



# GAY AND ELABORATE FROCKS APPEAR FOR THE DEBUTANTES

Favored Afternoon, Dinner and Informal Evening Dress Is of Velvet—Black Dresses Are Brightened by Touches of Gold or Silver or by Dash of Color in Girdle Ornament and Earrings Match Costume in Color

THE smart set reserves December for its young folk. The debutantes make their bow early in the month and the holiday season around Christmas is the gala time of the children and of the boys and girls home from school and college. Of course other important social doings occur in December, but it is really the young folk's month and many are the plans for gaieties that serve mostly youth.

Not that matrons and mothers and brides and girls in their second season do not have to have stunning clothes, too, to attend the various coming out teas and dances and dinners given to the debutantes, but it is the girls who are star performers and who know that all the gaiety has been planned for their sake. The opera has had its opening night and is in full swing. The horse show has taken place. November weddings are out of the way. Invitations for all the big affairs before Christmas are out—and each day of early December launches several new debutantes into the whirl of social gaiety. You see their pictures in the morning newspaper—Miss So and So, daughter of Mrs. So and So, introduced to society yesterday afternoon. And every paragraph of the kind means a coming-out reception followed by a dance and then a series of dinners and dances given for the young aspirant to social honors. And all this means clothes—oh dear, yes! Clothes and clothes and clothes—a veritable trousseau of wraps and trillieurs and hats, of dance frocks, slippers and fans, of velvet and crepe afternoon frocks, of furs and handbags and what not for every occasion from an informal luncheon of 12 or so, or a little matinee party of eight, to somebody's huge dance or the opera in the evening. And this round of gaiety every day and every evening means numerous changes of costume.

The favored afternoon frock, dinner frock and informal evening frock this season is of velvet. Daytime velvet frocks of black or very dark brown; velvet dresses for evening wear in lovely shades of silver gray, flame, rose and blue. Most debutantes wear all the black they can. It is their grown-up prerogative and well they know how black sets off their girlish freshness! Besides it is extremely fashionable. Though it was prophesied last spring that black was on the wane and that Paris would have no more of it, black frocks, suits and wraps continue to be in evidence at every fashionable gathering.

Black velvet dresses for debutantes, however, are usually brightened in some way by touches of gold or silver or by a dash of color in girdle ornament—and the debutante carefully matches her inevitable earrings to the dash of color in her costume. Whoever else leaves her earrings at home, the debutante never does. A charming black velvet afternoon frock for a young girl has a straight, rather clinging little bodice with snug sleeves to the wrist and a circular skirt is attached to a low waistline. This wide, circular skirt is faced at the hem with white satin and at the girdle is a huge "flower" made of white fur. A small black velvet hat with a strip of white fur resting in the turned-up brim goes with this costume—and a long string of carved white beads give the completing note of white.

Many of the brown velvet afternoon dresses for debutantes have deep berths of cream lace to the elbow. This is a style that is for youth only and fond grandmothers are donating the stock of priceless old lace for the berths of debutantes this season. Most of the velvet frocks worn by very young women have long close sleeves to the wrist, or no sleeves at all; and the neckline is rounded or boat-shaped. Several velvet dresses have been noted with a button-down-the-back effect, particularly when a deep lace berth was attached to the neckline.

The very prettiest tailleurs are worn by the debutantes—for these gay and charming suits are to be had only in the 34 and 36 sizes in the misses' department. They are smart and Parisian with their oddly shaped sleeves, draped skirts, lapped-across jackets and interesting trimmings of braid, fluting and fur. A suit of the sort is of black wool rep, the huge sleeves almost covered with scrolls of gray silk braid and there are flutings of the rep on sleeve and collar, the collar turning back to show a fluted white facing. The jacket laps to the left hip and fastens with a metal clasp and the skirt drapery laps also and makes a graceful cascade below the jacket-clasp.

Most of these pretty little debutante tailleurs are in the three-piece style, with a blouse or tunic attached to the skirt, and if the suit was only a skirt and jacket model its purchaser makes haste to have a blouse incorporated with it, for any tailored skirt coming up over a blouse and suggesting a normal or higher than normal waistline is hopelessly old-fashioned.

Therefore the waist and the lace waist are occupying a place of oblivion this season. Nobody wears a lace waist that tucks under her skirt and nobody wears a tub shirt-waist except with a sport suit on the golf links.

A young woman looking for "a neat, simple little serge dress for mornings" complained the other day, "there simply are no plain blue serge dresses this year; they all have white or gray or tan facings or some kind of fancy braided yokes or sleeves that will soil immediately and they are cut in the most fancy ways." This is true, it is all too impossible now to pick up a simple

and serviceable blue serge frock and one wonders how the business girl manages. The latest addition to blue serge frocks is a Jenny innovation. She puts tall white linen cuffs (way above the elbow) on the long sleeves of navy serge frocks, and embroiders the linen cuffs with dark blue. Fortunately these cuffs are detachable and may be sent to the cleaners—not washed for they are bound all around with the serge. Very charming for the young women are monogram frocks of blue or tan wool jersey, and some of these frocks are of white or pale gray flannel. A pleated skirt is dropped below the very low sash that loops at one side, and the long-waisted bodice has dainty turned-back cuffs and collar and the wearer's monogram embroidered on a breast pocket.

Simple hats accompanied by dashing earrings are affected by debutantes of this season. And the younger the maid the bigger the ear drops! The hat pictured (2798) is of cocoa brown duvetyne with a trimming of the material in shirred puffs. The brim has a flexible roll and the soft crown of duvetyne is punched in softly also—the whole hat with its puffed trimming has a soft outline. The earrings are of tops with the yellowish lights that harmonize with a brown hat.

Any age can wear dashing shapes in millinery, but only youth may dare dashing colors. This (2760) winter hat for a debutante is of brown velvet and the big bow is of flame-colored satin ribbon with fringes of flame ostrich feathers off the ribbon ends. The bow is gracefully arranged, with soft loops drawn obliquely downward from a high-placed knot.

Almost every debutante is a symphony in gray in one of her winter costumes—and nobody looks lovelier in gray than the fresh young girl in the frock pictured (2651) is part of a three-piece suit—the jacket, not in the picture, loose and clasped at one hip with a steel ornament and trimmed with gray fox. The skirt of the frock, like the jacket, is of finer-gray duvetyne and the attached blouse is of gray crepe with embroidery in self tone and silver thread. The straight skirt is gracefully lifted at one hip to make a soft drapery.

Even though this suit (2818) is black trimmed with gray and somewhat in tone, it is suitable for youth because of its dashing style. It comes from Agnes and is a typical French tailleur in its distinction and chic. Jacket and skirt are of black wool rep, with elaborate embroidery of silver gray braid on the sleeves and a trimming of fluting made of the rep on sleeves and collar. The collar is faced with white satin, also fluted.

The cunningest kit ever for an overnight guest who is not supposed to have with her sewing implements yet may want to take a stitch in glove or lace collar, in the disguise of a colorful bouquet—one of those prim early Victorian nosegays that have massed posies surrounded by a frill of lace paper. The posies in the guest room bouquet are really little plump bags of colorful silk, each bag containing some needful for the stitch in time—hook and eyes, snappers, glove buttons,

safety pins, thimble, darning around the edge and under the cotton and so on. Each spoon of leaves a gathered lace frill. The thread or silk is tucked in a bag of corresponding shade and the needles have a flat case to themselves.

The little bags are made of taffeta in various shades—cornflower-blue, delphinium blue, fuchsia, rose, morning glory, violet, heliotrope, saffron, primrose and other flower tints. Stiff green velvet leaves are set



2798 A  
Debutante Hat—  
And Don't Forget  
The Earrings



2760  
The Debutante  
Dares A Red Bow  
Or Her Hairdresser



2651  
Gaily  
Frocks Are  
Favored  
By Youthful  
Wearers



1818 The Debutante Tailleur  
Is Captivating

folks of fabric that droop over the upper arm, doing away with the cover-up effect of former seasons.

Every woman wears a head-dress of some sort, from a smart Spanish comb or a bandeau of little roses to a glittering affair of metal and jewels. Gloves are worn, or not worn, as one pleases, but earrings and a fan are part of every opera costume.

This is the season when the happy folk who have open fireplaces are in their element. You can hear them mention casually in the presence of poor apartment-house dwellers: "Yes, the mornings are crisp but we light a woodfire in the dining room." Or, "The open fire in our living-room gives just enough heat to be pleasant after dinner evenings." People who sacrifice the comfort, the charm and the "atmosphere" of open fireplaces in order to have steam heated apartments—mostly without even mantelpieces, to say nothing of porches, pantries or other good old home comforts—have to pretend they prefer the sizzle of a steam radiator to the snap of leaping flames on the hearth; but the lucky possessor of a fireplace should make the very most of it at this season.

The fireplace is the very heart of the home, and through long years of life the man or woman who as a child played on the hearth-rug before an open fire, or toasted chestnuts or popped corn or hung up Christmas stockings at the fireplace, carries those memories in heart as the dearest and most vivid memories of home. Do not neglect your privilege if your home boasts a fireplace—even if the steam radiators give plenty of heat. Have the hearthstone bright and shining, the andirons gleaming and the fire snapping and crackling when the children and the men folk get home at dusk.

A man sitting before an open fire with pipe and tobacco near by and the poker and tongs handy to re-adjust fallen logs is usually in an expansive and mellow mood; and the very sight of the cheery fire when he comes in tired after a day's work gives him a thrilling reminder about "what a comfortable place home is—best place in the world!" A hundred dollars spent for andirons, tongs, bellows, fender and some short logs is well expended and will hold the family together better than the handsomest velvet portieres or lace window draperies.

## Problems of Dressmaking by Madam Richet

UNION, Or., Dec. 8.—Dear Madam Richet: Please choose for me a pattern by which I may be able to make over a headed blue satin. The dress is made with a drop skirt, slim and two apron-like pieces for the overskirt, both heavily headed and entirely separate from each other. The waist consists of two straight pieces dropping from the shoulders to the hips where they are joined by string ties. These pieces are heavily headed to resemble the skirt. The sleeves are moderately large and flare at the hand, where they are slightly headed. The color is lighter than navy and the satin is of heavy quality.

I also have a black taffeta that I should be glad to be able to use, but cannot as it now is. The skirt can probably be used as it is. It is made of two straight lengths trimmed with bands of tucking applied in points. The waist is small, if made on a lining, the back a plain blouse effect, the front a basque made by gathering a center piece and placing in the waist by means of cording. This is plain black taffeta and probably can be matched with blue velvet. I am 5 feet 5 inches in height, weigh about 150 pounds, my bust measure is 40, waist 31, hips 41. I am 46 years of age.

I shall appreciate your assistance in remodeling these garments very much. Yours truly, GRACE SMITH.

The fastening can still be at the side and with the button trim, as shown, the plan will work out nicely. Your seam of joining should be made at a low waistline as shown in the front panel's bottom line. The set-in will not detract the slightest from the style of the frock. With the high neck now lined in sketch, it will be an easy matter to cut down.

Madam Richet: I am in need of a good everyday sport coat and something that has style as well. Please suggest a model and the material that are right for that kind of a coat. I see so many good looking ones on other people but cannot seem to get the style when I shop for one. Could you give the name of a ladies' tailor who will copy a model from a fashion book? Yours truly, POLLY H.

GRACE SMITH, Union, Or.—The model I have in mind will work out stunningly for your blue satin. If you will see the January Elite styles on Page 25, No. 4999 D, you will readily see what a wonderful gown you can have by combining your satin with a midnight blue velvet, using the latter for the skirt and diamond motifs and using one of the beaded aprons for the velvet row. The other apron will help in making the sash. Trim with a fur banding in the mole or the sealskin. This is quite the most interesting frock in line combination values that I could suggest.

Match your taffeta and follow the lines of the blouse in the same issue, page 13, No. 4923. The tucked motif can be used in the blouse front as you have sketched and I would have the buttons. This will make an attractive one-piece dress which can be made in that line without really joining. If you cannot obtain the pattern book in your city send for one, as the models selected are perfect for your "make overs."

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 13.—Dear Madam: Please tell me which will be better for office wear, a tricotine or serge? Which will wrinkle less where one must sit for hours at a desk, I would suggest the best material for underwear, such as combinations, camisoles, etc. We lost all our fur coats in the fire and the things I buy now must be ready-made and ordered by mail.

I am 32 years old and will, for the present, have to have an all-wool dress. What would you advise me to get for her? This, too, must be ready-made. Many thanks, L. H. P.

Mrs. L. H. P., Astoria, Or.—From personal experience I have found that the tricotine wrinkles less and does not "shine" quite as readily as does the serge, but this we must say for the serge, that its wearing quality, when good material is selected, is "iron clad." The braided trimmed dresses are very suitable for the office and give one the appearance of being well "groomed." For the easily tubbed garments there is the pongee, which, as you perhaps know, comes in many shades. The hemstitched styles are good and rather seem to go with this fabric.

For your daughter there will be (Continued on Page 7.)

PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 4.—Dear Madam Richet: I have a dark blue whipcord suit, rather an old style. The skirt I would like to make into a one-piece dress. The skirt is in four pieces, the front and back are wide with narrow gore on either side. As the skirt is long and has a good hem I tried to raise it and take out the side gores, but that does not leave quite enough fullness through the hips.

The jacket is a Norfolk style. There is a seam under the stitoned-on fold in the front and there is no material under the fold in the back. The collar is a standing fur one, but I do not care for it.

I am 5 feet 3 inches tall, 25 years old and weigh 110 pounds. My color is not very good. I have dark curly hair and blue eyes. Thank you for your help. MRS. F. C. D.

Mrs. F. C. D.—In the Elite for January there is shown a very effective frock, page 46, No. 5131 D. Use this for the general line and that there may be sufficient fullness over the hip there can be a set-in panel of black satin, the upper portion laid in tucks. Your sleeves can be made a bit more closely fitted and the buttons of black crocheted or satin.

season more brilliant than they or diamond ornaments. Many emerald green wraps are noted and red velvet wraps are tremendously smart.

Debutantes are wearing saucy frocks of gold cloth with slippers and stockings to match, and a silver or gold bandeau in the hair. A queen of Sheba could be no more gorgeously arrayed!

Next to glittering costumes of silver or gold, statuesque gowns of clinging crepe fabrics are favored. They have little trimming save for one gleaming girdle ornament of crystal and rhinestones.

Mild aged matrons are king to black velvet, with ropes of pearls simple crepe gowns. The square