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# NEW YORK FASHION LETTER

## About What Gotham Is Wearing This Summer

(By Catherine Mann-Payzant.)

New York, July 27.—Blouses are in a mode this year as last. They are becoming more fragile and delicate than the while, and those in all the Irish lace, or in net or mesh, are most lovely. For the latest those of point d'esprit, the fabric is of tulle. As has been the case for a long time, the laces are of many meshes. On a blouse we see flit and Irish lace with a touch of Point d'Veinie, a great deal of the coarser Irish lace employed at present, motifs based on the bebe pieces. For jackets and blouses of lace, the coarse and fine are seen. There are several distinct novelties noted this summer in white blouses, but most of these models have dainty touches of handwork, to serve to give the blouse its distinction. For wear with tailored blouses simple little dainty waists are fastened from the front and plenty of fulness, achieved by use of fine hand run tucks to depth, are very smart when worn with one of the detachable frills.

The idea of the plaited frill down front was seen on several of the models, and especially charming were those which have the edges of the frills scalloped by hand in fine cotton in color. One blouse of note was of fine French lawn, the edges scalloped and polka-dotted in blue cotton. White embroidered in black or in pink, pale brown or lavender are all very attractive. In opposition which the dressy waist and the lingerie blouse with early in the season by reason of the return of the tailored waist has been a strong incentive for the designers both here and abroad to put forth their best efforts and giving us styles so distinctive that even the most ardent admirers of the smart tailored novel would not fail to appreciate. In proper place and at the proper time the tailored waist is the most appropriate garment one could possibly adopt; but the dressy tailored gown which is looked upon as the most modish afternoon costume, with the addition of a blouse in keeping with its dressy character. The lingerie waist, which held such sway last year, has been forced to give way in no small measure to the net and lace blouse, which introduced itself into fashion's realm with a marked degree of success early in the past winter. That they have

been steadily gaining in popular favor is apparent. Cream nets, verging on tan shades, are greatly favored. These tints blend admirably with the brown and tan tones in suit fabrics. The new lingerie waists are also bewitching.

The new silk blouses express decided novelty in every line. The fancy back is the most marked feature of these, and one of which we should all take note. The plain back and fancy front is exceedingly unbecoming to most women. Did we but know it, few of us have pretty backs, and for this reason we should try to hide any ungraceful lines, rather than reveal them with a plain back waist. The bodice which blouses ever so slightly over the top of a high girdle is extremely becoming, especially to the woman who is very long-waisted. In such a waist there must be a well-boned, tight-fitting lining to properly confine the figure beneath the outer blouse and keep the back from riding up and producing a round-shoulder effect.

The modish jumper blouse is here to stay awhile. Light colored silk blouses, made in jumper style, to be worn with dainty chemisettes and with or without cuffs, show a contrasting note in dark toned silk braiddings. The one that could be used as an example was of blue taffeta of a light shade, made in simple shirtwaist style with deep tucks on each side of the center-front; the back also was tucked and matched the seams on the shoulders to the front tucks. The waist fastened in double-breasted style in front and the neck was cut out to admit of a dainty chemisette and edged about with black pull braid and a piping of black and white silk cut on the bias and rolled over a feather-bone cord. The sleeves are full and trimmed with cuffs to match the front of the blouse. Smoked pearl buttons the size of five cent pieces are set in groups of two on the braiding of the blouse, and likewise on the cuffs.

The vogue for polka dots is responsible for some of the most charming separate waists we have this season. Soft, sheer silks, chiffons, mousselines and even lawns in dark colors, blue, brown and black, are seen with a satin stripe overdotted with a spot of white. These materials are used in some of the prettiest dressy separate waists mounted over thin silk linings and trimmed simply with bits of lace. A pretty blouse was of white batiste plaided with fine lines of blue running diagonally to each other. The upper part was tucked with narrow tucks from shoulder to shoulder, the tucks extending to the bust line. Over these bands of delicate insertion were applied in a very artistic style and the material then cut away underneath, making a delicate lace effect. The blouse fastened in the back and the neck is finished with a stock composed of two bands of insertion edged with a frill of narrow lace. The sleeves are short and full and the cuffs also are finished with lace.

Next to the blouse and the plain shirtwaists comes the shirtwaist suit, which while not so popular as the jumpers are becoming well liked by some smart dressers. They are very serviceable for morning wear and if made in a dressy manner may be worn later in the day. A pretty shirtwaist costume was developed from a plaid mercerized taffeta in browns with a suggestion of green and pink. The skirt was cut in seven gores and pleated in front to form a panel. The shirtwaist was cut with a V and a vest and three tucks extending from the shoulders both back and front with taffeta belt finished with a green enamel buckle completed the costume. The sleeves were large puffs in elbow length, banded at the button with two bands of the taffeta.

There is perhaps no fabric so good for a shirtwaist suit as the shower-proof foulards, that are so dressy in themselves, yet so conservative in colors and patterns that they may be used both morning and afternoon with the leaving off or putting on of certain accessories of dress. A very smart one made with a circular skirt in brown and white tucked lawn, or one of the silk, could be used, while in the afternoon one of fine lace was worn. The fine cotton voile so fashionable just now makes very pretty suits that would be especially welcome now that the hot days have arrived in earnest. Many of these voiles are mercerized and made after the manner of the patterns of the more expensive materials. The foulards take very kindly to the Japanese style of the season if one wishes to use them for more elaborate dress-

es than the shirtwaist suits. Some of the trimmest afternoon frocks are of this dotted or coin-spotted silk made with low necks and big sleeveless armholes or with kimono sleeves to be worn over lace guimpes. Velvet ribbon seems to be a natural accessory to such foulard frocks.

For spring wear as quimpe or underblouse, odd lengths of crepe de chine, lace and chiffon will all be pressed into service. Nowadays we can mix many laces into one blouse. A length of piece-lace of Valenciennes design inserted with heavy guipure and lined with washing chiffon or China silk, makes a smart demitoylette blouse, and is useful on many occasions for evening or afternoon wear.

Sleeves are getting bigger. In soft materials we see bigger puffs, cut open to let in insertions of embroidery or frills of lace and motifs. Big transparent puffs of lace are introduced into the demi-toilettes for evening. Today the gown to be correct must have the right sort of sleeve, and this season all anyone need do to make last year's frocks really wearable is to have the sleeves done over. It is possible to have slashings and let-in pieces that will make what were quite tight sleeves the proper shape. The yoke and its finishings are so important a part of the bodice this summer that in some cases it takes up the entire front of the waist. The yoke in many of the smartest waists reaches from shoulder to shoulder and the bertha finish, of whatever kind it may be, droops over the tops of the sleeves which are nine times out of ten of lace or of lingerie composing the yoke. The girdle often is of satin, even with these lingerie waists.

The ruffle waist sleeve is going to be one of the prettiest features of the dressy summer gowns. One of its kind has the big armhole, outlined with an embroidered band, rimming it. The bodice with its surplice front, big armhole and lace sleeves and chemisette, is a type of many of the smartest afternoon frocks now being turned out. The thin cottons and silks lend themselves well to the style, and so do thin wools. The lovely trimmings which one can make up with galloon and braid for garnishments similar to those seen on the imported gowns are worth one's while in time and money. Bands to trim bodices and skirts are made of silk and covered with figured lace and edged with soutache. In almost every case pale blue or dull green soutache were in evidence.

Afternoon frocks in opalescent taffetas seem likely to play an important part in the coming season, the taffetas, of course, being of the softest and most supple variety, shot sometimes with as many as three very delicate and fugitive shades of color. Some of these frocks are arranged on the three-piece principle and are made in pinafort style.

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