

Fashions of the Day.

A most excellent quality of mind for a woman at this time of the year is a memory for detail—or, failing that, a memorandum book, in which are jotted down, from time to time, as they suggest themselves, the needs of the wardrobe in the days when old Sol beams with malign fervency down upon the sons and daughters of men.

Now, these well kept memorandum books don't exist among my clever sisters except in imagination, so we must rely upon the God given faculty of memory. Put a sprig of rosemary in the tray of the trunk you are slowly but surely packing for the seaside—"rosemary, that's for remembrance"—and in order to have it effective go right out and buy whatever you may conclude you will need and are not provided with and put it at once in the trunk with the rosemary, and my word for it you won't forget it.

In a travesty of a climate like that in which we live, the citizen going to seaside or mountain must be prepared to dress for either the torrid or the higher temperature zones—the extreme of heat or the raw, cold easterly storms that make our resorts so grewsome.

Just now the season in town is as uneventful as the Lenten times. Tens of thousands of dainty, crisp, fairy-like costumes are making up or put away in closets and wardrobes and even in trunks; but they will not see the light of day nor the witching half tones of moonlight until they can serve the purpose for which they were built, and turn the head of a summer colony or some particular man, or, failing that, of some man not over particular.

A complete collection of these alluring devices for a young woman who, during the season's outing, proposes to take in both the mountains and the shore, should include toilettes for dinners, lalls, coaching, riding, cycling, tennis and golf, not forgetting those bewitching little breakfast costumes which in my estimation, are the most fetching of all the aids to woman's wiles.

The absolute supremacy of the shirt waist is so unquestionable that it would be superfluous to enlarge upon it. It is the garment of the summer of 1897. Stripes are very much in vogue—"voyant" stripes, in scarlet, green, purple—green, perhaps, the smartest. The ties that go with these shirts are in silk and of brilliant coloring.

For either mountain or seaside I recommend suits of etienne, in red, green or blue combinations, the collars and cuffs of embroidered grass linen. The new waists and jackets grow more and more elaborate as the season advances, the trimmings being combinations of velvet, ribbons, chiffon, laces and embroideries. The skirt is elaborately trimmed, ruffled and tucked. I can foresee the near advent of the overskirt.

All smart waists must blouse (how we do and must coin verbs), back and front, to be truly up to date. Even the double-breasted bodices must affect the blouse in style.

I hear, on very good authority, that plaids, checks and stripes in ribbons are to be all the go in the autumn. One of the latest wrinkles of fashion is the trimming of white Swiss muslins and organdies with black lace. I saw a lovely gown of Swiss muslin tucked from hem to belt; above each tuck was black lace two inches wide. The bodice was a low, baby waist, the tucks and black lace running up and down, a direct contrast to the skirt; sleeves very short, puffs and lace insertion; a turquoise blue silk girdle studded with spang'ea, and a bow on the left shoulder, also spangled.

Another elaborate gown from Paris, by all odds the smartest lawn party dress I have seen; the skirt of white Swiss, a seven-gored skirt, hanging



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without a fault; on the front apron-breadth were delicate flowers in black lace applique. Besides this, and in a wonderfully clever, Frenchy way, insertion was intertwined to imitate bows and ribbon ends. Around the bottom of the skirt were two ruffles of Swiss muslin edged with black lace. The waist was very simple, with a bolero effect, made with the lace flowers applique, the puffs on the sleeves richly adorned with black lace, a ceinture and collar of two shades of red, with black lace standing stiffly like a ruff. With these two latter colors changed to black, I would recommend this frock for wear in second mourning. The effect of the whole costume is rich and very dressy. I should add that it may be worn over a white silk taffeta petticoat or even over a black one.

I was quite taken with a black silk grenadine gown, worn over the loveliest shade of mauve you ever saw. It shone like summer moonlight on a placid lake. There was nothing unusual about the skirt itself—it was the regular thing—but the waist was a "gem of purest ray serene," being a bolero effect of the moonlight mauve taffeta richly embroidered in amethyst, a square yoke in the back also studded with the soft hued stone; a tiny yoke effect of cream white satin, with net shading its ivory tone; a regular little corset of black satin, fitting, of course, like a glove. I suggest this costume as suitable for a stout figure.

For both matrons and maid it is growing to be quite the correct thing to wear guimpe bodices for the afternoon, the low bodices being reserved for evening.

A word to those about to travel, whether by rail or steamer. There should be fitness and propriety in a traveling costume as well as in one intended for more exacting functions. In fact, a dainty, tasteful and yet useful traveling outfit calls for the exercise of as much taste and ingenuity as does any set of garments in my lady's collection.

Alpaca having had its day for dreary occasions is once again the material par excellence for travelers. Brown tints are the preferable ones, and are braided in black or in matching colors. Scotch tweeds, chevots and serges are the heavier goods for this purpose, and on that account essential wherever there is to be the least exposure, en route, to night air and breezes. The shirt waist and Eton coat are the most convenient and practical styles. The most desirable duster, a *sine qua non* of railroading, is a simple, long, Mother Hubbard, pongee cloak—not a bit pretty, but a garment that attends strictly to business and is absolutely impervious to dust. It has been universally adopted by the smartest women who do the most globe-trotting.

In traveling bags the newest are supplied with gilt fittings, which have generally displaced the silver. There are also exterior ornaments in delft, landscapes, heads, sporting bits, etc.; but I don't take much stock in these unnecessary additions to the weight of my packages, besides which they are a tempting bait for any light fingered stranger who may chance upon one of these bags when unattended by its owner.

A few words as to the new sleeves. I like them, and it seems to me they grow daintier and smarter day by day. They are happy medium between the balloons of recent times and the ekimpy things of long ago. The present sleeve fits the arm snugly, ending in a point over the hand, and having small puffs at the top, which break the otherwise sharp lines.

Hats and bonnets, says the Parisian oracle, are to be high rather than flat and comparatively small in size. No doubt there be those who will give up their Gainsboroughs only with their lives, but such must either prepare for death or be cut out of the fashion. I saw a hat—intended for deadly execution at Newport garden parties—of a new shade, Chartreuse green, with green leaves and tiny pink moss rosebuds peeping through the misty gauze. The Tyrolean hat is really the correct thing for the wheel, others to the contrary notwithstanding. Canvas hats are very new and chic, but very trying to most styles of beauty. One must needs be fair of face and blonde of hair to tone in sympathetically with them. The veil is really part of the hat. Most worn and stylish in this line is the veil of medium net, with small chenille dots. Double veiling of plain white tulle over black, with dots, is one of the season's fads. Veils with edgings are not smart. Those with a pattern are most trying. Some pretty women do and will wear the white veiling with black dots, yet, to my taste, the black is far and away the most becoming and correct.

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