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FASHION'S PHASES

MID-WINTER STYLES ARE RAPTUROUSLY BEAUTIFUL.

White Enters the New Year Without a Rival—Muff is as Big and as Flat as Possible.

New York, Dec. 22.—Midwinter fashions are at their height now and rapturously beautiful. The novelties introduced for Christmas and New Years will be the last of the season to be declared, for after the holidays the fashions for Easter and spring will absorb Dame Fashion's interest.

Indeed, a few very advance go-between styles have already arrived from abroad. These gowns are intended for use during the period elapsing between the discarding of winter clothes for those of spring, but are designed and executed with the same care that marks the modes of a full season.

It is safe to predict that white will increase in favor and enter the new year without a rival. It is really so chic. There is a particular member of the smart set who affects it almost exclusively and sometimes she affects a touch of soft brown which melts into the hazel of her beautiful eyes.

This combination is deliciously carried out in a beautiful princess gown of white crepe de chine appliqued in white daisies. The soft petals of the blooms are so life-like that one might almost imagine they had been dropped there by accident. The centers are of brown chenille, with the faintest suspicion of yellow flecked here and there.

The round neck is finished with folds of white silk embroidered with rich brown French knots. The shoulder straps are of silk tied in butterfly bows combined with lace through which brown chenille threads are run.

At this season when every one seems imbued with the merry spirit of yuletide there is a great demand for decorations in holly and mistletoe. These, however, are detachable so that they can be easily removed when the passing season renders them inappropriate. Probably the prettiest frock of the week was worn at a Fifth avenue dance a few evenings ago, given in honor of Miss Jean Reid, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid. White chiffon was employed, made over lustrous frosty satin and spangled with silver sequins and crystals. The skirt and bodice were trimmed with Christmas roses, those delicious flat, broad petalled, creamy blossoms just tinged with pink.

The flowers are arranged in a loose natural looking spray on the skirt and also adorn the décolletage and edge the short puffed sleeves of chiffon.

Chepe de Chine, chiffon and chin-chilla figure strikingly in an afternoon gown. The design has the princess gauged effect in the bodice which suits tall, slim women so well. The wide fur collar is a praiseworthy solution of the neck part of the cape. Collarettes or fur collars of sable or chin-chilla which have done service previously, may find fresh use on the costume cape this season.

The sleeves are of black chiffon over white chiffon, fitting snugly at the top, but showing a voluminous puff below the elbow gathered into a cuff of embroidered silk edged top and bottom with the finest band of fur.

The hat is a simple affair, as many of this season's chapeaux are. It has quite a lot of brim and this is encircled with a wreath of foliage with no flowers, but colored ribbon rosettes taking their place.

It is considered the smart thing this year to have the muff as big and as flat as possible. And it may be mentioned for the information of those who think these muffs are made more for beauty than for service, that they are provided with pockets of all sizes in which any number of small articles may be deposited during a shopping tour. Christmas and New Year weeks are the busiest of all weeks in Gotham and stores that gladly send a spool of thread or paper of needles at other seasons refuse to deliver far more important packages at this time. They are compelled to do so by the great rush and in her desperation, the woman who objects to carrying even small bundles finds her "compartment" muff a veritable cloak of charity.

An odd feature of dress which has met with rather uncertain favor hitherto is likely to become quite the rage owing to the increasing popularity of automobiles. These horseless vehicles have attained an unusual dignity in that they exert a distinct influence upon fashions. Automobile hats, gowns, coats and shoes, to say nothing of the thousand and one devices designed to protect the eyes and complexion and all unique and interesting. The smartest gown for such a purpose is made of leather, untanned calf, flecked with short silky hairs. The effect is something that of camel's hair, or, in fact, resembles it as much as it is possible for two materials to do so when the chief elements are identical. No trimming is used for these gowns except stitching. Coats made of the leather are lined with fur, preferably squirrel.

In the matter of the shape of hats, Fashion is going in for roundness. The turned-up sailor stands in high favor just now, looking particularly well in felt or chamouis.

Velvet costumes that are too elegant to be worn with wraps, are made comfortable by interlinings of chamouis and accompanied by stole scarfs of plush, fur-trimmed velvet or fur. Tailless ermine finds expression in the latest and most attractive designs. They are yards and yards in length, though only a little over a quarter of a yard wide. The lining as well as the upper portion of the scarf is white and if there is a contrasting fur this is shown in an edging of skunk. Many of the most beautiful furs of the season are of humble origin

hidden beneath a high-sounding name which is supplemented by an elegant effect. Narrow bands of squirrel, skunk and even rabbit with unpronounceable Russian designations enrich the all-face costumes which are in such great demand this winter.

A trimming which would seem out of place if incongruities were not the rule in dress, is frind and lace. This combination is used upon dress coats for matinee and theater wear. Rich silk and ball fringe with heavy guipure bands edge the deep cape collars and extend down the front of the coats.

House gowns are comfort idealized. The newest designs are carried out in the sheers of sheer materials made over a lining which is not fitted, but sufficiently curved into the figure to avoid a shapeless effect. Taffeta and satin make the daintiest foundations, but there are imitation silks which are just as effective when one wishes to economize.

It cannot be claimed that house dresses are simple. Indeed they are all fuss and frills. Yards and yards of lace and ribbon are used to trim them and the lace must not be too expensive or it will spoil the effect of the design. It is better to have ruffles of sheer material edged with lace than a mass of cheap frills. Elegance is a leading note in the scale of fashions, and while imitations are permissible, they must be of the quality that will do justice to the article duplicated. MAUDE GRIFFIN.

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Cora Tubbs, New York.
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Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Adams, Omaha.
George O. Mosser, Spokane.
Eugene Cowles and wife, New York.
Elizabeth Blaneve, New York.
Clara Farrington, New York.
U. A. Pyck, New York.
W. H. Garrett, Portland.
N. E. Cassell, San Francisco.
John P. Bender, Spokane.
A. E. Lambert, McMinnville.
E. J. Deven, New York.
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R. Bowen, Walla Walla.
J. D. Stenberg, M. D., Portland.
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A. S. Meathfield, Spokane.
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Miss Vivian Graaff, Pomeroy.
A. Roderick Grant, Portland.
H. P. Preston, Omaha.
W. R. Cartwright.
Miss Miriam Strong, city.
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Charles Stein, Chicago.
J. H. Jacobs, New Brunswick.
Maud Yasburg, Athens.
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John Richner.
G. S. Youngman, Portland.
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R. E. Porter, Meacham.
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C. L. Munra, Walla Walla.
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Thomas Hutchins, Portland.
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J. G. Helfrich, Spokane.
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J. P. McManus, Pilot Rock.
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Speaking of his Klondyke experiences Joaquin Miller says: "Didn't mind the weather at all. But the reporters had me frozen whenever they felt like it. One of them asked if I had any regret about going there. I answered, 'Only that I've lost two years.' Immediately he wired his paper: "'Joaquin Miller lost two ears!'"

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