

# CORRESPONDENCE PAGE OF FASHIONS & BEAUTY

## New Designs for Dinner Gowns

**T**HE small and somewhat informal dinner gown is rapidly growing in America, a pretty custom long followed by our English cousins. The women who cannot do pure de-collette designs in dinner bodices may approach them with the small square or Dutch neck, or she can have the bodice cut quite deeply, and then hide her physical defects of throat and shoulder with filmy lace, tulle or gauze. This arms may be hidden by the crinkly, stirred mousseline sleeves coming down over the back of the hand in deep point. Made of chiffon, gauze, net or lace, these mousseline sleeves are a blessing to the diner with thin, scrawny arms and are welcomed by all thin women.

The new fabrics intended for dinner frocks include striped, figured and bordered chiffon cloth, satin foulards, with fancy borders, some machine-trimmed with Japanese-embroidered lace, silky voiles to be made up with Irish, tulle or cluny lace; lace and net robes and the very sheer scaled tulle frocks, the latter exquisitely figured and bordered, reproducing the designs shown in figured and bordered chiffons.

The new features of the dinner designs are in exclusive shapes are the shadowy designs in flowers, the tulle, real or simulated, and the inevitable touch of black on every costume, together with jeweled principally rhinestone, buckles, buttons or ornaments.

The tunic is perhaps the most important departure in dress and which very few women of moderate means can attempt. It is a modified overskirt, with long, sweeping lines, and must be made of simple or clinging fabrics. It is best described as a fitted upper garment without yoke or separate sleeves, fastened down the back and hanging over the skirt, somewhat loose in the back than in the front. Sometimes it fits the figure snugly. Again it is semi-fitting and short-waisted, Empire fashion. It is trying to the average figure and the home dressmaker alike.

Cripe de chine is no longer seen in chic dinner frocks, but the new satin finished foulards may be used. The latter are most practical for a dinner frock of soft, supple foulard with Dutch neck and elbow sleeves, may be converted into a serviceable and smart house gown by simply inserting a hand-embroidered batiste or linen dicky and attaching deep cuffs to match.

The Japanese embroidered laces so popular this season are simply silk net, heavily embroidered in huge Japanese designs, roses, chrysanthemums, etc., either in light tone or contrast, and often with a thread of gold or silver running through the embroidery. They can be purchased for moderate prices, far below those of the past, and a four or five-inch banding in excellent quality can be had for \$2.50 per yard.

For the slender figure, an admirable fabric for a Spring dinner frock, which can also be utilized for Summer wear, is the new French cotton voile in stripes or figures, self-toned or contrast. This imported fabric is soft and supple, and combine well with Irish lace. The cotton voiles of American manufacture are only 25 cents a yard, but they are coarser and stiffer than the French brand.

Three interesting designs are shown today. One suggests the Japanese influence, in heart shape, which was drawn with greenish-blue satin mousseline, trimmed with Japanese lace in just the right shade of green, and bordered in blue and green. This banding was used to outline the panel front of the skirt, the hem and to sug-



Dinner Gown in Blue-Green Mousseline With Japanese Lace.

shade, the bodice model is most effective. All the trimming is concentrated on the bretelles and cuffs. The model was of ecru net, the bretelles heavily encrusted with self-toned lace medallions, outlined by the narrowest of heavy crepe ribbon, in color with piping and buttons of the same tint. The girdle matched the net in softest mousseline, and the tucker fitted into the bodice was of ecru mull with hand-run tucks.

A few up-to-date hints concerning dinner frocks: Black nets and chiffons are made over white silk, teal, green and brown over cream or biscuit-colored silk. White and silver lace combine admirably in making up frocks of black or white silk. A lace or embroidered robe is not economical because you must line it first with silk, then a drapery of chiffon, and the long run you will be obliged to buy material, lace or net, by the yard. Have your skirt very plain and your bodice elaborate. MARY DEAN.



GOWN OF NET WITH BLACK AND SILVER LACE.

## Etiquette for the Dinner Guest

**T**HE first duty of the man or woman who has received an invitation to dine at the house of a friend is to send either an acceptance or regret to that invitation. There is no function where an even number of guests is more essential to its success than a dinner. A dinner engagement once made can be broken only for some vital reason, such as sickness, death in the family, etc. I have known a girl to accept an invitation of this character, then a day or two before the dinner, decide that her blue gown was too soiled and her pink dress was out of date, and finally write a hasty note to her hostess, saying that she finds she is unable to be present. This is simply inexcusable.

Guests should arrive at the house of their hostess about ten minutes before the hour set. It is almost as grave a mistake to arrive 30 minutes too soon as 10 minutes too late. As a rule, no room is set aside for the men, as they come in evening dress and simply remove their coats and hats in the hall, but a dressing-room is always ready for the women.

When the dinner is announced the hostess asks the men to escort the ladies to the dining-room. She directs to each man the woman whom he is to take in. He then offers his left arm to that woman, and finds their

seats, the hostess rises. The gentlemen rise and pull out the chairs for the ladies, who pass into the drawing-room. The men then sit at ease, resume their talk and smoke and sip their coffee, while the ladies in the drawing-room chat as they drink their coffee, the men joining them when they have finished their cigars.

There is no set time for remaining after dinner. Sometimes there is a little music, then again the guests simply sit about, talking in the most comfortable way, the lady makes the first motion to go when she has an escort with her. A single man who came alone to a dinner should ask his hostess to perform the duty if he can escort any young lady home. Always take leave of both the hostess and the host.

Men should wear full dress suits at a formal dinner; but that I mean swallow-tail. The Tuxedo coat is for informal occasions, when ladies are not present. A black tie, however, is permissible at a dinner in place of the usual white linen one. At very elaborate dinners women are expected to wear de-collette. At dinner given with less formality, women wear dresses cut out slightly at the neck, with elbow sleeves.

Guests at a dinner never fold up their napkins when the dinner is finished. The napkin will not be used again, it is sufficient to place it on the table unfolded as you rise from the table. The knife is held in the right hand, the fork in the left when cutting. When the knife is not being used it is laid at one side of the plate and the fork then used by the right hand to convey the food to the mouth. Never turn the concave side of the fork up, using it as a sort of shovel. At the conclusion of each course, both knife and fork should be placed side by side, resting wholly on the plate. Spoons are used very little at a dinner, for soup and coffee only. Vegetables must be eaten with a fork, not a spoon. Bread must be cut with the fork only, without the aid of a knife. In using a spoon, eat from the side, not the tip of it, and in taking soup, dip the spoon from south, not forward, you. Remember that you are expected to talk at a dinner, as well as to eat, hence take small mouthfuls and eat slowly.

### PRUDENCE STANDISH

### Baby's Wraps.

This is the time of the year when lamb's wool plays a very important part in the wardrobe of the little ones.

The new couch covers seen in the shops are all of this fuzzy material, and its great advantage lies in the fact that it cleans like a rag.

Some of the covers are sewn together like an Eskimo sleeping bag, so that no breath of winter air may chill the tiny tot inside.

A lamb's wool muff and tippet and a white coat and hood of imitation caracul complete baby's polar bear appearance. It is always best to dress the little ones in pure white, with only a touch of color in the ribbon bow, or the hat, or the cuffs for then they look, and can be kept immaculate. Happily the darker colors for children have come out of fashion, and the offspring of the present generation wear cheerful raiment.

### Sweetbreads With Peas.

Take three pairs of sweetbreads and cut each one into four slices, season with salt and pepper and roll in flour. Fry in porcelain-lined frying-pan in butter for five or six minutes on each side. Remove and put on hot platter under the edge and cover with the following sauce: Mix together a scant ounce of butter, half teaspoon of finely chopped parsley, half a teaspoon of finely chopped parsley, half a teaspoon of lemon juice, good pinch of salt and dash of white pepper. Fry together with hot butter, and pour over the sweetbreads. In the center of the platter arrange a can of French peas which have been heated with butter.

## Pretty Arms and Hands

Did you ever notice the hands of a French woman? They are chic, like everything about her. Long before she dons her frock, her arms and hands are "dressed" in wax. Perhaps she has spent an hour doing this, but do not think for an instant that it does not pay. She removes her gloves at the table with great ease and assurance, knowing that the kid glove hides no defects.

The busy housewife may have little time to spend at her toilet table, yet she can do much for her hands in the two weeks between the receipt of the dinner invitation and the eventful night. Let her begin at once by wearing gloves from more than one night, save when eating, and without fail from night until morning. After breakfast she must slip on a pair of old kid gloves and then wears a kid dusting, making beds, etc. After dinner she puts them on again during the afternoon, and again in the evening after supper. During the day she bathes the hands occasionally with the following lotion, letting it dry into the skin before putting on the gloves again.

Sweet and bitter almonds, blanched and pounded into a paste, 250 grams each; lemon juice, 60 grams; sweet milk, 30 grams; almond oil, 50 grams; brandy, 180 grams.

At night she covers the hands with the following paste until morning: Myrrh, 1 ounce; honey, 4 ounces; yellow wax, 2 ounces; rosewater, 6 ounces. Beat the wax in double boiler and while hot add the myrrh, which should be used in powdered form. Beat these thoroughly together, then add the honey and rosewater, stirring constantly. Then add enough glycerine, drop by drop, to make a spreadable paste.

Strange as this statement may seem, it is nevertheless quite true, that lac-ling will cause red hands and arms. The girl who wears her corsets so tight that breath is an effort to it is most sure to be afflicted with red and swollen hands, and no amount of paints and cosmetics will effect a cure until she relieves the cause. A large number of women are annoyed with such hemorrhages as warts. These can be removed by a very simple home remedy. It will be glad to give it to any of my readers upon receipt of stamped and self-addressed envelope.

On the wax plan of every woman who wants white hands should be found a cut lemon. I know of no cosmetic, or bleach, of such general value, as lemon juice will take off almost any stain, whether it be from ink, cleaning vegetables or polishing silver. It strengthens the nails, prevents hangnails, and kills the growth of the scurf skin about the nails.

A systematic treatment of the hands which should be followed 12 months in the year is here given: With pure, unscented soap and warm water, lather the hands and use a nail brush on the nails. When the stains and grime and dust resist the soap and

water treatment, try the lemon juice, or perhaps a little pumice stone. If the water does not whiten, you have added a few drops of benzoin, and partially dry on a towel. Pour into the palms of your hands a few drops of lemon glycerine and rub it thoroughly into the skin. Sometimes a dash of talcum applied when the glycerine is half rubbed in has a softening effect. The glycerine does not whiten the skin, use pure honey that has been strained. This is very healing, and at the same time whitening.

It is very seldom that a perfectly-moulded arm is seen. It is apt to be too large, with coarse skin, or too thin with flabby muscles. The latter condition can be largely alleviated by massage. To massage the arms properly you must grasp one arm with the opposite hand and begin at the shoulder, working down to the wrist with a wringing or twisting motion. The next time begin at the wrist and work in the same manner up to the shoulder. To improve the circulation, take a mass of the muscles between the thumb and fingers and move them up and down upon the bones, just as if the flesh were a sleeve hung upon the bones. That must be pushed up to the elbow.

Sometimes a form of goose-flesh is found upon the upper arm. If the points are very large, pumice stone must be employed, but often vigorous brushing with a rough flesh brush is sufficient. Lemon juice will also relieve this trouble.

The girl with a very scrawny arm will find great benefit in the following flesh-builder, but it should never be used upon the face, as it contains lanolin. Throat, 35 grams; lanoline, 30 grams; oil of sweet almonds, 20 grams. Melt the almond oil and the lanolin in a double boiler over a slow fire, then beat in the throat, drop by drop, until the mixture is quite cool.

A great number of women are burdened with an excessive growth of hair on the arms. Pumice stone, not I must call attention to the necessity of taking great care of the finger-nails. Not long ago a whole article was devoted to nails and manuring in these columns, but in warm, half a dozen pairs of silk or lace hosiery and half a dozen in the cotton weight she prefers. A pair of shoes for dress, another for tailored costumes, rainy-day boots, dancing slippers and house slippers she must also have. Two dozen handkerchiefs, a dozen in the new cross-bar Shamrock lawn for common wear and another dozen picked up at odd times in finer weaves, will suffice. A pair of cuff covers for cool weather and another in batiste she will need. As warm weather is not far off, she will have plenty of dainty dressing gowns and negligees in wash fabrics, such as plain and figured lawns, with lace trimming and ribbon bows. A soiled negligee is inexcusable on the modern woman.

If she is to preside over the average five or six-room flat or cottage, she will need in household linen a dozen sheets, the same number of pillow cases, two dozen hand towels, half a dozen glass towels and the same number of tea towels, a silence cloth and half a dozen table cloths, unless she uses the bare polished table with doilies, in which case

four table clothes will do, and a dozen round doilies with scalloped edges must be purchased. To this she must add three dozen napkins in breakfast and dinner sizes and such centerpieces and linen mats as her purse will permit. The asbestos mats, covered with scalloped linen slips are preferred to knit or straw mats under hot dishes.

All linen is marked with the bride's maiden initials or monogram. The most approved fashion today is small perfectly plain letters, not over an inch in height. Some brides, breaking away from custom, mark their personal, not household linen with their Christian name, "Lucy" or "Mary," obtaining the name with No. 50 cotton, and surrounding it with a circle in plain or loop stitch.

**To Gain Weight.**

If you want to take on weight, rest upon every possible occasion, and sleep as long and late as you want to, for sleep is a most valuable factor in the accumulation of fat. If sleep is wary, court it by exercise, or drink a warm glass of milk just before retiring. Avoid excitement of any kind from either conversation or reading, just before going to bed. Bodily massage invites slumber, or a gentle massage of the scalp, dry or with tonic.

Be careful of your diet, eating slowly and partaking of nourishing, simple foods, masticate thoroughly, and avoid liquids at meals. Avoid worry and fretting, occupy your mind with wholesome diversions, and take all the exercise in the fresh air and sunshine you can get. Ventilate your sleeping apartment thoroughly at night.

**Sleeve Links.**

An idea which has been followed out by a number of girls for sleeve links for their morning waists of the tailor-made variety in flannel is to get the plain mother-of-pearl buttons, which are sold for men's evening wear.

They are flat buttons, just like those which are sewed on shirtwaists, only finer and of a more attractive design. They are small in size, and when used in the tailored shirtwaists they are exceedingly neat, and at the same time smart-looking.

With them are worn scarf pin and belt buckle to match.

**The Owl.**

The owl, with his saucerlike eyes, may appear exceedingly wise. I think I shall be a student of his. He doesn't even know how to sing. He sleeps while there's a ray of light. Then wonders why he can't rest at night.

water treatment, try the lemon juice, or perhaps a little pumice stone. If the water does not whiten, you have added a few drops of benzoin, and partially dry on a towel. Pour into the palms of your hands a few drops of lemon glycerine and rub it thoroughly into the skin. Sometimes a dash of talcum applied when the glycerine is half rubbed in has a softening effect. The glycerine does not whiten the skin, use pure honey that has been strained. This is very healing, and at the same time whitening.

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## BRIDAL LINENS IN 1908

**T**HE overflowing linen chest of our grandmothers has disappeared. To be sure the fad of the moment is for a carved chest, lavender scented, but the modern bride is not so particular as to its contents, for she finds that fashions change in household as well as personal linen.

She is now expected to provide not enough clothing and household linen to last for years, but only enough lingerie to last a year, while her household supplies are governed by the size of her new cottage or flat home.

In her personal linen she is supposed to have at least a dozen sets of drawers and corset covers, six rather fine and six made for ordinary hard wear. She avoids cheap, lace-trimmed lingerie and selects for the best sets the popular convent work which she may embellish with inserts of good all-over lace or edging, done with narrow Val. edging, done entirely by hand. For her common sets, she selects the plain hemstitched ruffle finish. Six nightgowns, three flannel petticoats and half a dozen lingerie skirts, one silk and one stout sateen of chambray lawn for common wear and another dozen picked up at odd times in finer weaves, will suffice. A pair of cuff covers for cool weather and another in batiste she will need. As warm weather is not far off, she will have plenty of dainty dressing gowns and negligees in wash fabrics, such as plain and figured lawns, with lace trimming and ribbon bows. A soiled negligee is inexcusable on the modern woman.

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## NOTES FOR THE HOUSEWIFE

**B**EESWAX, broken in pieces and put within the folds of white woollens and silks, will overcome the tendency to yellowness that white fabrics have when laid away for any length of time.

Water standing in a room is a good disinfectant, as it absorbs all impurities.

Cake icing will not crack when cut if a little thick cream is added to it. Allow one teaspoonful to each white of an egg.

To remove a rusty screw, first apply a very hot iron to the head for a short time; then immediately use the screw-driver.

Always save the water in which rice, macaroni or anything of a like nature has been boiled. It is excellent for soups, gravies, etc.

To take grease out of leather apply the white of an egg to the spot and dry in the sun. Repeat the application till the stain is removed.

When boiling old potatoes, which are apt to go a very dark color, put a tablespoonful of milk into the water in which they are boiled, and you will find they will be beautifully white when cooked.

When filling oil lamps place a small lump of camphor in the oil vessel; it will greatly improve the light and make the flame clearer and brighter. If you have no camphor add a few drops of vinegar occasionally.

A quick method of making bread-crumbs is to put the crumbs from a stale loaf into a muslin bag, tie at the top, and rub it gently with both hands for a few minutes. The bread will then be fine enough for any purpose.

Coffee stains, even when there is cream in the coffee, can be removed from the most delicate silk or woolen fabrics by brushing the spots with pure glycerine. Rinse in lukewarm water, and press on the wrong side until quite dry. The glycerine absorbs both the coloring matter and the grease.

## Forecasting Frocks and Frills

**W**ITH Summer still several months away, fashions in hot weather modes are practically settled. To the average feminine mind, backed by a scientist's purse, the saddest feature of the fashion outlook is the very radical change in fabrics. Hardly anything that was left in good order from last Summer's wardrobe can be utilized this year.

While stripes remain in vogue for all two-piece suits, with tailored finish, the stripes show a decided change. Two-tone stripes have been in vogue. Now the three-tone stripe is the only effect seen in smart shops. The tailored suits we are laying away showed black and blue, green and brown, green and blue, etc. The new stripes come in three, one of the new oyster-white, blue-gray and rather deep blue combined. Next comes a biscuit-colored background with half-inch stripes of taupe-green and a soft redish brown. A striking black and white stripe shows a hair line of red on either side of the black, and so it goes; the three-tone effect in everything to admire.

The new silks are all novelties, save when they appear in waists to match tailored suits. The new black and white is a silvery sheen, and the new blue is with a touch of crimson. A stunning model showed a Madame Butterfly design with kimono sleeves and two-button semi-long coat with velvet collar and a wide silk skirt. The vest was of black taffetas, laid in fine pleats and finished with a very fine piping of the scarlet silk. The skirt was quite plain, striped with black silk.

The delicately tinted silks for dressy costumes almost invariably show self-toned stripes. That is, on a taffeta silk one of the new greenish-blue hues showed a satin stripe nearly an inch wide, and, overlapping both the satin and taffeta stripe, huge oblongs of moire, yet all precisely the same tint of blue, the difference lying in weave and sheen.

The new foulards have a decided satin sheen, with a supple weave, and are priced at \$1.50 per yard. For all these foulards come laces dyed in exactly the correct shade; most of them run with a thread of gold silvery also. The Japanese embroidered laces on silk net.

A smart silk novelty is the shade of natural colored pongee with a border of natural colored of Persian design in faded colorings. It is said this will be much used for tunic effects, paniers, jackets, vests and fancy blouses, but it is not so general as silk. It is made up in a rich shade of natter blue, grows lighter and lighter in shadowy stripes until it reaches the waist line a bluish white.

A novelty in cloth for the tall, slender

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### Pumpkin Soup.

Say "Pumpkins" to a New Englander, and he will reply "Pie," but the Frenchman responds "Soup." Pumpkin soup is a regular winter standby for the French household, and is said to be delicious.

In making it allow a quart of milk to one cup of cooked pumpkin. Cut the pumpkin in small pieces, sprinkling lightly with salt and cook in boiling water for five minutes. Drain off the water, mash thoroughly, and stir in a tablespoonful of hot melted butter. Pour boiling milk over crotons arranged in soup dish and lightly sugared. Then add the pumpkin, stirring the whole well together and serve.

People who ordinarily do not care for the pumpkin flavor find this soup a pleasant surprise, for in this disguise the pumpkin has all the flavor of a rich cream of corn.