

NEW YORK FASHION LETTER

New York, Jan. 28.—Either the vogue of the long coat called out the fashion for plain or daintily trimmed skirts or the vogue of this sort of a skirt is responsible for the long coat. At any rate, both have held sway in high places throughout the season. Winter materials naturally lend themselves less readily than summer fabrics to ruffled and befrilled effects, but this season has seen the last degree of suppleness reached in textures that, by tradition, call for body. Velvets and silks long ago lost their rustle and crispness, to say nothing of "stand alone" qualities. But now all the wools partake of the "chiffon" inspiration. This tendency has led to the adoption of weaves for elaborate uses which were never before recognized by the elect. Take cashmere, for example, the material of childhood and wrappers, even it has been turned by dressmakers of the first-class this winter into smart house gowns and even afternoon reception and visiting costumes. At its best, cashmere this season has been seen in the skirt accompanying the velvet coat. Girls with a knack for making much out of little have grasped the possibility, and in the durable fabric have produced white and tinted skirts which they have worn for evening dress, with silk and lace waists of the same tone. Often such bodies are made in a simplified French coat form, which means that bodice and basque are cut in one, the latter being shaped to suit the figure of the wearer. There is a host of these little coats, and two of them are never quite alike.

As to the skirt trimmings, flat bands of fur or velvet are more popular than ruffles or little puffs, although with the scope given to dressmakers, they, too, trim fashionable toilets. A pretty gown of pale blue cashmere is made in a surplice princess shape, its long lines emphasized by fur bands.

Around the hem of a figured light taffeta seen at the opera this week was a wide, loose, flat roll of velvet finished at the foot with a roll of the silk. A wide band of ermine headed an eighth inch lace frill at the foot of a white velvet princess robe. A black jetted net made over white had as a skirt finish at the bottom a ten-inch band of black velvet cut in shallow battlements at the top.

V-shaped inserts to widen gored at the foot of the skirt are another contrivance that appears naturally with flaring skirts. There is an example of this in the sumptuous dinner gown of brocaded maize colored silk. The skirt fits at the top like a princess, and is plain for half its length. The back side seams and the side seams next the front breadth are left open, the back ones half the depth of the skirt; the front ones for 12 inches. These slashes are laced with supple satin ribbon ending in deep loops and ends over full under skirt flounce of rich lace.

The long skirt's vogue is responsible for the double skirts which often cannot be told, with their accompanying jackets, from a redingote. The upper sections of such skirts fit the hips carefully and fall into folds as they lengthen over the widening skirts under them.

With the velveteen costumes that are plentiful among well dressed women, gloves of the same color, more often than not, appear, and there is a reason. The velveteens shed their color. More than one woman with white gloves and such a costume has been dismayed to find her gloves assuming the complexion of her dress. At the theatre recently a smart green velveteen suit worn with white gloves had so lent its hue to the gloves that if the wearer had only laid her hands,

backs downward, on the long coat for a time the match of the two would have been perfect. As it was, green palms and white backs had a smudged look that was most unsightly.

The automobile shows of the past week brought to light many garments that defy dust, wind and weather. They ranged in character from white muslin opera coats dainty with rich fur linings to thick Eskimo apparel that would call out no observations in Greenland.

Among the furs baby seal is a new-comer. Marmot, with its glossy brown hair, also appear to be a favorite for the automobile. A three-quarter coat of this fur with muff and hat costs less than \$150. A whimsical little box coat of hip length is made of antelope, "fur side inside." It is trimmed with stitched bands of white kid and may be worn either side out. Baby calf in red and white, black and white and brown and white occupies a conspicuous place among the coats in both three-quarter and hip lengths. Asrakhan with mink trimmings makes up sensible looking wraps. The most inexpensive coats are made of Siberian dogskin, racoon and civet cat.

All the automobile coats are loose and voluminous enough to make room for the wide skirts worn under them. Few are seen in full length, half and three-quarter lengths having been found more practical with the enveloping robes which are always worn with them. Wind cuffs, leather wristlets, shirred top and bottom on elastic, are found in the sleeves of many of the best garments. For the most strenuous rides fur skirts are employed.

For practical uses leather gets precedence in automobile rigs. It cleans perfectly, is impervious to dust and winds, even on hot summer days when the rate of speed of the machine in which it is worn runs to the limits of the law. Leathers in bright and dull finish are to be had in every color known to Dame Fashion. For winter and leather coats are usually lined with fur. In fact, for anything approaching out-of-town riding, fur is a necessity, as the leather, although wind-proof, lacks the clinging quality which makes a winter material cozy on a cold day. Everything has been thought of in the leather coats which could possibly give them attractiveness, but are cut with a nice appreciation of the prevailing modes and with an eye to saving from rumpling the dress sleeves which will be worn under them. A little bag of extra buttons, made of the silk of the lining and fastened in an inconspicuous inner corner, is the last contrivance to save the wearer inconvenience when she might find herself leagues from a button-counter or the home button bag.

Whole suits, very trig ones, are made of leather—skirt, coat, hat and over-gaiters. Tans, browns, reds and gun metal are the popular colors.

Leather skirts, it is said, are being used for wet weather walking in Paris. In this country, they, as well as fur-lined leather coats, are worn by country folk who enjoy long sleigh rides when the mercury is sinking. Some effort has been made to introduce leather coats for street use in this city. In France they are no longer an unusual spectacle with walking toilets, and now and then one meets a coat of the order here. So far, the blouse and the Norfolk jacket are the shapes selected in it for street wear.

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Fencing for Cassini Cup.

Washington, Jan. 28.—The Washington Fencers' club will be the scene of a notable fencing competition tonight when representatives of the naval academy and club teams from New York, Philadelphia and other cities will compete for the Cassini cup, offered by the Russian ambassador. The event will be one of great social as well as athletic interest, as the membership of the Washington Fencers' club is drawn from the diplomatic circles of the capital. Count Cassini will preside in person, while Viscount de Faramond, naval attaché of the French embassy, will direct the fencing.

ROOSEVELT GOES VISITING

Washington, Jan. 28.—President Roosevelt kept his secretaries and assistants busy today cleaning up all business of a routine character preparatory to an absence of several days from the White House. Tonight the President is expected to attend the Gridiron club dinner, and tomorrow being Sunday there will naturally be no business transacted. Monday morning the President will take a trip to Annapolis to attend the graduation exercises at the naval academy. From Annapolis a trip will be made to Philadelphia, where Mr. Roosevelt will attend a dinner of the Union League and also deliver an address at the semi-centennial celebration of the Philadelphia Y. M. C. A.

The Albany school board is considering the proposition of adding two more grades to the public schools, thus giving them a full fledged high school course.

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M'KINLEY MEMORIAL SERVICES

New York, Jan. 28.—The Carnation League of America and the McKinley Memorial association are in receipt of advice indicating that there will be a wide observance throughout the country tomorrow of the birthday anniversary of President McKinley. The observance will embrace special services in churches of many denominations and memorial exercises under the auspices of various patriotic and religious societies.

Canton, Ohio, Jan. 28.—From Washington, Chicago, Cleveland and other cities floral offerings have been received, to be placed tomorrow at the tomb of President McKinley. Canton people are preparing for a general observance of the day. Memorial services will be held in all the local churches, and at the time there will be exercises under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic and kindred organizations. On Monday the anniversary will be marked by a great banquet here, at which addresses will be delivered by eminent public men who were intimately

associated with the public career of the martyred President.

In the Flight of Time. It has brought around Saturday again, with its demand that something

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