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LINGERIE

The task of the Swiss lingerie industry has been singularly complicated by war conditions, for it is a branch which must follow current fashion trends and, for this, fine quality materials are necessary, however difficult they may be to obtain.

For the very modern viscose fabrics — fine crêpes and others — new finishing processes have been found and perfected ; at the same time, dyeing and printing are being still further improved, so that extremely delicate plain shades and most skilful printed combinations can be obtained.

Chiffon is still the most delicate and vaporous of fabrics for night wear ; its soft folds lend an air of ethereal, almost fairy-like grace. Crêpe satin, also to be obtained in exquisite plain shades, is perhaps more refined and *recherché* in effect, and is preferred for underskirts and petticoats cut on the cross because it falls and moulds the body more perfectly than any other fabric. Washable viscose crêpes can easily be mistaken for the supple washable silks of yore. In cold weather, they are replaced by surprisingly warm and cosy new materials. Despite the difficulties of the times we live in, good taste still predominates in lingerie, both as regards cut and colour ; perhaps never before have the qualities of warmth and elegance been so happily combined as now in ladies' lingerie. The usual scale of colours for lingerie wear has been enriched by the addition of shades of cyclamen and mauve, Nile green, sky and lavender blues, dull yellow and lime green ; white, enhanced by laces, still strikes its dainty, girlish note. Laces and delicate embroideries, many of them worked by hand, stress the exquisite charm of neat and pretty underwear. Even the conventional chemise strikes a graceful note with its modern Valenciennes insertions.

As regards cut and style, elegant night wear is following the trends of fashion. In lingerie sets, we find that all the articles match in every detail : a perfect cut, eliminating the slightest wrinkle, a brassière bodice and graceful wide panties. Recent innovations are the « bloomer » knickers with zip fastener, and the « shorts » for summer night wear. Nightgowns show a cross-over bodice forming a dainty V-neck ; the square, lace-trimmed neck-line is reserved for more juvenile styles. Sleeves are very varied and range from the long, full type caught into a wristband to the short and more severe cuts. Pyjamas are still masculine in style, while the nightdress is essentially feminine. Femininity, too, is the note struck by the narrow flounces on petticoats and wide panties.



Models presented by
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