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## "Other People's Fashions"

### The Crinoline Over-Skirts, the Wicked Slit Skirt, the Old Victorian Frills—and Some Danger Signals on the New Fashion Road



The Threat of the Crinoline. A New Paris Model with Wide Half-Length Hoop Skirt Effect.

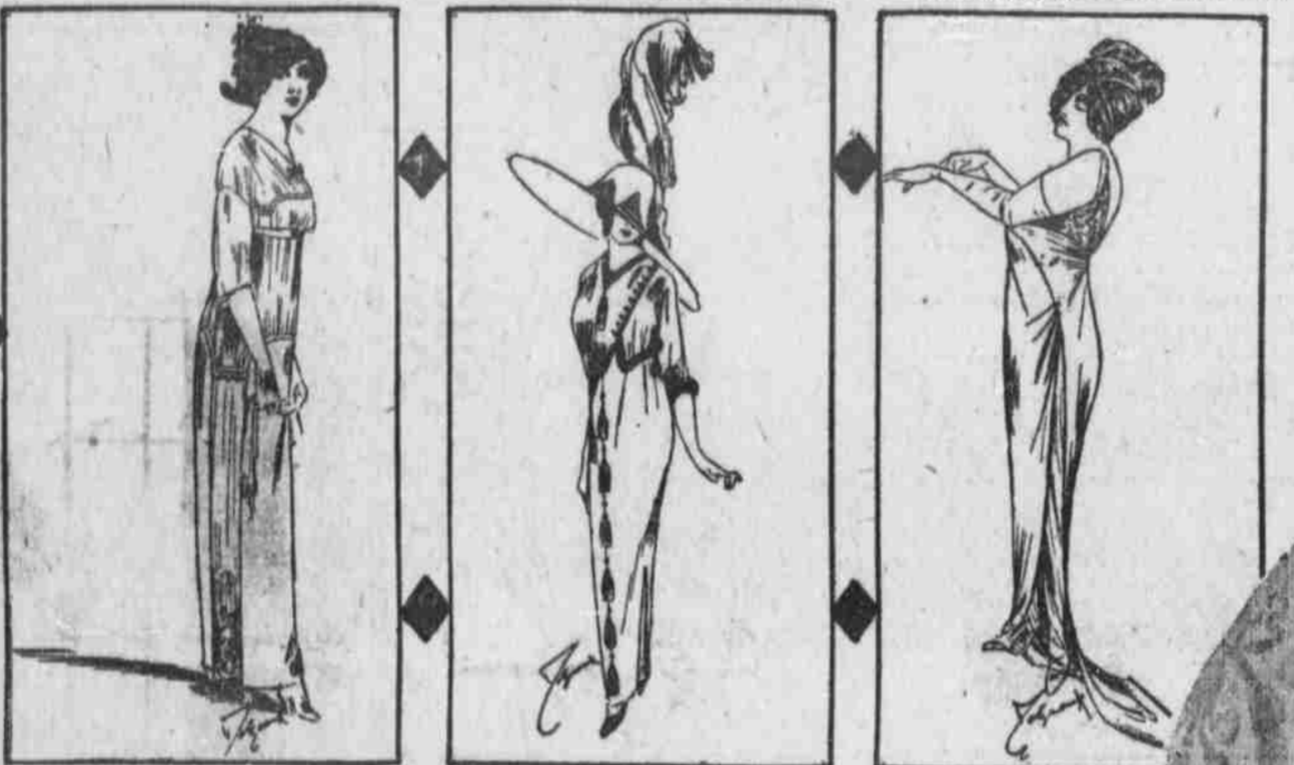
**L**ADY DUFF-GORDON, the famous "Lucile" of London, and foremost creator of fashions in the world, writes each week the fashion article for this newspaper, presenting all that is newest and best in styles for well-dressed women. Lady Duff-Gordon's new Paris establishment brings her into close touch with that centre of fashion. Lady Duff-Gordon's American establishment is at No. 17 West Thirty-sixth street, New York.

By Lady Duff-Gordon ("Lucile")

HERE I am going to talk about some fashions other than my own, because I believe that never has there been a season when a woman is so apt to make a mistake as this one. It has been said that the crinoline will be revived. It cannot be. That atrocious style will have an end more ignominious than the degraded harem skirt and the extreme hobble. I have seen no well-dressed woman, no woman whose name stands for gentlemanly dressing, wearing even a modification of it. But here I show one such Paris modification. The upper skirt is full and flares out at the bottom a good two inches away from the under-skirt. Here, too, is an extreme of the founce, relic of the ancient Victorian days which will, in its extreme, make woman look like a garlanded Maypole. And so I want to talk about these dangers. Don't think I'm saying all other fashions but mine are bad. That would be foolish and untrue. But you should be warned of extremes. If you are willing to accept my guidance on this same new and rather bewildering road (which is anything but a straight and narrow one), I can, I think, save you from some certain delays and even some possible disasters, and insure you speedy and safe arrival at that goal of "charm" which is, I hope, the destination and aim of one and all of you. For do I not remember the painful and pitiful sights which con-

stantly met my eyes at Trouville and Deauville, where one expects to find fashions at their best, but where last month I could only discover them at their worst? Everything was hopelessly exaggerated, and the most extreme styles of all were worn by the very women to whom they were most entirely unsuited and, therefore, unbecoming. Fat, middle-aged dames by the score here were who had encased their stiffly corseted, but still bulging, bodies in skimpy skirts, which, being made in high-waisted style and finishing directly under the bust and blouse, gave "in the appearance of sitting in and overflowing a barrel!" Then, protruding from the other end of these same barrels were thick-set, stogy ankles and ungainly feet, whose size was still further accentuated by a contrast of color between shoe and stocking, the whole ill-proportioned edifice being crowned by an enormous hat, which hid the neck and sometimes even broke into and disfigured the line of the shoulders. And there is, as I hinted, every prospect of things becoming worse, for, instead of devoting their best energies and ideas to giving further variety to the present and pretty styles—and therefore making them possible for the great majority instead of merely for the fortunate and fascinating minority—some of our leading modistes are doing things which I consider unworthy of their name and fame, and, in order to cause a merely passing sensation, are creating and counte-

Two Horrible Examples and a Contrast. The Modest Outline of a New "Lucile" Model. The Grotesque Outline of One of the New Walking Costumes. The Slit-Up-to-the-Hip Costume with an Enormous Chignon Coiffure.



ancing positive atrocities of attire! There is, for one, the tailored costume which allies the briefest of coats to the tightest of skirts, so cut, in fact, that the curves of the figure at the back are followed and accentuated in a way which only succeeds in being entirely unsightly, though I presume that their wearers will flatter themselves that they are being exceedingly and fascinatingly improper. Well, one can perhaps forgive impropriety which is just delicately suggested and therefore alluringly attractive, but there is no such excuse for the bold, hard outlines of these latest and unloveliest tailor costumes. Then, again, another "freak" fashion actually introduces two encircling founces of black lace on a skirt of green mirror velvet, worn with a little velvet coat, there being, indeed, a positive epidemic of this particular trimming, which is, of course, all right in its place, though in my opinion this place is with our

stand that I do not wish or attempt to dictate—I merely state my personal opinion, and, of course, follow and emphasize it in all my own models. So on this understanding I will further proceed to affix a danger signal to those other day and evening gowns, whose slitting up from hem to knees, and sometimes even to the hips at one side of the skirt, is relied upon to create a voque, or, at any rate a sensation, by two clever sisters, whose fame has hitherto been based upon a more praiseworthy foundation—and fashions. Day gowns are looped up with tassels, to show deep and daringly transparent borderings or flouncings of lace, the incongruity and ungracefulness of the arrangement being made all the more glaring by the fact that the bodice part of these dresses reverts to the tight-fitting

and long-waisted style and is finished off with very high collar-band trimmed with fringes or edged with a tulle ruche, all of which details are in themselves quite fatal alike to comfort and charm. By the way, have you realized the close connection between these two qualities? The waist line in the normal position—the whole outline, in fact, of that natural and easy grace suggested by the very name and insured by the shape of the "statue corset"—still constitutes my ideal figure, while as regards the high and trimmed collar band, I beg of you all to beware of it, for it can, and does, add at least ten years to any woman's apparent age. The down-turned collar of mellow-toned lawn or lace, or the corsage cut in a deep round or V, remain a feature of all my models, and I invite you to study with careful and even cruel closeness the contrast between the contour of your face and neck, as arising, and arising, from such a setting, and and as on the contrary, enclosed in a high, closely-fitting and possibly jewelled collar band, which pushes up every atom of superfluous flesh and fat into a hateful fullness and heaviness about your jaw and chin. And

then I know quite well what form of neckwear you will choose. Next, as to the aforementioned and slit-up evening gowns, whose leg display is continued far above the knee, what can I, or, indeed, need I, say, about these, seeing that they are so obviously and entirely unsuited to ordinary wear, and that, moreover, no man worthy of the name would permit his wife or daughter to appear in public thus attired—or, rather, thus disrobed! For, as shown by the mannikins at one famous house, these gowns only veil the silk-stockinged left leg—which is usually selected for such display—by the merest film of net or cobwebby lace, while some, again, introduce a transparency of lace on the front from the knees to the ankles;



The New Shawl Drapings. The Fringed Shawl Covers the Back of the Model.



The Revival of the Victorian Frills. A Paris Model.

and actually, too, there is at least one model which gives a back view of the wearer's nether limbs by the introduction of a sort of window curtain of lace to the skin-tight sheath of velvet, which, being continued for all the length of the skirt in front, gives an amusingly accidental effect to this unexpected development and display. It is all, indeed, calculated to disgust rather than to allure, for once more let me impress upon you the fascination of the mere suggestion, which makes one look and look again, by always giving just a hint and a hope of the further revelations which are never forthcoming! But when all is shown and, in fact, forced upon one's view at the first glance, all further interest is sacrificed to an immediate and merely momentary sensation (and not an entirely pleasant one, either), so that, to put the matter on its very lowest level, the new skirt defeats its own and only possible aim. There are, in fact, only two points about the slit-up evening gown in which it is preferable to the day dresses thus designed and disfigured, these being the addition of a slight train which makes a background for the limbs deprived of their ordinary covering in front, and then, again, the further following in their straight, high-waisted line of the merveilleuse and Directorate modes, which, in the case of the long-waisted, high-collared afternoon gowns, are merely parodied.

## Why the German Crown Prince Cannot Go Hunting Again



The Crown Prince with Two Leopard Cubs He Killed in India.

**T**HE Crown Prince of Germany and his wife will go on no more hunting expeditions in the wilds of India, if the German Reichstag has anything to say. It was all very fine for these young people to take their trip through India, China and the Far East last year, and they had a good time, bringing back many trophies of the hunt, which decorate their palace in Berlin—but "Never again!" Of course, every precaution was taken to keep the royal pair out of danger, but one more than one occasion the least slip of a hunting elephant, or one spring of an enraged tiger, and the heir to the German throne would have been no more. The statesmen of Germany have given some thought to this matter and they have decided that it is taking too great a risk, so now when the Prince wishes to go hunting it will be in the game preserves of his own country, where the game is driven up to him, and that game is not very dangerous. It may not be so exciting as hunting tigers in India, but is far safer for the Empire, and that is the chief consideration with the public men of Germany. It has even been suggested that

some laws should be passed to prevent the heir to the throne from taking such unnecessary risks, for one mistake or miscalculation might mean the upsetting of the entire succession. It cannot be said that the Prince himself is in favor of these restrictions of his liberty, but the Emperor agrees with his advisers and he is accustomed to being obeyed. As the German nation studies these pictures of the trip which their future Emperor and Empress took around the world they congratulate themselves over and over again that no fatal accident occurred. The German people would be unwilling to see the young pair start on another trip like it. Some Americans have doubted the wisdom of the long trips even around their own country which Presidents have been taking since Roosevelt set the example. Only lately the Presidential train was saved from a terrible accident only by the driving away of miscreants about to blow up a bridge over which that train was to pass. It is not a pleasant thing to submit to all these restrictions, but important personages dare not risk as much as ordinary individuals.



The Crown Princess as She Shared Her Husband's Hunting Perils.