

Garden Party Dresses

by Lady Duff Gordon



What Can be
Done With
Marquisette
Over a
Lace Slip.

Another
Organdie
Creation,
With
Skirt
in the
Harem
Fashion.

Light Weight
Organdie, with Fichu and
and Cuffs of Batiste Embroidery.

By Lady Duff-Gordon ("Lucile")

WITH June roses come June weddings. With June days come garden parties.

Those delightful out-of-door fetes are among the pleasantest gayeties of the Summer. But the pleasure is less if the memories of them carry recollections that we were not becomingly dressed. The consciousness of being unsuitably gowned has often marred the pleasure of an otherwise perfect occasion.

Since those who participate in a garden party do so under the searching light of the early Summer sun, it behooves everyone to see that her costume is as fresh as the rose leaves themselves. It is possible to wear a slightly crushed dinner gown or a not quite spotless dancing frock without general detection of the blemishes. But the radiant eye of the June sun is an all-seeing one. The gown must be immaculate. It must be able to defy an X-ray itself.

In colors there is a wide variety. Personally I prefer light colored gowns that rival the flowers in the variety of their hues, or white, as pure as the lilies themselves. Nevertheless, I do not stand rigidly against an overwhelming trend of taste. At present there is an inclination to dark colors for garden fetes. Black itself is now and then seen beneath the rays of the June sun on lawn or veranda.

The large right-hand figure shows a garden party gown in its most recent form. It is made of organdie embroidered in gold. Brocade in contrasting colors is introduced in the girle and at the low-cut neck. The three-quarter length sleeves are full and are trimmed with interlacing rows of gold threads. The skirt, as you see, is gathered at the ankles in harem fashion. The hat is leghorn. The trimming consists of patent leather ribbon and black lacquered leaves and grapes. The grapes extend through slits in the brim and hang in long clusters over the ears.

The large left-hand figure is the model of an organdie of the lightest weight. Horizontal tucks at wide intervals break the monotony of what would otherwise be a severely plain skirt. A quaint fichu is of finest batiste embroidery. Pointed cuffs are of the same material. Both are finished with an edge of Valenciennes lace. The soft, narrow sash is of organdie of a contrasting shade. The hat is of dotted swiss, finished by an edge of taffeta ribbon. The crown is surrounded by a wreath of variegated flowers.

The small middle figure shows us the possibilities of marquisette over a lace slip and trimmed with bands of rosettes of satin. The hat is of leather, embroidered with raffia in a variety of colors.