

THE COURIER

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FASHION

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—What with automobile, riding, golf, rainy day, carriage, afternoon and evening, dinner and opera gowns and wraps, the size of a fashionable woman's wardrobe is nowadays something astounding. We modistes have found the closets of the winter resort hotels utterly inadequate for our accommodation, and it is not at all unusual for us when we go to Florida or elsewhere at this season to take an extra room simply for our clothes. Half the satisfaction of being well gowned is due to the care given to one's costumes when not in use. The best garments may be ruined by inattention, while many say that the hardest use their clothes receive is not in the wearing, but in the closet. Crepe de chine and silks are especially susceptible to ill or to good care. Nothing looks worse than a crepe gown even only slightly wrinkled, since the chief beauty of this material is its soft, silky smoothness.

The pale blue and delicate gray crepes de chine, tucked wherever the goods is employed in the making, and united with real Cluny lace of irregular edge, continue much in favor. A variation in the trimming, however, is noticeable. Within the past few weeks, instead of having the wide laces run perpendicularly, they are made to encircle the skirt at regular intervals; that is, provided the figure can stand it. The tucks are still fine and perpendicular in most cases.

A flounced cream taffeta worn at one of last week's dinners was very effective. The skirt showed four deep ruffles, each pinked top and bottom, in the way peculiar, I believe, to the year 1898. The bodice had numerous small ruffles finished in like manner, which quite encircled the slender shoulders and bust, until they were confined in a wide soft girdle of palest pink at the waist. The sleeves were very short—little more than ruffled caps—and finished in pink bows.

There have been several skating parties at the different rinks recently, and the costumes of the girls have been more stunning than ever. You simply cannot get too much trimming on them, particularly if it is fur trimming. One very young girl, not a day over sixteen, appeared in a light cloth short suit with an ermine flounce, fully a foot in depth, about the bottom of her skirt and a huge muff. Her tight short coat had a sailor collar of ermine, deep cuffs and a belt. Her toque was also of ermine, without the black tails, and had a large black pompon, by way of contrast, standing erect from a fold in the left side of the brim. Another girl was a charming study in golden browns. Her simple Norfolk suit was of corduroy, and her hat and furs were of sable. Mrs. Frank Gould wears just such a costume when out for a morning shopping trip or with her husband in his automobile.

Sable and black lynx are indisputably the furs for natural blondes. A young woman seated beside her coachman, and driving a splendid but empty four-in-

hand coach up Fifth avenue Wednesday afternoon at four o'clock, wore a gray corduroy with sables, but this combination was not nearly so good as the brown.

The automobile toilets of women are improving all the time, but those of the men are growing worse and worse. Indeed, many a handsome woman may be seen sitting beside some indistinguishable man, who is got up like a veritable ogre. The fur and leather coats are being made in a less cumbersome manner, and are now more becoming.

Lillian Russell wears a lovely coat of Russian squirrel, with wide revers and a violet trimmed toque to match; and invariably a perfectly huge bunch of violets adorns the front of the coat. Her vells are usually white, and what are popularly called "beauty vells."

It seems that as street and evening gowns and fancy waists become more and more elaborate, wedding gowns are made more and more simply. Simplicity certainly appears to be their keynote this month. Satin or heavy silks made on Princess lines are the very smartest.

The latest cry in bridesmaids' gowns is to combine various colored shades of the same color in their making. The effect of this shading is charming. At a late afternoon church wedding last week, the bride wore a Princess gown of white satin, with the draped front panel elaborately embroidered in floral design. This was, however, practically the only trimming on the gown, the back of which was concealed by the heavy lace of her veil. White cloth costumes predominated among the guests, and several were exquisite. One in particular, was made up with the new antique and wool lace in various widths. It was applied to the skirt in the shape of a wide trailing line of hand-embroidered roses and leaves, done all in white, almost covering it, and leaving only a short yoke of the tucked broadcloth. The bodice, full, and with deep shoulder capes let in from the armholes, was also one mass of lace

and embroidery. A rope of pearls, with a pearl-studded lorgnette attached, was worn with it, and a handsome pearl-trimmed purse was carried in the hand. The hat which completed the outfit was a broad, flat, white beaver, with delicately tinted bunches of grapes suspended from its inner brim.

Accordion-plaited skirts, with much of the fullness drawn out, are in vogue with the slender, and two girls, known popularly as society's twins, were gowned in this fashion for the function of which I write. The material used was white crepe de chine, which takes accordion-plaiting charmingly. The skirts showed medallions of lace here and there, and the bodices were wholly of lace over the plaited crepe. The sleeves were plaited and shirred into the arm-holes to the depth of about four inches, and then the fullness fell unconfined to the elbow. From here the lace medallions joined together to form a deep cuff.

A dark blue satin had squares of Irish crochet set point to point down the back from the collar to the end of the train, and a like arrangement was used in the front of the gown.

A snowy canvas tailored suit had a loose box coat, finished in two lace demi-flounces falling just below the waist. Each of these was piped with white silk, and white silk medallions, made of bands joined together by fagot stitching, adorned the bottom of the loose skirt. This effect in trimming was carried out also on the sleeves and sailor collar. The advance hats are noticeably smaller than the winter models, and the high-brimmed turban is to be more popular than ever. In lace and straw, they are even more fascinating than in furs. All sorts of straws, fancy and plain, with very little trimming, are already on hand to be worn with the smart new walking suits. These come in first each year, and are not always safe criterions, as styles often change radically after the first of April. As I have before stated, a mode has to be tried and adopted by the fashionable element before its run is assured.—Lady Modish in Town Topics.

Politician—I'll do what I can to get work for you.

Citizen—I don't want work; what I'm after is a city job.

The late Sir Frank Lockwood had few superiors in repartee. The genial lawyer was a tall man. An unruly member of his audience once called out to him in the middle of his speech: "Go it, telescope!" "My friend is mistaken in applying that term to me," Lockwood answered; "he ought to claim it for himself; for, though he cannot draw me out, I think I can both see through him and shut him up!"

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IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC WEDDING.



An important Greek wedding will take place in Washington during the latter part of February, probably the 19th or 20th (date not yet fixed). Mlle de Planques, close friend of Countess Cassini, and guest of the Russian ambassador, will wed Alexander Pavloff, French minister to Corea. The ceremony will take place in the library of the Russian ambassador. Count Cassini will give away the bride. Countess Cassini will be one of the bridesmaids. The wedding will be observed with all the quaint ceremonies of the Greek church.