

Transparency Dresses

by Lady Duff Gordon



Net With a Conventional Lace Design Forms This Dress.



Transparency Gown of Net Lavishly Trimmed With Metallic Embroidery and Pleated Ruffles of Shot Taffeta Ribbon.

By Lady Duff-Gordon ("Lucile")

YOU have heard of transparencies. In the usual sense the word means pictures painted on a material through which the light shines. When I offer today for your inspection, and perhaps for your adaptation, a group of transparency dresses I am borrowing that term. The gowns are picture-like, you will agree. The light shines through some of the materials used in the clothes structures.

The large middle figure is the reproduction of an excellent photograph of a transparency cloak. This transparent wrap is worn over a garden-party dress depicted by the small upper right-hand figure. The wrap is fashioned of that fabric at once diaphanous and useful—net. The net is closely embroidered, with metal lace applied and fastened by metal cord. It is built on the lines of grandmamma's frock, with a low belt line and a flaring skirt. A wide ribbon of shot taffeta is draped over the shoulders, and hangs in graceful streamers to

the hem of the cloak. The shot taffeta ribbon is also used as a border of the huge, long sleeves. Narrow pleated ruffles of taffeta are grouped in undulating horizontal lines about the skirt, and sleeves of the coat.

A dress of charming simplicity is the garden party one worn by the small lower right-hand figure. Organdie is employed for the gown. A wide, plain slip of the organdie in solid color is the first garment, or the cornerstone, so to speak, of the costume. The superstructure, as it may be termed, is composed of a bib and apron effect of cut-out embroidered net, bound at the edges with a wide band of muslin of a contrasting color.

The gown is simply finished at the neck with the chemise accessory of a narrow ribbon drawn about and tied at the neck. The cut-out net embroidery is used for the sleeves. A patent leather belt, wide and crushed, adds smartness to the ensemble. The hat is of a drooping shape of rough straw trimmed with a wide pat-

tern leather ribbon, the long ends of which fall below the wearer's waist at the side. Note that the gown bears out its title, for it is semi-transparent below the knees, where a lace petticoat reveals itself bewitchingly, and above the bust line.

The small upper right-hand figure displays the beauty into which yards of taffeta may be wrought. Again we see the low belt line and the generous flare of a dress of our dear and not forgotten grandmamma. We see also the full, graduated ruffles arranged about the

waist and skirt in undulating lines. These ruffles of shot taffeta are edged with metallic lace. Thread lace appears in the vestee around the neck line of the surplice waist and at the sleeves. A flat cluster of metallic flowers finishes the end of the diagonal line of the surplice at the waist. A design of metallic thread in varied colors follows the outline of the ruffles directly above each group on the skirt.

The hat worn with this costume is of taffeta, trimmed with hand-made silk

flowers and masked with a throw-over of maline.

The left-hand figure serves to show another transparency dress, this, like the others, for a garden party. The slip is of satin. Over it is worn a simply draped net, having lines of lace in conventional pattern. A huge, draped girde and a band about the hips are of taffeta. A ruche of pleated net finishes the low-cut V neck and shoulders. The wide-brimmed, drooping hat is surrounded with a chaplet of field flowers.



This Gown Shows the Quaint Beauty Into Which Taffeta Can Be Wrought.



Organdie is the Material of This Gown, Cut-Out Embroidery the Trimming.