



DRESS OF TO-DAY.

Much attention has been centred during the last two seasons on jackets, for, whether it be long or short, a jacket has become a fashionable necessity to complete the costume. Of late the vogue has been further extended, because, instead of the coat completing or matching the costume, odd jackets, often short and of an amusing and jaunty character, are smartly worn as an extra to the summer suit or frock. The fabrics of to-day and the mathematical manipulation of lines enable the dress-designer or tailor to give a new interest and variety in both the jacket and the ensemble. In many cases the long, slim lines, so becoming to the majority of figures, are followed strictly. With the short sac jacket it is, however, *chic* to accentuate the side flare so as to give the impression of narrowed slimness to the skirt and below the waist.

The selection of plain and printed fabrics, seams worked in opposite ways, and the stuffs of dull and shiny surfaces all add to the changeful variety of the present-day mode and greatly assist in making the holiday wardrobe more interesting.

THE NEED FOR COATS.

The early autumn weather has at least proved that a coat of some sort is very necessary when a mac-kintosh is not in use. In addition, a smart coat that can be worn with more than one garment is very useful, as it enables us to eke out our autumn wardrobe, and allows us to wear the cooler frocks in the early days of spring. Whenever possible the hat should match the coat in colour. It is this harmony in shades and styles that has made this season so well dressed.

Black has been the smart choice all the season, and it is rumoured the cult of black will be a feature for the first summer models. Black marocain coats, designed for watering-places, have appeared with big collars of black and white monkey. Lovely black velvet coats are lined with white crepe de Chine, with a cape collar of ermine, whilst an entirely furless wrap I have seen was of silver lamé, bordered with deep bands of black velvet ribbon and lined black chiffon. A black coat for smart afternoon and evening wear is a useful stand-by, especially if we can get one at sale prices.

HOTELS FOR WOMEN.

It is said that a mild epidemic in the construction of women's hotels is now under way in New York. These hotels, however, are not designed for the patronage of the idle rich amongst women, but rather for that of the prosperous workers. It has recently occurred to men with money on their hands that, while the low-paid woman worker was provided for by the numerous residential clubs in New York, there was no adequate housing for the woman worker earning

anything from about £7 to £15 a week. The situation has been aggravated within the last few years by the extinction of almost all the better-class boarding-houses, which have found themselves unable to meet the competition of what is somewhat grandiloquently termed "one-room apartments."

THE EMPLOYER'S WORD.

But many women workers, although well able to pay for the luxury of a room provided with a private bath and a cupboard in the wall fitted with a small gas-cooking apparatus, dislike the extra work involved in leasing a one-room apartment, and cling to the old system of board and lodging. All is well, provided that their salaries are not above about £7 a week. At the best-known of the women's residential clubs, girls are requested to leave if their air of prosperity leads the club authorities to believe that their salaries have risen beyond the limit. Should any girl viewed with suspicion deny the affluence imputed to her, the club authorities settle the matter by writing to her employer and asking him what he pays her. The employer's word is final, although, it is whispered, that it is not always truthful.

LONDON v. NEW YORK.

A few boarding-houses nevertheless manage to linger on in New York. In London practically entire streets and squares in Bloomsbury and Bayswater are given over to this type of community living, but there is nothing approaching this condition in New York. Those that remain are fairly comfortable in so far as meals and rooms are concerned; but they are frankly recognised as the last refuge of the aged of the female sex, and their atmosphere of stifling dullness and tomb-like quiet is rapidly driving away the few remaining young women who have patronised them so far. The young men have been frightened away long before this, and have fled to clubs, one-room apartments, and plain lodging-houses, where they sleep but do not eat.

TO CLEAN HATS.

The popular light shades of summer felt hats are in frequent need of recleaning, and as it is often most inconvenient to have to spare them to be sent away, the simple and effective method of cleaning with hot dry bran should be more often practised at home. About half a pound of broad bran should be heated in the oven, and well rubbed and brushed into the soiled hat. If necessary, several applications should be given. The hat should then be well shaken and brushed with a clean brush until it gives satisfaction.

OLD-FASHIONED DRESSING TABLES.

The "toilette" at first signified the small piece of "toile" in which boxes and flasks of beauty preparations were wrapped when laid away for the night in the "beauty coffers" of Elizabethan times. These caskets were made of carved ebony, sometimes inlaid with coloured woods or green-stained ivory, of tortoiseshell, or plain oak covered with rich embroidery. Gradually the word "toilette" came to mean the large piece of linen used to drape the

table upon which the toilette articles were displayed. Any plain table served as a dressing table in the seventeenth century.

Early in the reign of William and Mary the draped toilette table was replaced by the dressing table as a distinct piece of furniture. Plain oak tables with the X-shaped stretcher were first used, with the addition of a small independent mirror having an easel attachment in order to adjust the angle of the mirror on the flat surface of the table. Walnut then came into fashion, and with it the extremely beautiful walnut dressing table, having two or three drawers, each side forming a knee-hole. Inverted bell-turned legs, serpentine stretchers, and scalloped friezes were other features of the period. Sometimes the curved X stretcher was used, and only one long drawer fitted. Above the dressing table a mirror hung flat against the wall.

THIS WEEK'S RECIPE.

I wonder if my readers have tried Hollandaise Potatoes. It is a really excellent way of dealing with this vegetable. For an ordinary dish it requires 1½ lb. new potatoes, 1½ oz. butter, 1 egg yolk, salt, pepper, lemon juice, parsley, 2 large tablespoonsful white sauce.

The method of preparation is to wash and scrape the potatoes, choosing those of even size and not very large. Cook until tender in boiling water with a sprig of mint and some salt. Then drain and dry them in a cloth, and place in hot vegetable dish. Cover with following sauce: Melt the butter in small pan. Add the sauce, and stir over fire until hot. Add a little lemon juice and season well with salt and pepper. Beat the egg yolk and pour the sauce over it, stirring well. Return to pan and make hot very carefully, as it must not boil. Sprinkle some finely-chopped parsley over the potatoes, and serve very hot.

POLICE BALL.

Owing to pressure of space I was unable to refer to the very enjoyable ball at the City Hall last week in aid of the Police Orphans, nevertheless I feel I must record the splendid success achieved, as a result of which the Police Orphans' Fund will benefit considerably. It was a well-organised affair, and I must compliment the Committee for the perfect arrangements made for the comfort and enjoyment of the guests. Inspector D. M. Mitchell was the chairman of the Committee, with Det. Head Constable E. R. Cook, the very energetic hon. secretary; Sergeant Avis, assistant hon. secretary, and Det. Sergt. P. E. Robinson, hon. treasurer. The hall was most tastefully decorated with floral festoons and shaded lights, whilst the stage was a solid mass of greenery and flowers, amongst which were escorted Zabow and Moller's efficient orchestra. A well-dressed crowd thoroughly enjoyed the dancing, and a particularly enjoyable feature of the evening's entertainment was a series of exhibition dances by Mr. Monty Russell and Miss Dorothy Hamerton. Their dancing was greatly admired and thoroughly deserved the unstinted ovation with which they were greeted. Upstairs tasty refreshments were provided under the supervision of the ladies' committee, and needless to say full justice was done to them. There were many members of the local Jewish community present, among them I noticed Councillor and Mrs. L. Gradner, Councillor and Mrs. S. Bernstein, Mr. and Mrs. Gutman, Mr.

and Mrs. H. Sarembok, Mr. and Mrs. E. Fryde, Mr. and Mrs. J. Golding, Mrs. L. Salzman, Mr. I. D. Fryde and Miss Phyllis Symons, Mrs. Burke and Miss Lilah Burke, Mr. I. Lehr, etc.

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