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Fashions of the Day

I am suffering from a plethora of finery. My eyes have absorbed so many pretty things the past few weeks they feel as stuffed as a Straaburg goose.

"Miss Lochinvar" is still buying. The quantity of clothes that young woman is acquiring is positively foolish. If she keeps on much longer she will have a frock for every day in the year. I tell her she is trying to rival Mrs. Langtry, who is famous for never wearing the same gown twice in the same place. Having so many clothes would bore me to extinction. Besides, in my opinion the woman of many clothes is never so well gowned as the woman of few clothes. There are certain details about a gown that, if a woman wants to be really smart, she must look to herself. No dress maker or maid can give that indefinable touch for her. The woman with too many clothes does not know her gown well enough to be able to give them this characteristic and creative touch. I have tried to impress this indisputable fact upon my little friend, but she will not listen.

Her latest acquisition is a gown of Irish crochet lace and white chiffon. The tunic-tunic, by the way, is the new word for overskirt, and applies to anything that simulates drapery—the tunic, then, is made entirely of the lace, and is worn over a bebe waist of white chiffon. The arms and neck are a jour. The underskirt is all of tucked chiffon. The tunic is short, about to the knee in front, and lengthens gradually on the sides towards the back until it reaches almost to the hem of the skirt. It fastens in the front on one side and is held together on the skirt as well as the bodice with rosettes of black velvet.

A very good coat that my buying friend has ordered is in small checked black-and-white silk. It has strapings of the same material outlined with black satin, and a black satin waistcoat fastened with strass buttons. These buttons are put on in a new way that is very good. There is a double row of them. They are sewn on one side of the waistcoat and the other side is attached to a two-inch length of black silk cord which slips through the button holes, and when the waistcoat is closed this gives a particularly good straight line to the figure. When the waistcoat is not closed they dangle in a most attractive fashion. That straight line from the bust to the waist, by the way, is absolutely necessary if one wants to be really modish. The little coat of checked silk is to be worn with a black cloth skirt.

Odd coats and skirts are a revival of an old fashion and are decidedly the novelty of the season. The wearing of alpaca gowns is another revival of an old fashion. They are to be very much worn again, which is a comfort, for nothing is smarter, cooler and more practical than gowns of alpaca for knockabout wear in the summer.

The prettiest blouse I have seen is one invented for "Miss Lochinvar." It is in white embroidered crepe de Chine. Before it became a blouse it was a shawl. One of "Miss Lochinvar's" modistes got it for her "at a bargain" for \$100. The embroidery is really exquisite in design, and the blouse is skillfully built on simple lines so that none of its beauty is lost.

Finding smart hats for all of "Miss Lochinvar's" endless frocks is no light task. Hats are the most difficult things in the world. There are so few good ones created. When you do find something really smart you are sure to see it on the head of every woman you know.

I got a hat not long ago which I rather fancied, and was solemnly assured that that hat was made for me, and for me only.

I have since seen not less than thirty duplicates of it on the heads of women