MATERIALS FOR SPORTS FROCKS ARE CONSPICUOUSLY NOVEL



IT'S to be a gay, gay time in fashion-town this coming season, according to signs and prophecies. Especially is this true in respect to clothes of sports classification, where color and design are conspiring to join in a giddy whirl of fascinating novelty.

As to the term, sports wear, the mode is making a very free use of it these days. The trend is to wear so-called sports attire for almost every occasion except the most formal. Surely, a sports frock as fetching as either of the models in this picture would give the woman of fashion perfect poise in the consciousness of being properly and charmingly costumed for almost any daytime event.

There is an exquisite touch given to the blue crepella of which the frock to the left is made, in that the broad stripes have a sheen of silver metal in their weave. The semi-plaited skirt, the blouse-styling and the button trimming are all indicative of latest mode.

As to the clever frock to the right, while it is designed for midwinter resort wear, it also declares a coming spring trend. Bayadere striping on a yellow silken background bespeaks its vivid coloring.

Among who's who, and what's what in sports fabrics, stripes are in the vanguard. At the same time, however, that the mode is fairly shouting a spring song of stripes, stripes, stripes, to the world, appears a new star in the firmament of fashionable fabrics—plaid pongee silk. There are shantungs and rayon fabrics also in such gay stripings as bright green on a background in high shades of orange.

Prints of every description are the forecast for the ensuing months. Solid color used with prints is the big idea, also several solid tones used together. Especially will crepes and fine flannels be thus fashioned, that is, by combining different shades of the same material in a most ornamental way.

Black and white, also navy and white are outstanding in the program for spring sports wear. Embroidery in gay Rumanian colors will animate many of the forthcoming frocks, blouses and wraps.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

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SPRING MODE SMILES APPROVAL ON FLOPPY BOWS OF SELF-FABRIC



THE reign of the soft fabric frock is to continue, according to the foreword of leading fashionists. Which means that self-trimming will play an important part in the dress-styling program for spring. The gown of sheer and supple weave which expresses "beauty unadorned" in so far that it interprets style and grace solely through fabric manipulation, has captivated the fancy of women of fashion. Now that the new dress-goods showings include so many materials which are exquisitely supple or alluringly sheer, the vogue for the self-trimmed frock bids fair to outrival its past record.

Among self-trims heralded as important for spring, the big, floppy bow takes precedence over almost every form of fabric-manipulation. "When in doubt" gather the soft, yielding fabric into a huge bow at the front or the side, and the mode promises a smile of approval. This theory was happily put into practice by the creator of the charming afternoon dress of beige crepe shown to the right in the accompanying picture. It is just such artfully tied bows as is this one which one sees on the new Paris gowns sent to our shores for the gratification of milady who plans to winter under southern sunny skies.

Fortunate is it that crepe satin yields so effectively to the modish self-trim treatment, for crepe satin is forespoken as a favorite material for spring. The black satin two-piece dress in the picture features a blouse which ties in a soft bow to one side. The collar, cuffs and sash are lined with a soft shade of pink crepe.

There are ways and ways of introducing the bow effect into dress design. A late model shows widths of material brought from the shoulders, culminating in a bow just below an inset vestee, this bow carrying streamers which fall to the skirt hemline.

It is said that chiffon prints will be more popular than ever. Recent imported frocks of gay print exploit the self-trim theme, especially stressing bows and side drapes.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

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Lemon Meringue Pie Was Fine

By DOROTHY DOUGLAS

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JULIA had not expected, when she took her trip abroad, to spend three weeks of her vacation in a nursing home in London and then return home minus an appendix. However, there she was and there she must remain for still another week.

"You know, Nursey, I didn't let my people knew I was having an operation. They will be surprised when I tell them," said Julia.

The nurse was dusting Julia's toilet things on the dressing table while they chatted. She always sent a long glance at the photograph of a young man which her patient evidently prized. Nurse Keene didn't like the young man's face and had become so attached to Julia that she hated the thought of a possible engagement.

"We admitted a fine young chap last night who refuses to cable his people either—it's rather an unusual situation for us to have two Americans in at the same time. He was in a motor accident last week. He insisted he didn't need attention but two ribs had been fractured. A slight operation will be necessary," said the nurse.

"Oh, dear, I do hope he will come through as well as I have," Julia said, and her big eyes were full of sympathy.

A few minutes later nurse went off to the operating room but had promised to let Julia know as soon as possible how her countryman fared. Nurses didn't usually talk to one patient about another but somehow Julia was different.

The report on Tom Conway was very satisfactory later and Julia felt relieved. It was almost as if she knew him—the fact that he hailed from her side of the ocean.

A day or two later, while nurse was making Julia comfortable for her breakfast she said, "That boy keeps worrying me all the time about something called lemon meringue pie and can't see why I have never even heard of it." She recalled with a smile Conway's appealing grin and wished she could tell the matron how to go about making the pie.

"Lemon meringue pie!" exclaimed Julia. "Oh—maybe you think I wouldn't just love some myself." She turned excitedly to nurse. "Do you suppose if I wrote the exact recipe down that the cook would mind making it?"

"I'm sure she'd enjoy a new dish." Nurse produced paper and pencil and soon Julia had put down all details.

And while Julia was writing Nurse Keene cast a glance at the photograph and her brown eyes snapped defiance at him. She might not be a fat little cherubim called Cupid but she certainly was going to make a big effort to assume the role for the time being. So, armed with a recipe for lemon meringue pie, a lovely girl in one room and a fine young man in the other—and both more or less open-eared to all she had to say regarding the other, nurse felt that her way would not be too difficult.

She took the pie up as a surprise to Conway who simply grinned from ear to eat.

"Angel!" he exclaimed, "where, how and when did you manage it?" He gazed at the golden-brown meringue that lay like an amber cloud over the top of the pie. "I don't think I'll have the roast beef and vegetables," he told her.

"Oh, yes you will," decided nurse, "or no pie!"

"Where did you find the recipe?"

"From that sweet American girl—she put it all down so carefully that we simply couldn't go wrong. She's tremendously fond of it herself. I think you two should have a pie party all to yourselves when you're out of hospital," she commented and saw the joyous light in Conway's eyes. "You might write her a little note of thanks and I'll deliver it when I take in her tea."

It was only the first of many notes which the nurse carried back and forth between the two rooms.

Conway had his first bad day when in her letter Julia told him she was leaving next day and would be sailing back home in a few days' time. Clouds hung heavy on his brow and there was no smile to greet the nurse when she returned after delivering the note to him.

Conway decided to ask a favor in his answer to Julia.

"I'm sailing on Saturday fortnight on the Homeric—is there a chance that you would wait and book a passage on the same boat? I feel it would be wise considering the operation you have had that some one you know is nearby."

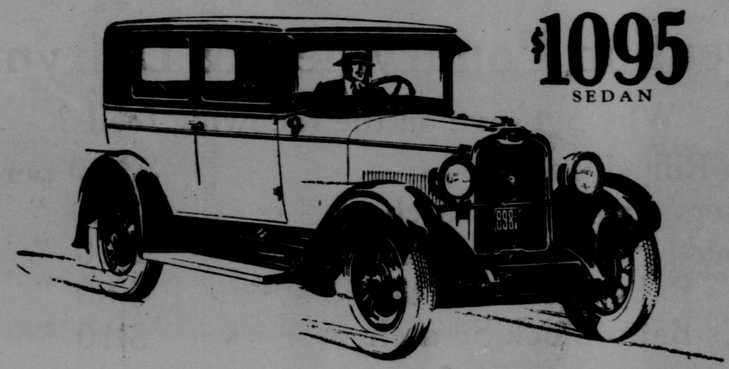
"But I don't know you," wrote back Julia, then in very small writing which suggested a wee voice adding an afterthought, "It certainly would give me a feeling of security and—pleasure but—you see, I don't know you."

"Nursey?" Conway had rung his bell urgently, "before Jul—Miss Avery leaves to morrow—would it be possible for you to bring her in to—to—meet me?" He looked up with such a depth of eagerness in his eyes that nurse turned away to hide her amusement.

"I fancy I could manage—there would be no harm in it."

At the nursing home a few weeks later Nurse Keene was proudly showing the matron a cablegram which read, "You and Lemon Meringue did it. Married at sea yesterday. Julia and Tom."

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