



Racing Fashions More Sensational Than Elegant

(Specially written for the "Radio Record" from London by MAIE WEBSTER.)

RACE meetings present a massed pattern of dress which is often disappointing, and each year is inclined to become more sensational and less elegant. Some of the older members of the Jockey Club and veterans of the racing world expressed the opinion to me after the latest big meeting that women are spoiling the character of the enclosures by wearing freakish and contradictory clothes.

This week has brought out such unsuitable attire as beaded lace, decollete necklines, obviously cut for evening dresses, and many models which were designed for the artificial setting and lighting of the stage. In very many outfits comfort as well as elegance is sacrificed for novelty.

DESPITE the fact that summer weather to date has been somewhat disappointing, the sun shines brightly and warmly this morning, so we gather our holiday clothes and hopefully set forth for another week-end jaunt. Ultra simplicity is the keynote of chic for country or beach wear. Tailored frocks and jumper suits in pale colour are absolutely correct.

There will be an international note on smart holiday resort promenades and beaches this summer, because designers have introduced the Scottish bathing suit and the Mexican bathing outfit; the ever-popular Lido pyjamas still hold their own. The Scottish suit consists of a kilt in linen, which is actually a shorts-trouser-skirt, a tailored jacket and a backless waistcoat of pique. The Mexican suit is fashioned in fine wool—smart pocketed shorts and sunback top in white wool with a cape in red. A Mexican hat has a red girdle to tone with the cape, and a similar cord girdles the waist of the suit.

BEACH pyjama trousers have gauged at the waist and again on the brassiere top, and usually have a short sleeved bolero jacket to wear with them. Sandals in the gayest of colours go with these clothes. A linen skirt buttoned down the front is a useful extra to your beach outfit—so handy to slip on over your shorts.

Linen and shantung in pastel shades are being worn extensively in suits and frocks—tailored skirts and fitted jackets comprise the suits, and the frocks are of the shirt-b blouse variety with short sleeves, high necks buttoned up the front, pockets, and pleated skirts with more pockets.

One very plain lilac shantung frock had a hip-length cape—excellent for spectator sports.

CLOTHES to travel in must be comfortable, but chic.

A stunning example I saw was a three-piece in pale grey. The skirt, pale grey flannel, marvellously tailored, and a particularly smart feature was the way in which the flat section between the centre pleats was buttoned down. The other two pieces comprised a cardigan and jumper, beautifully cut in finest cashmere and of matching grey. A stitched beret of taffeta, and grey suede brogues and gloves completed a most distinctive travel ensemble.

For summer afternoons a gay printed frock is essential. Very festive indeed was one little model I saw, Wedgwood blue, patterned in white, with frilled sleeves and a befrilled bodice. Another print had long sleeves, full and gathered into a cuff; trimming was provided by a finely-pleated collar of the material, and a waterfall jabot in a plain contrasting georgette.



RACING TIP

Backers are advised to mind their steps at the next meeting.

BRITISH cotton manufacturers are going to benefit greatly, for the latest craze is washable cotton evening gowns. Fine printed cottons, piques and sheer handkerchief linen are the newest materials used in the Parisian evening gowns.

COATEES and capes struggle for supremacy. Looking round at the opera the other night, and at the extremely fashionable crowd who thronged the Albert Hall to hear Grace Moore, I noticed that at present it is about fifty-fifty. These are some I saw: The feather cape made from cosy ostrich feathers is a practical as well as an exotic version. An elbow-length cape of net heavily beaded; the diaphanous type in tulle which reaches to the waist, and crisp, stiffened organdie.

Coatees are almost as varied: they are tailored and waisted with wide revers, or basqued, with wide, loose sleeves. Any length from bolero to thigh length. And speaking of the Grace Moore recital, Miss Moore was an exquisite vision in misty white chiffon and diamante, with flowers in her golden curls . . . and her famous smile.

GLAMOROUS wide-brimmed hats for sunny days are trimmed with flowers, but may I add a word of warning about these hats. Don't wear a wide brim unless you are the right height to carry it. A beautiful maiden at Eton celebrations on June 4 wore a most romantic wide-brimmed hat, but, alas, she was (Continued on next page.)