

# What Well Dressed Women Will Wear

By Anne Rittenhouse



## Designers Of Dress Heed Times

PARIS is never handicapped in creating fashions by the action of other designers. That is why she is powerful. America has always suffered under this handicap because she has followed Paris. She has never been inclined to risk the exploitation of fabric, fashions and colorings that were not sponsored by the mother country. She has been a willing slave, but a most expert, intelligent slave. In her very following of Paris was the extraordinary inclination of a whole continent toward good and fashionable dressing.

It is said of us that we acknowledge the best in every nation and bring it to our shores. For our own sakes, we have been whipped with scorn and lashed with ridicule, but it seems an exceedingly good process of cultivation for a young nation like this. We know the best in every department of art, science and literature. If we are compelled to put our knowledge to practical use, we are at least have the best to go on. We are not ignorant.

The time has come for this experiment, as we all know, and the observer thinks that a few medals of honor should be distributed to those who have won the top in designing clothes in this country. It took great commercial courage, and it required a sound knowledge of the American public.

Here are two anecdotes which accentuate the point. They happened a dozen years apart. Mrs. Paquin saw several bolts of checked silk in a manufacturer's hands. Neither the weave, the coloring, or the design was in fashion, to quote her own phrase. The manufacturer complained that he had no call for this quantity of material and that he would sell it for about a franc and a half a yard. Mrs. Paquin took it all, went to her atelier on Rue de la Paix, turned the cheap check silk into an alluring frock of her own design, and then wore it at Trouville-by-the-sea. She made the frock, the design, the color and the fabric fashionable. Everyone wanted to wear what she wore. She sold every inch of material at a price that brought her unmeasured profit on the transaction.

Last month an American designer was looking over the stock of a lace importer. "Nothing new," said the importer. "Here I am held up with about 50 Spanish lace scarves which I bought at a venture, thinking I could distribute them in the trade in America, but no one took them. The one answer is that they are not in fashion."

The designer said that if the importer would give him one, he would turn it into a gown that would sell all the other scarves on condition that he received a commission on their sale. The bargain was closed. The gown was designed. It sold immediately. It was copied so fast that the other 49 scarves melted away like flakes of snow in hot water. Spanish lace was offered as a first fashion.

That is a good example of the change that has come over the American merchant and the American designer. We no longer have to wait for the fashion, but are probably enabled to make the fashion for our own continent. Another departure from the fashion as laid down by Paris this year, is the wearing of black. This is not mourning, but for street, luncheons, dinners and the theatre. It is really not a good fashion, and those who cry for the morals of a nation, which merely means the upkeep of its optimism in the highest form, would prefer to see this season of gray colors. There will probably be enough mourning in the land and the millions of soldiers do not wish to see all the women garbed in black. It does not make them look upon life with more joy.

Above—The Belgian soldiers started the fashion tasseled caps. This bit of head covering is made of thin black velvet with a soft crown. There is a rosette with tassels of chenille hanging at the side. Below—The frock on the left, reviving the minaret of Paul Poiret, is made from strands of glittering jet and the outswinging tunic is handed with blue velvet ribbon. The narrow skirt is made of chiffon with loops of jet at the hem. On the right a Spanish lace scarf is turned into a dinner gown. This is a narrow black satin skirt with wide box pleated back and the surplice bodice and apron front arranged by one scarf of black silk Spanish lace mounted over thin cloth of silver.

and will lose more battles of every kind than any other single cause. Mind power, thinks General Foch, can snatch victory out of the arms of defeat as well as the coming of unexpected reinforcements. He said during a battle that no man need ever be tired at the front if he manages his mind right. One of his great maxims is "Resist the irresistible," and another favorite maxim during his long life in the thick of things was "Victory is a thing of the will."

It is quite probable that Foch will go down into history as a maker of epigrams, for the wise student of this man and his tactics is garnering up his brief and vivid sayings. It would be well for us in America to not only let him direct our soldiers, as he is doing, but to let him direct our mind, our temperament and our outlook on the war.

There is no getting beyond the sentence that "victory is a thing of the will." It is this psychology of the general, which should work upon, and the constant clearing of the black does not help toward a more brilliant expression of the will and the spirit. Therefore, if we must wear black, let us wear it as we are not in mourning, let us have them as gray as possible.

In one of the most glittering examples, built for the stage, the minaret of Paul Poiret's invention has been revived in a slightly modified form. It is built of velvet ribbon and clashing strands of jet. It is easy to realize that taffeta has come into its first summer fashion, although the popular mind does not regard it as one of the lovely weaves of the world, because it is plentiful. There is no trouble about getting all the taffeta one wants, and it is best that we model our wardrobes for the near future on the materials that can be bought in this country in sufficient quantity to correspond to our needs. The conversion of non-essential into war resources is going on merrily and wisely. It takes thought of the individual in the business world, is ardent in his belief that the individual will not suffer. People will not be turned out of work in mass because government plants will be given all the work.

be carried out if we are to live, is that everyone be kept at work in the peculiar field of labor in which he is skilled, and there is enough to be done for the government in every form of labor to keep each individual at the task for which he is educated and in which he can make his wage. Even though the individual is cared for in the practice of the conversion of non-essentials to war work—and we must admit that this is the great and important thing—there is no doubt that the process will leave us high and dry as far as variety of resources is concerned.

There will be no encouragement to experiment in materials, fashions or colors from now on. We must wear what we can get in quantity, for commerce will not be allowed to take up the labor of skilled men for such experiments.

There is no thought of economizing in our purchases of clothes; the extent of destroying the ability of the skilled person to earn a living wage, but there is a demand, and there soon will be a necessity, for us to conserve our caprice. We must wear clothes in materials and colors easily produced in this country, and through this means will come the standardization of fashions.

This does not mean that we will dress alike; it means that we may dress with more variety than ever before. But we can't say that we don't like taffeta and that we want something newer. We must take what is there if there is plenty of it, and then make the best of it.

Much can be done with this material that will result in a gown out of the ordinary and conspicuous for charm and cleverness. If you could have seen a woman who came into a restaurant for dinner wearing a certain black taffeta gown, you would have been convinced in the twinkling of an eye, that the fabric matters nothing if the designer has cleverness.

The skirt was made of narrow ruffles that extended from waist to ankles, each ruffle edged with a white silk cord. The hem was excessively narrow. The foundation for these ruffles fitted the figure like a sheath. There was a bodice, straight and simple, and the major part of it was a yoke with short sleeves which were braided with white cord in a fantastic design. At the side of the waist was a deep pink satin rose with green velvet leaves. The slippers and stockings were aforesaid. There was nothing demure about this black taffeta gown.

The new and great idea which must



Here is shown one of the new black taffeta gowns that is far from commonplace. The skirt is a series of small ruffles edged with white silk cord and cut in peg-top fashion.

gown that was the product of a clever designer, and it surely turned our ideas about suits topsy turvy. The coat was split up the back as well as the front. It was worn over a long tulle blouse, the kind that gains in importance every day. The blouse was made of a richly embroidered tulle cut in blue, black and dashes of dull red. It did not cling tightly to the figure, but outlined it more than usual. Over it hung the loose blue serge coat, opening in a deep V in the middle of the front and the back. It was closed at the neckline and had a collar of the material and the skirt was exceedingly narrow and short.

By the way, it is wise for any woman who orders a new suit today to see that the skirt has a sizable hem, for the new order to the shoemakers, given by the government, which demands low shoes for the duration of the war, may change the skirt length.

I doubt it. The length may be changed but it will not be because of the low shoes, for garters, which are made of fabric, may be as high as desired, and women prefer them to high boots.

We may also adopt the French fashion of wearing serviceable Oxford ties with straight heels and rounded toes. The bootmakers say they have more orders for them than ever. With such shoes, the average woman does not care whether her skirt is eight or ten inches from the ground, unless she is given to suffering from exposed ankles.

### Irvin Cobb Popular Writer for British

All Americans in England have been struck by the currency there, as evidenced on the booksellers' shelves, of the works of Mark Twain, and have been impressed by what, presumably is the great esteem in which he is held in England. There is then particular point in the recent declaration from London that "Irvin Cobb is Mark Twain's logical successor." And Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton announce that "in response to many requests they will publish shortly some of the works of Irvin S. Cobb, the great American novelist and humorist, who has just come from the states on an important mission."

### Dr. Holt's Book in Musical Comedy

The fame of Dr. L. Emmett Holt and his little book, "The Care and Feeding of Children" has penetrated to the musical comedy stage. In the spring success, "Rock-a-Bye Baby," a song "According to Dr. Holt" is one of the hits of the evening. Every man and woman in the audience knows what the ballad is about, right away.

# Pat O'Brien Writes of His Experiences

### "OUTWITTING THE HUN."

Published by Harper & Brothers, is the title of Lieutenant Pat O'Brien's book which tells the absorbing story of his marvelous escape from Germany. It is one of the impossible fairy tales of this war which has happened daily. Through all the pages we feel the sprit of fearless youth (Lieutenant O'Brien is in his early twenties) "rejoicing as a strong man in his game with danger." It was a year ago, in March, 1917, that Pat O'Brien an American citizen in the British Flying Corps, after training in Canada, sailed for England. In August he was a full-fledged pilot engaged daily in aerial scouting at the front. On the seventeenth of that month he was taken prisoner by the Germans, and the day before Christmas he arrived, a free man, freed by his intrepidity, in Louvain. In those five months he went through enough to satisfy the most greedy seeker of excitement. Even into that one day, the seventeenth, was crowded a dramatic drama of sensations. "I killed two Huns in a double-seated machine in the morning," he says in "Outwitting the Hun," "another in the evening, and freed by his intrepidity, in Louvain. I have spent more eventful days in my life, but I can't recall them."

## IN THE NEW MAGAZINES

### The August American

The August American Magazine leads off with "The Story of the Yankee Kid," which is an account of the exploits of Harvey Johnson, a 14-year-old Kentucky boy who has fought in the trenches of Europe. "Seven Good Things Coming Out of the War" is by Dr. Frank Crane, the famous editorial writer. Charles Edison, son of Thomas A. Edison, has written an article called "My Experience Working for Father," in which he tells some new stories of Thomas A. Edison. Baroness Huard is the author of a new article called "How Would You Like These Germans in Your House?" Booth Tarkington has written a splendid article called "Using the Kaiser." Fred Kelly tells us about the "Kinds of People in Money Matters," and Dr. Rose says, "You Don't Naturally Get Fat as You Grow Older."

### August Cosmopolitan

Miss Mary Carolyn Davies, talented daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Davies of 743 Greenwood avenue, Portland, whose rise in the field of letters has been rapid since her graduation from Washington high school in 1910, has a poem, "God, Be Good to Her," featured in the August Cosmopolitan. The theme of the short bit of verse is a soldier's plea for his mother and the poem, which with its attractive decoration, occupies two pages, is illustrated by W. T. Benda.

### Sunset for July

The natural Mexican distrust of the United States is being cultivated by every device of practiced German intrigue. Through the corrupted Mexican press our neighbors to the south are being systematically misinformed about American intentions and conditions. An account of this insidious propaganda appears in the July issue of Sunset magazine. An American who has spent years in Mexico goes to the root of this important problem.

### July Popular Mechanics

A variety of timely topics is to be found in the July Popular Mechanics magazine. The articles, 296 in number, are made interesting and easy to understand by 381 illustrations. The amount of importance of ship tonnage at present gives increased value to any protective device. A unique apparatus to save occasional leaks from a sinking vessel being torpedoes, has aroused interest because of the performance shown by models in recent demonstrations.

### Book Plate Exhibit

The art room at the Central library is forming a collection of interesting book-plates. The exhibit is on the second floor rotunda at the library and Miss Isom will be glad to receive duplicates of others not in the collection. There must be many desirable book-plates belonging to Portland people that have not found their way into the library collection. May we beg two copies of your book-plate to add to the art room collection.

### Summer Fashion Thoughts

ANY sort of embellished shoulder scarf is an accessible accessory to our dress these days. Glass fringe is one of the newer touches to add charm to scarves of colored tulle and net.

Gray and black are a smart combination, in cloth and satin, or in silk and serge. Some touch of color, of course, is needed to emphasize this combination and give it a bit of dash. Oriental embroidery, in silk or beads, is a touch used sometimes by the discriminating dressmaker.

Fine pin tucks are a noticeable feature of some of the cloth coats that are a part of two-piece suits of fine fabric.

Soft sport hats of ribbon in all the becoming shades of blue, rose, green and yellow are worn at beach and country summer places.

A very effective hat worn recently by a well dressed young woman was made of navy blue Georgette crepe, was attached to a network of deep purple fringe. The junctures of the different strands of fringe were emphasized with a small, dull brown wooden bead.

Lace is still much used in fine lingerie and in these days it is covered with charming effects. It wears well, too, and in these days when we try to buy with wisdom, we think a bit about the durability of our lingerie.

Some of the new all-enveloping capes of silk jersey are lined with silk in vivid contrasting colors. Curis is used for instance, in cape of black-lit color.



A striking picture by E. Rosset-Granger, which is one of the gems of the first "Salon" of the war, which is Paris' reply to the jeers of the Huns who fancy they have thrown the French capital into a panic.

## Swinnerton's Latest Novel

IT IS, of course, notorious that many of England's finest writers received their first recognition and for long their only substantial support, in the United States. Meredith and Browning are perhaps the names that most readily come to mind as those of English writers whose work has been recognized in this singular phenomenon. And today the writers in England who cultivate the most distinguished literary art are not better known, if they are even as popular, at home, as they are in America. That is, with one exception. And that is the curious case of Frank Swinnerton, a writer whose talent is hailed by his local colleagues as among the very first and finest of our day; and who so far, mysteriously enough, has had but a very indifferent success over here. This has been a pity, but it is a situation which, happily, is not likely much longer to endure.

With the publication of "Nocturne" (George H. Doran company), Swinnerton is presented in a book which cannot possibly escape widespread attention. This novel marks the summit of the author's art so far. It is in itself a source of exquisite delight to any mind remotely claiming intelligence. And as an earnest of things to come, it has a value well-nigh sensational to those who in any way occupy at heart the progress of the art of fiction.

The simplicity of the conception of "Nocturne" is most arresting, and its achievement as a work of art is the more startling in that the author has forced himself to work within extremely difficult limitations. There are in the story only half a dozen characters, and the entire action occupies little more than the story takes to read. The events described, to be exact, occur in the space of a single night from 6 p. m. till the next morning. Five or six characters, men and women, each play a definite part in a story which moves with dash and spirit, and which is a character study of a brilliance difficult to match within the whole range of modern fiction.

## Writer Gives Trapper's Tale Of Sacajawea

SACAJAWEA (Bird Woman) to whose memory stands a statue in Portland city park, is remembered as the brave and resourceful Indian woman who guided Lewis and Clark across the Rocky mountains and through to the Pacific coast. James Willard Schultz, author of a half dozen excellent Indian stories, has written in "Bird Woman" the story of Sacajawea, as he had it from an old trapper and an Indian woman, both of whom had her story from Sacajawea's own lips.

"Mr. Schultz relates how in the early seventies he himself went from New York to Fort Benton, Mont., where he met Joseph Kipp, the most noted Indian trader of the Northwest, and his mother a full-blooded Mandan Indian woman. It was from them that he secured the narrative that he presents in his latest book. The method of telling is conversational, even colloquial; but in the appendix are quoted passages from the official journals of the Lewis and Clark expedition which substantiate the facts which Mr. Schultz has dressed up in semi-fiction form. This is the final tribute of the explorers to this dauntless young woman: "She has born with a patience truly admirable the fatigues of so long a route, encumbered with the charge of an infant, who is even now only 19 months old. We therefore paid Charbonneau (Sacajawea's husband) his wages, amounting to \$500.00 including the price of a horse and lodge purchased of him. Reasonable rates for the services of two guides for a year and a half!"

## N. Y. Critic Declares Rebecca West Genius

Rebecca West, Englishwoman whose articles in the New Republic and recent novel, "The Return of the Soldier," have attracted much appreciative attention in this country, in a symposium in the New York Sun on the most significant book of the year, awarded that glowing praise to Mary Webb's "Gone to Earth," published in the United States by E. P. Dutton & Co.

"The year's discovery," she says, "has been the novel of Rebecca West, 'Gone to Earth.' She is a genius, and I shouldn't mind wagering that she is going to be the most distinguished writer of our generation." An atmosphere of mystery, at least in the country, envelops the personality of Rebecca West. The only things that are known about her are that Rebecca West is not her real name, although it is the name under which she receives her mail, and that she is one of several sisters and that her sympathies are passionately with the working people.

## Raise Rabbits and Own Your Home

Oakland, Cal., July 20.—(I. N. S.)—The Oakland real estate board has recently completed an investigation in which it was discovered that any housewife can buy a home with the revenue derived from raising rabbits in the back yard for stock and market purposes.

To prove that it is possible they have hired a rabbit specialist and will furnish expert advice to any one wishing to buy a bungalow on such terms. A pamphlet has been issued giving the details and plans for a miniature farm that would give the best results.

### Hair Under Arms DeMiracle

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## Second Printing Order Is Planned

"Keeping Our Fighters Fit—For War and After," by Edward Frank Allen, for which President Wilson has written a special preface, has gone into a second printing less than a month after publication.