

Cloth FASHION Modish Costumes CHITCHAT New Hats BY DAISY MAY.

MIDWINTER may witness the complete overthrow of the habit back skirt in favor of one with plaits, which now seems imminent. Some weeks ago those "in the know" were all talking of Paquin's new model which permits a graceful box plait through the center of the back breadth. Since that time the skirt in the original and with many variations is more frequently seen than is the habit back.

The tight back skirt was becoming to few figures. Slender women wore it well, but women discriminate so little when it is a question of style that the craze extended to all of them regardless of physical proportions. The stout woman in the habit back skirt increased in numbers and ugliness and was the only object lesson needed to reform the cut, even though Paquin, who always anticipates the future, had not presented possibilities in the plaited skirt. The skirts differ little one from the other; both are minus the gaping placket and fasten on the left side. For those who desire to continue wearing the tight effects the plait may be stitched down for eight or ten inches, thereby preserving the sheathlike appearance, while the figure of the woman inclined to embonpoint is vastly improved by permitting the plait to flow freely. The new cut in nowise interferes with decorative schemes, and straps and bands are still a conspicuous part of their construction.

Stitchings in patterns or wavy lines mark the progress of the machine work on the latest models exhibited. Tucks describing points are a novelty trimming used on cloth or light fabrics with equally charming effect. The fad for machine stitching concerns velvet and silk as well as cloth. Neckbands made of velvet stitched around 15 or 20 times, occasionally in a crisscross pattern resembling designs on old fashioned bed quilts, are the latest thing.

Next in importance to the coat suit is the cloth gown for more dressy wear. In fact, it may be said to be of paramount importance, so firm a hold has cloth this season upon the affection of the multitudes. *Peau de gant* is the newest material, and, as its name suggests, it is a finely woven soft cloth not unlike suede. It combines beautifully with the lace and chiffon addenda and is used largely in the make up of elaborate dinner dresses. A beautiful cloth costume for theater wear is of pearl gray *peau de gant*. The skirt is finished with a deep flounce, which is trimmed along the top with a wide band of lace cut into points and outlined with narrow velvet and ribbon. The same trimming is repeated across the front of the bodice and at the top of the sleeves. Otherwise the bodice is quite plain, and should fit to perfection. In this model is developed the plaited skirt closely stitched, preserving the snug contour.

Another model in castor of French cashmere, a less expensive but most satisfactory material for obtaining graceful lines or perpetuating the clinging tendencies, has a skirt cut without a seam at the back. It fastens on the left side of the front, where it is trimmed with narrow velvet ribbon. Just at the base of this trimming the material is cut away to reveal a panel of lace. The bodice is trimmed to match the skirt, and it has a yoke of lace. The collar is also of lace, edged with velvet-ribbon.

One of the accompanying illustrations furnishes a pretty idea for a princess costume which has fewer adherents. It is made of plain violet cloth and is designated as a princess tunic. The fronts are cut double breasted and fasten down the left side. The double breasted front is slightly draped top and bottom under two rosettes ornamented with buckles. The princess costume is cut up on one side to reveal an underskirt of the same material, and it is edged with a fringe.

An excellent example of the extravagance of decoration is shown in a blue cloth walking suit. A band of scallops mounted on a panel of antique velvet outlines the front breadth and circles the bottom of the skirt half way around. The jaunty jacket is similarly decorated and supplied with chinilla collar and revers. With it is carried a muff, which may be either of chinilla or of closely shirred gray chiffon.

Chiffon muffs were first seen at the horse show and are a new and delightful substitute for the heavy fur muff which is five times as expensive. Usually a bit of fur like that used on the coat is somewhere introduced on the muff, but this is not at all necessary to harmony, as the shirring is done in tufts, which gives a puffy look and is further beautified if it is shaded. With sable trimmings, a confection of chiffon in muff form made of white, brown and black is the caprice. One color is laid upon the other, giving a brownish cast, and it is finished off with plaiting in which several tails are fastened.

Tailor costumes, if of good material and trimmed with braid or fur, may be worn for visiting, though cashmere, satin cloth and woolen pique are considered more dressy, as also is a long cloak or coat of fur, or of velvet trimmed with fur. Young girls, however, may always wear a tailor costume. Fashionable cloths are not confined to the plain varieties. One of the prettiest of the seasonable novelties is cashmere, spotted with black velvet, either woven

materials are ribbed, like pique, and are called pique de laine when of a woolen texture and pique de soie when of a silky texture. The ribs of these piques are very tiny or large, whichever the wearer may prefer. They might as well be called poplin, for they look like poplin as much as they do like pique.

Woolen satens is another revival; it is plain, broadened, spotted and striped. The broadens are designed in arabesques resembling the ground when being watered with a sprinkling can. Some woolen satens are perforated and are lined with another color to simulate an undershirt.

Enure dresses are also worn, but the fur for these is rendered in a particular way and is worked as soft and light as an ordinary woolen fabric. Velvet costumes trimmed with fur are more elegant than the entire fur costumes. Tailor costumes of embroidered cloth are very distinctive, and these may be worn on all occasions, while velvet isn't always in good taste, being quite too elaborate for small affairs.

Redingotes are in such favor that even skirts and bodices of one material are made to look as if they were redingotes.

"Make way for the ladies" has been paraphrased in millinery circles, and now it is "make way for the pill box hats." As may be readily understood, it is the opposite of the rather tall crown and wide brim of the directoire. The advance model is turban shaped and made of undressed kid and velvet. A big chou of metallic tulle is twisted on the top, with a pigeon's wing to hold it up a little on one side. The tulle scarf crosses at the back and is brought round in front to tie under the chin. It is freaky, not to say grotesque, but at that it strengthens the opinion of a close observer that the aim of the ultra smart is to have everything intensely neat and to do away with superfluity of all kinds. Simplicity is the highest form of artistic dressing, though the road to it nowadays leads through fields of dollars. There is still a tendency to tip toques a little on one side, though

is still worn, but no longer in its natural color. I saw the other day a picturesque hat of red velvet, which was softened at the edge with these satiny feathers shaded from red to palest rose pink, and there also was a little toque made entirely of mauve feathers with a small bunch of violets as a crown. It was monstrously smart.

Picture hats will live as long as the exquisitely feminine woman thrives, and you may most often judge to what class she belongs by observing her chapeau. One beauty that I saw recently was black, broadened in Watteau-like bunches of golden yellow flowers and made high where it turns up in cavalier fashion on one side with black plumes. Another picture hat which had the same becoming sweep was of brown velvet, with the lining of pink velvet, painted in Virginia creeper leaves. The beautiful brown crested feather which sprang up from a tall crown of the painted pink velvet was waved instead of curled so that it fell very gracefully over the brim. There was, too, a very wearable little sable toque with no trimming but a bow of orange velvet and a paradise plume. There is a sort of necessity just now to have a sable toque if you would be in the swim.

By the bye, painted velvets are the very newest thing in Paris. They are most delicately done, sometimes on turquoise blue and sometimes on pale bluish gray velvet with a painting of wheat ears in natural tints. A creamy white velvet is frequently patterned with leaves and berries of ivy outlined in gold. These are very expensive, but in the course of events velvet in printed floral designs will be offered as an acceptable substitute.

Many straight paletoes called sack paletoes will be worn.

HOW TO GROW PLUMP.

IT IS all very well to talk about laughing and growing fat; there is, however, a stage of fatness against which human nature rebels, for neither man nor woman wishes to rival a Falstaff in flesh. The over-stout person is one of the most uncomfortable individuals whom it is one's lot to meet, and much flesh does not necessarily indicate robust health, for people who are too stout are just as easily tired out, just as often ill and just as frequently invalids as the individual with too little flesh.

The woman who wishes to put tissue on her frame should drink plenty of milk and buttermilk and eat cereals whose tendency is to make tissue. To eat plenty of bread is for that reason good for the slender one. The food should be masticated well. To drink water while eating helps the digestion of the food. Plenty of sleep is a sovereign remedy for loss of flesh; the victim of insomnia is almost always thin. It is a good plan to take a nap of an hour in the afternoon. Go to bed early and do not

some bend over the forehead and others are turned up saucily in front.

The large capeline is destined soon to supersede the sailor hat. It is much more becoming and much more dressy. It is made chiefly in black, white or gray felt or in colored velvet, and it has a very wide brim which bends very low over the face in front and even lower at the back over the neck. The brim is raised on each side, forming quite an arch, under which black or colored velvet bows are massed. The front of the brim is covered with feathers or velvet bows, and the crown is equally covered with them, and, consequently, is not seen. This shape is a great rival of the directoire and is daily becoming more popular, especially with young people.

There is a perceptible tendency toward rather brilliant headgear. Grebe



VISITING COSTUMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

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Mary Scott Rowland.
New York.

CALENDARS, CARDS AND BOOKLETS FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

A CHRISTMAS without calendars would be like dinner without dessert. Just why Christmas rather than New Year's should be a time to remind the wayfarer in this vale of tears that "tempus fugit" is a question that is open for discussion.

The giving of calendars is a matter that requires the most delicate discrimination. For instance, it is not good taste to remind that maiden lady who, with the aid of art and cosmetics, is trying to forget the fact that the wheel

girls honor one another with all sorts of curious affairs—calendars in the shape of shells or bouquets, yards of cats or dogs or stage beauties, or whatever may appeal to the careful, aesthetic sense of the damsels and harmonize with the condition of their pocketbooks. There is no one more punctilious on the question of beauty than the school-girl gift giver, but it is loveliness from her own standpoint.

Elderly ladies, too, who in their spring of life have attended the same singing schools and taffy pullings, recall that halcyon time by stately calendars marked "From Jane to Dear Eliza," or with some other appropriate inscription. Scenes of other days are

dars and such humorous affairs are made to lighten the flight of time. The more costly calendars are put up in boxes. If the gift giver buys a moderate priced one and is wise enough to secure a box for his or her calendar and carefully pack it in tissue paper before sending it away, it will look quite as well as many of the expensive ones.

College calendars are among the novelties of the season. These are made representative of the different colleges. Nearly all the larger institutions are represented, and Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Columbia are made of delicate tinted ovals of paper with a woman's figure adorning the cover. The Columbia cover shows a Knickerbocker girl, and the Harvard cover a sober gown Boston Minerva in evening dress with plenty of violets scattered about her and a band of violet ribbon drawn through a cut in the cardboard. The Princeton calendar rejoices in the face and figure of a very chic rustic maiden carrying a sheaf of grain across her shoulder and accompanied by a tiger, evidently on guard duty. The Yale damsel is a fascinating creature clad in powder patches and full colonial dress.

Dickens, Longfellow, Thackeray, Tennyson, Eliot and other calendars of quotations are as numerous as ever and are much the same in general appearance.

Those with the drop covers consist of a number of cards so arranged on ribbons that they may be lowered to give a simultaneous view of all the cards at once. A Japanese woman holds in each hand a row of lanterns, and a bird suspends garlands from its bill or the "drops" may be mere ornamental panels of fanciful figures. A row of jolly faced goblins on the limb of a tree or birds perched in a row are much admired effects.

A calendar which will be welcomed by the busy man is what is called the commercial. It is handsome in appearance, for it is a mistake to imagine that men are lacking in appreciation of the artistic. Tabulated sets of slips record the days as they slip by. The month and day of the week are printed in black, while the day of the month is in red ink. No quotations adorn the calendar. Instead black lines are left for use in recording memoranda.

The photograph calendar is not novel in idea. Some new forms of it are to be seen in the shops. The space for the photograph is left vacant unless the giver places therein his or her own photograph.

Art calendars of the more expensive sort are made of satin richly painted with flowers and shepherds and shepherdesses and sheep such as never grazed anywhere save in an artist's brain. These creations are delicately scented with sachet powders and are conceded to be of the superlative quality.

The little holiday booklets which have enjoyed a fluctuating popularity for several seasons are nearly all of the semi-religious type. Hymns and poems of a more or less sentimental character are illustrated in colors, and some of the results are so charming that one wonders that the books can be sold so cheaply.

Christmas cards seem to be as handsome as usual and in as great variety. They range in price from 5 cents to \$25 and vary from simple lithographed cards to those which are hand painted in water colors on silk, satin, celluloid or water color paper and trimmed with lace and ribbon.

After all the very nicest Christmas card, if one can afford it and is near enough to the one to be remembered for the contents to reach him or her in good condition, is a box of flowers with the card of the giver. But at Christmas time, when florists are haughty and prices are high, it is out of the question for folks in moderate circumstances to go about adorning the boudoirs of their friends with fresh blossoms.

ETHEL KNOX.

A GLASS OF WATER AT BEDTIME.
The human body is constantly undergoing tissue changes. Water has the power of increasing these changes

these ladies' favorite topics, and the cover will display quaint Kate Greenaways or other poke bonneted figures arching gamboling about upon an impossible landscape.

There are all sorts and varieties of calendars, from those of the Mother Goose kind adapted to little friends of tender years to the Scriptural quotation sort, which are excellent as gifts to the dear bishop or the pastor of one's church.

Great pictorial calendars on costly paper with etched or photographic copies of famous paintings are sold for as



SOME NEW CHRISTMAS CALENDARS.

at Christmas between ladies who belong to the same club and vote the same ticket—a state of concord which the ladies amiably endeavor to cement at holiday time by the exchange of formal and intellectual tokens. School-

much as \$10 or \$12. So are those facsimiles of artists' drawings, so cleverly executed that one scarcely detects that they are not originals. Gibson and his school are the favorites of this class. "Coco" calendars, "Yellow Kid" calen-

of Berlin, Germany, where formerly none were admitted.

Women grooms to attend young persons when they ride are a recent London innovation. Propriety gains, and a new occupation is provided for women.

A bust of the late queen of Denmark has been ordered in bronze to be placed in the national museum.

A funny story about Miss Marie Casati comes from Stratford-on-Avon,

where that mystic novelist has been living opposite a young ladies' school. It appears that in this school are many pianos, daily practice upon which by the pupils has been excessively damaging to Miss Corelli's nerves. Driven to desperation, she wrote to the principal of the school, asking that when pianoforte practice was going forward the windows might be kept closed, as the noise interfered with the progress of

which multiply the waste products, but at the same time they are renewed by its agency, giving rise to increased appetite, which in turn provides fresh nutriment. If you do not accustom yourself to drink water regularly, you are liable to have the waste products form faster than they are removed. Any obstruction to the free working of natural laws at once produces disease.

Great weakness and languor on rising in the morning is generally due to a large secretion of these waste products, and the remedy is to drink a tumblerful of water—either hot or cold—just before retiring. This materially assists in the process during the night and leaves the tissues fresh and strong, ready for the active work of the next day.

WAYS OF MONEY MAKING.

At the present time half of the adult women of England are self supporting, and, as the same state of affairs is pretty general in other countries, it follows that women are all the world over trying to evolve new ideas by which to earn a living or to supplement their very scanty income.

A Frenchwoman who is endowed with artistic taste found herself with more time on her hands than she knew what to do with. All her friends carried her taste in the arrangement of her own home, and one day one of them begged her to take her house in hand and rearrange the furniture, for, though she had plenty of pretty things, everything looked so stiff that the effect was anything but pleasing.

So successful was this little Frenchwoman in her friend's house that she thought she might do well if she utilized her talent for strangers as a means of earning a little money. Accordingly she advertised to do dusting and artistic arrangement by the hour. Her advertisement brought several answers, and soon she had various clients, who again recommended her to their friends, till now she has her time fully and remuneratively occupied.

Another lady—this time quite a young girl—reads, writes, shops and mends by the hour for invalids, and she enjoys her work. People who want a little help and do not care to employ a resident companion are glad of her services, and she finds that she can serve two or three different customers and yet have her evenings to herself.

Another girl, who has neat fingers, makes a specialty of china mending. She has learned the art of riveting, but perhaps her strongest point is the cementing together of antique china and the replacing of missing chips with putty, which she cleverly paints over in such a manner that, upon close inspection, one can hardly detect a flaw. She understands the art of china painting, too, and sometimes exercises it to replace a cup or a plate belonging to an otherwise perfect set which is now not to be had at any factory.

Another lady, who happens to have a house containing large reception rooms for which she has little use, conceived the idea of letting them to people for "at homes," concerts, amateur theatricals, etc. She soon found that her patrons were glad for her to provide tea and other refreshments, and before long she had quite a nice little catering business for those people who found it convenient to use her rooms.

A SIMPLE DRESSING JACKET.

A dressing jacket is a necessity for every lady. The one depicted in the sketch can be made in cheap or expensive materials, as purse or fancy may dictate. The original from which the sketch was made was carried out in white and pale colored silks and trimmed with lace. Such luxury, however, is only for the few, and the many will be content with some pretty washing material, muslin, dimity, cotton, or flannel or damask. Trim the jacket with tulle of the same material and make the turn down collar of embroidery or lace. Ribbon on either side, to be tied in a bow at the bust, makes a dainty finish.



HELPED BY THE PRINCESS.

An interesting story is told of the Princess of Wales, who, seated one day in her box at the performance of a comic opera at a certain fashionable theater, by an accidental movement, knocked her bouquet off the ledge. It fell into the orchestra beneath, and through some mistake on the part of the conductor, it was passed over the footlights to a pretty young singer who at that moment had the stage to herself. She, overcome at what she thought a mark of royal favor, courted to the princess, and the audience loudly applauded the gracious act. The delighted songstress, being the envy of all her companions on the stage, wisely divided her lovely bouquet and gave a blossom to each member of the company, retaining a rose and the ribbons with which it was tied for herself. The whole affair was purely accidental, but it was the means of bringing much happiness to a young and comparatively unknown girl and putting her feet at the first rung of the ladder of success, for she is now a famous actress and singer.

RUSSIAN GIRL STUDENTS.

If a Russian girl wishes to study at any of the universities which now admit women, etiquette does not allow her to do so until she is married; so she goes through the civil economy of marriage with a man student, whom very probably she has never seen before, and this marriage is quite legal, though, perhaps, they may never speak to each other again. On the other hand, if they like each other, and wish it, they are married for life. If they don't, the marriage is dissolved when their university course is run, and they are free to marry.

The celebrated mathematician, Sonya Kovalevski, whose autobiography attracted so much notice a few years ago, and who was as phenomenal a Russian girl as Marie Bashkirtseff, came through one of these marriage ceremonies with a student whom she saw for the first time and who afterward became her husband.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

Come back today to Bethlehem.
The year is on the wane;
A true to strife that warlike life,
A true to grief and pain.
Oh, heart, return to Bethlehem
And hear its song again!

If dear voices luring thee
Have turned thy thoughts aside,
If thou hast quaffed the bitter drink
Of envy or of pride,
If thou art weary of the strife,<
Come back today to Bethlehem!

Though thou hast wandered far,
No rest shall fill thy roaming heart
Until thou see the star,
Oh, heart, return to Bethlehem
Where yet the angels sing!

marry Princess Xenia of Montenegro is one of the handsomest men in Europe. Princess Xenia is a great beauty herself.

The girls in all the government schools throughout the kingdom of Roumania have been prohibited by law from wearing corsets. The official edict states that not only are corsets injurious to health, but they prevent the development of the figure.