

CONFERRON FASHIONS

Parisian Modistes Consult Before Setting New Styles.

Individual Ideas Developed Only After Main Points Have Been Settled—Some of the Fancies for the Coming Season.

PARIS.—The task of forecasting fashions is complex and bewildering enough in all conscience, but it is not developed in the altogether impenetrable fog with which many persons imagine it to be surrounded. One of the picturesque fallacies common to many average-women is to do with the precautions with which the great French designers work.

This mistake, it must be understood, does not apply to the secrecy which is maintained with the utmost rigor in the individual ateliers after they really begin work on their new models. No pains are spared in protecting this stage of the game. But many women do not realize that this period of concealment is preceded by one of mutual consultation and agreement.

Weeks before the dates recognized as those on which the season's styles are to be launched the Paris dress-makers who sit on the throne of fashion agree among themselves concerning a general basis on which to work. They decide what shall be the chronology and the geography of the styles they are to create.

In other words, these rulers of the realm of chiffons make up their own minds as to whether they will adopt the Orient or the Occident as the source of their inspiration; whether it shall be a "period" season, breathing the spirit of the moyen age, the Directoire, the early Victorian, or something else. That they must agree on at least the general trend is perfectly evident. Otherwise we should find ourselves confronted with a mere hodgepodge, a confusion which would leave us only worse confounded. For their own protection they must work from some central idea, and that is precisely what they do.

Individual Fancies Followed. But, having agreed upon the main scheme, every member of the hierarchy is free to follow his or her own fancy in working out the modifications and details. And it is at this point that the epoch of closed doors and closed lips begins. Each of the great dressmaking houses of Paris has many separate ateliers, with an experienced designer in charge of every one of them. Each of these ateliers produces its own model, guided, of course, by the head of the general establishment; so that, in the end, the whole Paris output of fashion, while free by the original agreement, is nevertheless characterized by great variety and originality.

As a matter of record, really revolutionary changes are not often introduced very abruptly. Abruptness, in fact, is the only thing that would make them revolutionary. The large movements of fashion are almost always gradual, not violent. They come haltingly, affecting first one detail, then another, so that any woman has time to adjust her wardrobe to it before it becomes the accepted order. All of which is here set forth as a contribution to feminine peace of mind in this period of hesitation.

Straws that show which way the wind of fashion will blow may be looked for in such details as trimmings, colors and accessories. Last autumn, for instance, the conspicuous showings of beaded and bugled laces, of yards and yards of rhinestone trimmings, were an unmistakable prophecy of the evening costumes with which the winter season has glittered.

New Cubist Ribbons.

In the same way one can now find a very large straw indeed in the ribbons which are being shown by the importers. It happens to be a straw that has been preceded by enough of the same kind to make a stack of respectable dimensions; but this particular one is a new piece of drift. The ribbons referred to are in rather violent Balkan colors. As for design they look as if they had emanated from the studio of a cubist or a futurist painter. Possibly these new ribbons may represent long rows of portraits of ladies, but they certainly look more like disordered dreams of rugs, or like rugs which have been shaken into a confused mix-up of colors and design. Other ribbons have a stiff border of fruits and leaves in crude colors along one side. They are not pretty, but they are undeniably striking. And they repeat the hint given by the cubists as to the effect that the coming season will be marked by strong contrasts of color.

Changes in Cotton Frocks.

One of those changes usually described as radical has taken place in the cotton suits and frocks that have been shown during the past weeks to attract women bound for southern resorts. Immediately after Christmas the show windows were full of white embroidered linens and elaborate models in Irish lace. Of course, these were simply the stock left over from last summer, when Irish lace had already begun to sing its swan song. Now these dresses have quite vanished, and their place has been taken by embroidered cotton crepes and volles, new rattines, linen crashes with borders, and, in the more elaborate costumes, by washable tulle combined with embroidered batiste, crepe, or voile. Some of these tulle dresses are most elaborately made. One charming

Not Keen in Pursuit of Culture. "Any, I don't see what you find in that Mrs. Boothford to like—she makes me weary with all her hifalutun notions," casually remarked Mr. Amy to his strong-minded wife, as they sat reviewing their category of friends one evening.

"Why, dear, she speaks four languages and knows all about Ibsen and Strindberg and Wedekind, and all these foreign masters," said Mrs. Amy, laconically.

"Yes, I know—she started to talk

DEATH LIST NOW MORE THAN 90

Property Loss in Gulf States Up in Millions.

North Central and Western Portions of Country Are Buried Under Snow Drifts.

Chicago—Indications from late reports are that more than 90 persons were killed, scores severely injured, and great property loss sustained in the disastrous electrical storm which swept parts of Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

Eighty odd deaths have been reported and the total loss of life probably will be increased when wire communication is restored in remote sections devastated by the cyclone. The damage to property cannot be estimated, but will have to be computed in millions.

Twenty-nine persons are reported to have perished in Georgia and damage to property is roughly estimated at \$1,000,000. Calhoun, Gordon county, Georgia, and vicinity bore the brunt of the storm, and 11 persons are reported to have been killed. The other fatalities in Georgia were nine at Tucker, four at Eaglesville, three at Clarkston and two at Columbus.

Late reports from Tennessee have increased the death toll in that state to 25 persons.

The loss of life in Alabama is estimated at 13, although several persons still are reported missing. Five persons were killed near New Decatur, three persons perished at Calera and two each at Hoke and Bluff, Gainsville and Duke.

Late reports from Northern Mississippi raised the death list from seven as first reported, to 13. These fatalities occurred in seven counties. Wire communication with a number of towns struck by the storm still is interrupted.

No more deaths have been reported from Louisiana, the death list remaining at seven.

Six persons were killed by the cyclone that passed over Gadsden, Ala. A Southern railway train was wrecked, presumably by spreading rails, near Round Mountain. The crew and passengers escaped injury.

The storm, which continued for two hours, was followed by earthquake shocks, and devastated a wide section of country between Curryville and Reasaca late at night. Eleven are known to have been killed.

The storm west of the Tennessee river reached its gravest fury in Benton county, sweeping a path from a quarter to three-quarters of a mile wide diagonally across the county.

It is estimated that the damage done by the severe wind and rain storm which swept Chicago and Illinois will aggregate nearly \$1,000,000. In Chicago the wind attained a velocity of 50 miles an hour for several hours and thousands of plate glass windows and doors in all parts of the city were demolished.

Dispatches from Northern Wisconsin say disastrous floods have been followed by one of the most severe snow storms of the winter. Railroad traffic in the northwestern part of the state is paralyzed, telegraph wires have been put out of commission, but the change in temperature is moderating the floods, which were working great havoc.

Wind storms, accompanied by rain and hail in the southwestern part of Kansas, did great property damage. Two carpenters were killed at Louisville, Ky., when a high wind blew down a construction tower at the Louisville Railway company's repair shops. The wind reached a velocity of 60 miles an hour.

Burlington railroad traffic immediately west of Alliance, Neb., was demoralized as a result of a heavy blizzard which swept Northwestern Nebraska and Southwestern Wyoming. Freight traffic is at a standstill and overland passenger trains are reported stalled in snowdrifts.

Culebra Cut Pushed Up.

Panama—The slide on the east bank of the Culebra cut, which first moved into the cut on the night of February 5, made another rapid movement downward on March 15 toward the canal. It pushed the bottom of the cut near the center for a distance of 1000 feet to a height of 30 feet, destroying five tracks and overturning two steam shovels. There is now only one construction track in operation. The slide has ceased moving and the work of removing the mass of earth has already begun.

Friedmann Is Confident.

Toronto, Ont.—Dr. Friedrich F. Friedmann said to acquaintances that when he returned to New York the latter part of the week he expected to find a much friendlier attitude on the part of the medical profession toward his treatment for tuberculosis.

"I believe the prejudice which greeted me on my arrival there," said the German specialist, "has been removed. I have been invited to use the facilities of several hospitals and shall continue my demonstrations as soon as I return."

Treaty Extended Five Years.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Bryan and Ambassador Jusserand exchanged ratifications of the convention approved by the senate a month ago extending for a term of five years the Franco-American special arbitration treaty of 1908. This treaty provides for limited arbitration excepting questions of vital interest, independence or honor. It is similar in terms to the Anglo-American treaty of 1908, which will expire June 4, next.

Suffrage Wins in Alaska.

Juneau, Alaska.—The equal suffrage convention here today voted to accept the new constitution.

Not Hopeless.

Bridgroom (proudly)—Some one has set up a self-playing piano at a wedding.

Partner—Well, they are not too

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MILESTONES ON LIFE'S PATH

Octogenarian Says There Are Three, and One Is Mark of Joy, but the Other Two!

An octogenarian sighed and said: "There are three milestones in a man's life. The first, a very joyous milestone, is when he ceases to be called a boy, and for the first time bears himself called 'a young man.' Ah, how happy that makes him! A young man."

"The second milestone is a milestone of gentle melancholy. It is when he ceases to be called a young man and for the first time bears himself called 'a man.' A man—not a young man any longer. That causes him to take thought. What has he achieved thus far? Is his life going to be a success or a failure? A man to be a young man now, eh? How fast the years have flown! So he muses ruefully."

"The third milestone is a tragedy. It is when he is first called 'an old man.' Ah, how that stabs him! 'An old man.' He will never forget the innocent person—the child, the youth or perhaps the girl—who first applied that phrase to him. He will never forget the scene of its application, a happy scene, perhaps, which suddenly turns funeral, dreadful. 'An old man'—he who first bears those words applied to himself quivers, for all his wrinkles and gray beard, for all his fat stomach and bald head, with an anguish more poignant than youth has ever felt. An old man—how it cuts and tears. How it saps the strength! What a heavy, limp, hopeless feeling of desolation it leaves behind it."

"I am 80. I have heard myself called an old man for a good many years now. But it always tortures me. It is the literal truth that, even at this late day, I'd rather get a blow in the face than be called old. It would hurt less."

NEW NOVEL BY MRS. CURTIS

"The Lapse of Enoch Wentworth" Is a Romantic Story Built on Ingenious Incident.

Some time ago Francis Curtis wrote that he designed to be a short story writer about two men who played a hand at poker, the winner to become absolute possessor of the loser's future. He showed it to his wife, Isabel Gordon Curtis, author of "The Woman From Volverson." "It is not a short story," she objected. "It is merely an incident which must shape the careers of two men." "If you can visualize a future for them," he replied, "do it." So much Mrs. Curtis tells in the dedication of "The Lapse of Enoch Wentworth," the novel she has built upon her husband's sketch. It is an ingenious and romantic story, the scenes of which are laid in New York.

All for Fun.

There seems to be a frivolous strain taking hold of civilization, ruling out sobriety, earnestness, sincerity and making the times one universal grin. If it keeps on this way for fifty years there won't be a serious thought left. Everybody will be telling a funny story or getting off an anecdote. The joke will everywhere prevail in conversation. The mention of a scientific fact, a historic incident, a bit of philology, etc., will be ruled out of society. If a man wants to talk literature, science, invention, philosophy, he will have to decoy some doleful soul into a back room and talk in the most confidential tone.

At least that is the way everything seems to be tending. Society shimmers and sparkles along on the surface, and will not allow a serious thought to throw a shadow on it. Sit down to dinner, it's a laugh from soup to coffee. A committee meeting has more fun than it does business. Hilarity is running things everywhere, and if he only holds on a while, he will be the chief ruler of all mankind. And the upshot of it will be that a man will be so lonesome when he is by himself that he will commit suicide, and of course there will be many, for it will be the dreariest of existences not to be telling or listening to a funny story.—Ohio State Journal.

Had to Argue or Pay a Debt.

"Temple Stanton," says Doctor Birch, "on some exigency borrowed a sum of money of Mr. Addison, with whom he lived on terms of intimacy and friendship, conversing on all subjects with equal freedom. But from this time he agreed implicitly to everything Addison advanced, and never, as formerly, disputed his positions. This change of behavior did not long escape the notice of an observant server, to whom it was by no means agreeable. It happened one day that a subject was started, on which they had before controverted; but now Mr. Stanton entirely acquiesced in Mr. Addison's opinion, without offering one word in defense of his own. Addison was displeased, and vented his displeasure by saying with some emotion, 'Sir, either contradict me or pay me my money.'"

Unconventionalities.

"Squinteye, some of your friends say you're not as big a fool as you look, but you are."

"If you'll glance at the dollar watch of yours, Mr. Lingerling, you will find it about time to say good night."

"You have dropped in on me, old top. I suppose, because you've been kicked out of all other places."

"Yes, I saw what the papers said about you this morning, Bingo. They called you a sport, a dead beat, and a walking confidence game. Worse than that—they proved it on you."

What She Had Missed.

There were two suitors for Miss Murphy's hand. One was a grocer named O'Flaherty, whom her father and mother strongly urged her to marry, and the other was a publican named Finnegan. Mary herself favored the latter, and in the end married him. One day when she was settled in her new home she visited her parents and showed them a new gold watch.

Wilson Gets Shamrock.

Washington, St. Patrick's day found President Wilson wearing in his hat a sprig of shamrock from the "old sod."

From Ireland Monday they reached the White House for the president a box of real Irish shamrock, the gift of John Redmond, Irish member of the British house of commons. The president's secretary, Joseph Patrick Tunley, with a smile, said that he felt he alone was qualified to receive them.

Serum Supply Runs Low.

London, Ont.—Twelve patients at the public health institute have been inoculated by Dr. Frederick F. Friedmann with his tuberculosis vaccine.

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The Grand Vizier, Mahmoud Shefik Pasha, visited the Red Crescent Society and begged the members to continue their efforts, as the government was resolved to continue the war.

All other capitals and among the ambassadors in London the allies' demands are considered extravagant, especially with regard to the payment of indemnity and the cession of Scutari and the Aegean Islands.

In the meantime agitation against Bulgaria continues in Greece. The Greeks in Thrace and Eastern Macedonia have sent a petition to Athens against their incorporation by Bulgaria. Premier Venizelos, in reply, boldly declared that he long ago had notified the allies that Greece laid no claim of Thrace. This announcement, made in the Chamber of Deputies, aroused vigorous protests.

With the improvement in weather conditions, the armies in the Near East have become more active, although thus far no news of a pitched battle of any importance has come through.

According to official reports issued at Sofia, the Bulgarians and Turks at Tebatalla have had reconnoitering parties in collision. In one case a rather sharp engagement resulted. Two Bulgarian parties sent out in the direction of Akalon took a rebuff to the east of that village at the point of the bayonet.

The Turks, having been reinforced, tried to recapture the redoubt, but in the attack lost 300 dead and wounded, who were left on the field.

The same day the Turks advanced toward Kadikoi, but were repulsed.

According to reports, conditions in the Gallipoli Peninsula are quiet. The Turkish warships are reported to have bombarded the Bulgarian positions at Silivri, but with what result is not known.

Late advices say the Montenegrin sledge guns have begun a fierce bombardment of Scutari, a portion of which is in flames.

The Greeks continue to gather in straggling bands near Armutas. The Greek cavalry captured two Turkish battalions, comprising 1,570 men and 30 officers.

SUFFRAGE MAKES BIG GAIN.

Plan to Amend Constitution Has Chance for Approval.

Washington.—A constitutional amendment giving the women the right to vote for president and vice-president probably will be brought formally before congress with the indorsement of a senate committee before the end of the present year.

In the reorganization of its committees the senate took the woman suffrage committee out of the list of inactive committees, where it has remained for many years, increased its membership from five to nine, the majority of whom are advocates of suffrage for women, and gave its chairmanship to Senator Thomas, of Colorado, a suffrage state.

Senator Thomas said he had accepted the chairmanship with the understanding that there would be active steps taken in this congress to submit a suffrage amendment to the people of the country for their approval.

Representatives of the National American Woman Suffrage Association have made arrangements for a conference with President Wilson, which they will urge him to recommend in a measure to congress an amendment to the Federal Constitution entitling women to the ballot.

Inanity Cost \$135,000,000.

Philadelphia.—There are more insane persons in asylums and similar institutions in the United States than students in colleges and universities, and they are responsible for a direct and economic loss to the nation of \$135,000,000 a year, according to a statement made by Clifford B. Beers, secretary of the National commission on mental hygiene.

Mr. Beers spoke at the long table luncheon of the City club, which marked the opening of a week's conference and exhibition of mental hygiene.

Nearest Star Invisible.

New Haven, Conn.—Observations during some 20 years for parallax of fixed stars have been completed at Yale observatory. They have included 238 stars of the Northern hemisphere of the heavens.

The nearest to the earth of these stars observed and the nearest of all the stars of the Northern hemisphere is one of the seventh magnitude, invisible to the naked eye. Its distance from the earth is represented by the figures of 46,000 billion, denoted in astronomical terms by about eight "light years."

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