

The Amateur Dressmaker

AT LAST we've solved a problem that's been worrying us all the Autumn—the sort of frock that can be crowded, without fear of wrinkling it, into the week-end bag. Naturally when taking these cheap little pleated jaunts we avoid fashionable pieces, but as nice people are to be encountered everywhere, and Father always seems to know them, we must have something to put on that's fresh-looking even though obviously inexpensive. Mildred, who generally has something on hand that can be utilized, got out an old white cotton voile frock, made its skirt narrower by seaming some of its gores until they were almost straight, cut off the frayed edge of its hem and added a scant foot ruffle made from the sleeves of the old waist. Then she produced three yards of new Japanese cotton crepe (white flowered with tiny pink roses), and made a blouse having short tab fronts that knot at the waist line and above it open over a bodice of plain voile—the front of the old waist. At the back the flowered bodice blouses over the corded-in waistline and ends in a square, very short coat-tail. Although the neck is rather deeply rounded out and finished with a narrow plain voile frill, the small set-in sleeves are hooked tightly and plainly about the wrists. The effect is quaint and smart. Louise paid twenty-five cents a yard for the lovely white cotton crepe which she made into a skirt having a plain front and sides and a back laid in four deep side plaits that stretch whenever she takes an extra long step. She could wear it when dancing the Tango and not be inconvenienced. The blouse is really a hip-length peasant shirt that goes on over the head and opens half-way down the front, thereby displaying a flash-hued chiffon guimpe.

MY "week-end bag frock" is a crinkled blue cotton striped with double lines of deep tan. The upper portion—sleeves and bodice and the skirt as far as the knees—is cut in one, and its only seams extend from under the arms down both sides. Inch wide baby Irish lace insertion (imitation) defines the slightly rounded-out neck and



Afternoon frock of green crepe with plaited tunic of same. The girde, collar and cuffs offer a pleasing contrast in that they are made of bright plain silk.

the fronts, which cross four inches from the base of the throat and overlap a trifle above the waist-line, which is defined by a plain blue crinkled cotton mesh, whose two long ends, at the back, are looped under the top edge of the eighteen-inch deep piece of material which forms the lower half of the skirt and is joined to its upper portion under a plain blue cording. A frilling of finely plaited white net, starting just below the throat at the edge of the overlapping left front of the blouse, runs diagonally across the bust, then straight down under the girde and defines the skirt's placket to its terminating point, three inches below the blue cording. As this rippling surfaced cotton fabric was only fifteen cents a yard, my frock cost even less than did the one made by Louise, and father declares that it's the prettiest one in our new collection of home-made clothes.

ANOTHER feather-weight garment which each one of us puts into our week-end bag, is the skeleton sweater of loosely knitted white wool sephyr. These originated several years ago in Paris, have only recently come to America, and in some of the shops cost a dollar and a half each. But Mildred, knitting them at times when she would otherwise be sitting with folded hands, gets them up for about fifty cents apiece. They have wrist-long sleeves, come high about the neck, end at the waist-line and fit the figure so closely that they can be worn under a snugly-fitted blouse without straining it. And they afford nearly as much warmth as a heavy wool sweater without being a burden to carry. Even father has one. If you chance to encounter him some breezy morning when he's starting on a fishing trip, don't imagine that we've let him go too thinly garbed. You may be very sure that between his under and his upper shirt he's wearing a skeleton sweater.

TO KEEP A RUG IN PLACE

Unless a rug is very heavy it is liable to be kicked up on the floor. Gum strips to attach to the ends of the rug will cling to the polished floor without scratching the hardwood. Another method is to lightly baste webbing under the ends of a rug.



A Modish Evening Gown

Tunics are the vogue this season and more of the beautiful garments, whose straight lines date back to the days of Greek Phidias, are to be seen than ever before. Marabou is combined with the smartest of these frocks and the fluffy confection outlines beautiful skins most effectively.

This evening dress is made of pale blue satin. The tunic is made of plaited shadow lace, loosely belted in by a double sash of pink satin. The plain piece of material over the shoulders trimmed with brown marabou is made of pink chiffon. The sheer gathered yoke is of close silk net.

"Royal" fur, the ermine. This is of an absolutely exquisite coloring, which cannot be imitated in any cheaper fur, such as beaver and Hudson Bay Sable, though these, too are far from low priced. The domestic product (Southern sable), is the least expensive, and very far from producing the same effect as the real Russian article.

It is the imitation "pur et simple" being made from the fur of the ring-tailed cat, and dyed a deep brown. In mink fur, the best quality is called Eastern mink, and though it is quite high in price, it is a great deal more accessible than sable. The imitations of this fur are various, and they sell under a quantity of different flags. There is Russian, dyed mink, which in reality is nothing but the fur of the American or Italian marmot, dyed so that the imitation is really very clever. The darker stripes are produced with the paint brush, and will wear off, in the course of time. Brook mink and Japanese mink is made of the fur of muskrat rats, and by a new process, pre-



Tailored suit of blue duvetyne. The three-quartered cutaway coat has collar and sleeves bordered with skunk, while the double revers are of yellow brocade.

pared so that the resemblance with the real Eastern mink is so close as to even puzzle experts. Then there is another kind of mink, called "bleached" mink; this is real mink fur, but bleached many times, and dyed so that the stripes are uniform. It is much cheaper than Eastern mink, but will not wear half as well, the little pieced sections being apt to rip apart, and to become discolored.

BLACK LYNX is one of the moderately priced furs which owing to its silkiness and its beautiful jetty black, stands high in the esteem of many. In this, too are several grades of the real article, as well as imitations so perfect that they are hardly less beautiful than the other, and sometimes not even cheaper. But their hair is quite a little shorter and less dense, and this is what distinguishes the Lynx cat from the real Lynx's fur.

Of great softness and a lovely creamy white is the real ermine and particularly beautiful it looks when its delicate tint is offset by the deep black little ermine tails, which gradually become white and towards the top shade into a clear light sulphur tone. White weasel is very frequently substituted for ermine, and with such excellent results that many a woman who considers herself a thorough connoisseur of furs has fallen victim to the deception, without ever finding out about it, luckily, for her to find out that her knowledge of fur has failed her, would surely anger her not a little.

WHITE fox and silver fox are very highly thought of, but in nice cases out of ten they are only imitations. The white fox is copied in Angora and Thibet fur from Persia, and it must be admitted that the imitation is not inferior to the original in beauty. However, when exposed to the dampness of rain, the long white hair will become very crinkly and curly, as it was wont to be before the combing and dyeing process, and unless it is immediately submitted a second time to the process it will stay curly, and expose the counterfeiter.

Of all the many pelts that pass as silver fox there is probably not one that is justly claim to the name. There may be one caught in the prairies of Hungary or the Russian "steppe," but this happens very, very rarely, and some museum or collector would not let the opportunity of securing such a miracle slip by, but purchase it, paying its weight in gold.

Good Sense and Symmetry

By Mary Stiles

IF one thing and one only in this world I am perfectly certain—no woman can live off the fat of the land without distributing a large part of it over her own body, and anyone who contends otherwise is simply bluffing.

We had a smooth crossing, met pleasant people and enjoyed three substantial meals a day plus two snacks on deck—a morning bison and an afternoon tea—and not one day passed but what I promised myself that I would cut all this out just as soon as we landed. In the meantime, I tried to persuade myself, much shuffleboard and frequent constitutional would certainly counteract to some extent the constant tucking away of unusual quantities of rich food.

Later, after a brief acquaintance with the English climate, I put myself off with the idea that after we got on the Continent things would be different. It would not be necessary in Paris, for instance, to stoke continually to keep out the penetrating cold as it had been in London, then too there would be fewer friends to deluge us with invitations to delightful teas and after-theater suppers.

It was somewhat contradictory to find that although my English friends were quite "good trenchermen" they were quite as much interested in the question of a youthful silhouette as we Americans. In fact it seemed impossible to be alone with women anywhere without hearing the subject discussed and each seemed to have her pet fat which she believed in implicitly, and was always urging the others to adopt.

One of the most unique was that of a particularly good looking girl, who had succeeded in reducing her abnormally large arms. She had been patronizing a

Swedish masseuse for quite a while, much to her brother's amusement, when suddenly he stopped teasing her and became interested in her case. He asked innumerable questions about the treatments and as they consisted largely of sharp slappings he insisted that she could do that better herself. When she complained that it tired her even to attempt it he volunteered to help her out and to her astonishment brought home a pair of bedroom slippers having flexible soles. With these he showed her how it would be possible to beat a pretty sharp tattoo without bruising the arm, receiving the treatment, or tiring the other. One of her friends touched for the success of this remedy and claimed to have reduced her hips with it. My own impression was that it could be safely used anywhere except on the bust.

But to go back to the question of "cats." Swedish massage for quite a while, much to her brother's amusement, when suddenly he stopped teasing her and became interested in her case. He asked innumerable questions about the treatments and as they consisted largely of sharp slappings he insisted that she could do that better herself. When she complained that it tired her even to attempt it he volunteered to help her out and to her astonishment brought home a pair of bedroom slippers having flexible soles. With these he showed her how it would be possible to beat a pretty sharp tattoo without bruising the arm, receiving the treatment, or tiring the other. One of her friends touched for the success of this remedy and claimed to have reduced her hips with it. My own impression was that it could be safely used anywhere except on the bust.

IN THESE days I often remembered the lectures which my old doctor had given me on the disastrous effects of fats, sweets and starches and wondered what he would say if he could see the amount of salad and pastry I was consuming. Sometimes, I question whether one could really be any worse for me than the other, but down in my heart I must have known that my pet weakness for salads dressed with a rich mayonnaise would be my undoing. There can be no question but that olive oil puts on flesh quicker than any of the other four fats—butter, meat fat, cream and cheese—although the rich fats served in such tempting variety in every private house and tea-shop in

the afternoon, must have been a close rival combining as they did an over-short pastry with a sweet, rich custard or fruit filling. But like the man in the opera "The worst of it was I liked it" and did not seem to have sufficient will power to refuse any of these good things. It was as if both the flesh and the spirit had gone completely back on me. Indeed about the only consolation I had was the fact that I was not eating our pet American fattener—hot bread—in the morning. No griddle cakes loaded with butter and maple syrup graced the English breakfast table you can rest assured.

Don't for a moment think I was ignorant of what the effect of all this would be or that I did not realize that I should get down to a "maintenance diet" of lean white meats, plenty of vegetables, green salads dressed merely with lemon and salt, and no thick soups and rich desserts, just as quickly as possible unless I was willing to take the fattening consequences.

HOW I did long for my nice tiled bathroom at home with its long row of neat little white bags of Espous salt in the cupboard! It is all well enough to argue that I could have kept up such a simple treatment anywhere, but in spite of the fact that we had rooms at a good place and week-ended with delightful people in the suburbs, I had not had a decent bath since leaving the steamer much less a reducing one. To be sure, my "bawty" appeared with alarm-clock regularity each morning but in its hot steamy tub it was a parody to a good American. Neither had I ever the heart to ask the maid to bring more and hotter water when I knew that she had first to heat it and then carry the jugs up two long flights of steps from her basement.

When Buying Furs

THE subtle charm that lies in fine fur and the exquisite frame it affords for the features is a recognition long ere this and equally well-known is the fact that there is positively nothing that will impart greater comfort in cold weather than fur.

While all furs are worn, still there are some, which are more in style than others, but the popularity lasts a greater length of time than that of a favorite style of garment or hat—three years generally: one in which the style works itself up in public favor, one year where they acquire such dimensions, as to be a positive craze, and one in which the decline takes place. Each year brings a new favorite, and the consequence is that there are always three leading styles in furs, the one just beginning to become fashionable, the other at its point of culmination, and the third slowly but surely going out of fashion. The woman who is wise will buy her furs in that style that is just coming in, thus being even the most expensive will stay in perfect condition for a greater period of time.

One is always on the safe side when buying mink or sable, for these two furs will hardly ever lose their "vestige" to such an extent as to become passe.

The latter pertains to the most exclusive of all pelts, and is accordingly high priced. The best grade comes from the Caucasus Mountain in Russia and its value is six times that of the so-called

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