

SKIRTS AND GOWNS.

THE STYLES DISCLOSED BY MODISTES AND IMPORTERS.

Trimmed Skirts Have Come to Stay—Shoulder Seams Are Gradually Lengthening. According Plaiting Revived—Novel Shirt Waists and Blouses—Millinery.

As the season advances the incoming fashions for late spring and summer are disclosed and doubt set at rest concerning some of the greater problems that vex women's souls earlier in the season. It is certain now that trimmed skirts will prevail, especially in thin materials. While the new dress skirts show differences in cut and decoration, the changes are not so radical as to greatly distress provident women with old gowns to make over. Many will be glad to learn that the popular bell-shaped, falling full at the back and close fitting over the hips, is retained on the list for the spring of 1897.

All sensible women dread any turn in fashion's wheel which brings to the top sloping shoulder effects, but the version has gone forth, and an effort is being made to lengthen the shoulder seams. Sleeves are smaller, and many are made ornate with shirring and tuck-



IMPORTED HATS AND GOWNS.

A small puff or caplet still appears as a finish for the top of the sleeve.

Shirt waists and blouses remain, and a genuine blessing these are, the one bringing comfort on hot days and the other a dressy effect in conjunction with black satin skirt. The modern blouse may be as simple as a shirt waist, as elaborate as the bodice of an evening gown. It

may be well to explain in this connection that many of the shirt waists now popular for the summer campaign are decidedly fanciful, being frilled, striped and lace edged until they are many removes from the original article with its stiff linen collar.

A pleasing revival is that of accordian plaiting, which appears in gowns, wraps and hat trimmings.

In illustration of the new styles may be described two imported costumes—white muslin chintz silk, with a black guipure, harmonising with the trimming on the lower part of the skirt. The bodice opens over a full front in white muslin. The draped belt is in black satin macramé, shot with red. The second dress has a skirt in cream colored canvas. The bodice bodice is a good representation of the up-to-date blouse. It is made of flowered netting and is set off with a bolero vest in black velvet trellis work. The belt is of black velvet. Jeweled buckles adorn the collar and belt. This style of bodies would look well in a variety of materials and colors and is very fashionable.

Many of the new tailor made gowns are decidedly smart. Indeed, the prospect is that plain tailor gowns will be in the minority.

The ubiquitous bolero has invaded this department. A charming example is in violet tinted cloth. The short bolero bodice is fastened by a jeweled button over a full yoke and vest of narcissus green silk and swathed at the waist by folds of a dark violet colored satin. The narcissus green is again employed as a groundwork to a fine applique embroidery of iridescent metal cord, this serving as a border to the foot of the skirt and as an outline to the reverse, top and cuffs of the bolero. The hat is of finely plaited straw in a basket shade and has motifs of

Present Taste In Painted China.

The taste of American china painters is beginning to incline toward conventional decoration, always satisfying and suitable to all occasions, says Art Amateur. One of the best decorators of table service in New York reports all of her largest orders as coming in this direction. They are executed in the highly glazed tints applied by "dusting" the powder colors upon the surface of the ware, the tint forming a colored band of graceful, irregular design on each dish. Elaborate scrolls of raised gold or white enamel or both furnish the ornamentation and sometimes bands or irregular spaces filled entirely with dots of paste and then covered solid with gold are added with excellent effect.

For example, on a pretty, quaint sugar bowl and cover the band at the top of the bowl may be covered with these tiny dots, giving, when finished, a gold band of very rich appearance, while the curving lower part of the bowl is tinted in plain color.

Lemon Padding.

Add 1/2 quart of milk unskimmed to 3 cups of bread crumbs, and when well soaked mix in the yolks of 4 eggs beaten very light with 1 cup of granulated sugar. Add 2 tablespoonsfuls of butter melted and the grated rind of a lemon. When well mixed, turn into a greased pudding dish and bake. Do not let it be overdone, for it will then be watery.

Make a meringue of the whites of the egg and one-half of a cup of powdered sugar and flavor with the juice of the lemon. Spread on the pudding when cold or enclosing in tall made bags of cotton or linen cloth or strong paper.

Bread Stuffing For Pies.

Soak half a pound of bread crumbs in water until soft, then press dry. Fry a little minced onion in butter, add the bread, a small piece of chopped meat, some chopped parsley and pepper and salt. When it has cooked a minute or two, remove from the fire and stir in one egg.

Trifles That Are Tidy.

Houseboats are becoming popular in this country.

The most popular bracelet is flexible, being in gold chain pattern with gems set in at intervals.

Narrow, quillings of chiffon are a feature of dress this season.

The hats now in evidence are marked in conspicuous colors, rods had green feathering, and a variety of flowers, feathers, tulle and chiffon. In addition to the foregoing are all kinds of hats ornamented in gold, jet, steel and jeweled effects. Alights are also in favor, as are glass, cane and moire ribbons.

The newest beaded bags are flat and have foilage tops of gold or silver. These bags come in all the new colors to match or harmonize with the costume.

There is a revival of old fashioned designs in jewelry as well as in silverware.

ALICE VARNUM.

UNIQUE WICKERWORK.

Real Pictures in the Way of Spring and Summer Furnishing.

Trimmed skirts have come to stay—shoulder seams are gradually lengthening. According plaiting revived—novel shirt waists and blouses—millinery.

With the spring the new schemes in wickerwork seem to multiply more and more. Among charming pieces described and illustrated by the Decorator and Furnisher is a settee or kind of lounge

which holds at full length the body. It is straw color, with a projection at the back which acts as a shelf particularly suitable for a piazza or upper veranda where the furnishing is one which partakes of a roomlike effect.

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What one needs in practice is to have a distinct object or aim in view. It may be precision, brilliancy, velocity, evenness or lightness. It would be well if each student were to make out for himself a study plan, with the finger exercises and portions of pieces to be practiced each day, with the object aimed at in each day's practice.

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