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FASHIONS PHASES.

Physical Culture Take Prominent Part in Object of Fashions—Smart Little Jackets Will be Worn—Collars Lower This Year.

New York, Sept. 22.—One of the principal subjects of discussion at the American Dressmakers' Association which closed its session here a few days ago was that of corsets; therefore the perfect form will be the objective point toward which the energies of American modistes will be directed during the coming season.

And indeed physical culture has done so much toward the attainment of this aim that the difficulty will be appreciably lessened. What the physical culture fails to do, however, it is intended that the corset shall make up. The latest vogue from corset land is a delightful affair which is calculated to keep up the diaphragm, without restricting it, force the stomach in and increase the hips. The result of such a corset is not only a perfect fit, but an exceedingly chic exterior effect and as one of the members of the association put it, you are as happy on the inside as on the outside.

Appropos the gowns which are to adorn these perfect figures, it may be said that many will be developed in velvet. But the regulation silk velvet will be replaced during the fall and winter by the richer and more pliable panne.

Popular inlets toward the lustrous fabrics and even cloths which are listed among the smart materials are most highly finished. There are rough-surfaced materials, of course, but these are more for general use and even they are stitched plentifully with bands of smooth-faced goods.

The spotted panes distinguished as leopard effects are smart and extremely pretty. The colorings too, are rich and though it is seldom that more than two tones are seen in one gown and the trimmings correspond with the figures scattered over the usually lighter shade background.

For instance a frock of ecru tan with a slightly reddish tint is spotted with autumn leaf brown figures. The skirt is built with medium-sized plaits at the back and there are inverted plaits at each side of the front.

The vest of the jacket is composed of exquisite cream lace striped with panne and the jacket bears the inverted plaits at both the front and back.

The popular postillion effect is shown in the sleeve, which is held above the wrist by two large military buttons.

Completing the costume is a flat spreading picture hat of ecru panne velvet with a crown of autumn leaves finished at the back with a rosette of liberty satin ribbon.

Of course, the cost of such a gown makes it impossible for the woman whose dress allowance is limited to a few dollars for an entire season's supply, but there are much less expensive fabrics duplicating the same effect which may be made up very artistically if one has the patience to execute the various little details shown in the original design.

After all there is not so much elaboration upon the new season's gown as there is detail. It is the small things that count in time as well as cost, but they really constitute the success of a gown and must be added if one would be strictly a la mode.

Present indications lead to the belief that this autumn will be an exceptionally mild one and for that reason it will be late before wraps are donned. However, many smart little jackets will be worn and brown, black, dull green, purple-blue and red will be much in vogue. One delightful little basque-jacket carried out in Duchess of Marlborough green—a soft dark tone affected by our little American Duchess during her recent visit here—boasts a very full blouse which opens over a vest of hand-painted lace. Black silk frogs are set on either side of the vest on the material and form a drapery of silk cords across the front.

Painted lace is one of the extravagancies of the season, but it will be worn more than is generally imagined because there are so many women of artistic talent who can design these patterns for themselves with little expense. Embroidered laces are also de rigueur, but only the expensive varieties are treated to this form of decoration.

Women who feel that they cannot afford the luxurious velvet gown may be consoled by using the fabric as a trimming. A pretty way in which it may be used is shown in a rich petunia cloth, the skirt being trimmed just below the knees with three tucks of velvet to correspond, set on loosely and not stitched down. At the front the tucks are very narrow, but graduate wider behind, while on the hips is a simulated rounded basque of the same trimming.

The bodice is pouched over a narrow waist band and has a small rolled collar and cuffs of the velvet.

The greatest variety is shown in sleeves, but the voluminous effect below the elbow is apparent in all. This effect, however, is invariably graceful. Tucks, appliques and various little deceptions employed to dispose of any fullness are placed at the top of the sleeve and between the elbow and the wrist there is simply a substantial expanse of the dress material which envelopes an under-cuff of some diaphanous fabric.

The short-necked sisterhood will

rejoice in the fact that collars are all lower than worn for the past few years and are finished off with narrow lace, for such a garniture always lends to the toilette a dainty air. After all there is no real beauty in the "three story and basement" collar as one cynical man described one of the summer chokers. It certainly robs the neck of grace and gives one a strained, uneasy appearance.

Glaze taffeta will shape popular favor with velvet until late in the season. It is almost always lace trimmed and generally made into a smart box-plaited coat. This coat is cut with fronts and backs only and shaped and fitted by means of under-arm and shoulder seams. The skirt is laid in tiny tucks or it may be plaited all around the figure. Under the coat a fancy waist is worn and the coat is finished with a deep cream collar of renaissance of duchesse braid.

The fashionable hat of autumn will not be worn far from the face, yet it will not droop over the eyes. The forehead will be covered and the flare will be accomplished from the sides, showing much of the coiffeur.

Gloves for street wear will be short and protection for the wrists will be provided for in the long sleeves. At the most the fashionable glove will not show more than two buttons, and many have only one. Colored kids are favorable for street wear, but for dressier occasions Dame Fashion demands the suede, English red, goblin blue, green, russet and Damson are the popular shades.

The daintiest cravat of the moment is the shape adde or avocet, but this coils easily as it is always carried out in white. Of far better service are the foulard scarps, for these wear well, come in fashionable colorings and are so pliable that they may be arranged into any of the prevailing modes.

There is no taste, scarcely, that has not been appealed to in the design of autumn modes and though the same consideration has not been shown for the purse, there are enough fashions for all to be effectively gowned.

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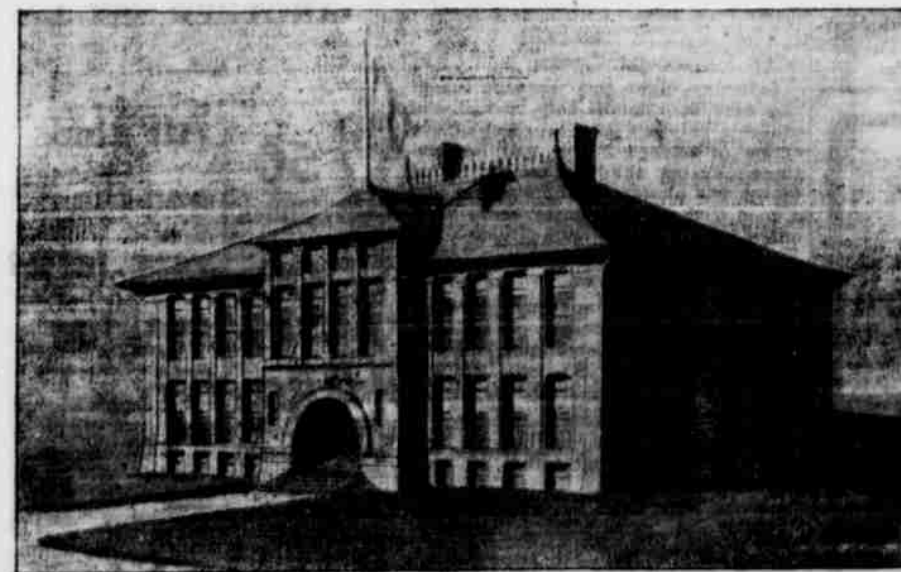
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