

Near-Spring Furs and Near-Nothing Lingerie



"Blue Bird" Costume, Devised in Blue Velours de Chine. The Straight Front Waistcoat and Cutaway Jacket Are Most Chic.

LADY DUFF-GORDON, the famous "Lucile" of London, and foremost creator of fashion in the world, writes each week an article for this newspaper, telling all that is newest and best for well-dressed women. Lady Duff-Gordon's new Paris fashion brings her into close touch with that centre of fashion. Lady Duff-Gordon's American apartment is at Nos. 37 and 39 Fifty-seventh street, New York.

Lady Duff-Gordon ("Lucile")

How far and fast the fur fad will last is an open question. I am inclined to think that fur will disappear with great suddenness as the Riviera season opens. This fad started last August "took" so violently that, of a minute a fad becomes popular, its death knell sounds. Fur only used in gowns and hats, lingerie and night gowns! In this, I will tell you later in detail.

Coming in mind the thought that I go with the winter wind, I find you some first spring fashions, and as you will see, there is evidence of fur than in the costumes. But the muffs are of course.

Blue Bird costume is a favorite. It is created in a dark blue of laine. The skirt is the few plain models on fashion delgas to smile. It is a coat which brings happiness. Is it delightful? And what, oh! buttons snugly to the chest. The cross buttons with two buttons over the waistcoat of bright sulphur cloth. The whole effect is a most smart.

For a contrast is the "Dinard" wrap, of mustard colored and brown skunk fur, which is an excellent model for early spring. The muffs, of the fur, may be as oppressive in appearance, as necessary to complete the costume.

In the next picture there is a muffle more suggestive of spring, made of brown and green plaid edged with dyed fox. The coat with which it is worn is a little affair, designed for a pretty debutante. The fabric is serviceable charmeuse and made in apple green. The girl in its design, has a neck decoration and a new arrangement. These buttons down the skirt several inches to the fur edged slit.

The fold on the left side is bell shaped hat, edged with a suggestively demure and pretentious in fabric, if not in color. The purple plush coat with its white turn back collar and stunning waistcoat of white tulle. The whole costume is lined with a fine blue fabric. The hem is turned at the back and sides as to its lining.

Of course, my lady wears a purple with an apron fantasie and, of course, she carries an ermine. The hint of the spring is given in the blue-gray costume which I have named "Spring." The short, coat is excellent; the skirt, in the back and gathered at the waist is equally excellent. The skirt outlining the waist is decorated with a queer gold ornament.

There are to be very chic in the winter season is immediately at hand. How to tell you of the near-lingerie! Never again, will wear the serviceable muslin fabrics of the past! And



Dinard Wrap of Mustard Colored Cloth, Trimmed with Brown Skunk Fur. The Open Neck Effect Is Becoming and Will Remain Chic for Many Months.

naturally enough, the very shapes of our undergarments are changing to conform with the shapes of our outer clothes.

The very newest nightdress is slit up the left side from the hem—almost—to the knee, the opening being edged or softened by a little frilling of the lace which figures again on the very low-cut neck and the short sleeves.

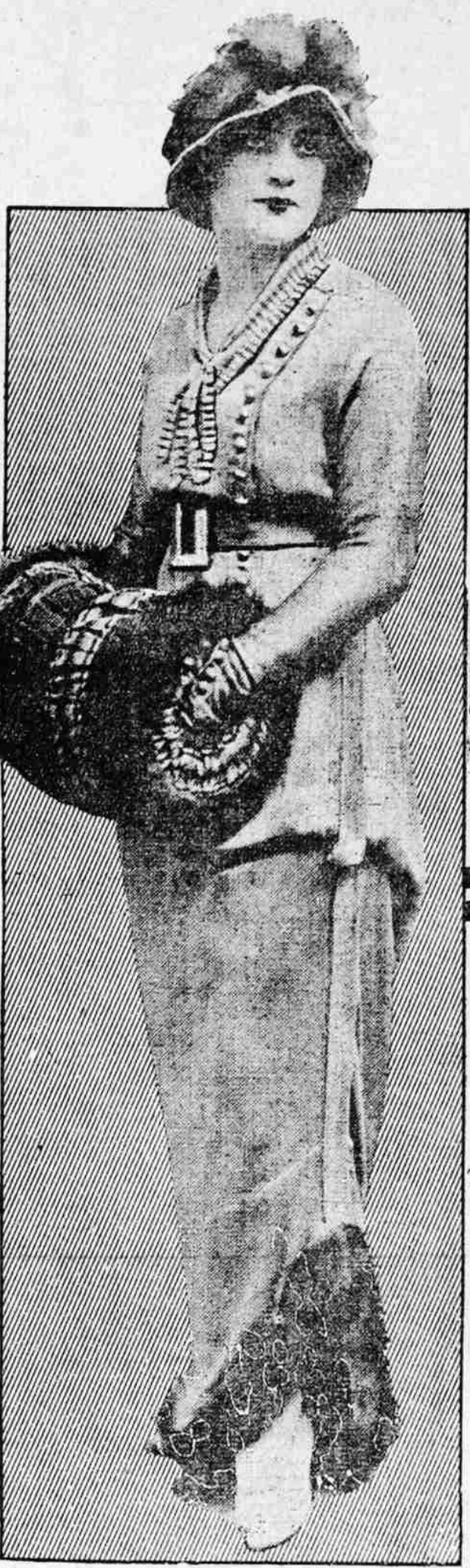
But really the said slit is not as noticeable as you might imagine, for the reason that the nightdress itself is made of the faintest flesh-pink nylon and is of such a filmy transparency that it is hardly visible to the naked eye!

However, the fact remains that the fashion for the slit skirt has now—and in the fullest and most literal sense of the word—reached its limit! Then there is another new style and sensation in the way of the robe de nuit—really the merely ordinary term of "nightdress" is hardly applicable to such an exquisite and ethereal affair!

And this, you must know, is made with a fish-tail train, whose long point is edged with the lace, which is then continued in curved insertion form right up the sides of the closely clinging semi-transparency of palest pink nylon to be joined together eventually in the centre of the very décolleté corsage in the bonds of a beautifully embroidered true lover's knot.

So, altogether, the answer to the riddle of "When is a nightdress not a nightdress?" will emphatically and truly be "When it is nylon—for then it is *nothing!*" And there are times when it is made of chiffon!

Those other flowered nylon transparencies, of which you had early news, are having the most extraordinary success, so much so that a new model is being introduced to enter into friendly rivalry with those first and absolutely plain creations which banished all trimming save



Debutante Costume of Apple Green Charmeuse, Showing the New Buttoned Effect on Bodice and the Looped Display on the Left Side.

Just the little flat ribbon which was used—and necessary—to catch together, in the centre, the slight fullness of the folds which took becoming and comfortable curves over the bust.

This later—and, some may think, lovelier—shape is still made in nylon, with a floral device patterned on the filmy white or flesh-pink ground. But its rather deep round at the neck is

followed and formed by a narrow edging and a rather broadly scalloped yoke of fine Valenciennes, the same dainty finish being given to the sleeves, which end their brief and beautiful career just above the elbow. And then, finally, a narrow insertion of lace pursues its curved career some few inches above the nylon at the hem, and where the filmy flowered fabric is slit up the right side (for only a modest nine or ten inches in this case!) the lace is carried to the edge, so that its shadowy curves show up prettily against the aside.

And as to undergarments—they also are arriving at the vanishing point! For they start late and end early, and the newest and most elusive fabric for their working is fine net!

A typical pair of combinations in this particular fabric is such a light



The "Bois" Costume of Purple Brocaded Plush, with Stunning New "Belted in" Waistcoat.

Transparent Collar and Cuffs Are the Very Latest Fad in Paris.

burden that only two long and narrow shoulder-strap of satin ribbon are needed for its upholding. In fact, anything else is rarely used now, as chemises or combinations, whose fabric was continued over the shoulders and there finished off in the once ordinary and universal way with lace edgings and ribbon threadings, would be unsightly and impossible as worn with and clearly visible through the seamless, semi-transparent curves of the fashionable corsage.

For the rest, this particular and pretty net garment is arranged with alternating groups of graduated tucks and tapering insertion of lace and hand-embroidered sprays of flowers, the same decoratively combined design being repeated on the short and narrow legs, and the whole thing being so lovely that it will certainly be worn over the corsets and an inner vest, and so do the duty of camisole and petticoat or knickers as well.

For three garments—one of these being the corset—represent the maximum of underwear which the woman who wants to be fashionable and slender will consent to don this season. Wherefore the sale for chemise and knicker sets has come to a sudden and almost complete end, so far, at any rate, as the lav and cambric garments are concerned.

Fascinating frivolities in net and nylon and crepe de chine are cer-



"Woods in Spring," a Delightful Morning Costume of Blue-Gray Taffeta Lightly Trimmed with Seal-skin.

daintily secured sometimes for wear when corsetless and tea-gowned ease is to be enjoyed; but as the necessary completion for daytime and evening costumes, a very closely fitting and short chemise and outer knickers or culotte of milanese silk or crepe de chine are the invariable and really rather sensible wear.

No attempt is being made to popularize a new "jupon-culotte" of milanese silk, which, by means of a couple of inner and simple fastenings, can either be worn as knickers or petticoat.

It is very cleverly and closely shaped, and it is all bordered with a very slight and flat gauging, which follows its upward curve at the sides and its opening up the front. But, on the whole, I think the actual knickers are more practical as well as smarter.

Some women, however, do not like the constriction of the elastic gathering which finishes them off at the knees, and so a good many are now being made to hang loosely there and are edged with a tiny belting of lace or ribbon, their slight opening at either of the outer side seams being surmounted by a true lovers' knot bow or a wreath of wee flowers.

Altogether, our every item of attire is so delightfully dainty this season that dressing is a special joy—to say nothing of an expense!

But in spite of—and in strange contrast to—the present vogue for essentially feminine and fascinating garments, this present season is also giving more than usual prominence to the pajamas which were once monopolized by the "mere man," but which now, as designed for women's wear, are being made in white, pink, blue or black tricot—and made to mer-ure, too, please note!

Others are being modelled in crepe de chine, but, though a certain and very youthful type of girl can manage to look exceedingly pleasant in such night attire, it is hopelessly unbecoming to the majority of women. And, really, even for travelling purposes, there is no necessity for it to be adopted, as the very plain night-dress of crepe de chine—modelled on pajama lines, as regards its fastening at the neck and its finishing with a breast pocket—is just as practical and infinitely prettier and more suitable.

And my final word, at the moment, on the subject of underwear and night dresses will be to proclaim crepe de chine as the ideal material and the simplest style of making as the smartest.

I have often previously drawn attention to this particular and perfect fabric, and so I take a certain amount of personal pride in being able to tell you now that it is the success of the season, it being already certain that it will supersede all the ordinary and once universal white laws and so forth.

This fact is, indeed, being so fully realized by the buyers of all the leading outfitting departments that they are, I hear, making their arrangements and placing their orders accordingly.

Let me give you a "tip," however, which will insure some permanent satisfaction with every such newly acquired crepe de chine garment.

Be sure to always choose them in pink shadings, as the pure white is apt to acquire a yellowish tinge after a certain amount of washing, whereas the pink will in course of time only grow slightly and still attractively paler.

Some Points Concerning Invitations and Answers

By Mrs. Frank Learned, Author of "The Etiquette of New York To-day."

THE Winter season brings a host of social duties which must be fulfilled if one would keep up one's reputation for politeness and keep in touch with friends and acquaintances. It may be a duty to entertain a little in return for hospitalities. It is always a duty to be prompt in replying to invitations. The recognition of the civilities of others is one of the fundamentals of good manners.

Invitations need to be sent out well in advance in order to secure guests in the whirl of the season; three or four weeks in advance for formal dinners and at least two weeks ahead even for very informal luncheons.

The formal card of invitation is used by persons who entertain frequently. It is engraved in script, with open spaces where the name of a guest, the date, hour and the words "at dinner" are written. For a dinner or any evening entertainment the names of host and hostess appear on an invitation. For day occasions, except weddings, the name of the hostess alone is used. An engraved card for evening bears the words:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hall
request the pleasure of
company _____
on _____
at _____ o'clock.

The engraved address follows. There may be a line written in a lower corner, "To go afterward to the _____ Assembly," or "to the _____ play." The various dances, hitherto called "Cotillions," are now to be

designated as "Assemblies," the time-honored "Cotillon" having vanished from fashion and general dancing being in favor.

Although invitations for formal dinners are usually engraved, it is more the custom to write invitations for semi-formal affairs. Certain rules are observed. Note paper of best quality, with address engraved at the head, is used, words are carefully spaced, names are written on separate lines.

Dinners and luncheons in honor of debutantes are the order of the day. An invitation to a luncheon may be:

Mrs. Henry Mason
requests the pleasure of
Miss Robinson's
company at luncheon
on Friday, January the second,
at halfpast one o'clock,
to meet
Miss Dorothy Blank.

Although the full name of a hos-

ness is given by way of a distinctive understanding, the full name of a guest is not written unless there may be some reason for making a clear indication for whom the invitation is intended. The envelope containing an invitation should have the full name and street address.

Informal invitations are notes in the first person and are briefly expressed.

Dear Mrs. Blank:
Will you and Mr. Blank dine with us informally on Friday evening, January the second, and go to the play?
Yours sincerely,
MARY HALL.

Care in observing the form of an invitation should enable the recipient to reply correctly, yet many persons are in doubt what to do. It must be borne in mind that the same formula is used for an answer as that which is embodied in the invitation. If in the third person, it is answered in that form; if in the first person, that formula is required.

While the rules of etiquette govern the form and may be learned, it must be always remembered that courtesy and consideration for others are principles which underlie social customs. There should be no delay in replying to an invitation which requests the pleasure of one's company. To wait to send an answer on the chance of receiving a more desirable invitation in the interval is extremely discourteous and is a selfish disregard of the convenience

of the hostess, who wishes to know whom she may expect. Although the social world takes refusals as a matter of course and fills up the gaps, a hostess wishes to have time to find eligible substitutes and not be compelled to have an ill-assorted collection of guests. Acceptances or regrets, therefore, should be sent within twenty-four hours after receiving invitations to dinners, luncheons or card parties.

An invitation to a dinner suggests a greater compliment than is conveyed by an invitation to any other social affair.

An acceptance of a dinner invitation makes it obligatory not to allow any but the most serious cause to interfere with being present. Illness or very unexpected reasons may arise, it is true, and in a case of the sort a note of explanation or a telegram must be sent immediately to the hostess.

It is never allowable to enter into any discussion or provision with an invitation to dinner, even when the invitation may be semi-formal. It is



There must be no delay in answering an invitation.



It is not permissible for a wife to accept a husband to regret.