

JAPS GIVE DIOR A HEADACHE.

Time was, not long ago, when fashionable Japanese dressed as they had done for centuries. And very beautiful it all was. Now, Tokyo sets out to rival Paris as a centre of Western haute couture. One of the leading houses sent six pretty Japanese girls to Sydney to try to break into the Australian market. Twenty-six year old Takako displayed a cotton and tetron sheath dress with balloon sleeves.

The title of the next creation, "Springtime in Kyoto". It was designed by Madame Tsuneko Sakai, who was a personal friend of Christian Dior. It would make that great man turn in his grave to think that the Japs are hoping to muscle in on the fashion world. Not so long ago our Far Eastern friends were happy to manufacture fabrics and undersell the rest of the world, Lancashire included. Now, they're entering the very profitable sphere of fashion. A two-piece, a rayon printed skirt and white blouse.

The youngest of the mannequins, Akiko, modelled "Blue Mood", a high-wasted kimono for wear in the western world. Kiku Festival is a two-piece suit in cotton. The lantern hat gives a pleasing oriental effect.

Whether Australia will fall for all this remains to be seen. Will they try it on Europe before long?