

## Fashions of the Day.

Millinery Pointers—Hats, Bonnets and Materials—Plaids in High Favor—Crape and Mitigated Wool—The Winter's Furs.

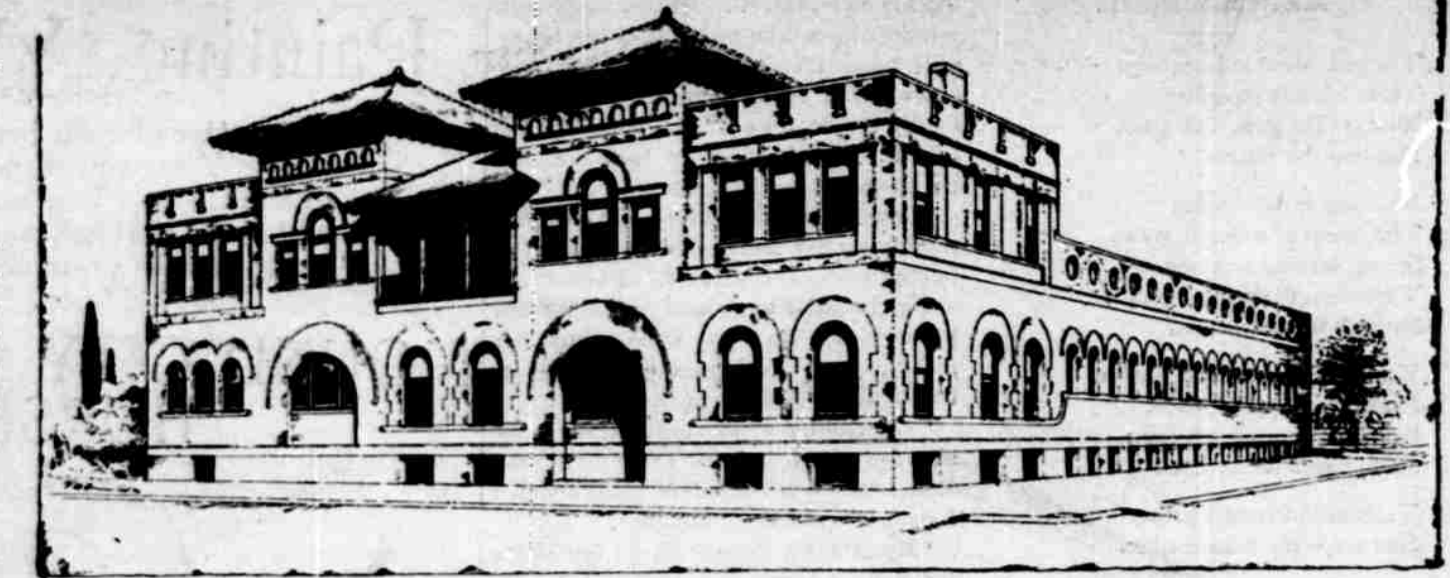
Hats, just at present, seem to occupy the heads of our women folk, to the exclusion of other subjects, and the range of variety in the headgear of those who make it the rule of their lives to be dressed up to the hour, is so great that I approach the question with a sensation of diffidence.

In the first place, then, the fluffy feather boas, which have been our very good friends on chill days, when wound about our necks, will constitute an important factor in the decoration of the new picture hats. The boas are wound several times around the Gainsboroughs, which, *en passant*, are to be larger than ever, still further accentuating their difference from the bonnets, which, as I have previously stated, are to be small and snug to the head, while still elaborately decorated.

Gray will be a favorite color, both in millinery and costumes. The correct shade is a perishable one, and much addicted to showing tell-tale spots, but it is the correct shade, and there let the discussion end.

Roman pearls, too, are to be freely exhibited in the elaboration of millinery schemes, and used with the English turban hat, will be very smart. These hats, made of felt, are so adaptable to differing style of wearers that they are likely to become generally popular. Owl's heads, breasts of birds and grebe will be much worn, while the turbans may be of chenille or of velvet, shirred.

Returning to the subject of pearls, one very striking hat that I saw was incrustated with them, not only on the crown, but on the brim, both upper and lower sides. Then there were two large plumes which hung backward over the



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hair. The one point of difference to be particularly noted between the summer and the autumn hats, both the large and the small ones, is the emphasized tilt to the left side. Lacking such a tilt, the new hat might as well be an old one. Terry velvet, felt, silk beaver, both the fuzzy and the long haired, are the season's materials.

We have all heard with our ears, and some of us have seen with our eyes, the double-decker hat, but now I have news of them with triple brims. The only advice I have to offer concerning them is—"Don't."

Alpine hats are pretty and in keeping with the tailor costumes and while one has been accustomed to a gay band around these hats, nowadays an owl's head or osprey plumes are not only permissible but are the correct things.

White terry velvet, bespangled with turquoise, is suggested as a stunning crown for one of the new theatre bonnets.

It was a question much discussed, some time ago, as to whether the plaids, so gay and bright, would retain their popularity, and in the light of events, now the answer must be in the affirmative. One high priestess of fashion, while in my company, hesitated long, and almost caught her breath, when her dressmaker showed the gay stuffs, but the artistic beauty of the goods overcame her habitual scruples and she fell—or, at least, ordered the costume.

These plaids are made up in all sorts of ways for all sorts of people, but among the elect there is but one model considered, the Russian blouse, and this fact, if no other, forbids their adoption by women with any tendency to stoutness. To the slender, willowy women, however, they are becoming. Of the various patterns perhaps the Roman stripe plaid is the newest and smartest.

There is a very new fabric for evening gowns. It is known as *Empire plisse*, is light as thistledown and exquisite for a dancing frock. Satin antique is another novelty, not unlike silk plush. Then there is what the dealers call loosely-shirred velvet, and of this, entire waists will be made and will be very smart.

The golf influence has led to the wearing by children of plaid stockings, and is very natty in effect.

In a general way I may say that the striking features of the displays of autumn goods are the checks, the stripes and color mixtures.

Bows are to be worn directly in front instead of at the back of the collar, and I heartily approve the change, for the huge bows worn by our women at the back of their necks were strangely and unpleasantly suggestive of Fido's street toilette.

A sensible suggestion as to widow's mourning comes to me from England, where now the dreadful crape veil is abolished soon after the funeral, and in place is substituted one of black net. At first this carries a very deep hem of crape, which is gradually diminished as time and generous settlements mitigate the asperities of the affliction, until at the end of what I may or may not be pardoned for calling the "close season," only the net veil is worn, and eligible widowers who cast sheep's eyes do so at their peril. I should say, however, that the bonnet is of crape and remains so until the period for "taking notice" arrives.

Furs are to be very fashionable indeed. When are they not? Many of the fur jackets will be belted in at the waist with jeweled girdles. Ermine is to be a prime favorite, as it was last year, and it will be worn in combination with seal and astrachan.

One model for a fur coat is an Eton jacket with elaborate buttons, enameled or jeweled and white lace in frills falling down the front to the waist.

Sable will be smart and much worn by those fortunate enough to possess it. Fur capes are now what the street boys call "back numbers," and their place is taken by blouse jackets. The change may be due to the diminution in the size of sleeves, but there is no saving in material, for now that the sleeves are smaller the body is made to bag.

The fashionable muff will be larger than ever, or, at least, larger than for more years than you and I together could possibly remember—so large, indeed, as to appear irksome to the person who carries them.

I am glad to reiterate the statement that skirts are to be narrower, only three and a half yards wide, a most welcome item of news, for certainly my sisters will tear me out in saying that for several years our skirts have been a most harrassing burden from the weight of material in them.

Of smaller practical import and yet of interest to her who would appear entirely up to date is the information that the power of the rabbit's foot as a talisman has waned, and now the four-leaved clover is the proper lucky charm to hang upon one's chat-laine, or by golden chains about one's neck.—Town Topics.

**Groom**—The Groom—The minister seems to think he knows more about you than I do.

**Bride**—How's that?

**Groom**—I gave him a ten and he handed back five of it.

**Mrs. Lateboy**—I wouldn't believe any man. Since Adam you've all been serpents.

**Mr. L.**—My dear, if that were true, the woods would be full of female snake charmers.

**Thief** (just fined \$20 for picking pockets)—I've only fifteen "bucks," your Honor.

**Judge**—Here, officer, take this man out in the crowd till he gets five more dollars.

**Jasper**—Busin ss is looking up.

**Grampus**—Well, if it is, it can't see much.

**Bobby**—Wouldn't it be funny if horses could speak?

**Bessie**—Why, how would it?

**Bobby**—Because, they wouldn't say they didn't care a straw. They'd say they didn't care a mutton chop or a beefsteak, or something like that I suppose.

**The Pleasures of Seasickness.**

**Mrs. Benham**—Can't I get you something, dear?

**Benham**—No; tell me how to keep what I've got.

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