

DRESSES FALL

COSTUMES WINTER



1910

1911

The Froth and Frills of Fashion

Party Frocks and Dinner Gowns—Evening Coats and Demi-Dress the Toilette de Luxe of the Season

After the practical street suit is decided, the snappy hat added, the suitability and possibility of a fur set passed on, we come to the "pleasant ways" of evening frocks and frills. The most sensible woman of us all responds to the fascination of these more luxurious details of the wardrobe, and wisely saves a pretty penny from her allowance for her formal costume, no matter how modest her circumstances.

This year one may be beautifully clad for "occasions" at much or little as one's circumstances demand. For styles are such that charming effects may be carried out in comparatively inexpensive material, or in richest elaboration as one will.

For the demi-toilette there are delightful little frocks of chiffon, voile, satin or crepe de chine, made up usually in combination with some other fabric, simple of outline, round skirted, and giving a slender, youthful figure to the wearer.

Read this little phrase again! There lies the whole secret of this season's clothes. They really do slim the figure and drop years from the shoulders of the wearer, no matter what her actual avoirdupois or years, short of the two hundred or the three score and ten mark!

Sheer and semi-sheer fabrics such as crepe de chine hang close and graceful. All the skirts are pulled a bit into the waist, a fashion far more becoming than

the skirt drawn skin tight about the hips. Though the figure line is slender there is often as not sufficient fullness to permit of the skirt being shirred or plaited into a foot band.

Note that foot band! It may be narrow or wide, straight or circular, but always it gives a straight figure line rather than a spreading flare to the skirt—and therein lies the secret of today's fashionable silhouette. The band, top and bottom, is weighted with strips of tap closely sewn with lead which holds the upper skirt taut and straight.

Very charming and very practical are the black and white costumes—the underslip usually of satin, partially covered by an overdress of Chantilly or Spanish lace, or one of these laces combined with net. This is the formal dinner dress, cut with rather short scant train, square or round neck and transparent sleeves of elbow length. A touch of brilliant color in a veiled ribbon or a big glowing rose gives the finishing touch to this toilette.

For demi-dress service there are also many delightful black and white combinations of round length, the white satin underbody entirely veiled with black voile nixon, chiffon or voile, and completed by a band or hem of black satin. Posed on the underskirt is a band of color, bright cerise or royal blue ribbon or heavy gold lace or pascamenterie. The color, whatever it be, appears again, veiled, in the soft simple

bodice. Sleeves just turn the elbow in these demi-toilettes, and the neck is finished without a collar more often than not.

Some very stunning little frocks are designed much as is the above, but with the added charm of marvelous color combinations. For instance, a dark blue chiffon is made up over a light cerise satin, a smoke grey voile over a brilliant emerald green. Where the fabric is a bright color it needs no added color contrast in the trimming. The satin foot and sleeve bands are often handsomely embellished with braiding or heavy self-colored laces or pascamenteries.

High-colored Persians make smart underslips for these transparent dresses. White Persians in softer tones in light-weight materials such as crepe de chine are employed for the body of the frock with harmonizing plain satin trimmings.

The round length evening frock is now absolutely high style, and one may dance or dine in comfort and splendor combined, hands free of the care of trains, if one wish. The trained evening dress is not, to be sure, entirely banished; for women of years it should never be set aside, as it carries dignity and grace of line. But the majority of us will welcome the freedom of the short skirt for formal as well as for service wear.

Velvet will be much used for demi-dress this Winter. In design these velvet frocks are very simple, straight little skirts and easy bloused waists, usually trimmed with handsome gold embroidery, or with cuffs and collar of rich Venise lace. A sash or a brilliant flower gives a finishing touch of beauty.

Fur and velvet are an ideal combination, but the fur-trimmed velvet dress is a shade less formal than the one garnished with gold or fine lace. Black velvet is best liked, but very dark-blue and dark stone gray, these preferably with silver trimmings, are chosen by some.

Evening wraps are more on the draped coat order this year than heretofore, though the more or less simple cape will remain the standby of many. The Italian officer's cape, entirely plain save for its high velvet faced bullion ornamented collar, is smart and simple. The original imported models are genuine officer's capes, seamless, cut from extremely wide and heavy kersey. They are costly—since Uncle Sam obligingly adds 60 per cent of the original cost for entering the goods. The shops, therefore, have to sell these at \$25, which price is prohibitive to most of us. But we need not have a regret over the matter, since quite as graceful and to my thinking softer and richer capes cut from satiny broadcloths are to be had

for a fraction of the above mentioned sum. Or, if one will, one may buy a handsome material and make the cape easily and quickly at home, having some little tailor cut out and adjust the high turn collar.

No better evening wrap can be chosen for the young girl debutante or in her first season than this same cape style or a similar one in which a gaily lined hood is substituted for the collar. Light tones, pink or blue, are counted best for the youthful wearer, or she may select the brilliant scarlet of the Red Riding Hood tales of her baby days.

Many women will rejoice over the return of black in evening wraps—for it is certainly more practical than light colors, and more suitable when a woman has not her own carriage or auto at her command. Black satin evening wraps are handsome, and are lined heavily enough to afford sufficient warmth even in coldest weather. Some rich brocades in two or more tones are made up effectively, usually with fur at neck and sleeve finish. But it is far more practical, and even more effective to wear one's handsome neck-piece with one's evening wrap, adjusting it in some coquettish way, throwing one end over the shoulder or the like, to relieve an ensemble of possible daytime look.

Gold colored satin is much seen in evening wraps—a dull, copperish gold. Indeed this ranks next in favor to black and is almost as practical.

Heavy handsome embroideries in the form of bands or reverses go well on

these gold satins. Some very dressy wraps are of rose satin, a deep but rather dull rose pink shade. Such a one lined and braided in gray, and provided with a big chinchilla collar and cuffs is rich enough.

But if you would be truly ultra-fashionable and the envy of your sex, go not to any shop or dressmaker for your Winter's wrap—but tie you hence to grandmother's attic and search out her clover-preserved Paisley shawl, and have it simply fashioned into an evening wrap, the sleeves cut in one with the body and sleeves and neck bordered with skunk fur. The wrap should be quite straight in line, the "heart" or solid colored center falling where it will, and the bottom finished only with its own fringe. Some wraps have a broad skunk band at the bottom, but this is not counted as smart as the natural fringe finish.

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