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Chats About Petticoats, Corsets and the Garment Freedom Tore When She Unfurled Her Standard-Dainty Things That Are Like Faith

(By Catherine Mann-Payzant.)
New York, Sept. 14.—To every woman of refined taste pretty underwear is a necessity. It is not only a matter of wraps and hats that require attention, but as much time and thought will be given to the lingerie as to the outer garments. This does not mean that she will invest in all the novelties and most expensive things on the market, but it does mean that all the garments will be of as good material as her purse will allow, and will be made in the daintiest manner, minus cheap lace and embroidery.

Of materials nainsook, batistes, flimsy, cambric, China silk, taffeta and long cloth are a few that may be effectively used. In trimmings, Valenciennes edging and insertions, point de Paris flouncings, lace beadings, hand embroidery and ribbons are best liked. For silk one may use silk ruchings with plain or plink borders, or little frills of ribbon are dainty. For corset covers and petticoats heading is as much used as ever and the reason is apparent when one thinks what charming effects can be made with ribbons. The corset covers may be decorated at the top and bottoms with beading and run with dainty white-colored ribbons and further ornamented with tiny little bows placed at intervals. The sheerest kinds of handkerchief linen should be used for these dainty bits of underwear.

Cambric, linen and nainsook of the sheepest variety should be used for petticoats for dress wear and for evening, lace of the finest possible quality. A deep flounce is placed about the depth of the knee and at the head a lace beading, this is run with ribbons, and to finish the ends

of the ribbon are drawn through the beading on each side of the front of the petticoat and knotted in rosettes. For the woman of more than ample size the combination suit is the best model of under-garment; and those of fine lisle or very fine cotton may be found in the shops of such a quality and so trimmed that they by no means lack beauty or daintiness. Of course, for these garments you must pay an extra price, but the wearing qualities will repay for the money spent. Then, after the corset has been adjusted, another combination garment is worn, being really a corset cover and short skirt together, the top of which is elaborately decorated and the bottom of which has a short flounce, lace edged, and indeed may be ornamented just as the wearer pleases. All other skirts worn over this are smoothly adjusted by a flat deep fitted band that leaves no crease or seam to mar the outside band.

The newest styles in corsets, especially those intended for wear with the princess or empire gowns, do not have the lacing in the back, which is perfectly smooth, but in the front, which, after the corset has been set fastened in front and to the stockings, are drawn up to the required tightness. This gives the needed smoothness to the back and as the dress has more fullness and fluffiness in front and the little unevenness due to lacing is quite hidden. And be sure that there will be side garters to your corsets, or else the long sides now in vogue will be curling up in a most annoying fashion and soon spoil the set of the best fitted princess.

A very pretty corset cover may be made with either a square or a

round back, and short or puff sleeves. For the thin woman a peplum may be added, but for her plump sister no such addition should be made. The top has a decoration of two rows of rather deep insertion, the upper one topped with a row of beading and frill of lace. Through the beading is a ribbon. The armholes are finished with a lace frill. The waist is drawn into a broad beading and also run with a ribbon of the same color, but of a wider variety. A second corset cover was made of handkerchiefs fastened together with beading, and button holes were made in the top and bottom for the ribbon ties.

A nightgown that was particularly attractive, and permits of many developments, was a part of a bride's trousseau. The flowing sleeves were of the kimono style slashed up from elbow to shoulder. For elaborate development, alternate rows of embroidered insertions may form the whole sleeve, tiny ruffles of lace adding finish around the bottom and up the slashed portions, which are held together by tiny bows of plink ribbon. The neck is cut square at the front and back, and rows of lace, embroidered insertion and ruffles and a tiny ribbon bow finishing it in the most dainty manner.

A fine model for a corset cover and pantaloon skirt in combination is fitted by shoulder and under-arm seams, the fullness at the upper edge and at the waist line being regulated by gathers. The garment was cut out in round outline at the neck. The skirt part was fitted closely and smoothly over the hips, the slight fullness at the back being gathered in or disposed of in an inverted pleat. The drawers are attached to the lower part of the corset cover, the joining being concealed by a row of heading. A deep ruffle trims the lower part and is edged with lace, which also finishes the neck and armholes. This type is one of the best garments for women who must decrease the appearance of size.

Negligees are also part of the woman's lingerie, and any pretty novelty is gladly seized upon. A pretty garment is in one piece, and the neck opening is made square and large enough to permit of the garment being slipped over the head, consequently no buttons or button holes or other methods of fastening need be considered. Also trimming to any extent is superfluous, the bands outlining the edges being sufficient decoration and a means of finishing the garment. The one in question was made of a fine quality of foulard in champagne, dotted with brown spots about a half an inch in diameter, and the bands were of a mixed pattern showing browns and pinks and a slight suggestion of pale green. Pink chalis having white dots and bands of plink silk would also be pretty, but the materials and colors are so varied that individual taste is this summer easily satisfied.

A very effective slip-waist was shown the other day that would change a plain waist into something rather novel in its way. It was made of a prettily over-checked plaid, showing greens and dull whites, and in front was a heavy lace design. This was worn under a batiste or dotted Swiss waist the effect was entirely charming. Many designs and colors could be carried out on similar lines, for the idea can bear many variations. A waist that is made of alternate rows of lace and insertion, either of embroidery or lace or tucked linen and edged with a ruffled beading, through which a bright ribbon has been drawn, makes a pretty under-waist. Of course, the plain China silk waists are still in vogue and are seen in many styles, and for the elaborate outer waists nothing is more appropriate.

Stocking are as elaborate as ever, with one law to be observed above all others—that they match the shoes, and in turn that the shoes should match the gown. Of course, shoes may always properly be black; if one wishes them, but there is a chic air given to the matched shoe that seems to finish a costume as no black shoe will. It goes without saying that the black, gray or black and white effects require a black shoe and stocking. The invariable rule for a white dress is a white shoe, not even black being allowable—a rule that makes the city woman sigh, for white shoes on the streets are almost impossible on the dusty city streets, and dirty white shoes are an abomination. It is hardly necessary to say, perhaps, that the rule of the stocking matching the shoe is even more strictly observed with the white shoe than any other.

For morning wear, a fine grade of cotton or lisle may be used. Later in the day, with the afternoon costume, the stocking should be of silk or the finest grade of lisle, with a silk mixture, and may have a more

elaborate design upon them than is permissible in the morning. Those for evening wear are conspicuous for their decoration and many dollars are spent on their ornamentation.

There are a great many linens on the market this season, and many of them make attractive as well as serviceable gowns of the shirtwaist sort, but the peculiar quality known as French is especially soft in finish and is found in many shades, that in white being much used for under-wear. It is a fabric that is pleasant for wear in the summer and autumn months, in spite of all that has been said against linen underwear.

Banding of all sorts is being much used just now, but nothing is more effective for the foulards, pongees and the like than simple velvet ribbon, and it is used in two or three rows, in groups or flounces or as a band, either vertically or horizontally, according to the figures of the wearer.

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