

CORRESPONDENCE PAGE OF FASHIONS & BEAUTY

Modified Styles Are Now in Demand

THE directoire style is over. The sheath skirt panic has subsided. The world feminine has returned to normal regular heart-beats. Styles for the season of 1908-9 are now fixed. They are simply the extreme styles as shown in September, graciously modified to meet the needs of the conservative American woman.

From the very start of the sheath skirt panic, I have maintained in these columns that no well-bred, sane American woman would ever consider the mode seriously, neither would she accept the extreme directoire styles. The sheath skirt has been seen only upon the stage and then in such productions as featured the feminine form divine rather than dramatic interest or virtue acting. It is now relegated, along with Salome dances, to the has-beens of a theatrical year barely begun.

The directoire modes have left a stronger influence, but only in such general effects as snugger skirts, bigger reverses and long, narrow sleeves. The exaggerated directoire hat the wide swathing sash, the interminable train have all been tabooed by well-dressed women.

The sheath skirt now appears only in tunic effects, or an outer skirt of soft, clinging fabric, put on one side to display not "sheath hostery," but a drop skirt, generally clouded with fine side-pleatings of sheerest material like chiffon or chiffon net.

A very popular combination is the drop skirt or princess slip of soft, clinging satin with an over-dress of veiling or very supple, soft, clinging fabric, put on one side to display not "sheath hostery," but a drop skirt, generally clouded with fine side-pleatings of sheerest material like chiffon or chiffon net.

Ordered fabrics are much used, especially for tunic effects, and with the advancing season supple broadcloths in fancy designs are shown. Brown increases in popularity as the weather becomes colder, and an ideal winter shade, especially in the soft cloths and satins with hints of golden lights in their surface.

The illustrations offered today show how charming are the modified Fall styles brought within the scope and purse of the home dressmaker.

First, you have the directoire coat which would develop so admirably in the ottoman silk, which by the way, is heavily corded. Plain satin or a rich brocade would be used to build the high collar, open several inches across the front, the wide reverses, the cuffs, and pocket flaps, but it must match in color the corded silk used in the coat. Or the plain satin may be embroidered or headed in self tone or in most harmonious shades. Very little lace is used in developing these directoire accessories. The lace appears in the directoire jacket, which consists of an enormous ruff, finished with a jabot, broad at the top and tapering to a mere point just above the waist line.

Very large buttons are used on the directoire coats, many of them jeweled or enameled. If you cannot afford a handsome button of this sort, then cover molds with heavy satin or the silk used on the coat.

This is not a difficult pattern to develop. The back and side backs are in one piece but the fronts of the body are separate and are fastened to the fronts of the skirt, and with the underarm gorges are joined to them at the waist-line. This is simpler than an attempt to secure a straight line over the hips.

The complete directoire gown shown is really a combination of modifications of the tunic skirt and the directoire costume, joined by a directoire sash. Etonian yards of silk will make this costume (and, think, we needed eighteen or twenty last season, with 2-3 yards of eighteen-inch lace or net for chemise and sleeves. The pattern is suitable to either cashmere, veiling or supple silks like messaline, and the bordered fabric may be used if desired. Again, the tunic and overclothes may be outlined by braided bands of novelty trimming, and by far the prettiest effect for the chemise will be secured if tucked net is used. It will be noted here, as in all directoire modes, the long, snug-fitting sleeve appears.

The stout woman must carefully avoid trimming such a sleeve. She should employ only tucks laid very smooth and flat.

The high or mounted skirt, shown without a bodice attached, is worth the

be developed in supple cloth, with hand embroidery, banding, braiding, or even fringe outlining the slash on the side, and a chiffon pleating beneath. It gives the best results if cut with quite a good train, also with the outlining



DIRECTOIRE HOUSE GOWN.

study of the home dressmaker. It combines the best points of the new, snug-fitting skirt, and suggests the much talked-of sheath skirt. It forms a splendid foundation for the use of the directoire sash, shown in the fourth illustration.

The skirt is of circular pattern, the right side being lapped over the left. For tailored designs it is cut walking length and finished with stitching and buttons. For more dressy wear, it can

trimming growing much narrower at the waistline. Various directoire girdles are also shown, with or without ends. The skirt ends, known as the position how, are much used for skirts cut to walking length but the long ends give best results on trained skirts. The true directoire sash is fastened on the left side in front and is finished with deep fringe.

MARY DEAN.

Some Timely Hints for the Haggard Woman

THE very thin woman with lined skin, furrows and wrinkles, must treat, first, her state of mind, and then, her digestion. Generally, she is a "worrier." When she has no present trouble to fret over, she reaches out into the wide future and draws some trouble into her line of vision. She never sees the cheerful side of any question. She considers the cheerful, optimistic person frivolous and trifling.

Let her learn to hope and then to smile, to do her work of today and leave tomorrow's work to care for itself. The over-tired woman is narrow-chested, stoop-shouldered and wrinkled.

You never saw a plump person who would admit having the blues. Cut the blues by learning how to hope, smile and laugh out loud, and you will find the first layers of adipose tissue appearing on your stomach chest and withered arms.

Encourage the growth of flesh by learning how to digest your food. Almost invariably the very thin woman is an enormous eater, but she does not assimilate her food. She does not masticate it, but literally bolts it without chewing. Learn how to chew your food. When alone make a practice of systematically chewing each mouthful ten times. Extremists say "chew each bit of meat 33 times." Do not be an extremist one day, and a backslider over after.

Learn to eat less each time, but to eat often. Make your three daily meals lighter and sandwich in two extra meals. If you are most active during the morning, and have lunch at 1 or 1.30, then between lunch and 4 take a cup of hot milk with a cracker or a glass of eggnog and a bread-and-butter sandwich; or if fond of fruit, try a banana sliced with sugar cream or rich milk.

If you have an early lunch and a late dinner, or dinner at midday and a late supper, then have your milk and crackers



DIRECTOIRE SASH.

or fruit in the middle of the afternoon. And finally, just before retiring, drink more warm milk. It will prove a sedative to tired nerves, as well as a flesh-builder. And all this milk should be sipped slowly, not gulped down in haste. As to food at table, thick soups or

puces, are better than clear soups or consommés as fat-producers. All starchy foods, cereals, potatoes, beans, peas, rice, macaroni, etc., are fat-builders, while pickles and tart fruits such as lemons and oranges are to be avoided.

If the appetite is capricious and light, try outdoor exercise, walking within moderation, playing outdoor games like tennis or golf. I have a very good formula for a tonic and appetizer which is entirely harmless and which I will furnish upon receipt of a self-addressed and stamped envelope, but healthy thoughts and outdoor exercise are the best of appetizers.

The thin, haggard woman should learn to take a nap every afternoon, and, if possible, to get in at least eight hours' sleep every night.

Physical culture exercises she can use with discretion, but not violently. Most especially should she select exercises which will round out the arms and bust and fill out the sunken chest. For the flat and shapeless bust, there comes an excellent remedy to be taken internally, formula for which will be sent in response to a stamped and addressed envelope.

For the sunken chest, the simplest exercises are the best. Stand erect with the heels together, the toes out and the hands on the hips, the thumbs pointing forward. Keep the abdomen in, the chest high, the head erect but not thrown back. Now on eight counts swing the elbows backward, holding the finger tips tight on the hips, but the thumbs may spring away from the body. Rest eight counts, and repeat the exercise, continuing the exercise regularly and persistently until the elbows touch. Never exercise more than five minutes, however, the first day, increasing the time as strength comes with regular work.

Timely Hints for the Busy Shopper

WITH the Fall cleaning over, the ambitious housewife is very apt to find in the attic or storeroom a number of articles which were thrust aside on strenuous days to be cleaned later, a pair of gloves worth saving, a rug badly stained but not beyond redemption, or a picture frame that needs touching up.

For all these material ailments and defects, patent cleansers, paints or stains are sold, and if directions are followed, results are generally good and satisfactory. But the average woman thinks that every detail in the somewhat involved directions may not be important and so the remedy fails and the blam is on the maker.

For instance, with the use of the best up-to-date cleaning fluids come directions to place the fabric to be cleaned on blotting paper or many folds of soft old cloth. The woman who does this will find that the pattern of the article cleaned will be produced in discolored lines on the blotting pattern, the fluid eating the grease and dust right out. If the blotting paper is not used all the time, a stain will be left in the fabric almost as unsightly as the original dirt.

Again, if you are using a patent varnish or stain, and instructions bid you first sandpaper the woodwork, use sandpaper vigorously. The patented article cannot perform miracles.

Perhaps you have some velvets to wash and clean. For net velvets use gasoline. Put the velvets in a glass jar with wide mouth, cover with gasoline, shake vigorously, rinse with clear gasoline, shake in the open air and lay out straight to dry on a clean cloth or sheet. Wash chiffon velvets in a tepid suds made with pure white soap, rinse in water of the same temperature, and stretch on sheet or cloth to dry.

Never put away a delicately tinted gown, wrap or accessory without removing all spots and stains. For ordinary wash or grime use a weak solution of ammonia, allowing it to remain on the fabric until ready to wear the article again; then brush off with clean, soft brush.

If you have used gasoline to clean any fabric and find that it leaves a ring, hold the cloth over a steaming kettle and the ring will disappear.

Woolen fabrics, like sweaters and do not put them in the wash, but lay in a box, thick with French chalk. If this is done before the dust turn to grime, washing can be delayed indefinitely. The secret of cleaning is not to let things get really dirty, but to take the proverbial stitch in time.

Blood or meat stains on linen may be removed by first soaking the article in cold water; then make a suds with cold water and rinse in cold water. Hot water at any stage of the process will set the stain.

Stains on mattresses can be removed by covering them with a paste made from Fuller's earth, water and ammonia. To each quart of the creamy paste made from the earth and tapid water, add one teaspoonful of aqua ammonia.

For ice cream stains, especially on silk, try chloroform. Several applications may be necessary, and be sure to use blotting paper beneath the stain.

To remove paint stains when fresh, use turpentine or alcohol, spreading the fabric over many thicknesses of clean cloth. For old paint stains, try chloroform.

To keep the color of red flannel strip two tablespoonfuls of flour in one quart of cold water, let it boil several minutes, add warm suds and wash the flannel in the usual way. Ink stains may be removed from linen by putting moistened flax and grease will come out at the same time. Mildew may be removed by soaking the article in buttermilk, which should never be rubbed, but well rinsed in water in which a good soap jelly has been dissolved. Kerosene will remove fruit stains on linen.

First wash the article in clear water, then wash in the usual way. Should linen be inadvertently scorched, the following method will restore it: Peel four onions and extract the juice. Mix this with four ounces of fuller's earth, one ounce soap and a pint of vinegar. Boll well together. When nearly cold put on the scorched places and dry in the air. Wash in cold water, and, if necessary, repeat the process. If a very slight scorch mark the linen may be restored to its original whiteness by placing it out of doors in strong sunlight.

When ironing, if the worker stands on a padded rug the feet do not become so tired. Stains caused by acids may be removed by salt of wormwood. The part should be first wetted and the salts rubbed in, then rinsed before washing. Black and white fabrics should be washed in water in which salt has been dissolved, a teaspoonful to every gallon.

Flowers Grow in Cinders. St. Louis Post-Dispatch. A garden of flowers growing in cinder-packs in the rear part of Mrs. Charles Roeder, 306 Lami street, is a curiosity attracting the attention of the residents of that vicinity. Gardeners are at a loss to explain how the flowers can grow in such unproductive grounds.

When Mrs. Roeder attempted to grow roses in her cinder-packed yard the neighbors ridiculed her. But Mrs. Roeder is wiser and has no children, and the attempt, even though it had failed, was interesting to her and helped to occupy her mind, and after planting the beds, tended them carefully. She was as much surprised as the neighbors when the flowers grew luxuriantly.

Winter Ahead. Kansas City Times. Oh, listen! That night in the sun; It knoweth it can dry away, From furrows and slushy walks, And melt away the Spring. Be patient to the lucky bird— No wonder it doth sing.

Good Form for the Day-at-Home

THE custom of having an informal afternoon at home when your friends may be sure of finding you in, shows no signs of waning. Indeed these informal entertainments have taken a great deal over the once popular evening receptions. They are the least expensive and the least exacting of winter hospitality, and perhaps to these causes may be traced their popularity.

Women who have a large circle of acquaintances have many of these days in the season, while others are content with four. For instance one card may read, "Mrs. James Brown, 123 Prospect Place, First and Third Thursdays." Another will read, "Mrs. John Green Wood, 455 Smithton avenue, Wednesdays in December." One woman will be at home the entire season two afternoons in the month, while the other will concentrate on four days all within one month.

The matter of deciding this question lies with the woman herself. Either mode is equally good. It is simply a question of the demands of your social life. These cards are to be mailed in envelopes fitting the card exactly, sealed and mailed with a two-cent stamp. No social correspondence should be sent by the penny post. The husband's name does not appear on cards for informal afternoons at home, but if there are daughters in the house old enough to be in society, then the cards should read, "Mrs. John Green Wood, the Misses Wood," etc.

The maid who opens the door and serves refreshments should be dressed all in black, with white collar and cuffs and white apron. She should have no color about her in any way. She should wear a small white cap with a tiny black bow.

A large platter should be left on the hall table where guests may drop their cards upon entering the house. No calls are made before three in the afternoon, but at that hour the hostess should be dressed, her rooms should be ready, her table prepared and everything in readiness to receive the guests.

The question of refreshments at these afternoons depends on two things—how many "at homes" you enter the drawing room unannounced, but the hostess must rise to greet each newcomer, and she always rises to bid them goodbye, when seeing them to the door. And the hostess must be very careful to see that all of her guests are properly and distinctly introduced to each other, as with few people in a room it would be most embarrassing not to know the name of the woman with whom you are talking.

The hostess at the afternoon-at-home wears a high neck gown, or one of the new collarless gowns—not low neck, however—a dainty, simple house gown, light in color and texture. Shirt waists and odd skirts are in vogue, and should be worn. The gown should also have a slight train.

If the weather should prove incle-

ter case, it is better to have the maid bring in tea, or serve it yourself from a dainty tea table, and have sandwiches, cakes and candies in tiny glass dishes immediately at hand.

At these informal afternoons, guests

careful hostess has a way of making everybody glad they came, and in some tactful way she makes all feel that they have done her a personal favor in dropping in for a call.

When a woman has these informal days-at-home, the friends who come to see her do not have to call again as they do after attending a formal reception. As stated before, informal afternoons at home are simply a set time when your friends may find you in. The hostess then owes a call to every friend who has attended any of these afternoons.

If a hostess has a very large circle of friends, and has no daughters to assist her then it is better that she ask one or two of her intimate friends to receive with her, as no one person can entertain 30 friends at the same time. If a hostess sees some guest sitting in a corner sipping a solitary cup of tea, she should go up to her, and say—"Mrs. Cummings, I want you to come over and meet Mrs. Brown," and escort her across the room, seating her by some friend whom she thinks would be congenial to her.

She does not let any one, no matter who they are, go from her house feeling neglected. A hostess should literally lose herself in making her guests feel comfortable.

PRUDENCE STANDISH.

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Tempting Breakfast Dishes

THE average American family is fast following in the footsteps of foreign cuisine and eating light breakfasts, and on hot dish is considered sufficient. The motherly mother and devoted wife may find one or two of the following dishes tempting. Generally speaking, something with a little salty flavor appeals to a man's appetite.

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SMART DIRECTOIRE JACKET.

have, and how large a circle of friends you have. If you only have four afternoons-at-home, then a table should be set in the dining-room, laden with sandwiches, cake, candies, etc. At both ends of the table, a woman friend sits, one pouring tea or coffee, and the other serving a light punch of some kind. If you are going to be at home all the season and expect not over half a dozen women friends in an afternoon, it would be foolish to set a table and would give an atmosphere too formal to your rooms. In the lat-

est case, it is better to have the maid bring in tea, or serve it yourself from a dainty tea table, and have sandwiches, cakes and candies in tiny glass dishes immediately at hand.

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