

## The "Muff Gown" and Other New Fur Effects.



Lady Duff-Gordon Explains the Application of Furs This Season to Gowns and Wraps.

LADY 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 Paris establishment brings her into close touch with that centre of fashion.

Lady Duff-Gordon's American establishment is at Nos. 37 and 39 West Fifty-seventh street, New York City.



A Wonderful "Marie Antoinette" Evening Coat of Sage Green Satin Broche, with Gold Lace Founce.

And This Is the Surprising "Muff Gown," Introducing a Unique Way of Using the Supple Moleskin.



"Chess Board" Wrap of Mole skin and Tailless Ermine, Showing the New Flat Muff.



The Luxurious "Wrap-Around" Stole of Precious Russian Sable, with a Muff That Is Nearly Square.

By Lady Duff-Gordon  
"Lucile."

Paris, October 25.  
FURS and jewels are, of course, classed among feminine luxuries, and being luxuries may be as sumptuous, as expensive as the bank account permits. There is nothing, to my mind, no array of jewels even, which gives a woman so luxurious a feeling and appearance as wrappings of fur—"wrappings" in a literal sense, not merely figurative, for this Winter the fur stoles are broad and long, and are actually wrapped about the wearer's figure.

Such a stole as I have in mind I am sending you a picture of. This was worn by a very chic actress at a reception the other day. It is very long. If it was worn in the old manner, plainly across the shoulders, the ends would sweep the floor. But it is wrapped about the figure in a becoming fashion. This fur is the expensive Russian sable, the lining being a most delicate yellow. Contrasts in furs and linings are very smart this season.

The muff, like all the fur muffs this year, is smaller than for three years, and flat, almost square in shape. Muffs of satin and supple velvet, on the contrary, are very large and round, and frequently draped. Such muffs are built of the fabric of which the costume is built.

Mole skin, in spite of its fragility, continues to be a very great favorite. A wrap which I saw at a recent opening, and of which I am sending you a picture, was made of this fur in what I call a chess-board effect. It was longer in the back than in the front, and there was an effect of draping which was very smart indeed. Tailless ermine collar and cuffs gave a most luxurious touch to the coat.

The muff, flat and square, was of the mole skin, and, like the coat, was lined with rose satin broche.

Owing to the great advances made by the furriers in the treatment of skins, the furs of the moment lend themselves to effects—particularly odd effects—which were impossible with the skins of a few years ago. The present are supple, and clever fingers can do almost anything with them. For instance, the new mole, the tailless ermine and other flat

furs. One of the most unusual arrangements I call for lack of a better name the muff gown. This is simply a large flat "muff" of mole skin, which covers the body from shoulders to knees. This, of course, is not a practical mode for everyday use, but Paris has accepted it as a *fad* of the hour.

Before I tell you of the many smaller sign posts that mark the fashion road this season I must tell you of a wonderfully beautiful evening coat I saw at the play one night last week, and I was fortunate in securing a picture of it for you. It was very long, as the new coats are; it hung full from the shoulders, but narrowed in at the feet. The fabric was a lovely sage green satin broche. A shaped founce of delicate gold lace arranged very like a panner was an unusual decorative touch. The cuffs and shawl collar were lovely white fox.

Fashion is going to lead you, her faithful followers, over a lot of new and strange ground during the Autumn campaign of clothes. And so, to make sure that you arrive at the ultimate and desired goal of sartorial smartness and success, I think I had better set up some sign posts on the long and unfamiliar road, where it will be so easy to take the wrong turning.

Later on we will go more fully into all the smallest details of this fascinating country of clothes, but this shall be just a general outline of its most important features—and fashions.

First of all, then, the most distinctive and decorative feature of the new skirts is their increased fulness above the knees as contrasted with an even more accentuated and clinging closeness below—bouffante draperies, tiers of founces, boned or wired at the edges—and pannier-like puffings at one or both sides being all em-

ployed for this particular purpose.

The use of fur as a bordering for such founces and tunics is another almost universal—and always effective—detail of the new models; while as to the "slashing" of the skirts, you will find the opening usually now directly in the front or just a little toward one side. And, if anything, the extent of the said opening is not quite so extreme as during the past season, though, of course, there will be daring exceptions to this rule of moderation.

Waists are getting both thicker and longer. It sounds alarming, doesn't it? and rather ugly, but actually, when one's figure is slender, this appearance of width is quite graceful. But woe betide the stout woman who thinks to disguise her "too, too solid flesh" by the swathings and sashes which are designed to encwrap a lissom figure and give it an appearance of uncor-

setted freedom! For she will merely make herself a monument of ungainliness.

No—it seems that there is still no chance and no fashion for the fat!

And as regards those sashes, they are often so wide that they are swathed from the waist right over the hips, and then tied in a tight but careless looking knot low down at one side, or else a narrower girdle will just mark the waist line, hanging down in front and dividing the skirt by its tassel-weighted ends, these particular tassel adornments being of enormous size nowadays. For day bodices the details which proclaim their up-to-dateness are the vest effects, the frillings of tulle or fine lace and the very gracefully hanging "Normandy hood" collar.