

Making "Stout" People Look Less "Stout"



Albert Malsin, the Mechanical Engineer Who Has Made a Scientific Study of "Stout" Women and Their Clothes.

By Albert Malsin, M. E. (Polytechnic Institute, Cothen, Anhalt, Germany.)

In my two previous articles I have explained how the stout woman can create the most decided illusion of height, grace and slenderness simply by applying to her gowns "lines" which are in accordance with certain well-known scientific principles.

Today I am going to show how this illusion can be heightened by the combination with these "lines" of the proper colors and materials.

Whether she be stout or not, a woman's good taste should be her only guide to the colors she wears. What colors her good taste selects will depend upon the coloring of her hair, eyes and skin. Perfect harmony of color from head to foot is what the stout woman must insist upon even more emphatically than her slender sister.

Before science began turning its attention to the problem of clothing her, the stout woman used to think that black was the safest color she could wear. This was a sad mistake.

Black not only fails to minimize the stout woman's generous proportions, but makes them appear larger. It also gives her an unpleasantly woeful appearance, as if she were eternally bewailing the heavy folds of flesh with which Nature has upholstered her figure.

Black is a very trying color even for those who are not stout. Few women can wear it successfully unless their youth and beauty are like an American Beauty rose in full bloom.

White is something the stout woman has always felt she could never wear. But it is quite possible for her if her gowns are designed on the proper "lines."

The lack of color harmony in the apparel of many women is due to the weakness of their color sense. Their knowledge of color is limited to the three primary colors—red, yellow and blue—and they understand little or nothing about the various secondary and tertiary shades which are formed from these.

Such women, when choosing a hat or gown, would do well to study the useful color chart which is reproduced on this page. This chart shows at a glance all the more important colors and tells you which harmonize with one another and which do not.

The central disc in this chart represents black or the absence of color. Black will harmonize with any color. Next come the three primary colors—red, yellow and blue. From different combinations of these are evolved all the hundreds of shades and tones found in women's clothing.

All the colors named in the chart on a white background go well together. This is also true of those on the stippled background and of those on the lined background. For example, red harmonizes with green, purple with yellow and blue with gray.

On the sides of the secondary and tertiary colors are shown various tones which are produced by changing the proportions of their constituent parts. Thus, by increasing the proportion of

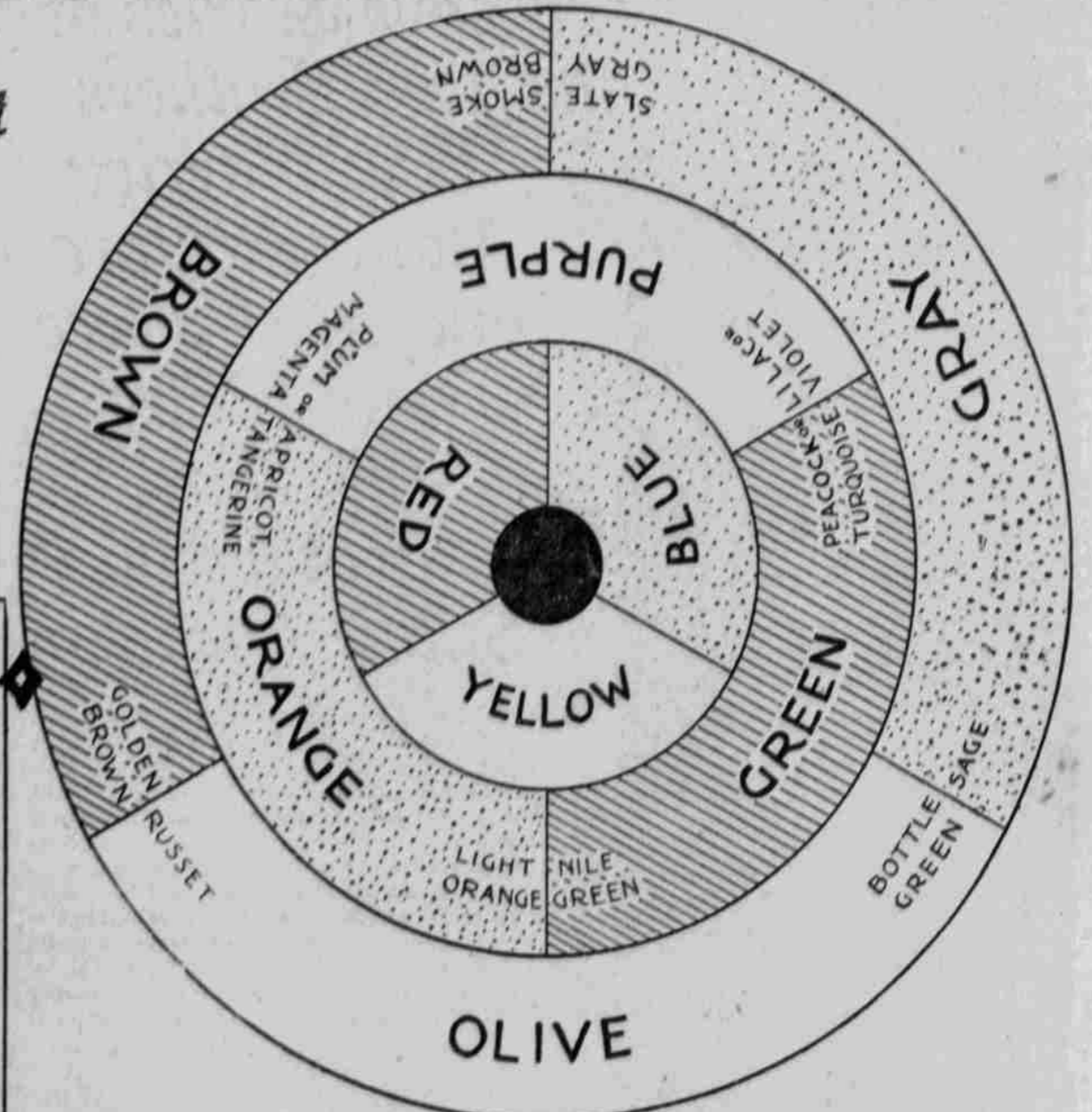
Pounds Subtracted from Their Apparent Weight, Inches Added to Their Seeming Height, by Constructing Their Clothing in Accordance with Certain Well-Known Scientific Principles



On the Left a "Stout" Woman in Clothing That Is as Unscientific as It Is Unfashionable and That Makes Her Look Far Larger in Every Way. On the Right the Same Woman in a Suit Which Is Extremely Fashionable and Whose Lines, Color and Materials Have Been So Intelligently Selected and Arranged That It Accentuates the Good Points of Her Figure and Hides the Bad Ones.

blue in it, green becomes peacock or turquoise. By increasing the proportion of yellow we get the various yellow greens, such as Nile, apple, etc.

The primary colors cannot be produced by the mixture of colors, but by mixing yellow, red and blue in the proper proportions every known hue can be produced. Yellow is the nearest like light-piercing; red is the passion color and blue the cold color. Mixing yellow, red and blue, the three primary colors, gives the secondary colors, green, orange and violet or purple, which, having two elements



This Interesting and Valuable Chart Shows the "Stout" Woman How to Select Colors Which Harmonize and Therefore Make Her Look Less "Stout."

The Central Disc Represents Black Which Harmonizes with Every Color. Outside This Are the Three Primary Colors—Red, Yellow and Blue. Then Come the Various Secondary and Tertiary Tints and Shades. Yellow and the Various Colors Which Harmonize with It Are Indicated on White Backgrounds; Red and Its Harmonious Colors, on Lined Backgrounds; Blue and Its Harmonious Colors on Dotted Backgrounds.

Even a Woman as "Stout" as Miss Amelia Summerville Was When This Photograph Was Made Can Dress in the Height of Fashion and Look Less "Stout" Than She Really Is.



are more interesting than the primary colors. Yellow and blue make green, a restful color; red and yellow make orange, a violent color; blue and red make violet or purple, the solemn color.

The admixture of the secondary colors gives the tertiary colors, olive green, citron and russet. Green and purple make olive-green; purple and orange make russet; orange and green make citron.

In order to get the delicate pastel shades that are so popular nowadays we use—instead of the primary red, yellow and blue—pink, lemon yellow and pale blue.

Amber is a light shade of brown; that is, there is very little blue used with the red and yellow.

Apricot is one part orange and two parts pink.

Gold bronze is made of equal parts of old gold and brown; buff is a light shade of orange; canary, a light shade of yellow; cerise, a deep shade of pink; flame red, equal parts cardinal and orange; maize, a light shade of yellow and orange; robin's egg blue, a light shade of clear blue; steel, a light shade of black; fawn, a dark shade of gray.

Every stout woman should study this color chart carefully when selecting a hat or gown. To make perfect the illusion she wishes to create there must be complete harmony of color, with not too strong contrasts, and with not even a slightly jarring note.

And now as to the materials which best lend themselves to making the stout woman look less stout.

Hairy or fuzzy materials and all very heavy fabrics she should be careful to

avoid. They naturally increase the bulk of a coat or skirt and, besides, they take on peculiar angles and do not lend themselves well to draping.

Among the light, smooth-surfaced materials which I particularly recommend are crepe de chine, satin, charmeuse, voile, linen, broadcloth, gabardine, wool and silk faille and poplin.

Stripes, either vertical or horizontal, can be made to fit very nicely into the scientific plan of dressing the stout woman. They are exceedingly fashionable just now and are welcomed by most women on account of the appearance of youth which they give.

But stripes should not be allowed to become monotonous, as they surely will be unless broken in some way. Monotony in materials and colors and lines is something the stout woman must be continually guarding against.

Laces are not suited to the stout woman unless they are given the softening effect of chiffon or net underneath. Flash-colored chiffon or net under black lace is a wonderful aid in making arms look smaller and in softening their hard lines.

Just a little lace at the collar makes a wonderful change for the better in the stout woman's appearance. There is nothing better for relieving the high color of the face and brightening up a dull complexion.

Next Sunday Mr. Malsin will explain what hats, gloves, veils and other accessories the "stout" woman should wear in order to complete the illusion of height and slenderness whose foundation is laid by the scientific combination of "lines," color and materials in her gown.

How the War May Furnish a Wife for Every American Bachelor

FOR every man that has fallen in the European war a woman somewhere has lost a sweetheart or a husband. The final figures which Death, the Reaper, will write red at the bottom of his Record will correspond with just so many unmarried women, unmarried with small possibility of marrying while they live in their native lands.

It will be as if a great man plague had swept over the continent, maiming and striking down the sturdiest and best of its male stock, robbing women of the opportunity of motherhood, and crippling posterity. And since Turkey is the only warring country which legalizes polygamy, the women of the other man-reduced nations must either face lives of celibacy or go elsewhere for their husbands. It is therefore predicted that a vast influx of women immigrants to America will be witnessed as soon as peace is established.

The question of handling this possible influx is already being discussed, and a large philanthropic land development concern has suggested to form colonies where the immigrant war widows and others may own and operate farms.

But a woman without a man on a farm would not be a very safe investment area for a philanthropist. So the question of finding husbands for the various nationalities of Europe is one that must be seriously met and solved. There is no reason to believe that conscription to matrimony will be enforced on American bachelors, because in such a case home talent would have been given the preference long ago. It is believed, however, that the elaborate assortment of foreign types of women will fascinate the bachelor horde from the fastness of his lair.

The situation would certainly not be without romance. It may possibly be like that which existed in America's colonial days, when the "wife-ship" brought over a cargo of European wives to New England planters. On that occasion, it will be remembered, the man was the wife-seeker, and the women had a very easy time of it, being selected and married as soon as they landed on the wharf.

But it is expected that the women who emigrate here at the close of the war will not be so dependent on the immediate necessity of finding a husband. Many of them will be grief-stricken and will come here to get away from the horrible aftermath of war and to begin their lives over again in an entirely new environment. A great proportion of them would not be classified as "immigrants," but would be from the great middle classes of Europe, able to maintain their independence, or capable of self-support. They will not wear the shawls and homespuns of the ordinary immigrant who lands with megalack or portmanteau and embraces Tony, the prosperous bootblack. Many of them will come first, or second, cabin, with frocks and gowns from Paris and London and Berlin. And some may come in mourning, with never a thought for a husband.

If Europe restricts emigration at the close of the war, it is logical to believe that the restriction will apply largely to men. Every able-bodied man will be needed to reconstruct, rebuild and reclaim some order out of the chaos wrought by the martial earthquake. Women, too, up to a certain proportion, will be needed in the social, economic and material reclamation. But above this proportion—and there will be many above it—women

will be a social and economic surplus. Their great majority over the male population will not be equalized in several generations, and for this reason it is natural to believe that a post-bellum emigration will even be encouraged.

America has always welcomed the destitute and the homeless. But the great proportion of these, heretofore, have been men. Just how we might adjust ourselves to a sudden turn in the tide of immigration to women is a problem that would require new methods and means of assimilation. The principal phase of the question would probably be social. How would we afford them opportunity to obtain homes and husbands?

The great percentage of our own women live in the East. And in the Middle West and Southwest, there are hundreds of thousands of ranch owners, cowboys and miners who have few opportunities for marriage. Most of the women in the ranching and mining towns are married, and either went there in that state or for that immediate destination. The result is that a bachelor cattleman, sheep rancher or miner has little opportunity at hand to take unto himself a wife.

But suppose a ship load of fascinating foreign women were transported to the center of the cowboy region—all destined to make some lonely, healthy and handsome "puncher" a helpful wife. What would be the effect on these sturdy Americans on the range? Suppose another ship load were carried to a prosperous mining town, where thousands of lonely men live in barren boarding houses, or keep bachelor cabins among the hills. Would the cowboys stampede and would the miners drop their muck sticks to marry the transplanted female species?

Both the owners of mines and ranches prefer to have their

men married, because in that state they don't drift around from camp to camp so much. They would therefore give such a matrimonial propaganda sufficient and encouraging backing. And as for the bachelors, who among them would not feel the call of romance offered in such a way? It would be like delving into a box of assorted chocolates and bonbons to choose the one that "looked" the most delicious. French, Russian, Viennese, English and Italian, with a corresponding language and manner to each. The only needs would be a hyphenated dictionary and a hurrying clergyman. Does romance ever need a language when mating does the talking?

If a "wife ship" of this nature docked at New York, it would be difficult to predict just what sort of a reception it would receive. The party might obtain official chaperonage to some exclusively women's hotel, where in the evening a grand ball might be arranged, to which all eligible bachelors could be invited. A temporary marriage license bureau might be installed, and in lieu of hat boys, several justices of the peace might stand in the hall to perform the ceremonies as the guests were passing out. At the door, ahead of the taxi chauffeurs, could group the apartment house agents, with tempting offers of attractive suites. Then would come the interpreters, the jeweler, and finally even the butcher and baker.

This manner of welcome would be a little more elaborate than that which the "wife ship" of colonial days received, but in substance it would be just the same. How the eligible waiting list of old maids and the bachelor apartment hotel proprietors would look upon such a programme is entirely another matter.