

The New Furs

By Lady Duff-Gordon.



A Good Example of the Long Draped Fur Wrap That Will Be Popular This Winter.

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By Lady Duff-Gordon ("Lucile")

THIS is the season when woman, whether she be lovely woman or otherwise, stoops to the folly of planning her winter furs. But why do I call it folly? Because October is just two months too early for the wearing of pelts, but my opinion, I notice, has small weight with the majority of women. It seems never too early for furs, but my personal feeling is that December, January and February are the only legitimate "fur-bearing" months of all the twelve.

However, realizing that my voice will be lost in the multitude, I am going to fall in line with so many of my sisters and show you pictures of some new furs which I recently saw at an opening, and then I am going to talk, or rather write, about the newest blouses.

Cruel is the only word to rightly describe the attempt which is now being made to rob women of a freedom which they have one and all prized, and loved, for some two years or more.

And so, it behooves every woman to make a firm stand against this new injustice and restriction in the form of a high, closely fitting collar. Just imagine it—a band of rather thick white net, fitting round the neck like a second skin, and upheld in this now unfamiliar and always unbecoming position by two or three "invisible" wrings.

And still this is not all, for upspringing round the top of this band is a flaring, outstanding frill of net, cut in the dress, and also very tightly wired at the edge, so that all the superfluous flesh about the unhappy wearer's chin and jaw, which the tight, high band has pushed up, is supported and upheld in hideously permanent and prominent fashion by the plaster-like foundation and frill!

Why, the very idea is painful—and the actuality would be more so. I promise you, positively and physically



Velvet Street Costume.



The Short Draped Coat That Promises to Be Generally Worn. This Is of Sealskin.

painful, after the long and absolute freedom from any restraint which has been our pleasant portion during sundry seasons of collarless or low-collared bodices and blouses, and mentally agonizing, too, inasmuch as almost every woman of say thirty and onwards is conscious of the alteration, for the worse, of the contours of her face and chin, and naturally does not want the change to be absolutely forced upon every one's notice in such a way!

So we must obviously, and all of us, make a firm stand against the threatened encroachments of the high collar, alike upon our freedom and our fascination.

You must simply decline to consider any blouse which is thus completed—and disfigured—and then matters and modes will soon right themselves automatically.

Of course, this is an extreme case and model, but it is a forecast, and also a forewarning, it seems, of what we are to expect during the next season, unless our disapproval is so promptly and firmly shown that Queen Fashion realizes the unwisdom of trying our loyalty too far. But it is also and sadly significant that several other new blouse creations, which still have down-turned collars, have so curtailed the usually deep V-shaped opening in front that practically all the usually becoming effect is lost. One such blouse has a collar of white taffeta whose turnover points are brought speedily and closely together in front of the neck, and there fastened with two little jet buttons. Silk cuffs to match also finish off the loose and full white chiffon sleeves at the wrist, where a touch of narrow black moire ribbon is also added, and, for the rest, the blouse is fashioned of white Jap silk veiled with chiffon, a somewhat curious adornment being added in front in the way of a very broad band of golden yellow velvet ribbon, softened, at first, by a veiling of the chiffon, but eventually showing all its brightness, and being looped over at the waist, where it is held in position by flatly folded bows of black moire.



Enlarged Head of a Bat, Showing the Delicate Hairs About the Mouth That Act as Mosquito Traps.

A PERPETUAL closed season on bats has been declared in Texas as a result of recent experiments conducted there by Dr. Charles A. R. Campbell, of San Antonio. It has been demonstrated quite conclusively that bats are the worst enemies of mosquitos, and that by propagating bats the menace of malaria may be greatly diminished.

From time immemorial the common bat has been despised as a denizen of the graveyard, a bird of ill-omen, a bird-animal that gets entangled in lady's hair, serving absolutely no useful purpose. It has been hunted down and destroyed without mercy.

It is now realized, however, that the bat is one of man's best friends and ought to be carefully cultivated. The eradication of malaria is promised if bats be multiplied in sufficient numbers, and Texas scientific bodies are so much impressed that they secured the passage of a law making it a penal offense to destroy a bat under any circumstances.

The experiments which resulted in the glorification of the bat were commenced some time ago at San Antonio by Dr. Campbell.

After much research and numberless experiments and disheartening failures Dr. Campbell finally succeeded in constructing "bat roosts," which, after being prepared with certain chemical fluids, seem to be actually preferred by the bats to natural bat caves.

One of these "bat roosts," which is located at Mitchell's Lake, ten miles south of the city of San Antonio, Texas, has proved itself to be such a complete success that its effects almost border on the miraculous. Housing and protecting, as it does, bats by the tens of thousands, its advantages over natural bat caves are self-evident.

Citizens of the region declare that since the erection of the bat roosts there they can sleep comfortably out of doors at night without a mosquito bar or any other kind of protection; while before this roost was located there it was utterly impossible for them to sleep even in the houses, except with screens and mosquito bars. These citizens also testify to the entire absence of any malaria in their families now, and they term this roost "a miracle." They also state that before the erection of this roost they were all sick at one time or another with malaria, and that mosquitos came there in such hordes that they were driven from their work of irrigating their crops at night, and were forced to see their crops go to ruin.

The "bat roost" at Mitchell's Lake stands ten feet above the ground, and the structure—enclosed—is twenty feet above this; is six feet wide at its apex and is twelve by twelve feet wide at its base. While this roost has performed such wonders, it was designed merely as a model; the intention being to construct

the roosts three or four times as large as this model.

The roost is given this steep shape and placed above the ground for several reasons. Its shape makes it resistant to high winds, and also allows the supporting posts to be fitted with contrivances which prevent the bat's enemies from gaining access to the inside of the roost. It also permits a wagon to be driven underneath it, in order to receive the accumulated guano from the hopper, having an opening on hinges, which opens downward, thus permitting the guano in the hopper to be easily collected.

The advantages of this artificial roost over the natural ones—bat caves—are self-evident. In the natural bat caves, during the breeding season, the bat suffers most from its natural enemies, for shortly after the baby bats are born they cling mechanically to the mother's body. Very frequently they loosen their hold and fall to the bottom of the cave. Here these baby bats fall a prey to wild animals, which are always in and around these caves at this particular season.

If one of these baby bats falls to the floor of the caves the mother bat will dart to the same place to try to protect her young, and also falls a victim to the wild animals. All this danger is completely avoided and rendered absolutely impossible in one of the roosts, as no animal except a bat can enter one of them. It is therefore evident that with such protection the bats will increase so rapidly as to tax the capacity of the roost in a very short time.

The bat roost at Mitchell's Lake is at the head of a large body of standing sewer water; in fact this lake holds all the sewage of San Antonio, a city of about 126,000 persons, and it is an ideal spot for the breeding of mosquitos, as the lake covers about 900 acres of land, and the average amount of sewage received by it daily is 10,000,000 gallons.

The very large quantity of organic matter left in water, the large pools formed by seepage through earthen dams

Raising Bats to Cure Malaria

How Texas Has Put a Closed Season on the Ugly Little Flyers to Enable Them to Eat Up the Disease-Carrying Mosquitoes

and the countless billions of mosquitos that this place has furnished in the past amply proves this assertion.

The roost was finished on April 2, 1911. Before locking the louvre, the inside was sprayed with a chemical fluid which gives off an odor identical with the natural odor of the bat, and without which chemical fluid the bats cannot be colonized. Twenty-five pounds of fresh guano were then spread in the hopper of the roost, and in four months it was tenanted by a colony of bats attracted there by these odors. The next year the roost became so full of bats that it took them several hours to come out, and they were so thick that in the sunlight they resembled a cloud and gave the roost the appearance of being on fire. The roost is now full of bats.

Persons living in cold climates need not fear that the bat cannot be successfully cultivated and colonized there, for his habitat ranges from Alaska on the north to Patagonia on the south. In very cold climates, however, the amount of guano produced in these roosts would be much less than in hot climates, as the period of hibernation would be much longer and the period of the bat's activity in destroying mosquitos correspondingly smaller. All malaria, however, would be effectually eradicated there.



A Bat Roost Designed by Dr. Campbell to Make Them Comfortable During the Day.



An Enlarged Photograph of the Malarial-carrying Mosquito.