as to its smartness.

Sleeves are again short and it is the exception when afternoon gowns have anything to cover the arm below the elbow. This is a welcome change for dress gowns, since no matter how fashionable, the long thin sleeve with a short glove is never pretty, and every woman's arm appears to advantage in the wrinkles of a long glove.

The neck is cut as low as one wishes, but rarely high. The slightly round, peasant neck is the one that prevails, but it is exceedingly difficult to make it becoming, and each woman will have to work out the problem to her own satisfaction. These collarless frocks unquestionably have an old-time look, but they are not merely collarless, mind you, but are fast becoming half décolleté in either the square or V shape. Daytime frocks are now worn



QUAINT MODEL OF WHITE CHIFFON WITH PINK SATIN RIBBONS



A CHARMING FROCK IN SWISS EMBROIDERY AND VAL LACE - TURKISH TURBAN OF BLACK TULLE



EMBROIDERED LINEN DRESS HAT OF GRAY CRIN WITH FOCAL BLUE PLUMES



A GIRLISH MODEL IN LACE AND EMBROIDERY

amazingly low. If you are shocked at the particularly low necked dresses you encounter in the streets and shops these days, you have but to reflect that your grandmother did the same thing once upon a time, as any old daguerreotype will show.

Some necks, it must be admitted, are hopeless both as to texture of skin and lines, and there is only one word of advice to give the owners of such necks—don't be persuaded to wear a low collar or a girlish neck frill. People are willing to make some allowance for those who find the style comfortable and wear it for that reason, but an impossible neck should be kept hidden. A substitute for the collarless corsage has been found. It is a transparent guimpe, made of tulle, net, or lace, fitted to the figure and to the throat. It is lined with a pale tint of pink chiffon, and to it the "little girl" frill can be added, so that an effect of lightness and a sense of ease can be gained without any loss of smartness and dignity. The blouses are all made with the idea of suggesting fullness without softness, and avoiding all attempts at elaboration or complexity.

The girl has nothing to complain of in the present trend of fashion—indeed, it looks as if the great dress providers had taken her under their wings in a most exclusive manner. All the gowns and hats of summer are aggressively young. Unless the woman of mature age keeps her head screwed on tight she will find herself before long betrayed into the folly of buying baby hats and simple pinafore gowns, and end with making a fright of herself. In the shops it looks as if the woman over 30 didn't exist. If dressing young meant feeling young and looking young, what good times women would have before them these sunny days!

Everywhere there is an exemplification of the simple—one might almost say angular—line of the moment. As the dressmakers express it, there are no curves

Width of shoulder, size of waist, hip measurement, and edge of skirt—all seem the same. That is the absolutely correct line in fashion of the moment—no curves at all, but everything straight and angular.

One of the small irritations that has been removed from summer clothes as the result of the demand for the straight lines is starch. For generations we thought it was quite the proper thing to fill up the meshes of all summer gowns with starch; to have our skirts as stiff as boards and as rattily as stage thunder. But this summer starch has been entirely eliminated, or where it is necessary, as in some materials, the merest suggestion is applied. Any degree of starch has long ago been left out of our underwear. The laundress who thinks that petticoats should stand alone is taboed.

The defect in this virtue is that on some people the clothes are too soft. They lose character. The majority of women avoid this and merely use the fashion to get the best results.

With this knowledge that starch is out, that clinging lines are in, that soft materials are the best choice, and that the foot line must not be extended, women are making up muslins in the most enchanting ways. Every wise woman knows there are two kinds of muslin, those for every day and those for other days. There is a wide difference of choice in the quality, the price, and the making. While it has been repeated time and again this season that this is not to be an all white summer, you will read into this assertion your own meaning, which will probably take the shape of a bit of color against the costume either in the shape of one of the new aeroplane shades or in a contrasting color chosen for the hat.

White is costly, of course, as it soils so easily that a woman who wears it must constantly be changing her

costume or else appear in a soiled one, and of all errors of dress nothing is so unpardonable as a soiled white frock.

A dressy white frock is adorable, but when it is used for everyday hours it is the most impracticable thing possible. The white duck skirt with a blouse is a typical American costume, and a sensible and pretty

garment if it is worn every day, costs its owner a pretty penny.

In summer every woman needs a few white duck skirts and she should buy or make them carefully. It is strange that so many women are careless about this garment, taking it as a matter of course that it is the right thing if they are suited with the material.