

"Zebra" Dresses.

The New Black and Whites, the Plain New Stripes and the Very Gorgeous New Linings Described by Lady Duff-Gordon.

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,

the colors this season in vogue. Black and white combine to form them. Blue and white appear in them, and the regal-looking purple, combined with silver-colored stripes that look white in all but the revealing sunshine. Contrast seems to be the keynote of the Spring costume.

This taste has a psychological source. In time of war we think of war, and our thoughts take on its character. They are bold, definite, clear cut in outline. Our thoughts are great, crashing chords. Absent from them are delicate nuances, tender blendings. These thoughts are reflected in our speech. And in our clothes. There will be this season few of the pastel shades, the dovelike tones in color, that are seen in time of peace. And they will be worn by persons little affected by their surroundings and the world atmosphere.

The zebra effects are carried into evening costumes. Shunned by them in their extreme effects by the short, stout woman, they are welcomed by the tall, slender one. Moreover the inventive woman and adaptable woman who introduce a bit of the zebra effect in a touch of trimming of her gown or in her scarf—enough, I heard a bright one say, "to let people know we know it is the mode."

A charming evening gown of cloth of silver, with raised stripes of black satin, was regally worn by a countess from the Faubourg Saint Germain at a recent ball for the relief of French soldiers. Simpler fabrics, as crepe de chine and chiffon, are being exquisitely fashioned in cross stripes of contrasting colors. This may be said to be the reign of King Zebra.

Contrast is noticeable even in the least striking Spring costumes. In the smart costume there must be sounded a note of contrast. For example, on the gown of white voile, whose irregular folds are edged with narrow bands of white satin, there is a row of tiny black buttons defining the front. With it is worn a belt of black and white ribbon. A long military coat is of black faille.

A suit of sand-colored taffeta has a skirt that looks scant, but being finished with deep inset plaits in front and at the sides furnishes generous walking facilities. A broad belt fastened in front and attached to the skirt is of the same material. The coat, of medium length, has the wide skirt, and broad revers of the taffeta set over a gay lining of red and brown brocade. The loose blouse is of the same silk with which the coat is lined, and is finished with a rolling collar. A small turban of sand-colored straw, saucily trimmed with two red wings, adds to the smart audacity of the costume.

Hats more brilliant than at any season I remember display zebra effects. Small, close-fitting turbans or the narrow-brimmed sailors are daintily made of stripes. Stripes in black and white, in blue and white, in orange and white, in green and white, and even in red and white. Although I believe that their vogue will be briefer than that of the gowns. A zebra gown, or suit, is audacious, but may be rich and, if well made, lend distinction to the wearer. But the wearer must have great personal distinction to be able to "carry off" a zebra hat. Indeed, it requires the courage of the leader of a cavalry charge or the beauty of a Hebe to essay one of them.

Heroism is shown, too, in the wearing of the cranial colors of this season. Blue hats are always trying. Yet a hat of the brightest blue, adorned with cherries of the reddest, surmounts determined faces of those who will wear the mode or die. Assuredly heroism is in the air.

The hats shown on this page are fashionable, yet not extreme. Small turbans, wide-crowned, narrow-brimmed sailors and small hats with soft crowns and rolling brims are sure of popularity. But always is the note of contrast apparent. The red hat (and there will be many of these) may have a bunch of yellow flowers. On the black hat inevitably flames a flower of red, a quill of yellow, or at least a chou or pompon of white.

Contrast is the keynote, and the stripe is king of the Spring season of 1915.



Natural Pongee with the New Black and White Silk Lining—In This Case with Orange Added.

By Lady Duff-Gordon.

WONDER if the present tendency for the brilliant linings and the more or less sombre garb of to-day can be taken as a forecast of brighter times in the future. So many of our street costumes to-day are of grays, drabs, and more often black. But open a coat, turn back a drape, or lift a blouse and you will find yourself faced with the most brilliant of "silver" linings that has ever gladdened the eye.

In outer dress the most attractive effects can be got with just black and white, and it is only a question of balance of these two colors that makes them more or less startling.

I give you this week a really interesting costume with a coat in black and white. The skirt is a striped effect and reminds one of the zebra more than anything else I can think of for the moment, so curious are the irregular lines caused by the pleating and draping of the skirt, which, you will see, is simply full at the feet. The coat is of white and lined with the same material of black and white stripes which also borders a little muslin blouse with frilled neck and cuffs. A little black and white bonnet is worn with this, and the last note is again repeated in the shoes and gloves, which are white with black markings.

Another coat and skirt, this time of gray gabardine, is faced and bloused with this striking black and white effect. The skirt in this case is composed of four enormous box pleats that are brought into a close-fitting yoke at the top. The coat is faced with a broad cuff and a large collar, all of the palest gray gabardine and depending entirely on the black and white flowered silk for its decoration. This silk is to be found in the lining of the box pleats, the facing of the coat and the blouse, which is strapped with the same gabardine as the suit itself.

Another is a natural pongee costume which to all intents is plain in color from the head down, so long as the coat remains closed, but, hey presto! the coat is open, one sees a radiant lining of orange, black

and mauve, while the dress from below the waist up is composed of orange chiffon, piped and buttoned with black and white. A little black hat with an orange quill completes the scheme.

For the last I have a violet coat of faced cloth worn over a printed chiffon gown of the softest gray blue, with pipings of gray. The front is open to the knees, showing a petticoat of Swiss embroidery. A double row of buttons and the belt are of black and white to match the lining and the little vest worn inside the front of the coat. A black hat trimmed with gardenias is worn with this.

The zebra effects are produced easily by

Gray Gabardine, with Black and White Silk Lining. "Lucile" Model.



"Zebra" Costume of Black and White Striped Silk. The Coat Lined with the Same Striped Silk and Blouse of Plain Muslin—"Lucile" Model.

Eastern States, that their chirpings resemble the sound of hundreds of sleighbells. They feed upon insects between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

The cricket toad prevails along the Atlantic States, as well as westward to the Mississippi. The swamp tree toad ranges over territory east of the Rockies as far south as Texas.

Anderson's tree toad is so seldom seen that its real territory is a matter of doubt. It is beautifully colored, with pea-green back and purple stripes, the abdomen being of a pinkish white. Pickering's tree toad resembles the bark, moss and Hohenso closely as to render it almost invisible even a few feet distant.

If the estimate made upon the amount saved by a single consumption of insects in a year is approximately true regarding vegetation in general, the estimate would be greater where certain valuable crops are grown, and as there is a tendency to conservation of our natural resources, etc., the yearly loss to farmers

by insect pests runs into millions, despite the legislative efforts at compulsory spraying.

An eminent authority, connected with the agricultural department of one of the leading Eastern States, says:

"Toads, especially, are rapidly coming to have a recognized value in the protection of fields and gardens. I am glad to say that the propagation of them in this country is already beginning. I may say that I have always maintained that toad raising was both practical and profitable, while frog-raising was neither. All one has to do to raise toads is to provide puddles of water for them during the breeding season, in April, May and June. They will take care of themselves, and multiply rapidly if protected. Lizards and copperheads are fond of insects, as also are land turtles. One of the latter will eat literally a handful of June bugs without showing a sign of a diminishing appetite."

Gardeners Ought to Protect Toads

MOST persons are unaware of the great value of the toad.

We have heard of the gardeners of some of the European countries purchasing toads for their flower and vegetable gardens from men and boys who catch them throughout rural sections, but the idea of breeding and protecting these homely creatures in our own land, and possibly supporting toad farms, and organizing toad protective associations, seems rather odd to us, but the time has arrived when we simply must take our hats off and actually toady to the toad.

The time will come when, along with certain snakes which are known to be of great value to our farmers and gardeners, the toad will be given every protection needed to maintain its value as a wonderful destroyer of almost every type of insect that is injurious to our great variety of crops.

One great advantage of the toad is the fact that the family is divided into several groups, including those living in trees as well as upon the ground. The different types are in position to combat many kinds of pests, under widely varying conditions. A number of expert agriculturists are now making our native toads a careful study and experimenting fully to determine the varieties best adapted to our needs. Toads found in different countries are being imported and are being allowed to multiply to determine their value as compared to the value of those found in this country.

The most general species is the common toad, of which there are four varieties to be found almost over the entire country. These are commonly seen in gardens and about the doorways after sunset.

Besides the common toad there are many varieties that are rare. This is especially the case with the tree toads, some of which are so colored as to be difficult to see, as they resemble the bark and moss upon which they crouch. The tree toad is smaller than the ground variety, and a very pronounced vocal note distinguishes the male. The swamp tree toad, the cricket toad and the gray tree toad are the most frequently seen. The latter are so numerous in many locations, especially in the great fruit belts of the Central and