

LONDON FASHIONS FOR MEN

BY A. M. GALE

London, January 1

THE World Cruise—are you taking it? Despite stock-markets and to spite thermometer fluctuations, people are travelling assiduously. If they are not circling the globe, they are bound for sunny climes—sun in some shape or form—whether it ripple on seashore or sparkle across mountain snow. Sufficient it be that it is sun! Clothes for ocean travel are therefore all momentous—in that the sea-route is usually the sun-route.

We men are apt to err on board ship, that is—sartorially speaking, of course. We either indulge in the *dolce far niente* (not the name of a new cocktail) and fall into the slough of sloppiness, or conforming too fastidiously to fashion *à la land*—lose that nonchalance of bearing which makes all nice girls love a sailor. There is a middle course to steer by which one distinguishes the seasoned traveller.

He invariably chooses clothes that combine comfort with propriety. He has acquired that clothes-sense with which readers of *Mayfair* have become familiar. He revels in this freedom of the seas—yet fully aware that he is under critical observation—there is no sterner gamut to run than that "six times round the deck makes a mile." Deck chairs occupied by the fair sex can be most disturbing to the man who is not confident that he is dressed *comme il faut*. The cut of your ulster and the hang of your trousers become, in a trice, infinitely more important than the price of wheat!

Of paramount importance is the ulster and cap for a blow on the upper deck before Boreas becomes friendly. Last month I mentioned Jacobean brown and Lovat mixtures, as par excellence for this type of coat. As regards the hang of the trousers—the hook trouser hanger will attend to that. It clips on to the feet of the trousers and hangs in the cupboard or innovation trunk in such a way that the trousers automatically revert to a good shape by the next day. It is an indispensable adjunct on board ship, as are collapsible aluminum shoe-trees and collapsible aluminum coat-hangers. An innovation trunk, of course, is the ideal travelling companion. There is no handier room-mate in a cabin than it, although it can be conveniently at hand only if the state-room is spacious. But the experienced traveller has found that if he is not occupying a cabin alone, there are numerous collapsible articles on the market, which will assist his comfort and kit when he is trying to adjust himself to the minimum of space.

A blue lounge suit is necessary. In these days of luxurious vessels, much time is spent in the reception rooms where reading, writing and arithmetic—in terms of Bridge—are always part of the day's programme. In fact, as we all know, modern ships are so beautifully equipped against foul weather, with even the main portions of the decks glass-enclosed, that light-weight clothing and underwear is desirable for both comfort and convenience. A tweed suit being generally used for train-travel to port of embarkation, there remain the plus fours and flannels with their accompanying pull-overs for deck sports and gymnasium work.

Plus fours in grey Shetland such as Prince Henry wears, might be a successful choice. Ribbed stockings, of a matching grey tone, would complete a kit that is not too sombre for sunny climes and at the same time is warm enough for the motoring excursions at the various ports the ship touches. A point to be remembered here, is that this is often a distinctly dusty excursion wherefore a thin dust-coat of alpaca may prove a boon in disguise should Palestine or Egypt hold a port of call. I suggest grey plus [See also page 68]

Paris is the inspiration for these ultra winter sports costumes which will be seen at St. Moritz. The gabardine ski costume is intensely practical with its lightning fastener down the front of the jacket. Color for the toboggan slides is introduced in the several pull-overs illustrated; all modernistic in design. Socks to match. Below a bob sled for the mountain slides and a pair of Swiss snow shoes



WEST TRAY

