

A FORECAST OF SPRING FASHIONS.

BY MRS. CHOLLY KNICKERBOCKER

Gowns Worn at Southern Resorts Strike the Key of the Coming Summer Models. The Jumper Dress Is Again to Be Worn The Beauty of the New Bordered Materials

LIKE the little boy in Kipling's famous limerick, we may be buried in snow to our neck; we may be enveloped in furs—or near-furs—from the top of our lynx toque to the toe of our patent leather shoe; we may be sliding over icy pavements with teeth chattering, but in the world of fashionable clothes summer is in full swing.

If you don't believe it, just glance in the shop windows. One brief look will convince you that to evince the slightest interest in winter clothes is to label yourself far behind the times.

You may clasp frosty finger tips within the shelter of your muff, but meanwhile you must gaze with rapture on diaphanous muslins, suggestive of a temperature of 100 in the shade. You may dash in for a cup of steaming chocolate, but while gratefully sipping it, you must talk only of straw hats and "those ducks of new parasols, my dear," to the friend perched on a stool beside you. Oh, if we can't all "go south" we can at least talk it!

For it is for those butterfly beings who find it impossible to exist in a northern climate at this season of the year that all these flower-laden hats and cobwebby tropical fabrics are prepared. But far from being envious of them, one should be most grateful, for do they not give us hints months in advance of what will be worn next summer?

True, it is only, as a little actress used to sing, "an inkling, inkling, inkling." Time is the only sure arbiter of what will eventually prove "the thing" in the important matter of clothes. But for those who keep their eyes fairly wide open now is the time for them to gather much information which will prove useful later on. It may even afford them a chance to make use of the dearly loved "There! I told you so!"

If you are "picking up" dress lengths to be made up for spring and summer wear, I am sure you are quite bewildered by the beauty of the patterns of the new materials. In volles, in loosely woven canvas, in muslins and in silks the stuffs with borders are without number and in such charming designs and richness of coloring that even the most critical must be silenced.

They are distinctly the novelty of the season so far, and suggest all manner of delightful possibilities in their making up. The borders are in nearly all cases wide, and on muslins they are sometimes printed, but on all heavier materials are woven. Greek key patterns in contrasting color and rich oriental designs are found on volles and silks. Muslins bear the daintiest wide borders of flower wreaths and garlands, and satin stripes woven in. Chiffon cloths have perhaps the most

striking decorations of satin stripes and woven satin designs.

Dressmakers will have many opportunities to display their ingenuity in using these border effects. Of course, the plaited skirt with the border at the bottom is an obvious arrangement. But in overskirts, of which we will see many later on, there will be more scope for original ideas.

Some very charming borders are found among the linens, which this year are to the front with various brand-new weaves. The several toned stripes, which, by the way, promises to be sadly common, is seen in linens intended for tailored gowns. And a new weave closely imitating rajah silk comes in attractive plain colors—lavenders, pinks and blues.

Coats and skirts of linens are as popular as ever at Florida resorts, and there seems no falling off in the smart wearing of the jumper frock. So one may conclude that it will be with us through another summer. And what woman will not rejoice? The jumper dress solves so many problems. It is the happy medium between the too informal white waist and the stiffness of an all linen or silk frock, and it has proved itself suitable for many occasions.

In the illustration are shown three little jumper frocks whose wearers have been for some time disporting themselves under southern skies. They illustrate very well the points in which this year's jumper dresses differ from those worn last summer, although to be quite frank, the jumper frock of 1908 bears a strong resemblance to that of 1907.

The skirts again escape the ground and are side-pleated. They very often have for trimming bias bands of the same material put on at some distance from the skirt hem. The waists are made with square, round or V-shaped openings for the gumpes, although the opening down low, to give a good view of the jabot adorning the front of the gumpes, promises to be popular.

Sleeves of the material of the rest of the dress, showing a line of white embroidery or lace ruffling where they end below the elbows, will be more often used than the white gumpes sleeves. Soutache braiding on linen will be in good style, although embroidery discreetly applied and Cluny and Irish crochet lace will also be seen. Jumper dresses of the semi-princess model will be much liked.

Such a gown is pictured in the sketch, lettered "D," and would be particularly becoming to the woman of too few inches, for the long, unbroken line from gumpes to skirt hem gives height. Made of lilac colored linen, it has a plaited skirt, finished only with a stitched hem. The front of the waist is really made in one with the front panel of the skirt, for above the waist line it widens out and buttons up into the rest of the waist with six buttons, three on either side—a quite novel arrangement. The narrow stitched belt, which runs around the waist at the back buttons onto the panel front at either side.

The sleeves are simple and not over large, ending in a plain band cuff. There is a little delicate embroidery on the

Louis XVI Coats of Cretonne and Separate Coats of Marine Blue Serge Are Worn With Skirts of Rajah Silk



D—A Semi-Princess Model of Original Lines in Lilac Linen.



E—Blue Serge Cutaway Coats Will Be Worn With Linen Dresses on Chilly Summer Mornings.



A—Coats Made of Cretonne Are Smart and Picturesque and Will Be One of the Fads of the Coming Summer.
B—Jumper Dress of Yellow Linen Finely Braided With White Soutache.
C—This Dress of Green and White Striped Linen Has the Low V-Shaped Opening.

front of the waist and the linen-covered buttons are embroidered in white. The jabot is of Irish lace, mounted on fine manner of extravagance that fair women is not backward in taking advantage of her opportunities in this line. The finest hand embroidery, alternating with real baby Irish insertion, most delicate of Cluny—real, of course—and Valenciennes of design and soft ivory color most delicious—no lace is thought too fine, no hand embroidery considered too elaborate to put upon these gumpes. The dress itself may be simplicity personified, but the gumpes of this lilac frock was really modest—it was on simple hand embroidery done on fine linen.

Fine white soutache braiding, on pale yellow linen, distinguishes the dress in the sketch lettered B. It has the suggestion of the kimono sleeve, which will this year be again seen, with modifications. The skirt is plaited and has a band of braiding above the hem. The third linen jumper frock is of fine green and white stripes, trimmed with bias bands and buttons covered with embroidered linen, large and small. This shows the opening to the waist gill buttons or with cretonne-covered buttons are seen on many of the new tailored linen suits.

two bias bands, is attached to the waist under a belt of linen. In the sketch marked A the cretonne coat is illustrated. In this case it is made on a Louis modal, with jabot waistcoat and ruffled sleeves, but this unusual fabric is also made up into tailor-made coats with good effects. Cretonne waistcoats, fastened with large gill buttons or with cretonne-covered buttons are seen on many of the new tailored linen suits.

HOW ABOUT OUR ARMY AND NAVY?—By Mrs. John A. Logan

TO QUIET observers, the practice recently adopted of attending European military and naval maneuvers and bringing to our army and naval organizations many of the methods and regulations used by other nations is rather puzzling. Our army and navy are organized on an entirely different basis, the personnel of officers and men are altogether of a different character, and it is difficult to understand the application of foreign principles. As a matter of fact, our entire forces on land and sea are volunteers for the defense of a nation of freemen, while foreign armies and navies are made up of subjects who are obliged to give so many years of their lives to the support of the crown. The pay of American soldiers and sailors is far better than that of either the officers or men of both branches of any other country on the globe, and it is possible there will soon be an increase in the pay of all who wear American uniforms. American inventions have been quite as fruitful in furnishing improvements in munitions of war as any other nation. If we had confined ourselves to the adoption of our American inventions, we would probably be quite as advanced as we are by using foreign ones. Our military and naval schools have turned out as able officers as have any other in the world. The enlisted men

are intelligent and educated, officers and men understand each other perfectly and are inspired by the same national pride and patriotism. It is natural that they should rebel against the introduction of methods that have their origin with and are to conserve the interests of monarchical rulers. The American victories of the past have been won by purely American tactics and skill. The great armies that fought the sanguinary battles of the civil war maneuvered by the product of American genius. It is but logical to assume that the American army and navy, organized on the borrowed principles of foreign governments and equipped with the most complete armaments of warfare will never achieve greater victories or be more invincible. Well-organized as our army and navy are, there will assuredly be new legislation, fixing the duties of officers of every rank in the army and navy. Many think that there will also be legislation restoring the old method of promotion by seniority to establish something of the esprit de corps of both army and navy that has had severe shocks in late years. Officers are beginning to feel that merit and long service count for but little against favoritism; that years of effort to attain promotion through devotion to duty and exemplary conduct may count for naught, if it please those in authority to bestow the coveted

promotion on a younger or less experienced person. We have been steadily departing from successful methods of the past, and we may yet return to them more rapidly than we left them. Expensive experiments may prove the expediency of some hasty movements. The wisdom of the men who have had to do with public affairs since the foundation of the government, and the principles of the founders of the republic has borne a rich harvest for the American people. It remains to be seen what new systems and experiments may do in the future. It is not to be expected that a great nation will go on forever in the narrow channel of traditions, but it is important that the changes shall be made after grave deliberation of the people's representatives, from whom the executive receives power to act. One grand quality of American character is the promptness with which we can retrace our steps if we find we are on the wrong road to success. GIVE YOUR RAZOR REST. Try Sharpening It After, Not Before, Your Shave. From the New York Sun. A man who was showing his new set of ivory-handled razors to some friends the other day explained to them the shaving system which he has perfected for his own use. "I'm an old dog, and I learn few new tricks," said he. "Using a safety razor is one of the many modern accomplishments which I cannot boast. I stick to the old-fashioned implement and have accumulated some fine specimens. These ivory-handled ones I bought in England, and as I regard them as the choicest ones, I have I use them only on Sundays and holidays. No. 1," he pointed to a mark on one handle, "I use on the second and fourth Sunday and on holidays. No. 2 I use on the first, third and fifth Sunday. That gives them about the same amount of use and allows them the rest which they need. I always give my razors rest. "It isn't the act of shaving which is so hard on them. It is the sharpening. Especially as the average man's method of stropping is positively brutal. The treatment of a defenseless and delicate victim. "Even the most careful sharpening leaves a razor blade in a very susceptible and precarious condition. For that reason never sharpen my razor just before I shave. On the contrary I sharpen it when I have finished. Then put it carefully in its case and it has a chance to rest and to retain its temper before I use it. "You strop a razor vigorously and the friction produces heat in the blade. This very materially affects the exceedingly thin edge, so that the crystallization breaks down when you begin to shave. Let your blade cool off, become set and cold, and you will find your morning shave a much easier and calmer performance."