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Swiss textiles in the tropics



The great round of the many facets of fashion passes, swirls, settles a moment and then disappears only to reappear sooner or later in another form.

With a certainty that seems immutable, we have seen lines assert themselves, materials command attention and magical conceptions become the law of the moment. Then as if by magic everything vanishes, but the creative spirit is merely being poured into other moulds and, at the slightest breath, a new trend is born.

For two years now we have perhaps not witnessed any of those radical transformations of the feminine silhouette which by their strength sometimes go even so far as to impart a new way of thinking. But the masterly throw of the dice which gives birth to them also starts off all the variations which revolve around the seasons that come after. The spectacle offered by Brazilian fashions this late spring does not give evidence of any particularity with even a glimmer of a new trend. On the other hand, the Parisian themes of last season have been remarkably well adapted.

Variety once again reigns supreme. Advocates of the loose skirt are perfectly at ease alongside their sisters with their clinging sheaths, and there is a noticeable balance of proportion in both cases which is not far from being perfect.

The same tendency is evident in the choice of fabrics. Prints which have often been startling have become more subdued. On all sides there is a very strong movement towards simplicity.

With the heat of these first few months, we have witnessed the reappearance of a whole range of embroidered organdies. At this time of the year, to possess Swiss textiles is the ambition of every woman with an eye to her comfort. They alone can offer her the coolness that everyone is seeking.

Whether it is a matter of figured piqué for the simple little dress, or lace and fancy batiste for light flimsy blouses, not forgetting the irreplaceable guipure which adds the final touch so perfectly to a suit, the rare models that fashion houses can still present could be the object of infinite repetitions if it were not for the obstacles in the way of their entry into this country.

In the great round of fashion where what seems to be the most permanent is often the most ephemeral, we can only hope that one day in the not too distant future we shall once again be able to avail ourselves of all the exuberance and freshness that Swiss textiles have to offer.

Fred Schlatter.

