

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF WOMEN

AMERICAN BUYERS ARE INDEPENDENT

Style Dictators From U. S. View Paris Creations With "Reservations."

By Associated Press.
PARIS, Aug. 16.—Paris' first real display of styles since the war began is being attended by about 300 American buyers, who, however, are showing themselves to be more independent of the dictates of French dressmakers than ever before.

Brown, according to the new models, is again in marked favor. Soft materials are used generally, and founces, panniers and the design of the new models tend toward the strictly feminine appearance. There is not the slightest suggestion of the masculine tailor-made effects of the past.

Skirts Too Long.
Paris is clinging to skirts hanging down to eight inches from the ground. American buyers, the dressmakers say, are ridiculing the shortness of the gowns, although frankly admitting American skirts have been too long. One prominent American buyer said today that "no well formed woman looks well in a really long skirt and it cannot be graceful."

"American women have the prettiest ankles and feet in the world," the buyer replied, "and they also are the best shod, but they realize that the extremely short skirts are ridiculed and they believe in moderation."

"Although the Americans designed their own styles to a great extent during the war they apparently are finding much that is worth while in the Paris display rooms. Although viewing things from a new independent point of view."

Passport difficulties, it was said, kept the number of American buyers from being much larger.

Abandon Corsets.
Scores of beautiful models who are displaying gowns for celebrated dressmakers do not wear corsets and make every effort to preserve the soft contour of their figures. The styles generally show a slight fullness on the hips in the form of soft panniers, with pleats and accordion plaits. Flounces are applied in such a way as to preserve the outline of the figure and the straight hem of the skirt.

Collars are high in many cases and if cut open are adjusted so they may be buttoned close to the throat.

All materials are soft, and where founces are introduced they are set on linings of chiffon to insure suppleness. Velvet, soft serge, velour le laine, chiffon and plush are used with great effectiveness in gowns and costumes.

Coats Reach Eyes.
Coats with afternoon costumes come just below the hips and follow Dick Turpin lines, by means of a girde or gauging. Skirts are narrowed at the feet, giving a peg top suggestion. Fur collars reach to the eyes.

American buyers said they are having almost a battle with Parisian dressmakers over the backless evening gowns offered, which the Americans are insisting on having filled in with lace, to the amazement of the French designers, who protest that women should be allowed to display their well formed backs.

Black and gold, raven blue, mole and cinnamon are the prevailing tones for evening gowns.

Hats for fall and winter are both large and small, but in all cases will frame the face. Velvet is the most popular fabric for hats, and trimmings will be of ostrich feathers and monkey fur.

BRUSSELS TO HAVE Y. W. HOSTESS HOUSE

A Y. W. C. A. Hostess house will be opened in Brussels next fall for American, English and Belgian women residents, according to a cable recently received from a Y. W. C. A. secretary.

Mademoiselle Demontmort, president of French Foyers, according to the same cable, has given her own Normandy chateau near Rouen as a general center for social conferences. The center will be similar to that at Asilomar, California, and the Y. W. C. A. will help to support the work. The chateau, which is surrounded by a beautiful park, will house twenty-five people. It has a large library of French and English books, and the bedrooms are richly furnished in styles of different periods. Madame Bernard, who will direct the conference center, has arranged to have practice work done with the social organizations of five villages and two industrial towns nearby.

SERVICE CLUB HAS 300 BEDS.
Narragansett Pier, R. I., Aug. 9.—Any man in any branch of the service can get a bed and a bath for 25 cents at the night at the Service club of the National League for Women's Service here. This Service club, since the signing of the armistice, has housed over night 12,146 and on account of its locations, will probably keep open for many months to come. The dormitories, which have been added to from time to time, accommodate 260 men. This is one of the largest Service clubs in the United States, and a recreational center is operated in connection with it. Mrs. R. H. I. Stoddard is chairman of Rhode Island state.

Admire Hemstitching? Want to Learn? Here Are Directions

Hemstitching is such an old—perhaps one might almost say ancient—method of decorative stitching, that it seems almost as though every one must know how to do it; nevertheless, after all, it is not such an uncommon thing to hear some woman say that she "would like to hemstitch those curtains, or that towel or pillowcase—if only she knew how!" So, doubtless, there are some who will welcome specific directions.

Suppose one begins with a table runner or linen, that is about as simple as anything one could find. Each end, of course, must be hemstitched. The first thing to do is to be sure that the hem is cut evenly, that is, by a thread. Then the size of the hem must be decided. Upon and twice that distance, with about a half inch more for the first turning, allowed before beginning to pull the thread for the hemstitching. That distance measured off carefully at each end, the business of pulling threads begins.

One cannot make hard and fast rules for the number to be drawn out, because of the difference in size of threads in various fabrics. If the material is of a coarse, heavy thread weave, very few threads need be pulled, while if it is of a fine, close, delicate thread texture, many more must be drawn. Then, of course, the original weaver of the fabric decides whether she wants her hemstitching to be narrow or wide, and gauge the number of threads she draws accordingly. In deciding this, she must, if she will have her work as beautiful as possible, use a nice sense of proportion, considering the width of the hem and also the width and length of the scarf itself.

The threads drawn, next the hem should be folded, first the narrow turning to conceal the raw edge; and this should be wide enough to provide against any raw edges of the drawn threads. The next step is to survey the finished product. About a quarter of an inch, in a coarse fabric, or an eighth or a little more, in a fine material, is usually enough. When the hem is basted down carefully, its edge placed evenly along the nearest edge of the drawn space, it is time to begin the actual hemstitching.

Now the runner should be taken in the left hand, being held with the wrong side of the hem toward the person sewing and with the space from which the horizontal threads have been drawn placed

over and along the forefinger. Thread the needle and fasten the end of the thread securely in under the first fold of the hem, being sure that no knot is in evidence or can work its way out of concealment. Then pass the needle from right to left, behind a cluster of threads—four or five, probably, unless the threads are too coarse, in which case there might be enough—and pull it through; pass it around these threads again and then draw the needle through the folded edge of the hem, being careful, however, not to push it through the fabric behind the hem, and pull the thread tightly, thus drawing these four or five threads into a compact group. Take the next group of threads, the same number every time, and proceed in the same way, and so on until the whole distance has been covered.

Double Hemstitching.
If double hemstitching is liked, and this is valuable in that it prevents threads from further unraveling of themselves from the side of the scarf opposite the hem, from which the horizontal threads have been removed, the process is exceedingly simple. One simply turns the end of the runner around and hemstitches the opposite side of this open, or semi-open, space, following the same method as on the other side, except, of course, in this case, the stitches must be taken directly through the scarf itself, there being no hem fold on this side. This is a very pretty finish for table runners, scarfs, sheets, pillowcases, towels, and such things, and is also being used much for lingerie and even for other clothes. Some of the new Georgette gowns and blouses are lavishly adorned with hemstitching, which is a most charming decoration.

Diagonal hemstitching is a simple variation of the same stitch; the drawn threads are stitched in the usual way but, when the opposite side is reached, half the stitches in the first group are taken up over the needle at first and fastened down; then the other half, together with the first half of the next group, are combined and fastened with one stitch, thus giving what is known as a herring-bone effect.

What is known commonly as drawn work is really an elaborate—often times, of course, a very elaborate elaboration—of this simple hemstitching, which is so easily done.

cities or even foreign lands, when the little boys journey afar by train or steam boat—there are numberless ends which they will serve admirably. Such a platform might well be cushioned in denim or soft other material, designed to stand hard wear. This will be practically appreciated by the very little ones, who like to roll around. A pretty decoration for the wall would be a wide Mother Goose frieze, or one representing a zoo. One mother made her children happy by getting them a large screen in four sections, which she allowed them to decorate to suit themselves. On that, they arranged zoos and flower gardens and various things, cutting their pictures out of illustrated papers and magazines. The screen was covered with a plain, dark denim, upon which it was an easy matter to pin or otherwise attach the decorations. And the screen was useful for many purposes.

Then here are the cupboards. It would seem as though the playroom could not have too many of those. If the youngsters have definite places to keep their toys and playthings in, they will learn many a lesson of neatness and orderliness while they are even very young. Then, too, it is a wise plan to have some high shelves, where surplus treasures may be stored. The child who has too many things about all of the time often does not know what to play with, and so fails to enjoy his possessions as he would if he had but a few at a time.

If the room is so arranged that it is impossible to have many cupboards, an excellent plan is to have a good-sized box for each child, in which he is taught to put away his playthings each night; that is, what one might call the loose things. Thus, when these are picked up and disposed of—and there should be order within the box as without—when the larger toys, such as rocking horses, tables, blackboard and such things, may be placed about the room neatly, just as is the regular furniture. These boxes may be had ready-made and attractively decorated.

Of course, what furniture there is in the playroom should be the simplest possible, and of a kind that may easily be kept clean. Curtains, hangings and such things should not only be washable, but should be washed often.

When the week-end journey ends at some lakeside beach, the bathing costume is an essential equipment. It may very smartly be all of black satin, from top to toe, with emerald green stitching deftly applied.

The summer dance frock should be short, simple and of not too rich material. Shell pink taffeta, edged with silver tissue, and lightly veiled with flesh colored silk net, is ideal.

When you scorch any article in ironing dip a cloth in diluted peroxide and rub the scorched spot. Then iron over it and the stain will disappear.

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The Possibilities of Window Shades

She was an interior decorator, one who had the gift of making homes homelike, as her clients said; so, of course, one would expect something attractive and unusual in the way of window shades in her house, though, concerning these particular ones, she modestly averred that anyone could have made them. First of all, they were of glazed cretonne, gayly flowered, just the sort to introduce a thought of gardens into a city house. Next, they were cut in scallops and finished off with a stiff little narrow fringe, which gave them an added air of festivity, scallops being so much more interesting for such a time and place than plain, straight hems, their owner declares. A simple, but judicious system of weighing made them hang smoothly and evenly (the shot-tape that dressmakers used to use may have been employed) while gay tasseled cords, carrying out the predominating shade of the flowered design of the cretonne, finished them off both usefully and decoratively.

These shades were hung at long French windows, reaching from the floor well up toward the ceiling of an unusually lofty living room, and opening out upon little semicircular balconies, lined with flower boxes with fragrant, old-fashioned petunias in brilliant colors.

The flowers within—on the shades—and without, in the boxes, combined with the green tops of the trees in the square below, helped to satisfy a longing for country sights when the family felt obliged to spend summer days in town, and gave the whole home quite a different aspect from that of winter days, thus enhancing its attractiveness to family and friends.

"No More Sticky Plates"

No more sticky plates and no more dishes dried on dishwells.

These are two of the things for which the Y. W. C. A. training schools for home assistants is standing. The school was started in answer to the demand for home assistants on the new domestic service plan which have come into the central branch employment bureau. Within the last six months, 520 calls for home assistants have come in, and 170 have been successfully filled.

"There should never be a sticky plate after the home assistants have finished the course," Miss Grace H. White, placement secretary, says. "The girls are taught how to make their own soda preparation for cleansing the ice box, the kitchen closets, etc., and how to clean a sink and a kitchen range so that it shines."

"Dishes are never dried with a dish towel, but always scalded and allowed to dry without a streak."



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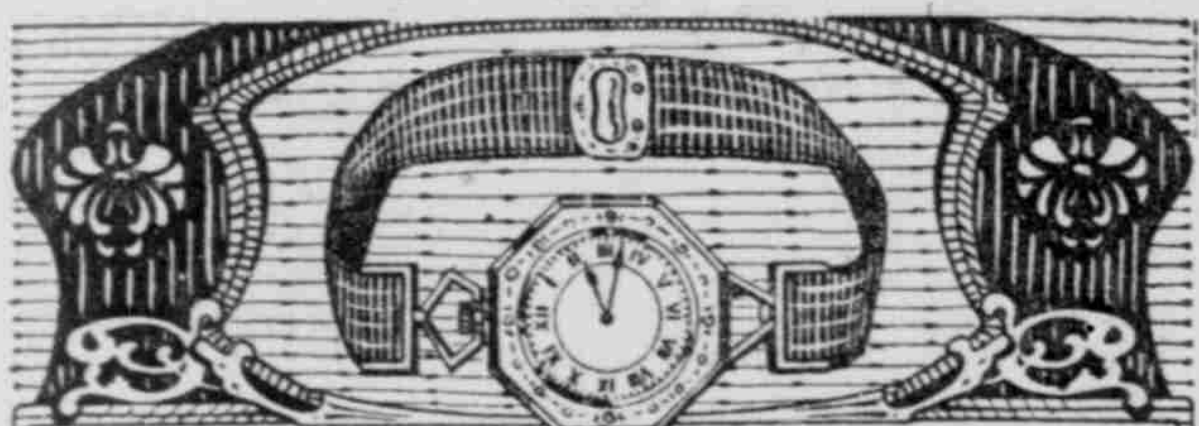


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