

FASHIONS PHASES.

Close-fitting Skirts in French Diagonal
—Squirrel and Mole Skin Coats the
Furore of Hour — Black Bordered
White Felt Hats Affected by Smart
Set—Kimona Coats Also Indispens-
ible—Large Silver Buckles Very
Popular.

New York, Oct. 20.—The Woman's
Exhibition which has been heralded
from one end of the land to the other
and will close tonight with great
pompe and ceremony will go down in
history with another record beside
that of showing the wonderful pro-
gress woman has made in the various
lines of art, science and industry. It
will be remembered as an affair at
which some of the most gorgeous
gowns ever designed were worn.

In short society has not waited this
year for the Horse Show before com-
ing out in the glory of its fall cos-
tumes, but instead has taken advan-
tage of the Woman's Exposition for
this parade of fashion.

Although there were many mixtures
employed in designing most of the
tailor gowns worn ultra-smart tastes
were evidenced by several French
diagonals and kid-finished cloths, both
of which are obtainable in all possible
variations this autumn. In some
cases the stripes in the costumes de-
signed of diagonal were formed by
small but rather heavy colored stuffs,
while in others they were in two
colors on a soft, downy ground, on
which silky mohair threads added to
the effect in the form of short ten-
drills branching out from the diago-
nal lines.

Here is a smart frock carried out
in French diagonal: The skirt has
shallow box plaits and clears the
ground all around, without, however,
showing the feet. This is the very
newest length for a tailor made gown.
The skirt is fitted so closely and fagot
stitched so firmly over the hips and
below them that it adds no more to
the size of the figure than a plain or-
dinary skirt.

Of course it goes without saying
that such fitting and shaping require
an expert and in the hands of an in-
experienced tailor dressmaker, it is
safer to have the skirt joined to a
smoothly fitted hip yoke. This yoke,
coming well down over the hips, may
be thorn-stitched, strapped, or simply

machine-stitched to the skirt proper,
and the yoke may be pointed front
and back, or pointed in front and
rounded at the back to follow the dip-
line of the blouse or drooping jacket
bodice.

Hip yokes are constantly growing
in popularity. The latest addition to
this form of skirt trimming is a yoke
beginning on either side of a broad
graduated box plait which extends
from belt to hem in the center of the
skirt front. The yoke extends across
the hips and back, and the skirt is
plaited to it in side kilts that turn
away from the box plait.

To be sure there were silk gowns
to rival the cloth ones at the exhibi-
tion and these were the smartest cre-
ations that one can imagine. Indeed
many were smart solely because of
their sweet simplicity. Picture a tan
foulard plentifully sprinkled with pol-
ka dots of chocolate brown. Imagine
the skirt built upon a silken lining
and cut plainly, depending upon the
arrangement of its ruffles for the
scheme of decoration. The waist is
equally plain with frills of the silk
trimming. As a distinguishing fea-
ture imagine an enormous Alsatian
bow or white lisse at the back of the
collar, stretching so far across the
back at each side that it extends al-
most to the shoulders. If this cos-
tume, completed by a hat of sun-
brown felt with brown birds and black
velvet does not appeal to the most
fastidious taste, then there is some-
thing lacking—not in dress, but the
taste.

This season's furs are simply deli-
cious, to use a well-worn expres-
sion. But from what funny little ani-
mals they are stealing coats just now.
They caught somehow, however swift
the squirrel in its flight, or however
cautious the mole as it burrows in
the earth. Squirrel and mole-skin
coats are quite the furore of the hour
and they are trimmed with all varie-
ties of materials from sable and chin-
chilla to the incongruous chiffon and
lace combinations.

For a foundation for these coats
light green, fraise, turquoise blue and
mauve satin are used and the effect
is really stunning.

A bit of neckwear that is being re-
vived with considerable success is the
stock cravat. This is interpreted to
mean that the lace jabot and chemi-
sette have had their little day. Cer-
tainly the cravat gives an opportu-

nity for carrying out accessory color,
which it will doubtless do by means
of glace silk, foulard or patterned
ribbon effects. One of the smart so-
ciety girls at the Exposition who wore
a black-bordered white felt hat with
pale blue ribbon rosettes had on also
a pale blue stock cravat on the
white silk shirt waist her dark grey
diagonal revealed, and the whole was
very chic.

Another striking hat worn with a
black cloth costume was of the Di-
rectoire build and fashioned of black
panne, while its boldly-lifted front of
creamy white chiffon was stuck with
a lovely black and white cabochon,
holding a sternly upright black os-
prey.

The Kimona coats worn are won-
derfully effective and equally indis-
pensable to the ultra-smart wardrobe.
A dainty one is in black cloth trim-
med with Irish lace, which forms the
collar and broad epaulettes extending
from this far down on to the wide
sleeves, while it makes a bewitching
garniture down both sides of the gar-
ment in front.

It is no longer a difficult matter for
the woman in mourning to dress
fashionably and yet in unlimited vari-
ety, for for the past few seasons
Dame Fashion has made special ap-
peals to her tastes and circumstances.
This year, however, this effort on the
parts of the arbiters of fashion is
more pronounced than ever. New
weaves in crepe de chene and chiffon
are now specially creped for mourn-
ing gowns and are made up without
being lined. The foundation slip is of
light-weight taffeta in jet black. One
of the most beautiful of the textiles
for evening dress in "semi-mourning"
is fleur de suede, soft and pliable,
but with great strength of fibre. It
has all the grace of chiffon and lisse,
with the added firmness of light suede
kid.

The popularity of sash effects this
year makes a strong demand on the
buckle trade. All sorts of quaint and
novel slides, tiny clasps and hooks are
used at the back of the autumn bodi-
ces, holding each band, ribbon or
strap in place to form the pointed
girdle. When Empire sashes are worn,
as they often are, especially with
house gowns, large square-shaped
buckles of Norwegian silver are popu-
lar, some perfectly plain, but showing
a brilliant polish. These are called
harness buckles and they are quite

as expensive as the richly chased
styles, for the reason that they are
longer and made of solid silver.

In fact, though many substitutes
are affected by the woman of fash-
ionable pretensions whose income for-
bids the luxury of the genuine arti-
cle, a large majority of the metallic
ornaments worn this season are bona-
fide and those who invest in them find
them not so extravagant after all, for
they can always be impressed into
useful service.

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