

## MY CLOTHES MONTH BY MONTH.

By "THE LADY DRESSMAKER."

THE hats prepared for autumn and winter wear are all of them extremely smart, and though more simple, of course, than those

worn in the summer, they do not show any lack of colouring or brightness, though the material has changed from tulle and chiffon

to velvet, cloth or felt. The velvets are light weights, as they are called, and are preferred to anything else in millinery, and there is no doubt of the popularity of the long ostrich feather, for so many of our hats are decorated with them. Quills also are very great favourites and are much used in many of the more severe and useful hats. We shall certainly have a season of strings, for they are seen already on so many of the hats and bonnets, and a very good winter fashion it is, though I do not know that we should have enjoyed it during the past summer. The high-crowned hats, the picture hats in the *Directoire* style, and many of the toques have velvet strings added to them, and they are generally tied in a good-sized bow on the left side rather high up. Apparently we are allowed a choice as regards the shape of our hats, for both low and high crowns are worn. The back portion of the hat seems to be nearly always arranged in pleats and waves, and here is placed the handsome pin or buckle which appears to hold them together. The new colours are charming, and all the sweetest autumn hues may be found in the fruits and grains that are adopted in the millinery of to-day: purple grapes and plums, moss, golden corn, and oats, and even the brown osiers may be found. The hats shown in our illustrations are all sketched from recent models, and are of felt, cloth, straw with velvet runnings in it, and last of all, a French Tam o' Shanter of velvet, with a rever of tartan, and a pair of quills at the left side. This hat was carried out in crimson, with a tartan of mixed reds and blues, and white quills.

I think we may consider that the garment of this winter is the cape, or cloak, as it is more generally called; which, considering how large some of them are, is a better description. Quite the old style of wrap cloak is seen, as well as the Spanish cloak in fine cloth, and these are worn, as well as the fur-trimmed and handsomely-braided circular which we show in our sketch. This is also fur-lined, and is an ideal garment for the winter, which may be made in all light colours, fawns and greys, and, indeed, nothing has been more popular this autumn than white, in cloth and serge.

There is no doubt that it is when she is in "tailor-made" that the English girl most shines, and this winter's models show that we are to return to one of our early loves—the severely-fitted and simple habit-bodice. They are trying, it must be confessed, to those unfortunates who have allowed themselves to become stout, but in these days of bicycles the very stout girl is almost non-existent, and a very excellent thing too; for stoutness is a bar to all enjoyment in life, and a sad testimony to too much eating and too little exercise. The new



TWO OF THE NEW FITTED BODICES.



habit-bodices have basques and revers, cross-over fronts and waist-coats, as well as some charming adaptations of the Bolero. One of these is shown in the "Winter Gown with Fur and Braiding," which is made of very fine crimson cloth, with lines of black braiding and scallops. The vest front is of white satin, with silk or muslin frills. Two of these new fitted habit-bodices are shown in our illustration, and that worn by the seated figure displays what we have said regarding perfection of fit and style. Stitching is the great form of decoration at present in vogue, and where this is not used, braiding and flat bands of cloth are the favourite styles.

The fancy for white coats is shown in our illustration, which was of white cloth, worn with a white felt hat and crimson trimmings. There is no doubt that reds and crimsons are very popular this season, and there is a charming new reddish purple, called by its old French name of *prime de Monsieur*, a very good shade of brown is called gazelle, and we have a new heather-purple, a duck's-egg blue, and some beautiful wine and claret shades. Sleeves are, I think, tighter than ever. Some are buttoned up nearly to the elbow, to make them tighter still.

The English cloth gowns seem to show a return to the plain skirt on the part of our best ladies' tailors. The linings of these are, in all cases, very handsome, some being of brocade, in satin and even velvet; but the double skirt and the tunic seem rather foreign to the true note of simplicity which ought to be sounded in the tailor-made gown. I have felt inclined to lay much stress on these last, for every girl, even those whose allowance is only twenty pounds a year, will endeavour to arrange so that her winter gown should be really of good style and fit from the hands of a fair tailor.

Perhaps you would like to know which are the most fashionable kinds of cats of the present season, for fashion has even spread to poor pussy, and if it will make people more considerate and kind to her, I, for one, shall be very thankful. I am sure if she cost her owner money, no one would leave her in an empty house or turn her out to starve in the streets when its occupants go away to enjoy themselves. The cats of the season have been Siamese, Chinchillas, Angolas and Blue Persians, and the lady in England



A TAILOR-MADE COAT.



A FRENCH TAM O' SHANTER, AND A WINTER CAPE.

who has done most in the way of cat-rearing is Lady Marcus Beresford, who is well known as the leading cat fancier. Many ladies gain large sums each year by their cats—by sales and prizes.

The point-lace yoke and sleeves will interest those who are fond of doing that kind of work amongst my readers, and they are many, and it will be pleasant to find that they can really do something that will add to the prettiness of their gowns. The pattern need not be followed, but it should be one of sufficiently open design to look effective, and for our winter evening gowns will be a great addition. The right shape may be very easily obtained by taking a bodice and laying a point-lace pattern upon it in the shape illustrated. The same may be done with the sleeves, but if this be too difficult, they will draw you the design to shape at any good fancy-work shop.





A WINTER GOWN WITH FUR  
AND BRAIDING.



POINT-LACE YOKE AND SLEEVES.

The illustration of the novelties in handkerchiefs shows us that coloured ones are again with us, and enjoy some favour. These are all of batiste, and only one has the tiny lace frill to which we have been so much attached this year; and this one (the open one in the centre) is the only example of pure white shown. They are very small, indeed we have no room for anything large, poor pocketless creatures as we are; and if we should require a real handkerchief this coming winter, we must really stop at home!

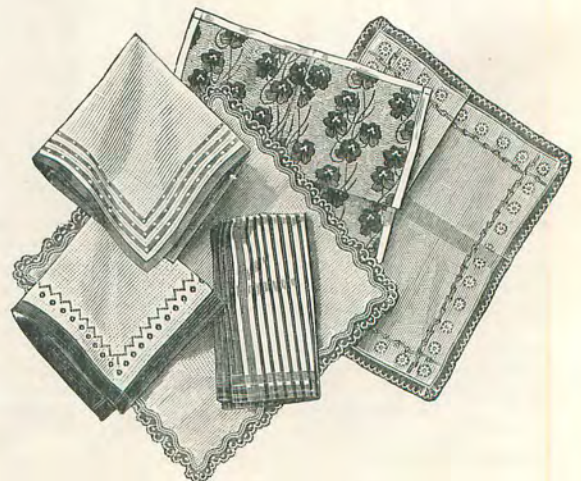
### HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

THE happiest people are the busy people, especially when the business is for the happiness and welfare of others, and there is no cure so great for one's own ills as the effort to alleviate those of others.

MUCH annoyance and delay will be saved if orders for the tradesmen are considered and decided on before they call, and a slate and pencil should be kept in a prominent place in the kitchen to note down requirements which are often overlooked from lapse of memory.

BACON is far nicer toasted before the fire in a small Dutch oven than in a frying-pan on the fire. It is well, however, to open the small shutter at the back of the Dutch oven while it is cooking, which prevents it being done too dry. A saucer should also be placed under the bacon to catch the dripping fat.

A MICROSCOPE is a never-ending source of amusement and instruction, and one should be found in every household. The wonders of natural objects, such as spiders' webs, the pores of one's own skin, and the exquisite texture of the leaf of a flower or plant, can be inspected, and lessons are learnt by the aid of the magnifier in a way that can never be forgotten if once seen.



NEW POCKET-HANDKERCHIEFS





MW

SHORT BLACK  
CARACUL  
JACKET.

therefore her allowance and her ideas have both had to be enlarged, the latter being often very difficult to fit into the narrow dimensions of the former, and the pound of yesterday seems to have no longer the purchasing power of yore. It needs rather a clever head to keep the dress budgets within moderate limits.

In order to cycle, a dress is needed, and a very special one too, that shall be good to look at, up-to-date, and of good material and cut. To achieve all this it must be made by a good tailor. Then there is a walking gown, tailor-made too; an afternoon one, and probably some evening gowns. In the olden days two of these would not have been required, viz., the two tailor-made ones. So I do not believe that women care more for dress, but circumstances have obliged them to give far more consideration to it.

This may be called a winter of furs. There seem endless ways of using them, but I am glad to say skirts are no longer to be trimmed with it on the edges, which was a most useless, cumbersome and foolish freak of fashion. Capes, or as they are more fashionably called by reason of their size and shape, *fichus* are very handsome articles of dress, and with a muff, will



WHITE CARACUL  
AND FOX COLLAR.

MW

## MY CLOTHES MONTH BY MONTH.

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EVEN in the midst of our anxieties about the war, which touch on all sides of society very closely, we feel a certain amount of pre-occupation about our clothes. For, after all, even those who love us best desire to see us looking well clothed and quite up-to-date. Someone said the other day to me about this very subject, "I think women give more attention to dress than they ever did before," a remark which made me put on my considering cap for some minutes, as I never like anything to be said which even seems to be disparaging to our sex. But I soon saw that the answer to the remark lay in the fact that the girl and woman of to-day is essentially different from the girl of even ten years ago, and the difference lies in the circumstance that she has a great many more parts to play, and many more occasions for dress than ever existed at that period; and



furnish the whole outfit of many women. The most popular fur is, I think, fox, which is found in several kinds; black, white, Sitka, Jap, and Celestial. Then there is caracul and Persian lamb, sable, mink, chinchilla, and the usual endeavour to introduce ermine into popular favour is very evident.

In one of our single figure illustrations you will see a collar of white fox and caracul, which is very pretty and looks girlish. It is worn with a grey felt hat, with grey feathers, and has the almost invariable high storm collar. These last are found in nearly every jacket, cape, and mantle; and a very cosy addition they form.

The drawing next to this (also a single figure) shows one of the new short jackets of caracul, with a collar, and revers of the same fur only in white. The skirt of this figure is trimmed with one of the new knotted fringes in black. The hat is of white felt, with black velvet trimmings and feathers.

Amongst the winter novelties the three-quarter-length loose coats must be named, which recall those worn some years ago. This coat is decorated with braid and cloth strappings, and the skirt with which it is worn, is arranged with tabs in graduated sizes on it. The back of this skirt shows the new, long, box-pleat at the back—the first approach towards fullness which we have seen since the spring. The fault found with this skirt is, that its shape and the position of the pleat make it look rather stiff. But many people, who dislike the perfectly plain outlines, will be glad to see it, and there is no doubt of the utter ungracefulness of it for many people. Fur is now most fashionably used on the skirt in long lines, from waist to hem, or as a border to the new panels. The new coats and skirts are made of heavy cloth, and they are, most of them, unlined, except the front breadth which is lined with silk. Now that everyone wears a silk petticoat, the non-employment of silk lining does not matter so much.

So far as the shop windows are concerned in town, they seem to me to be completely filled with evening wraps and cloaks, which are perfectly gorgeous in their colouring, and boundless in their extravagance of price. The very long cloak seems to find great favour by day as well as by night; but there are plenty of pretty, smart-looking capes, which are equally fashionable for younger people. These are made of brocades in light colours, and are lined with satin, and trimmed with lace, or white fur. The long Redingotes are not very suitable for walking wear. What with the tight skirts, and the very tightly-cut Redingote, movement would be nearly impossible.

I am inclined to think that red hats of velvet chenille and felt are more in favour this year than I have known them before; and bats are generally very picturesque, and much be-feathered. Toques are in as great favour as ever, and so everyone should be suited. The home milliner will find her work easy, for hats as well as toques are made ready in every way and only seem to require a few finishing touches to complete them.

One of the newest features consists in the fringes, one of which we have illustrated. They appear on everything, and we bid fair to have a perfect rage for them. They are rather an expensive trimming too, and somewhat perishable.

The difficulty about our pockets remains with us, but has been partially got over by the use of reticules, which are furnished both by the tailors and the dressmakers. Some of them are extremely handsome, made of velvet or satin, and very often trimmed with old lace, very small pieces of which will answer for their decoration. Yellow satin lined with white, turquoise with grey, violet and white, are all seen, and as Christmas presents they will be found quite an invaluable idea, for, like many other things, they can be made at home far cheaper than they can be purchased, and three-quarters or a yard of satin and the ribbons to match it do not cost very much, and lined with a cheaper satin, will make into a most stylish reticule, which will be a most acceptable gift.

On the Continent I found a perfect craze

existing for small pillows made of bright-hued satin, and frilled all round with the same. Some were square, others long, and others again shaped like a half handkerchief. I found that many people carried them suspended by a cord from the wrist when driving or travelling, to be used either to support the head, or provide a rest for it. These, also, would form nice Christmas gifts.

I have seen some few people wearing the hair low, but the great majority continue to have it piled on the top of the head; and the dressing of it has become very intricate, so that one wonders how people manage without a hairdresser. Indeed, I find many women have begun wearing a light wig when travelling, as it seems no longer possible to dress their hair themselves.

There are several new colours this winter,



WHITE FOX BOA, AND CHINCHILLA TRIMMED JACKET.



the most prominent being that known as automobile, which has carried every other before it in Paris. It is of the exact shade of a good Burgundy, and is both beautiful and becoming. Trimmings with chinchilla, it looks very well. Then in Paris there is also a very bright and brilliant plum-colour which may be called purple; and a handsome yellowish shade of brown which is called senegal; and a quantity of orange is seen in millinery. So we may rejoice in one thing, that we shall have brighter streets when so much colour is in vogue. In London I notice that every fifth or sixth woman wears a dress of plum-colour, a hue of which our grandmothers were very fond, as they esteemed it as decidedly becoming, and rendering the skin fairer

and more brilliant. The favourite trimmings for these purple cloth gowns are white cloth, white lace, and *passementerie*; also white furs, ermine, caracul, and the beautiful grey of chinchilla. These white cloth facings are very smart-looking, and when they are soiled they can be rearranged to look well with lace and braid, or *passementerie*. The white cloth is closely stitched with silk in lines upon lines—traced upon the surface—a feature of this season.

## MORE ABOUT PEGGY.

By Mrs. GEORGE DE HORNE VAIZEY.

### CHAPTER VII.

TWO evenings later Peggy edged her way out of the crowd at Mrs. Ronald's reception and sat down in a corner with a gasp of relief. Eunice had been correct in prophesying a crush, for the suite of entertaining-rooms seemed a solid block of people, and the babel of voices almost drowned the music which was being discoursed at intervals by a violinist with a shock head, a signor with an Italian name and an English face, and a lady with an elaborate coiffure, who, in turn, warbled by herself, and joined in the rendering of impassioned Italian duets. The accompanist flourished up and down the piano, and the singers held their music at arm's length, half-acting the words as they alternately frowned and smiled, and having gone their separate ways throughout three whole pages, joined together in a conclusive burst of triumph. The babel of talk went on with even greater energy when the last note had died away, and Peggy pursed up her lips in doubtful compliment.

"That's over, thank goodness! I don't know what it was all about, but she said, 'Si,' 'Si,' a great many times over, and they seemed happy at the end, so that's satisfactory. It must be very exhausting to smile so hard, and sing so loudly at the same time, so I hope other people appreciated their efforts more than I did." Peggy sighed, and stifled a yawn. She was feeling just a trifle tired and depressed in spirits, for the day had been a busy one, and the process of dressing for the evening had been delayed by one of those careless tricks for which she was famous. Some trifling alteration having to be made to the belt of her sash, she had taken it in hand herself, and put it—where? That was the question. Nowhere in any of the three bedrooms could that belt be found, and while the brougham waited at the door, and an impatient male tramped up and down, four distracted females rushed to and fro, opening drawers, ransacking wardrobes, and burrowing beneath beds. Mrs. Saville grew nervous and hysterical; her hus-

band tugged at his moustache, and vowed his intention of sending away the brougham and spending the evening at home if this sort of "foolishness" went on much longer; and Mellicent was on the point of tears, when at last the missing treasure was discovered, squashed flat beneath a cushion, in company with a magazine, a handkerchief, an odd glove, and several stray needles.

Colonel Saville looked very fierce during the drive which followed. His light eyes sent out little sparks of fire, and the waxed ends of his moustache bristled with anger, while Peggy sat opposite him in a little heap in the corner of the carriage, with her eyebrows peaked into the old eave-like shape, and the corners of her lips drooping pensively downward. The meek little "Yes, father! No, father!" which replied to his strictures, would have melted a heart of stone, and Mellicent was relieved to see the Colonel's frown gradually giving place to the usual good-natured twinkle.

"But you must be more careful child," he said, "or you and I will quarrel. I can't stand disorderly ways. You ought to have a place for everything."

"I have, father, but it's generally in the *other* place!" sighed Peggy plaintively, whereat her father laughed, despite himself, and peace was restored. He was very tender to his little daughter during the hour which followed, as he invariably was after anything had occurred to cause a cloud between them; but though Peggy found no familiar faces in the throng, her parents were fortunate enough to discover several old-time friends, so it came to pass that she now found herself alone for the moment



THREE-QUARTER  
LENGTH COAT.

and thankfully seized the opportunity of a rest.

Ten minutes earlier one of the younger men to whom she had been introduced had asked to be allowed to pilot her to the refreshment-room, but she had insisted on sending Mellicent in her stead, and now had the pleasure of beholding that young lady standing in a distant corner, enjoying an animated conversation, and looking so fresh and bonnie among the anæmic town-bred girls, that more than one admiring glance was cast in her direction. Peggy's little face softened into a very sweet expression of tenderness as she watched her friend, and hugged the thought that she had had some part in giving her the pleasure which she was now enjoying. In the pretty white dress, with her hair arranged by Carter's skilful hands, Mellicent had no cause to



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THE chief note that I have made this month is one of importance also, and that is, that there is a decided change in the shape of skirts, and that change directed towards greater fulness at the top, an alteration which makes them infinitely more graceful and becoming. For Fashion had taken no account of the fact that, even as girls, we were not all sylphs, and were, some of us—even in early

youth—somewhat stout, but not fat—only comfortably covered with flesh.

The new skirts have box-pleats at the back, which are sometimes stitched down flatly for nearly a quarter of a yard. These pleats may be either wide or narrow; and there are some very advanced skirts that have small pleats stitched down from the waist to the knees. This new style was seen in Paris

in October, and has been taken up with avidity in England, where everyone has tired of the extremely tight skirts.

So far as jackets are concerned, I notice that young people affect the Eton (or Bolero) shape that ends at the waist, and allows the form of it to be seen. They are quite tightly fitted at the back and sides, and have a pair of fashionable short rounded ends in front. They are quite high at the throat, having generally a storm collar; and in some of them the ends in front can be turned up so as to make a muff if the weather be very cold. In furs, those most used for these small jackets are of sealskin and broadtail. With the fur, velvet is mixed, sometimes the revers or the storm collar being lined with it. A bright colour is usually chosen. Some of the very handsome capes of this season are lined with velvet instead of satin, or even fur; and it makes a very warm and cosy lining. Orange, rose-pink, and pale mauve are all used for the purpose.

Shoulder capes are also used by young ladies; and they are made high to the neck, covering the shoulders and chest, with long stole ends in front. These are used for wearing with a tailor-made gown. Chinchilla or ermine are both used for the purpose, and both white and black fox for the smaller collars, or boas. To these, apparently, we cannot have too many tails—as many as six may be seen, and perhaps two heads as well. The white fox is very becoming and pretty for girls, but will hardly be white very long in London.

The illustration of a winter hat shows the present style of the picture-hat. It is of felt, with a velvet lining, and is decorated with ostrich feathers, with a row of crimson roses at the side of the head, forming a line resting on the hair. This sketch also shows the very foolish fashion that has been brought in by the extreme popularity of lace scarfs and bows at the throat, viz., that the collars of the winter coats or capes are being cut far back to show the lace, a very dangerous plan for the cold days we are expecting.

I should have mentioned the subject of over-skirts when writing of the new skirts, as they are so much worn; but they are of most value to those who have to transform a gown and bring it into line with the present fashions. They are most useful for this purpose, and one lady of my acquaintance has a very handsome black under-skirt that is made useful both by day and night; by day, with an auto-mobile red cloth tunic, and by night, with one of jet and lace; the first with a Bolero jacket of the red cloth, and the latter with either a high or a low blouse, covered with jetted tulle and lace. So two dresses would thus have but one skirt between them. One sees so many gowns in the afternoon made with a demitrain at present. The new shaped skirt is far easier to hold up than the eel-skin skirt was, and it will not look so baggy and ugly at the knees as the extremely tight ones did.

One of the prettiest novelties of the season consists in the removable linings of the muffs, which are used, whether the muffs be of fur or velvet. These linings are made of either silk or satin, and are very full and ample, with double, gathered ends, which often have a frill of guipure lace inside them as well. They stand out well beyond the ends of the muff, and are made of different



TWO WINTER GOWNS.



colours, so that they can be changed to suit the hue of the costume. A bunch of violets is added if possible, for they are just as popular as ever for hats and bonnets as well as for dress.

I cannot recall whether I said anything about the popularity of earrings, which seem to have returned to favour with a rush; and people are recognising how very becoming they are at times to certain faces. They have been called barbaric, but they have also been used in times which we are not accustomed to consider barbaric; and even their barbarism is interesting, and all our other ornaments are the same. The gipsy rings were the first ones which were popular, but now, I think, other kinds are liked as well, as I notice both cluster earrings and tiny nail heads are worn. In case the ears are not pierced, there are earrings to be bought which have springs to fasten on the lobe of the ear, and so avoid the operation of piercing.

The pretty dress of green cashmere shows how much tucking is used this season, the bodice and tunic both being thus ornamented. The bands of ornamentation are composed of *appliqué* lace over black, with pipings of turquoise blue. The short embroidered jacket has a scalloped edge, and is embroidered in panels, with cream-coloured silk braid, on black cloth. The toque is of black velvet and feathers, with violets under the brim in front.

The illustration of two winter gowns shows two examples of the popular tunic. The first, at the extreme right, is the back view of a light grey princess dress, with black



GREEN CASHMERE GOWN TUCKED.



WINTER HAT.

braiding on the bodice and tunic, black velvet bands on the edge of the skirt, and a black velvet hat, with white tulle rosettes and a black feather. That on the left side wears a black and white costume. The tight-fitting jacket is trimmed with folds of black and white silk; the collar, revers, and the edge of the tunic, with white silk embroidery. The toque is of sable, with a cluster of crimson roses on the left side.

A short space must be given to mourning apparel, which many, alas, are even now wearing, though the war is only begun, and many more, probably, will yet wear; for never have we had a war, in which every class—from the Queen downwards to her lowest subject—has been represented, in which all are so much interested. For the last few years it has been the custom to say that very deep mourning, or, indeed, mourning at all, for that matter, was going out of fashion. But in the highest ranks this



does not seem to be the case, where the outcry against the use of crape has not continued; and it is worn at present by all the Royalties in

their recent bereavements. But it is amongst a great portion of the middle classes that we find an improvement; in the length of time

that the mourning is worn, in the fact that children are no longer put into black when very young, and that the styles of our mourning are all brought up to the fashions of the moment. In the materials employed for it there is also a great advance. We have taken black face-cloth into favour. Black serge, cashmeres, and that very useful crape-cloth, are all really pretty and modern materials, out of which becoming gowns can be fashioned, which do not need crape upon them to mark them as mourning. The tailor-made gown is as much used in mourning as out of it; and the blouse can be made of silk, in the same style as that which is worn in colours. The hats and toques, though made of crape, are very pretty; and I have noticed that the long flowing veil, which has been adopted by the Americans from the French style of mourning, is being worn here when designed to be very deep mourning, not necessarily that of widows.

Of course, the deepest mourning that we women wear is that of a widow; but this is never worn for more than a year and a day, when the weeds are dismissed, and slighter black—perhaps without crape—takes its place. There are several kinds of silk worn in the deepest mourning, but we should not wear either velvet or satin then; and I must confess that velvet, trimmed with crape, has always seemed a mistake. Handsome sables are rarely left off, if you are fortunate enough to own them; but the really correct furs are astrachan, bear, black fox, and sealskin. Dull jet is used—not the bright—and pearls are preferred to

diamonds, at least in the early days of mourning. Do not omit, in making your purchases, to buy black stockings and a black petticoat, which must be worn for mourning always, even when you have reached the half stages: and lavender and mauve petticoats seem to destroy the effect of a really nice black gown. Cream-colour must be avoided, as not consistent with real mourning; and the same may be said of violets—those which are in tones of pink, or extreme tones of blue. I have been often asked whether red were not mourning, and if it could not be worn, and I wonder where this odd idea originated; for it is quite wide-spread, and it is, of course, a mistake.

A change has also taken place in our ideas of memorial wreaths, which are now often made of coloured flowers, instead of white ones, and lilac, or mauve. A cross, made up quite lately, was composed of the first fading leaves of the beech tree, a clear, yellowish hue, with the centre part decorated with crimson geraniums, in a solid heart-like form.



SHORT

EMBROIDERED JACKET.

## THE FACE AND ITS BLEMISHES.

By "THE NEW DOCTOR."

### PART II.

WHAT slaves are we all to fashion! There is no condition which is more troubling to the mind of an English girl than the possession of a moustache. Yet in the Aihnu Islands the women tattoo their upper lips in order to simulate hair!

That the fair sex should make such a fuss over superfluous hairs is not to be wondered at, for they certainly are most unsightly. But how many girls worry over hairs which they do not possess?

From a very early age the face is covered with soft downy hairs. When a boy gets to

the age of fifteen, the hair on his lips and chin begins to grow long and coarse, and unless he shaves continually he has a beard and moustache at thirty.

Now precisely the same thing occurs in the opposite sex only it is much less in degree. When a girl gets to be about fourteen, the hairs upon her lips and cheeks grow longer and thicker than those over the rest of her face. Usually they cease to grow before they become noticeable to ordinary mortals, but sometimes they grow on in a most unwelcome manner, and may even clothe the face of their host with a thick beard and moustache.

In every woman the hairs on the lips and

chin are longer and coarser than elsewhere. In very dark women with black hair the hairs on the upper lip are always noticeable, but with light-haired people their moustaches cannot be seen except by careful arrangements of light in front of a looking-glass.

Why the hairs of the face of some women should want to grow longer and coarser than they do in others, we can no more tell than we can tell why one woman is tall and another is short.

Superfluous hairs on the face are capable of division into several kinds. There are the long coarse hairs which are few in number but which grow quickly and are very conspicuous.



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DECEMBER is not at any time a very productive month in the way of new styles; for we have already purchased our winter wardrobes; and what we may require takes the shape of evening dress, which we shall usually need even for the small family Christmas-keeping. This year we do not seem to be planning many of these, and it looks as if our festival

would be quiet, and, in spite of the war, cheerful to a certain extent. For there are always the children to amuse, and the young people whose brightness it is too soon to overshadow. These dresses for quiet evenings, as well as for greater occasions, I find are being very largely made of black, mauve, or grey. Indeed, with out-of-door dress we

notice the same thing, and the fancy for black and white has suffered no diminution. If we wear no mourning ourselves, it seems to the leaders in the world of society, that it is in better taste that our garb should be quiet and retiring, and I see in the papers a notice of two lovely gowns, made in Paris, for the Princess of Wales, that both are of black, relieved by fur for day-time, and sequins for the evening wear.

There is a decided change in the shape of the skirts we are to wear, which is most evident to those who see the newly-arrived French model gowns, or those sent from the first-class dressmakers in Paris. The latter, indeed, rush to the other extreme, and display skirts gathered all round save the immediate front breadth; but those most generally seen are arranged in flat pleats all round, which are stitched down flatly, and at a certain distance the stitching ceases and the fulness flows out. There was a great endeavour, when the sales came off in the new year, to sell off the stocks of the tight eelskin skirts, and so make way for the newer cut. So I hope my readers were careful about purchasing too much in this way, as in the early spring we shall see the change in full prospect.

The rage for black and white is still going on, and the third of our illustrations is of a charming cloth gown, in which this mixture is the chief characteristic. There are any number of wavy lines of piping in white silk round the edge of the skirt; and the bodice has an under-bodice of white silk, which forms the yoke, and shows also where the over-bodice straps over the front. Two large rosettes fasten down one of the new scarf trimmings, which is deeply fringed at the ends with a white silk fringe. These rosettes form quite a feature of all the winter gowns; and in some of them fur is intermingled in a very subtle delicate way, and one pities the beautiful fur, because it must be so cut to pieces to make the tiny edgings. Ermine is in great favour for these decorations, and, indeed, for making revers, yokes, and collars to black toilettes of all descriptions. There is a great liking for good black serges, and these look almost better than cloth for dresses of black and white.

The last illustration is a very pretty sketch of one of the new picture hats of the winter. It is a black hat, with pipings of white at the edge, and ostrich feathers and paste buckles as ornaments.

The three-quarter-length coat is a rather frequent apparition in London just now, and this new style seems to be popular, especially for tailor-mades and for travelling jackets.

But one cannot say much of its stylish appearance, as it seems to ruin the figure of whoever wears it, though it is useful for walking in the country and for water-proofs. The one we illustrate is a very good specimen, and is of fawn-coloured cloth, with a scalloped edge piped with silk, which makes it look more dressy and smart than usual.

Some little while ago I think I told you that I had noticed how few, if any, of the American women assembled at the Congress in London wore veils; and how much in earnest they had taken the doctors' denouncement of them, as being bad for the sight, and as likely to give headaches, beside injuring the eyes. Now, an English doctor springs up to tell us that the constant use of them will result in red noses, and in a permanent



VELVET ETON JACKET.





BROWN CLOTH GOWN WITH WHITE SILK BANDS.

fur. But just now it is in high favour for the revers and collars of our winter coats. All of these, then, are manufactured into the short fur coats, which are the smartest things going, but are only suitable for the very thin in figure. Paste buttons are worn upon them, and we have illustrated one in velvet, as more suitable for the last months of the winter. Buttons are quite one of the winter's rages. Steel, cut steel, and jet, painted china, and Strauss are all seen; and the size is generally larger than a penny. Lace mixed with fur is seen everywhere for *jabots* and fronts of fur jackets, and violets have never been so popular as they are this winter, arranged in big masses.

Almost all the out-of-door dresses are made of cloth and silk, and the old-fashioned *gros grain* is the best worn trimming. It has taken the place of satin. The

newest style is to have flounced under-petticoat of silk of the colour of the cloth, a tunic of the cloth cut in points, and a silk bodice the same as the skirt; much tucked, with a front of cream lace and satin.

From Paris we hear of black satin, velvet, and *bonne-velours*, which is really *miroir* velvet, or a short-pile plush. These are the prevailing materials, and the first-named is used for the smartest coats, with long backs nearly reaching to the end of the gown at the back. The bolero seems to be applied to all and every kind of garment, both for outdoor and indoor wear.

For dresses—besides automobile red—the favourite colours are almond-green, and a wood brown; but pansy, and iris, pearl-grey and *beige* are lighter colours that are constantly seen, and the rage continues for fringe, which is made of silk, beads, cord and chenille; and is applied to hats, wraps, scarfs, and bodices. The hats have long fringed ends, and so have the bodices and the coats.

Fancy stitching is another rage of the hour, and it is not only applied to dress and coats, but also to hats this winter, and is found on



GOWN OF BLACK WITH WHITE TRIMMINGS.

irritation of the tip of the nose, which is most difficult or well-nigh impossible to cure! So it will be well for us if we take both warnings, the only regret being that in the winter, when cold winds and frosts prevail so much, they are found a great comfort and protection by many people.

But at least we can avoid wearing them too tightly drawn across the face; and we can also leave off wearing those spotted veils, however becoming they may be; for they are the chief offenders in injuring the sight, as the spots move to and fro before the eyes, and do much harm in that way. Doctors and scientists are at their best and perform the most useful office when they point out harmful things which can be remedied in the dress of either man or woman; and I much admired the Americans for taking the warnings and wise suggestions when offered.

Our favourite furs this winter are ermine, chinchilla and caracul. The last-named is the only one that comes into the horizon of most practical people, as chinchilla is so perishable, and ermine gets dirty, and is, after all, not a very becoming



## A QUEEN'S GIFT.

cloth toques, and felt or velvet hats. The numbers of felt hats in white, pale blue, and other light colours that one sees, is a sign of their popularity; and red hats and toques are quite as much worn as ever. So we relieve our much blackness by bright-hued head-coverings.

The brown cloth gown shows another of the new winter styles. It is of fine wood-brown cloth with flat bands of white silk round the skirt and running up and down the short coat. The revers and collar are trimmed with chinchilla, and there is a neck trimming of lace and satin. The hat is of brown cloth, with shaded feathers, from brown to orange and white.

The black velvet Eton is very much distinguished by its handsome buttons of cut



BLACK AND WHITE HAT.

steel, and the lovely sable, which ornaments its collar and revers, and lines the inside of the cuffs. It is further bound at the edges with black silk braid, and is rather deeply pointed both at the back and in front. The dress is of one of the new fancy materials, in almond-green, and the small round hat is of the same coloured felt, with sable bands and white feathers.



FAWN COAT WITH WHITE PIPINGS.

The Queen of Italy was recently walking in a Roman suburb when she noticed a pleasant-faced little girl and spoke to her. After a brief conversation the Queen asked the child what she could do in the way of needlework.

"I can knit stockings, Signora," replied the girl.

"Do you know who I am?" continued the Queen.

"Yes, Signora, you are the Queen."

"Well, then, make me a pair of stockings and send them to the palace."

A few days afterwards the stockings arrived, and Queen Margherita in return for the gift sent the child a beautiful pair of rose-coloured stockings, one being filled with sweets and the other with money.

Next day the Queen received a letter from her little friend couched in the following words—

"Signora, your gift has caused me no end of tears. My father collared the money, my elder brother grabbed the sweets, and as for the stockings, why, my mother put them on herself."

THE SKIPPER AND THE MEDICINE-CHEST.—A whaling skipper many years ago used to tell this story: "I always kept a medicine-chest on board, and with it there was a table of directions. One of the rules ran, 'For sore throat with fever give a tablespoonful of "number fifteen."' Now one of my men fell ill, and sure enough he had sore throat with fever. I went to the medicine-chest, but it happened that fifteen was all used up. So I gave the man a dessertspoonful of "number five" and another of "number ten." Whoever drew up the table could not have been good at figures. Or else, what's just as likely, the medicines were all shams. Either way, it was hard on the patient, for that medicine in half an hour made an end of poor Bill."

## SEEKING.

Where are the great, whom thou wouldst wish to praise thee?

Where are the pure, whom thou wouldst choose to love thee?

Where are the brave to stand supreme above thee,

Whose high commands would cheer, whose chiding raise thee?

Seek, seeker, in thyself; submit to find  
In the stones bread and life in the  
blank mind.

Arthur Hugh Clough.

## VARIETIES.

## A FAMOUS MAN ON MARRIAGE.

The views on matrimony of the celebrated Dr. Johnson, as recorded by his biographer Boswell, are worth reading whether we agree with them or not.

On one occasion Boswell said to him—

"Pray, sir, do you suppose there are fifty women in the world with any one of whom a man may be as happy as with any one woman in particular?"

"Why, sir," answered Johnson, "fifty thousand!"

"Then," remarked Boswell, "you are not of opinion that certain men and certain women are made for each other, and that they cannot be happy if they miss their counterparts?"

"To be sure not," said Johnson. "I believe marriages would in general be as happy, and often more so, if they were all made by the Lord Chancellor upon due consideration of the characters and circumstances, without the parties having any choice in the matter."

## "THAT PROVES NOTHING."

A correspondent, speaking of Irish "bulls," gives this anecdote:—

"I was once present at a discussion among friends on the virtues or evils of smoking. One Irish lady in the party insisted that the habit shortened the lives of those who indulged in it.

"'I don't agree with that,' said a gentleman. 'There's my father, for instance, who smokes every day of his life, and he is now seventy years old.'

"'That proves nothing!' cried the lady impulsively. 'If he hadn't smoked, he would probably be eighty by this time!'"

## THE DIFFERENCE EXPLAINED.

Mrs. Newlywed (timidly): "Is there any difference, Bridget, between washing soda and baking soda?"

Bridget: "Sure, an' there's a dale of difference. The wan's the wan, and the ither's the ither."

## TWELVE BURIED MUSICIANS.

The dead and living both are buried here,  
Where past and present share one gloomy bier;

The modern school treads on Handelian heels,

And northern art new forms and grace reveals.

(a) Let us search and eliminate existing errors.

(b) After cycling, rub aching limbs with embrocation.

(c) Let dear affection brighten Duty's path.

(d) The Court of Arches sent a formal protest.

(e) Thy grasp, oh, ruddy flame, is fierce.

(f) By the bridge at Crewe berries grow plentifully.

(g) "I hate the term 'allegri!'" Egbert exclaimed.

(h) Jack put in his bag a dead rabbit.

(i) Holy Church opined the deed was wrong.

(j) The boy ceased playing, and all Nature wept.

(k) We walked through clover diamond-dewed.

(l) "Would not Nassau be rather better?" he said.



## MY CLOTHES MONTH BY MONTH.

By "THE LADY DRESSMAKER."

It does seem a great pity that when women found last year a really comfortable and sensible dress for bad weather, short in the skirt and well cut, they did not resolve to keep to it, whatever they wore on fine days and at home. It has been really pitiful to see them in the streets this season, holding up heavy skirts, the very shape of which militated against being held up, as they were so wide at the lower edge. They flopped on every side, and were sure to drag somewhere in the mire and wet. How wise to keep a rainy day petticoat! It is not pleasant either to hear it said that women could not wear the shorter skirts because they are rarely well shod, and would never be tidy enough to show their feet. I do really see many very untidy shoes, and I wish that the girls who read this paper would make it a rule to have their shoes looked to, the unevenness of the heels corrected, and the buttons sewn on when needed. The worst fault lies in the way the shoes or boots are worn on one side, and the heels quite turn over. Now this fault is easily corrected, and there are working shoe-makers in every street who would repair at very little cost.

Tailor-made gowns now form so important a part of our wardrobes that in future a portion of the monthly article will be devoted to illustrating them, and giving a special

account of novelties as they appear. Those selected for the present month consist of the new Raglan coat, which may be made in covert coating, or in any of the grey, fawn, or black faced cloths. The model in question is cut with the Raglan sleeve, which runs up in a point into the collar, and it is a smart coat though so well cut as to allow full liberty of action to the arms.

The illustration on this page shows two gowns in black cashmere and cloth respectively. The first, on the extreme left, is trimmed with white silk revers, finished with one of the fashionable bows with fringed ends. The vest and collar are made of white silk and gathered ruchings, with pinked-out edges. The revers, bow and collar are finished with narrow black velvet ribbon. The bodice is made with very narrow longitudinal tucks, from waist to

shoulder and the same at the back, and the sleeves are tucked at the top.

The second gown is made of black face cloth, and it is relieved by grey silk, covered with white lace, of which the yoke, collar, cuffs, and the darts on the bodice are made, as well as the tabs on the shoulder and in the front. The edges of all these are trimmed with narrow black gimp. The shape of this bodice is entirely novel, as it is cut in the pinafore style, the straps going over the shoulders. The skirts of both are cut in the new shape which widens out below the knees, over the feet, and is much gored to give the present much-desired effect of slimness to the figure. The extreme attachment of the French dressmakers and their customers for black cloth bids fair to be transplanted to England, and the spring will see numbers of these



TWO SPRING GOWNS (TAILOR-MADE).





THE RAGLAN COAT (TAILOR-MADE).

dresses made up. The material lends itself admirably to cutting the present style of skirt, and it hangs well without pulling out of shape.

The newest boas are made of thin silk, which are arranged in a very full ruffle at the neck, and get smaller as they reach the waist, where they are finished by a bow of ribbon made with ends; or they may be lengthened to the edge of the skirt, this being perhaps the newest style, which should be fastened at the waist by a bow or a diamond clasp. There are plenty of boas now being prepared for the season, in taffetas, chiffon, and net; but we shall not be required to desert our old favourite, the feather boa, which is such a charming addition to our toilettes. This season they will be worn in all colours.

Our next two illustrations show some of the newest dressmakers' ideas for the spring. The first is an embroidered cashmere gown trimmed with fur and Vandyke lace, the fur going over the shoulders and round the top of the flounce. The skirt has an embroidered pleat in the centre, and tucks run downwards on each side of it, which widen into small flounces, underneath which is a tucked flounce of similar character. The other is an indoor jacket of fine black velvet, pannes or silk, with revers and collar of white silk, which are embroidered with coloured silks in a running design of flowers; porcelain buttons decorate each side, and the vest is of gathered chiffon.

One of the considerations upon which we have to enter, consequent on the trained and tight-fitting skirts, is the cut and fit of the petticoats which we wear beneath them. The use of petticoats made with flounces to button or to tack upon an upper part began some time ago, and this avoids the washing of the whole garment, for when the flounce is soiled, we can send it to the wash. These muslin and lace flounces were applied last year to the delicate silk petticoats, and served a double purpose in saving them and making them look

very pretty, with the colour showing through the muslin. This winter the idea has advanced a step or two in the direction of everyday wear, for some of the West End firms have made winter skirts with fitted tops of fine stockingette, on which the silk flounce is buttoned. The stockingette is carefully cut out, is plain at the back, and buttons at the side, being fitted by gores at the tops, and they reach the knee only, where the flounce is buttoned on. With most women the desire to preserve the utmost slimmness leads them to have the petticoat buttoned on to the edge of the corset; and many never wear petticoats by day at all, but make the elongated knickerbocker serve the same purpose. This is a form of divided skirt, and may be made of the material of the gown. The new petticoats are shaped to the waist with no gathers, the gores being cut so as to fit closely. There is also a new petticoat with a yoke, which is round in front like an ordinary one, but is lengthened at the back to at least half a yard, thus avoiding all fulness there. All these changes go to prove how much absolutely unnecessary material we women have carried



EMBROIDERED CASHMERE GOWN WITH FUR AND LACE.



INDOOR COAT  
OF  
FINE BLACK  
CLOTH.



about with us, and how much may be done, by clever cutting and thought, to decrease the weight we carry. I have recently seen a Princess petticoat, bodice and skirt in one, which seems to me to cover many of our requirements, and if made in a non-washing material would increase the warmth of the body. With this Princess petticoat a short silk vest was worn, and tights of black spun silk, that is, the drawers and stockings woven in one. These are much used by French ladies, and are now woven so that the stockings can be changed to either foot, by which means they are worn evenly. In fact, just now I think every woman is a law to herself in the way of underwear.

In Paris there is a rage for coloured under-garments, in pink, pale blues, yellows and mauves; and white silk is very largely used for them as well.

In the way of stockings, we find great ornamentation is being favoured. Lace insertions, and even hand-painted fronts are let in; but there are many ladies of good taste who prefer to wear black open-worked stockings and black shoes with all dresses in the evening, and black patent slippers for the daytime, with black hose. Tan Suède stockings to match are still much

seen, and tan Suède gloves are almost more worn than anything else for evening. I have seen a few people wearing mittens, but they have not advanced much in favour since last season. They make the hand look wide across. Tan and other light neutral shades will probably supersede the much-worn and much-abused white ones; and if we wear the light hues, which have been so popular in Paris this year, the drabs, fawns, and grey, in tailor-made gowns, our gloves will certainly match them, and not improbably our hats and toques as well. In the early spring we shall see the usual flower-toques, which always herald the bright days of the year, and which are so becoming, and look so dainty on a well-dressed head.

At the present moment we are becoming rather over-done with the Pompadour heads, which greet us at every turn. The appearance of some of them leaves much to be desired in the way of tidiness. This universal adoption seems to point to an early change in hair-dressing, though Englishwomen are far too conservative in their ideas of *coiffure*, and are inclined to stick to any style which suits them. If we may judge from what we have lately seen, this change will be in the direction of great simplicity. The hair will be waved, and worn in a coil on the nape of the neck, and the front parting will be seen once more. Let us hope that we shall all be firm and sensible enough to select the method which suits us the best. It would be delightful to see in hair-dressing the same determined individuality that we see displayed in our underclothing, where our independence is quite remarkable.

## LOG OF VOYAGE TO THE CAPE,

### AND DIARY OF ARMY NURSING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

#### PART I.

"Fifty thousand horse and foot  
Going to Table Bay."

*Saturday, Dec. 30, 1899.—Bon voyage!* All the friends of the outward bound met aboard the SS. *Othello* in Southampton Docks at mid-day, and lunched right royally *pour commencer*. Delightful to have a little batch of best friends to see one off—indeed *ours* was such a merry party that one distressed lady put the Colonel, her husband (suffering from malaria), in my charge, as she thought the cheerful element might cure him, and the ship-doctor was "so young." So it's well to be cheerful—and *old!* Before the lonely feelings had come, imagine my solace at meeting an old friend from South Devon, and we immediately arranged to share cabins. But for her I should indeed feel "alone on a wide, wide sea"—which makes one think how times have changed, and that thirty years ago hardly a woman in England would have started off for Africa alone. The bell rang for visitors to clear as all were taking a last hasty cup of tea together, and "Pour me out a cup, dear, for the last time," says Someone for whom I have poured it so often!

Last good-byes are always better not described.

Then, as the friends filed off, the mails filed on—a seemingly endless stream of mail-bags, and how eagerly watched for by those far away, and how pathetic to think that some of the messages contained in them would never reach the loved ones!

In the excitement of the moment perhaps one hardly realised the desolation of being really left to start for a far continent, with the forms one loves best waving from the shore.

The crowds cheered, the bands played, the handkerchiefs fluttered, the great ship heaved, and we had left England's protecting soil. For how long? Ah, who knows! Dimly I could see them still standing there. And we who were left turned to one another—

"I'm so thankful you're here, Tiny."

"And I, to have you, Maris dear."

So we started for a new world.

\* \* \* \* \*

Then we unpacked and settled into our cabins. Small quarters for two—but what a relief to be friends instead of strangers! Dinner quickly followed, and the uniforms, in the electric light, gave quite the appearance of a fancy ball. There are a few Germans aboard, a very few private passengers (hardly any ladies), the rest being officers, bound for their terrible work, and the nursing sisters. There are about twenty of us, mostly strangers to each other. The full uniform for dinner, *en masse*, is very pretty, and the scarlet and white remind me of the sweet nuns in their white and red in some quiet old convent garden.

The *Briton*, homeward bound, brought such terrible accounts of the high seas in the Channel (we all, even ashore, remember Thursday night) that we were ordered to anchor—an almost unparalleled occurrence—and remained at anchor till six the next morning. Yet in the night we were congratulating ourselves on being such good sailors, as we thought we were moving. We soon found the difference when we *did* move! Tiny and I made some tea, in old hospital style, and drank to our good luck before turning in. I hardly slept at all, chiefly owing to the intolerable stuffiness of the cabin. I don't like ship tea and "shippy" butter and toast, though, no doubt, we shall congratulate ourselves if we get anything half so good when we are field-

nursing. We are, of course, first-class passengers. Many courses for every meal, with beef-tea in the middle of the morning and coffee after lunch and dinner.

*Sunday, Dec. 31.*—"The old year lies a-dying," though we can hardly realise it, nor that it is Sunday, or anything so ordinary as the regular sequence of days. So much has happened to us since last Sunday! So much will happen before it is all over . . . I only pray not to be too homesick, that is beyond bearing. To be sea-sick is mild and inevitable. Tiny and I bravely spent all day on deck, and were congratulated on being the only ladies there—so, of course, I didn't confess I was ill each time I went below. A glorious day, brilliant sunshine and a perfect sea and sky, but a strong wind and bitterly cold. We had every wrap we possessed, including my eider-down, tucked round us in our deck-chairs, without being warmed. But someone came to our rescue with his mackintosh sheet, which saved our being drenched with spray. An English gentleman, whether in khaki or in mufti, or even in rags (as those who know the poor know well), is always the gallant protector of the weak, though it be only the weakness of cold and sea-sickness. We hoped this poor boy (for he was quite a young officer) would never be lying on the field in this mackintosh sheet stained with his blood. One cannot help thinking of these dreadful possibilities in a ship bound for the War.

Little Tiny was promised, by Someone, a Victoria Cross if she brought me home safe and well, and she has been working for it to-day by being good to me until she was bowled over herself, poor little soul. But even *mal de mer* can be partially suppressed, for you see I am writing gaily. Shall be so glad when we come to summer weather: it's very cold, and



## MY CLOTHES MONTH BY MONTH.

By "THE LADY DRESSMAKER."



A PAIR OF SPRING TAILOR-MADES.

WAR, at all times, naturally has much influence on all our surroundings, and, perhaps, on nothing more than our dress. It has been responsible for new colours and new garments, and often, too, for new materials; and the stormy period of the French Revolution is said to be chargeable with our everlasting English weather-talk; for, in those days, when every man's hand was against every other man's, people feared to discuss any ordinary topic, and so chose the weather as a subject absolutely free from fear or danger. The present war has contributed khaki as a material, and its dusty hue as a fashionable colour; while our hats are to take on the shape and form of those popular amongst the

Colonial troopers, which are really, save for the high crowns, of a Cavalier type. Khaki hats and khaki blouses, as well as khaki cloth, are all rampant in the shops just now, and are mostly trimmed with red, so as to make them more military-looking. But I do not think they will be worn by those most interested in the war, but will probably be adopted by those who affect the popular crazes of the day.

Where colours are concerned, I should say that the popular colours for cloth are beetroot red, the dark red called Kruger, dull brick-dust, raspberry, dull lilacs, pastel blue, almond-green, grey-green, lavender-blue, and, of course, khaki. Much brown has been worn

this spring, and it will not improbably be worn in lighter shades during the summer, when the light grey and drab costumes worn last year will reappear.

A great many checks and fancy tartans are worn, generally with a small coatlet of the prevailing colour of the check. They are by no means suited to the stout nor the short. In our sketch of "Two Spring Gowns," we show one of these checks, the prevailing keynote of which is brown. The jacket is brown cloth, with brown velvet shoulder, collar and cuffs. The hat is of brown stitched cloth, with a decoration of peacock feathers. The next figure wears a grey cloth gown, with embroideries of silver braid on the front of the



coat and on the lower part of the skirt. The collar, revers and muff are of grey chinchilla; the hat is of grey cloth or velvet, to match the colour of the gown, or panne might be used. The flowers are yellow orchids, and velvet bows.

The "Pleated Skirt with Buttons" represents one of the much worn red gowns, made in the extreme of fashion, and showing the use of tucks on both bodice and skirt. The former is tight-fitting, and has tucks running vertically down the sides of the bodice, with a full pouched front, and the sleeves are tucked to correspond. A large white silk collar is tied with a fringed bow; and there is a border of white silk on the edge of the skirt to carry out the scheme of decoration, a lace vest, and high collar. The skirt is tucked as far as the knee, and then finished with small silk buttons, and falls in full folds from knee to foot. The hat is of white silk, in folds, lined with red, the colour of the skirt, and the feathers and trimmings are also white.

The features of this year's dresses, as shown by our illustrations, are pleated and tucked skirts, and the most elaborate strappings applied in colour to gowns of black hue. Lines upon lines of stitchings decorated other gowns, coats and hats, the number of rows depending only on the perseverance of those who use the sewing-machine. In many of the skirts the tucks are mere cordings or ribs; and very thick ruchings finish many of these much-tucked, or pleated skirts.

Alas! that we should still cling to the long and most ridiculous skirt, which looks dreadful when it sweeps up the dirt of the streets, and equally dreadful when it is held up in the ungraceful way in which most girls are obliged to hold it. It seems as if we—the cleanest nation on earth—might regulate our fashions so as to agree with our ideas of what is sweet and clean.

I notice that one of the really useful ideas of the day is to have what is called by several writers "a utility skirt," meaning a skirt, fashionably and well made, of fine black cloth, which may be worn with any blouse or bodice. A second skirt of black silk or satin would be worn for the evening with a variety of dressy blouses of chiffon, lace, and hand-painted silk. This seems to be the last idea, and is doubly interesting to the girl who can paint them for herself. Panne is the most lovely material for skirts and blouses, and is specially charming in those shawl-patterned ones that we first saw in the winter. Then there are both spotted and printed pannes, all of which will mightily add to our beauty of clothing; and we may all cease to fear that the useful blouse is going to leave us, for they never were more worn than at present, and, apparently, never have we had so many cheap and pretty silks of which to make them.

"A Pair of Spring Tailor-mades" shows two charming models for the spring and summer, and alas! they each display the small spoon-bill train which is the *dernier cri* of stylish womanhood. The first is a gown of pastel blue, with a cape-like finish on the shoulders of the new cut-cloth trimming, with fringed edges in white and blue, a gimp of the same being used on the outlines of both bodice and skirt. They, also, are ornamented with those very narrow ribbed tucks that I have already described—that look like cordings horizontally on the bodice, and vertically on each side of the front of the skirt. The hat is of

white, with a lining of tucked blue chiffon, and trimmings of panne, and pink roses, and leaves.

The second figure wears a gown of black and white; black cloth, and white silk stitchings of the latter, and a narrow braiding of white round the coat. The front of the skirt is tucked slightly, and the front of the white silk vest is also tucked, while there are two small revers on either side. The front is covered with white lace, the necktie of either white or black.

When we come to millinery, there are several changes to note for the coming season; and the first is the advent of strings to the hats, which are used to bend down the sides of the hat over the ears, being fastened below the crown, and tied in a long bow with ends under the chin. Either velvet ribbon or chiffon is used for them, and sometimes they take the form of one string only, which is put across from one side to the other, and is fastened under a rosette of chiffon. Amongst the revivals are Leghorn hats, which, owing to their softness, can be bent about in all

shapes. These are trimmed with black velvet ribbons, and dark- and light-hued roses. Grapes are much worn as hat decorations, and are in green and purple, as well as in gold and silver. The former are not ugly, because they are natural, but the latter are exceedingly loud and vulgar. The flowers of the season are very big indeed, and the Florentine iris, in its natural size, seems to hold the position of first favourite, blooming in yellow and purples on the hats. The other favourites are auriculas, primulas, and orchids, all "as large as life and twice as natural," as the old saying has it. The last idea is to make these flowers of silk, transparent muslin, and the roses in this style are especially beautiful with the varied tints of the new colours. The amount of flowers used on the hats is wonderful; but all are bent down in front over the eyes, and usually raised on the left side over a *cache-peigne* of flowers. Hats are made of straw, straw and chenille plait, satin, or silk in folds, about half an inch wide, of embroidered cloth, and stitched cloth to match



TWO SPRING GOWNS.



the gown. Bonnets seem but little favoured, but the toque is still in great force, and on some of them I notice that strings are worn. The much-bent-about toques of stitched cloth are very useful, and should always be made of cloth like the tailor-made gown. They have dogs' ears made of the same cloth as their trimming, and perhaps a feather, or two or three quills.

The waterproofed dust cloak, which is illustrated, is in the very palest shade of grey or fawn. It is finished with a velvet collar and cuffs, stitched with white. This new cloak has a curved yoke at the back and front, and has the Raglan sleeve running up into the neck, which is similar to that we gave last month.

A few words in conclusion must be given to the subject of colours in dress. The blouse and skirt are to be of the same colour, except you choose to match the toque you wear and the blouse. Say that you select amethyst for the first. You must match it with the second, and in that case you would have a black, or dark skirt—black silk, face-cloth, or satin—to make it economical. You should have a bodice to match the black skirt, which you may make use of on occasion. Then the toque and the dressing of the neck must match. This you will be able to manage



A WATERPROOF DUST CLOAK.

with the aid of one of those pretty scarfs with fringed ends that are to be found in the West-End shops, and these will be used for hats as well as for dressing the neck. In the latter case the fringed ends hang down below the waist on the skirt of the dress. Zouaves and boleros seem to be all the rage just now, and many revers are worn, sometimes even triple ones, which form deep shoulder capes.

## VARIETIES.

**QUITE THE REVERSE.**—At a ladies' meeting recently where a committee was being condemned for its management, the speaker said, "Perhaps you think that in our committee half do the work and the other half do nothing. As a matter of fact, ladies, the reverse is the case."

**BRIDECAKE IN CHINA.**—Bridecake is thought much of in China, four cakes sent for the purpose by the bridegroom's family being tossed in the air and caught in a quilt held before the bride's sedan chair.

**A HINT TO CALLERS.**—When you call on a girl and she keeps one finger in the place where she is reading, don't remain more than two minutes.

**DON'T HAVE THIS SAID OF YOU.**—Some girls change colour because the first box is unsatisfactory.



PLEATED SKIRT WITH BUTTONS.



## MY CLOTHES MONTH BY MONTH.

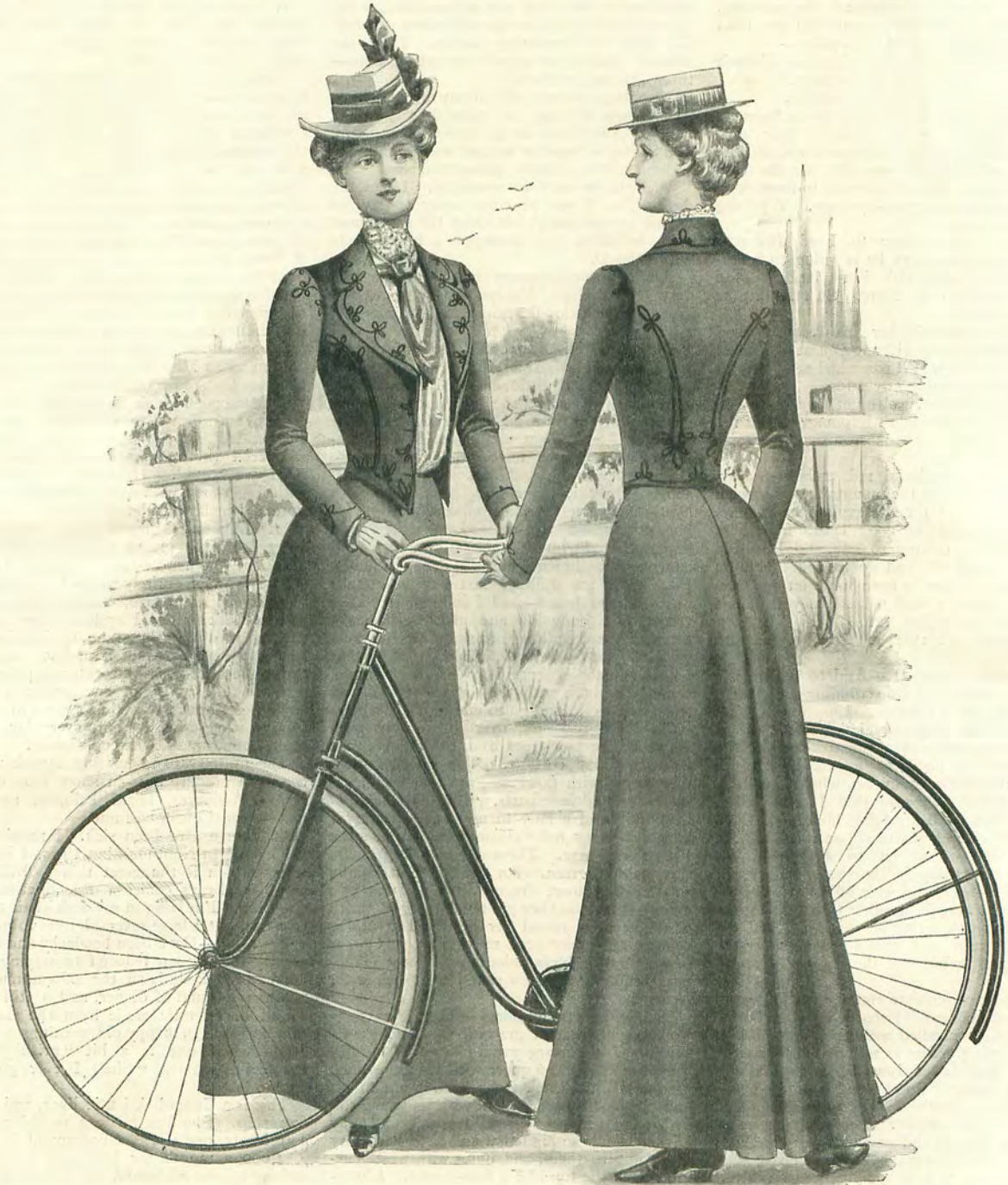
By "THE LADY DRESSMAKER."

It is very difficult to avoid rushing at once into khaki in the opening of any article on dress, and on the things that are worn, or will be worn, for in every shop window, and in nearly every daily paper, it forms the prevailing subject of the writings on the wearing apparel

of both women and men. But I have already spoken of it, and must only say here that the material is a very excellent one, and the cotton khaki will be very wisely used this summer for boating, cycling, and all out-of-door purposes; while the khaki serge is equally useful. But

as a colour it is not generally becoming, unless relieved by something like a bright green, blue, or even a dark shade of orange, which, I am told, goes very well, but with which opinion I do not quite agree.

One of the things that I have been most



CYCLING COSTUME.

The Eton coat is more popular than ever this season, and nothing looks smarter, or is more easily adapted to any style of figure than the Eton Cycling Costume. Our illustration depicts this becoming style in grey cloth trimmed with black braid. We should make this all in black and trim with silver cord. What could be neater?





INDOOR DRESS.

Here is a nice frock for afternoon wear; it is made in blue foulard, and trimmed with white silk or chiffon and lace, and the effect is completed by narrow rows of black *bébé* ribbon and little paste buckles. Also picture this dress in the new Wedgwood blue, and trimmed with dark blue satin or velvet *bébé* ribbon.

struck with this year is the wonderfully cheap and well-made cloth, tweed, and serge coats and skirts, jackets and capes which are exposed for sale in many of the London and country shops. I hope they are made in England, but I am rather inclined to think they are many of them made in Germany, which has been for years the haunt of cheap tailoring, and supplies other countries besides England with all kinds of cheap wearing apparel. I have always believed that the ready-made clothing had a great future before it, and that it would be cheaper to purchase many things than to make them at home, and certainly we seem to have arrived at this point, where cloth and its allies are concerned, and I fancy that those who make underclothing at home are few and far between. Certainly, where it has to be put out to be made, it is very much more expensive than to purchase it ready-made. But there are exceptions to the rule, for I think that servants will always do far better to make their own underclothing, for which they have ample time generally,

as they require it stouter in texture and more sensible in shape and pattern than the articles they can purchase ready-made, and very simple trimmings are desirable. Ready-made clothing is, however, not at all in accordance with old-fashioned modes of thought; but, perhaps, with other times we have other needs and necessities, and the girls and women of to-day are very much busier, and more usefully occupied probably than their grandmothers were.

Sashes will be quite a rage this season. They have very large bows at the back, and are fringed, painted, flounced at the ends, and ruffled, besides being embroidered or decorated with applied *passémenteries* of lace and jet; and, last of all, they are used plain and undecorated. They are always a stylish and becoming addition to a gown, especially when the latter is of summer material, light and airy. One of the new introductions in the way of needlework has been greatly adopted for the decoration of dress, and that is ribbon embroidery. It is used for revers, collars, and waistcoats in the most exquisite colourings, and generally in floral designs.

The stout people, whether elderly or juvenile, are really having a bad time of it just now, for the fashions ignore everyone who is not slim and willowy in style. However, there are very good patterns of plainly-gored skirts and of plain tailor-made bodices, which are suitable; but I am afraid that the tucked and pleated and draped skirts are not for them, and certainly the fascinating swathed waists and Empire styles are generally anything but suitable.

One may say that the Bolero is the almost universal model for day-wear gowns this season. Of course it is produced in many styles, but the undertone is the same, and it forms a very pretty and suitable model for early spring and summer, on account of the pretty bright vests and fronts that can be worn with them, the hat or toque being generally made to match them in colour. The draped waist-band is very popular, made of black satin, and in this case the collar-stock is made of the same. The new collars are now held up by supports of silk-covered wire, instead of the three whalebones which have been used; and the collars are quite as high as ever, and we shall see as many



A PAIR OF BOLEROS.

The Bolero, in some form or other, being the fashionable thing for spring gowns, two of the latest are shown. On the left is a gown of elephant grey, double cashmere, with a vest and revers of pale green brocade; on the right a khaki-coloured cloth with bands of black velvet, and pipings of white satin.





TWO PICTURE HATS.

This season's styles show the return of the picture hat; in some ways, however, it is changed; it droops over the eyes and takes an upward turn at the left side, where much of the decoration is massed. The long plumes fall downward, and a long scarf of silk gauze completes the trimming.

transparent ones worn this season as have been seen during this last winter in evening dress. Black velvet ribbon continues to be much used in the shape of strappings with paste buckles, and some of the newest blouses are decorated with lattice-work made of it all over the bodice, and forming the deep cuffs which are one of the season's novelties. In the decoration of simple shirts and blouses, bias bands of the material stitched on in three vertical lines in front are very much worn.

For tailor-made gowns the small coat, or, as it is sometimes called, coatee or coatlet, carries all before it for cloth or tweed gowns. They are decidedly in the best style for the spring season. The tailors are making very much decorated revers to them, brocades and satins and embroideries, as I have said, being used; many ladies are busy embroidering their own.

What are called Caledon tweeds or Irish friezes by some people are new and charming introductions. They are dyed in the brightest colours—what are called pastel, pale blue, yellow pink, almond green, a bright mauve, and a dark plum colour. They have

velvet collars, or lately I have seen them with panne and satin ones. Of course we shall see a great enthusiasm for all things Irish, and I note that many ladies have been already ordering Irish poplins for their smart summer gowns, to be trimmed with Irish lace or cream *guipure*. These orders have been mostly for black or violet, but now that the "wearing of the green" is authorised by Royalty, that is sure to be one of the most-used colours, and will relieve us a little of the overwhelming khaki hue.

And now I must turn to millinery, as I have such a charming sketch of two picture hats, a white and a black one. You will gather from that that I consider they are quite in the first rank of fashion, and those I have seen were distinguished by very handsome buckles of various kinds. It is said that most of the spring hats owe their origin to the Old Masters, Romney and Sir Joshua Reynolds in particular, but the influence also of those worn by the New South Wales troops is very much seen; and we shall doubtless have many pretty-coloured and khaki hats as well as many French sailors—a

small, straight-brimmed hat that is becoming to nearly everyone. The new toque is much wider in the front, and also lower in the decoration of the front; and both hats and toques are worn further forward. It will be a great season for white, both in millinery and dress, when the summer weather arrives. Just at present the colour of the trimmings should be of the colour chosen for the hat. Thus, if your gown were black, trimmed with a pastel blue, the hat would be blue; and with the bright pinky yellows of the Caledon friezes nothing but a black hat will answer, of course.

One of the changes of modern times in dress seems to be that autumn and spring appear to be left out of our calculations, and we only consider summer and winter. The "between season," as it has come to be called, is provided for by adding lace and brighter hues to our winter gowns, and as we all have tailor-mades of varying thicknesses, we simply lighten the weight in that way. This is a wise change and makes for economy; besides it saves much thinking.

There are so many designs from which to select in skirts, that all are fashionable whatever we select; but, alas! they remain long at the back, and uncomfortably long in front; though we are informed that short skirts will be worn at the Paris Exhibition. Evening skirts are trained, besides being long in front, and over-long at the sides. Our tailors are, however, rather shortening their skirts, and just now the tendency is towards individualism

in dress, as in everything else; and I see many sensible women in gowns that are comfortably short, both in London and elsewhere; and the bicycle is certainly a great friend, for as long as we ride we must have one short skirt at any rate in which we can rejoice and walk about with comfort.

Whatever has been said about the shirt and blouse going out of fashion, it seems to have been a very long-previous announcement; for none of the best tailors or dressmakers will allow that it is true. The summer blouses are models of beauty in muslin and silk. In muslin they are worn over a sateen or silk fitted slip-bodice, of a pretty colour; and you can make one of them do for the season, wearing it under several blouses. Pale blue or green are the wisest selections.

The much worn Pompadour style of hair-dressing will see its last days this spring. The hair will then be worn lower, on the nape of the neck, in fact; and the front will be curled and simply waved, and though I am told that a roll will be worn on the top of the head, I have not seen anything of the kind hitherto.





## MY CLOTHES MONTH BY MONTH.

By "THE LADY DRESSMAKER."



THREE TAILOR-MADE GOWNS.

*On the left.* Gown of blue serge with clusters of tucks on the bodice and skirt, chemisette of guipure lace, shoulder revers of white silk, and strappings of same.—*On the right.* Eton coat or jacket of face cloth, revers of pale blue spotted silk, linen front tucked in points.—*In the boat.* Gown of pale elephant grey cloth, white cloth strappings with black stitching, and vest of pale green silk tucked with tie of the same.

FROM my note-book I select a pair of entries which specially concern the girl readers of this paper; because I am always sure that they will endeavour to bring both thought and principle to their aid in the consideration of matters of dress; as, indeed, I hope in every other matter. The first is from an address to women by the wife of a well-known church dignitary, and she takes it from a French physician and *savant*.

"The hem of a woman's gown when she

comes in from the street is alive with bacteria. These disease germs are distributed about over the floor, to creep into the mouths of children, or to find their way back into the air, and possibly into the systems of older people. They cannot be seen. They seek dark places, where they may live and grow. They lurk there, ready at any moment to creep into the system of unsuspecting victims. Consumption is a disease that is undoubtedly transmitted in this way."

Now, this is very disagreeable reading, and we all of us know enough about bacteria to understand that when we wear long gowns, and let them touch the dirty streets, we are bringing a very real danger on ourselves and others.

My other note is one that I read with a feeling nearly akin to heartache. It is the enumeration of the skins of birds sold at the recent auction in London, which has called forth a very strong protest from the Society





IN THE TIME OF ROSES.

Gown of pale grey voile with guipure lace yoke and sleeves, strappings of orange velvet.

for the Protection of Birds. I will give you the list as it appeared in the Catalogue.

97 packages of osprey feathers, 14 packages of peacocks' feathers, 5,990 bird of paradise skins, 1,652 Impeyan and Argus pheasants, and 331 packages of skins of various birds.

In addition to this immense quantity, one firm alone sold 16,000 owls, which had been slaughtered for milliners' purposes alone; and 1,113 of the skins of the bird of paradise sold were females, which showed that the males are nearly extinct, and that to make up the amount required, the females had been killed. This sale represents only one-fourth of the annual trade in the feathers of rare and beautiful birds.

Now, this year, we can perfectly do without adding these trophies of cruelty to our head-gear, for flowers are most beautiful and very fashionable; and they, at any rate, are produced by women's labour, and afford employment to thousands in London, as well as in Paris. Roses and their leaves are, I think, the

most fashionable of all; then the hydrangea flowers; but, in spite of the grapes—green and purple—and the new pastel shades in blossoms that throng the windows of the shops, I cannot advise you to select them for the ornamentation of your hats or bonnets, for the latter are too pale and washed-out, and the former are too unnatural. An old favourite, the red, or rather scarlet geranium has appeared and will be welcomed as a charming addition to black hats. More tulle is used than chiffon or gauze on the newest hats, and in the way of shapes they may be described as sensational. It is needful to exercise a wise discretion to avoid being grotesque. The new toques are wider and larger, but not higher in front. One of the great helps to the home milliner is the fact that complete hat trimming can be purchased to fit any hat, at very moderate prices, as well as those full rosettes of tulle which are so difficult to accomplish for the untaught hand.

A word must be said about the parasols, and they offer some very charming novelties. In the way of handles the club-shaped is the most used, and after that the handsome ball of stone or china. Some handles have a decoration of flowers and leaves, or fruit and leaves, twisted together, and tinted in their natural colours, which are really works of art, and there are gold and silver mounts, and handles of lapis, coral and ivory; while for more modest purses there are handles of

light wood which are very pretty. Square parasols, and coverings of Persian shawl pattern are amongst the novelties, but I notice that the best-dressed women have chosen plain parasols of silk, in red, turquoise, and mauve, for everyday use.

One of the rules of dress this season seems to be to have a little white on every gown, either in the way of pipings, stitchings, or lace, and this touch of relief seems to have an excellent effect. The prevalence of black and white is quite remarkable; but on the other hand the bright colours worn are quite as astonishing. The new tweeds, which are called by some shot "Caledon," are of the gayest. The most recent of them that I have seen was of a bright yellow, and was trimmed and decorated with black; pale and bright mauves, blues, and rose-pinks are used, and all look well in the bright sunshine. In the way of a blouse, the contrast is worn, and not the match. For instance, a blue coat and skirt will have a mauve blouse, a green, or a blue. Khaki colour has been adopted by cyclists with great enthusiasm, and no colour could be better for the road, as it is the true dust hue, and shows neither stain, mud, nor dust, while it is not at all ugly on the wheel—which should, however, be painted to match. The new sailor-hats have, most



IN EARLY MAY.

Gown of mauve cashmere with lace insertion and under-vest and band of white silk. Muslin or voile gown with lace and black velvet ribbon. Fancy crinoline hat with green tulle and white hydrangeas.



of them, coloured, striped, or spotted narrow ribbons, but a newer idea is to have a

leather strap round the crown, the buckle being leather-covered also.

The prophesied disappearance of the silk-lined gown has failed to come off, and silk, both as petticoats and dress lining, is more used than ever. In fact, silk petticoats may be, and are, worn by everyone, the favourite colour, like last year, being pink of the brightest hue. One of the new styles is to have a white muslin flounce with lace insertions buttoned over a coloured silk flounce. In fact we may regard the petticoat of to-day as one of the most important parts of dress, for we may wear the plainest of tailor-mades, but our petticoat must be pretty. Nor is this so very expensive a thing, if we can make for ourselves; for silk has become so remarkably cheap that we can do wonders on a small allowance.

Steadily, but rather slowly, the trimmed skirt is making its way onwards, and in France particularly, the volume of them is immensely increased, and even the old gathered ones have been reproduced. But here we shall not wish to give up our well-fitting skirts, and increase our bulk in this way, and shall probably be slower in adopting them. So our dressmakers are making them wider at the foot and, alas, are increasing the length. There is a strong effort to revive the double skirt or tunic, but I do not believe, when it is

once discovered how this increases the apparent age of the wearer, that it will become popular.

The constant appearance of the Bolero in all our dress this year is remarkable. We cannot go wrong in having some kind of simulated one, and it seems universally becoming. Jackets of all kinds of *velour du Nord*, velvet, velveteen and satin, are to be seen, and they are really useful articles of spring attire. But there are many young people who never use them, nor think of providing more than a light cape to use as a wrap; but for older people they seem to be a needful finish to the costume. It is naturally a great saving when they are not required.

The Bolero is much worn with the Princess dress, and in this case it is very short indeed, and cut up the back nearly to the neck, the corners being rounded. The high Swiss or corselet belts are quite a feature of the season's dress, and are generally made of the material of the rest of the costume, and they may also be trimmed with lace in the same manner as it is. They are very pretty for slight figures, but do not enhance the beauty of stout people; so they like the Bolero, which is most charming when worn by girls. In fact, fashion seems to take no care for those who have allowed themselves to become fat. It always seems to me that, with plenty of exercise, and some care about eating, no one need become unwieldy.

The shoes worn this year are either with one or two straps across the front, or else they are of the Cromwell order, with flaps and buckles, and the open-worked stocking is as much worn as ever. Nothing is more remarkable than the change that has come over the world of women in their wearing of boots and shoes. Those worn to-day are of so much thinner and slighter a kind than was formerly the case, and the strapped shoe has found friends in every class of life. I hear it said that they are so much lighter, and more comfortable for these tiring London pavements. Very high heels, at least for the streets, are no longer in fashion; and when worn they are only seen in the house. Bronze shoes were prophesied as a coming style, but I do not see many worn.



SPRING BLOUSE.

Blouse of dark blue glacé silk, chemisette of white chiffon over white silk, collar, cuffs and band of green velvet edged with narrow braid and lines of velvet.

## BREAD-WINNING AT HOME.

By MARGARET BATESON.

### PART V.

#### EMBROIDERY, KNITTING AND CROCHET.

THERE is a paying method of conducting all industries, even those connected with fancy work. Of course I do not mean to affirm that all industries have only to be carried on in the right way to pay very well; for there are employments that by their nature can never be extremely profitable. But what I would make clear is that even the least profitable kinds of work are always capable of being made to yield relatively good remuneration if they are executed in the proper manner. Unfortunately many women display what I can only characterise as a perverse preference for doing work in the way that will make earning money by it most difficult. They will do work in their own fashion and at their own convenience, they will do it irregularly, they will do it at a distance from the proper markets, and, if possible, they will do it at home. Other persons, more sharp than honest, trade upon these peculiarities, and too often reap ill-gotten gains by promising to sell home-work, done under the most unlikely conditions, if the workers will pay money in advance. And so set are some women upon working in the manner they prefer, that the exchange of scanty money for abundant promises goes

briskly forward. Girls, being more independent of home ties, are less frequently victimised after this fashion than older women, yet even with them the disposition to make a little money without much trouble frequently gets the better of prudence. In the classes of work which I have taken as the subject of the present article, the competition among girls and women in unusually severe. Every girl can do a little knitting, a little crochet, a little fancy or "art" work; but the individual girl forgets how many others are as gifted as herself in this respect, and boldly enters the department of industry where I should say there is more competition than anywhere else.

And yet the home-worker even in fancy work could succeed under the right conditions. I am bound to admit these conditions are not always within what politicians would term her "sphere of influence." For the first of these and the least attainable is to live in a town where there are shops that deal in knitting and embroidery. An alternative is to live in a tolerably well-peopled rural district, where some influential people would help the workers to form a rural industry. Such centres have happily been established of late in many parts of the kingdom, and I hope that a large future of successful effort is still before them. But even in a neighbourhood where there are no

artistic and public-spirited ladies and gentlemen to establish some special industry for the locality, much might yet be done by an energetic and business-like girl. Such a girl must place herself in communication with the trade in some department of handiwork, learn what class of products are most saleable, and then try, not only to supply these herself, but make herself responsible for collecting similar articles from her neighbours. It is all very well to decry the middle-man system, which has, no doubt, led to some abuses; but a system of the kind is indispensable whenever commodities of home manufacture are dealt with in the large quantities necessary in modern commerce. No wholesale dealer living, for instance, in London or Manchester could possibly do business with thousands of individuals living miles away from either of these centres; he must make some one person in a district responsible for purveying to him the work of that district; and it is fair enough that the responsible collector should receive some extra payment for the labour entailed. It is because these collectors or middle-women are so scarce in country districts that rural industries remain non-existent in many neighbourhoods where they are badly wanted.

But I am forgetting that on this occasion I am wanting to tell my readers in the first



## MY CLOTHES MONTH BY MONTH.

By "THE LADY DRESSMAKER."

If it were possible, I should say that the blouse and the shirt were more in favour than ever; and yet, even while saying so, there are certain subtle differences which mark a change in the way they are used. They have become more dressy and less dressed; which means that, while the morning ones are still simple, they are much more pretty and more dressy, but they are kept for morning use, as the complete gown, bodice and skirt alike, seem to me to constitute the correct apparel for the afternoon; and one rarely sees a blouse worn then. For the evening they are worn, but chiefly for quiet home-gatherings and for the concert-room. This year's white muslin blouses are extremely pretty, and nearly all have the transparent yokes of guipure lace, the lace being often of a very full-coloured cream, and contrasting well with the extreme white of the muslin. They are worn over either white or coloured slips, and are often trimmed with runnings of black velvet ribbon and bows of the same.

For this summer the young girls have had the most delightful robes prepared for them, all ready made. The skirts are shaped in the newest manner, and finished at the hem with lace frills or a shaped flounce, and nothing remains to be done to them but to mount them on a silken slip; or, if you do not wish to afford that, one of the many substitutes, such as the new mercerised cottons, batiste, or sateen. These prepared robes are in all summer materials—muslin, lace, batiste, zephyrs, *crêpe de chine*, and also voile. Even the bodices are supplied partially made, and need only an underslip of silk, or perhaps of lace, and a picture is also given to suggest the method of making. The most beautiful shades of colour can now be got in French batistes—pinks, mauves, blues, and yellows; the latter seem to have almost replaced pink in our affections for petticoats and underlinen. Black lace is more used than cream for underlinen this year. Should coloured underwear be used, a good pink, of course, wears and

washes best. Never were such thin materials affected for underlinen—the finest Irish linen, batiste, lawn, and nainsook—so that really we might be dwellers in a tropical climate, instead of in a very much miscalled temperate one. This year the place of lace has been taken by the Swiss and hand-embroideries, tucks also, and frills; and should you be the owner of a floral name, you have that flower marked in natural colours on your linen, your paper, and your own surroundings.

The lace or linen embroidered collars are much in evidence. They are worn on the revers of the short Etons and bolero jackets, as well as on the short coats which everyone clings to so fondly. These can be purchased at a moderate price. Indeed, it is wonderful to see how the drapers are catering for the demand for ready-prepared articles of dress. The hats and toques to be purchased are extremely pretty, and require nothing but the last finish to them; and as for the ready-made coats and skirts, they may be seen in



TWO SUMMER GOWNS.

Soft silk dress of salmon-pink tucked in sets of four from neck to foot, black satin folded band round waist. Chemisette of white satin covered with lace and banded with narrow black ribbon-velvet, half sleeves with cream lace puff from elbow to wrist. Cream insertion round bodice and end of skirt. Figured muslin dress, lace fichu at shoulders.

A SUMMER TEA-GOWN.

Gown of voile, lace, and chiffon in corn-flower blue, cream satin and ribbon. This gown falls from the yoke to the feet at the back and front in soft folds.



every window, and of the very last style and cut. The most fashionable transparent lace collar can be purchased at all good drapers', and so can entire trimmings for hats, made up with such good taste that we only have to choose and buy the hat that suits us best to put them on. And as to the army of ready-made shirts and blouses—who shall enumerate them? And all this at an immense saving to our purses, and still more of our time and trouble.

There is no doubt of the popularity of all things Irish in the way of dress. A recent expedition in search of Irish crochet-lace and Carrickmacross resulted in disappointment in three or four shops, where all in turn alleged that they had had the insertion

demand, but that they had sold out everything very fine, and had little left but the coarser crotchet, and the same of the lace. The Irish crotchet-lace, even of a coarse kind, is very pretty for trimming linen or batiste gowns; and of course we are all loyal enough to follow Her Majesty's lead, and begin to wear it at once. I am always lost in wonder at the patience of workers in crotchet, when the work is very fine especially; and it is not very dear—about 7s. 6d. a yard for an insertion with two edges, for trimming a dress, about two inches and a half to three inches wide. The wearing qualities of the Irish homespuns, friezes, and linens are wonderful, and they are the very thing for the country, and for Scotland, and of course they suit

Ireland, for they really turn off the drops of rain.

In addition to the indictment against long and trailing skirts that I mentioned in my last article, an English doctor brings a new count into it; which is, that the constant holding up of them is a frequent cause of neuralgia and rheumatic pains, from the fixed position of the arm.

Perhaps nothing is more remarkable this year than the number of widows to be met with in the streets of London; but the widow's garb leaves much to be desired in the present day. We have discarded a great deal which was heavy and undesirable; but we seem to have made the dress too fashionable, and too much like the everyday garb of



A Bolero coat costume, with a swathed band of black satin, blouse of white muslin, with lace and tucks. The gown itself was made of lettuce-green Caledon frieze, the stitchings being of white.

Gown of pastel blue, with pipings, collar of guipure, and long scarf of white chiffon, arranged round the neck, and formed into bows in front; the ends are fringed or lace-edged.





Tailor-made gown of grey cashmere, or cloth, finished with two rows of black silk cordings and stitched between with black. Collar and front of white guipure; the cuffs are edged and stitched to match the collar.

the ordinary fashionable woman, which we reproduce in mourning materials. This seems to give the dress too frivolous an air; and the result is that no one looks more cheerfully up-to-date than a newly-made widow. As this is a remark made every day, I can do no harm by repeating it. One thing which every widow should wear—at least, at first—is some kind of covering for the shoulders, as the

tight-fitting bodice, with a small amount of crape trimming, seems incongruous and not in keeping with the long crape veil of the bonnet. In France, the black shawl is heavy and ugly; but we might find something between the two, which would be dignified and rather severe in its aspect. All the recent mourning which I have lately seen in London has given me the idea of being as light as it is

possible to wear; and many people, in the very first days of mourning, have had black figured silks, trimmed with crape, even when the person mourned for was a brother. Now it appears to me that it would be far more suitable to get a perfectly plain skirt and jacket of black serge, or any other dull woollen material, and wear that with a plain hat or bonnet of crape; at least, for the first month or six weeks.

Some of the prettiest things of the year are the coloured linen costumes, which are novel, and have a very wide range of colours, even what are known as the pastel shades being included. I thought the pale green ones charming, and I suggest to the intending purchasers that the fine and more expensive ones are better for wear and appearance, and more fadeless than the coarser ones. They are much trimmed with torchon and guipure laces; and I find that most people think the jackets or coats are of so little use that they prefer to wear a bodice, or a bolero, with the skirt.

The general fancy for black and white is quite one of the remarkable characteristics of dress this year; so many of the fashionable world are wearing it that it might be a uniform, as black chiffon crinoline and tulle hats certainly are. Very large black picture-hats are very smart; and as they are worn with everything, and clash with none of our dresses, they are decidedly economical. Cornflower blue comes next to it in favour, and then a pale mauve. Rose-trimmed hats and toques are seen a great deal, and the popularity of the English emblem is unbounded. I have been telling my readers about the ready-made trimmings for hats. Well, of course, you can select from them what will match any gown in your wardrobe; as, unless you wear a black one, the toque or hat must match the gown. If you select a black fancy straw, you could have a trimming of roses, one of chiffon, or tulle, one of the Paisley silk, and another of plain glacé, made up in that wonderful mode which reminds one of small cabbages standing up in a trio—a kind of small pyramid—and one wonders who could have invented so odd a thing.

The newest veils are white with very tiny white spots on them; but there are some of the new ones, too, which are covered with large, heavy, and sprawling patterns, which are most unbecoming. An open, clear mesh, with small chenille spots, not very close together, is the most becoming of any; as the thickly-spotted ones have a very decided effect in making the skin look dark and dull. The coloured veils are not seen at all this year.

The black cravat has a very good and becoming effect in a toilette, and especially when worn with a shirt or blouse, to which it adds just the needful touch or finish. This is probably the cause of the folded black satin belt being such a success, and nothing reduces the size of the waist so much in appearance as this addition.

I am just reminded to say that the Healthy and Artistic Dress Union has a charming exhibit of made-up dresses in the entrance hall of the Woman's Exhibition at Earl's Court this season. For those who are in search of a suitable dress for growing girls, or a pretty tea-gown, the Pinafore costume or the blue Empire gown could not be surpassed for beauty or suitability.





## MY CLOTHES MONTH BY MONTH.

By "THE LADY DRESSMAKER."



TWO SUMMER TAILOR-MADES.

Gown of thin cloth, waistcoat and revers of white satin, stitchings of white silk. Chiffon ruffle of white, and toque to match with roses. River gown of striped flannel.

PERHAPS everyone will be glad to hear that swimming is the latest fad of the day among the fashionables, as well as among the lassies who abide in the East End. These latter are all learning to swim, and are saving up their pennies to pay for their dresses on the instalment system; the material is supplied, and assistance is being given in the cutting-out and making-up, in many of the institutions in that part of the world. Not only girls, however, are learning, but the matrons in the West End are going in for tuition with their daughters of all ages with the greatest vigour, for has it not been decided that no better exercise was ever invented to increase the health and beauty of woman?

The revival of archery is another thing which I must chronicle. This essentially womanly sport has been allowed to languish since the sixties, when the arrival of croquet threw it into the shade of neglect, though,

in spite of fashion, the pursuit has always had its votaries, and held its sessions, with plenty of champions to compete for the prizes. Archery requires great skill, self-possession, and a strong wrist, to say nothing of a good figure, and a pretty costume of hunting green.

The revived game of croquet has become very popular, and there is more interest taken in lawn tennis this season again; and girls play both hockey and golf, and indeed are enjoying all the out-of-door games with greater zest every season.

The favourite materials this year for summer dresses have been foulard batiste or linen, and muslin, especially white, with insertions and edgings, Valenciennes being the lace used. Thin cloths have also been seen, principally in black; and there is a tendency to make them as plainly as possible, and have a very handsome blouse, or front of guipure lace. The newest colour in them is a variation of

khaki-colour, and is called "desert," or "sand," as it is an endeavour to reproduce that hue exactly. It is stitched with silk of its own shade exactly, and this is the last *mot d'ordre* about stitching. No more contrasts are allowed, only matches, and very good ones too. The newest cloth gowns are trimmed with net embroidery, bands of black net being embroidered with coloured beads in pale lines, and then laid on flat, the under-vest being of the same, and there are ball buttons to match the embroidery in colour on the coat.

The chiffon ruffles or boas are quite one of the fashions of the moment, and everyone seems to possess one, even though they are rather expensive and extremely perishable; as, of course, when they become at all soiled or tumbled, they have to be discarded for something fresher. They are also made of white tulle and of chiffon mixed with marabou



feathers, and with each and all there must be mingled (for fullest dress) lace, guipure, appliqué, and flowers of all kinds, but especially the roses, which are now the favourite flower. Silk-muslin may also be used for them, and also a soft kind of bright silk, which is often mixed with chiffon and violets. The ostrich feather ones are still worn, but I think black seems more popular than white at the present time, and certainly looks better with many toilettes, and also with the black chiffon hats, or the rustic straws, with roses and black velvet, which look so well and so summery. Some of these ruffles are rather more collarettes than boas; and they are thus more of a protection than the ruffle alone, when the gown has one of the transparent yokes, or a dress cut in French style, low and collarless at the neck—a fashion that is beginning to appear, and which is neither pretty nor becoming. The most fashionable length is to the waist line, or a little below it, but some fall to the edge of the gown; the ruffle going round the neck only, and the ends being plain and flowing. Black velvet of a narrow width is used to trim many of them, and these are perhaps the most effective of all. One of those in white silk muslin is illustrated in our sketches this month.

The very long lace coat of last year, which was seen in some of the best French gowns, but little worn here in London has become more fashionable this year. The ends of this are so long at the back as quite to sweep the ground like very long coat tails, while the fronts are of a coat, or more properly of the Eton jacket, order, with revers, and a folded front of lace or white silk muslin. These vests are low-necked, or of a pointed shape in front; and are worn with a folded tulle necklet, which may be ornamented with a diamond buckle. Of course, no dress is now of the last make that has not the double sleeve, which seems to be more fashionable every day, the upper half being like the gown, while the lower



IN THE SHADY LANES.  
Gown of batiste or linen.



IN THE GARMENTS OF SUMMER.

Gown of voile with embroideries of white ribbon. Foulard morning gown of pale mauve with black velvet ribbon and lace yoke.

part may be of anything, from lace to silk, satin, or muslin.

Never were our blouses so pretty, the materials for them so many, or the prices so low for them in the shops, as now; and they are worn by both high and low. Quantities of ready-prepared materials for making up smart ones can be found; and it has become more and more usual to hear people say they have made the blouse they wear themselves. Patterns are very easily obtained, and many ladies have their own patterns taken, so as to ensure a perfect fit. Excellent skirt-patterns can also be cut by skilful hands, and with these even the lady who is buried in the country can manage to be dressed quite up-to-date at no great expense.

There are two or three odd freaks in vogue just now. The first is a fancy for bunches of black poppies for the adornment of the toque or hat; and another is velvet carrots in their natural hues, for the same purpose. The extensive use of carrots is also advocated for the good of the complexion, but for this purpose they should be eaten raw. They have long formed the chief part of the dietary at the baths of Vichy in France, where they appear at all meals; and the patients are obliged to partake of them, as a part of the cure.

The tiny handkerchief is one of this season's introductions, and is carried in the glove, to which locality we have been driven from the want of pockets, and the very ugly effect of carrying the handkerchief up the sleeve. A daily contemporary reports that an order for millions of paper handkerchiefs has been





FOR FÊTES IN SUMMER.

Gown of dark blue voile with insertions of cream lace. Fichu of silk muslin. Gown of white foulard with lace trimmings.

recently sent to Japan, and one of our medical men remarks that it is really sad that Europe should have been left to learn the sanitary value of a paper handkerchief from the far-off East! So perhaps I may soon have to chronicle that paper handkerchiefs are the latest fashion. From the huge handkerchiefs of the forties, we have dwindled down steadily in spite of influenza and winter colds, and only the men remain where they were, in regard to the size. Theirs are still abundant and bountiful, and latterly the old Bandanna has come in again. Now that snuff-taking is out of date, save for a few, these large handkerchiefs are surely needless. Was it not strange that almost the first thing we had an appeal about from South Africa was to supply our soldiers with handkerchiefs, of which many of them declared they had "never known the real good, till they went out there. They are useful for so many things."

The last fancy in the way of boys' suits is a kind of glorified Irish costume—a Paddy suit, it is called. It has the short-waisted cut-away coat, the knee-breeches, and loose-fronted shirt of the well-known Irish Paddy; and it has the hat of the Ulsterman, high in the crown and made of felt. The fashionable hue for this is green, and the material is a finely-ribbed corduroy, of a light summer make. There are several novelties in the way of suits for little boys, such as the Russian blouse with a leather waist-band, and the Edward V. suit of black velvet, like that worn by the Princes in the Tower, in the picture by Millais. And as to the prices of the children's clothing, they are simply marvellous, and are equally wonderful as to material and manufacture.

The excitement about the long skirts still continues, and the scientific Congress now sitting in Rome has just dealt with the question, and unanimously condemned the wearing of the long skirt. Here, in London, though several medical men have spoken about them, so far, few people have mentioned that no ladies are ever known to allow their skirts to trail in the dust. Skirts may be long, but that cannot be helped, so long as we are slaves to fashion. The English way is to lift up the pleats at the back and hold the skirt up so that it clears the ground, which is not an ungraceful method. The French lady, however, raises hers in the very old-fashioned manner of collecting it up on either side, and raising it to the hips, using, of course, both hands—a method that may be becoming for her, and may answer for Paris, but it has the grave disadvantage of leaving no hand free for other uses; either to hold a parasol, a banister, or to help one into the carriage. In sitting down the skirt is drawn to one side and allowed to fall in graceful folds at the side.

## ODDS AND ENDS.

"WHATEVER you dislike in another take care to correct in yourself."

"THE mother of useful arts is necessity; that of the fine arts is luxury."

"THE best way for a man to get out of a lowly position is to be conspicuously effective in it."

THE women of Cuba are said to be the most beautiful in the world. They are, for the most part, either Octoroons, Quadroons or Mulattos.

## THE MASTER OF SEDGEWICK HALL.

By C. N. CARVALHO, Author of "Otterburn Chase."

## CHAPTER III.

VERY soon after the dinner-party Mrs. Sedgewick left for the sea-side, taking Cyril with her, rather to his discomfiture, it must be owned, for Mr. Chester's society had made his time pass so pleasantly that he had hoped to remain in Ashworth the whole of the summer. From Torquay he went to Cambridge without returning home. The Christmas vacation was spent with a friend, and so it was nearly six months before he or his mother came back to Ashworth.

In such a quiet place very little goes on, but Cyril professed to find a great change. On being pressed to say what it was, it amounted to this: that Mr. Chester had grown very intimate at the rectory, and, report said, was to marry Laura Marshall.

"People who say that will say anything!" he exclaimed, when his mother retailed to him this piece of gossip that she had just learned from the servant who had been left in charge of the house. "I don't believe a word of it. Why, her great eyes are full of tears if I only mention Robin's name. She ought not to marry him."

"For once I agree with you," his mother continued. "Not that there was any sense in her waiting for your brother—if she was waiting for him—which I don't believe. But I wonder you are not delighted. You used to be so absurdly fond of that man."

"So I am still. Chester is the best fellow going, mother. But he has no right to ask

Laura to marry him, and I shall tell him so plainly."

Mrs. Sedgewick laughed.

Maisie came in to call in the course of the day, and while seeing her home, Cyril took the opportunity to ask her if there were any truth in the report.

On being told that if the two were not already engaged, they very soon would be, Cyril expressed his disapproval in the strongest terms. It was scarcely nine o'clock the next morning when he presented himself at the Hall.

"Oh, Cyril, boy, is that you? Glad to see you!" was Mr. Chester's greeting. "But why didn't you look in yesterday? I quite expected you."

The words were said so cordially that Cyril felt his wrath oozing away from him. This must not be permitted, so he returned gloomily—

"Oh, I don't know. I was out of temper, I suppose."

"And you are still, I fancy," said his friend, with a laugh. "But not with me, surely? Well, let us shake hands first, and then we can quarrel afterwards, if you like. But I thought you had come to congratulate me."

"Congratulate you?" cried Cyril in dismay. "You haven't done it, have you? Then I am too late."

"Not too late to congratulate me certainly. Yes, I've done it, as you say. Last night. That is, we made it public last night. It has been done some little time. Do you want to forbid the banns?"

"Yes," was the ready answer. "I only wish I could. Chester, I did think you were a gentleman."

"Does my choice of a wife make you think otherwise?" the other remarked drily.

"Oh, I know you will laugh at me," Cyril went on. "But—but don't you know she is engaged to my brother? Why, I told you myself."

"My dear lad, is it not a little impertinent for you to take this tone with me? Miss Marshall, having accepted me, shows very conclusively that she considers herself free. That ought to be enough for you."

"Perhaps she is free. I believe her father made her break off the engagement. But Robin considers himself bound to her and—and it isn't fair."

"The matter is in her hands, my boy. Anyway, it is no business of yours. But I do not wonder at your thinking as you do."

"She was to have been my sister," Cyril said sorrowfully. "I love her as if she were. And now that will never be. I shall write and tell Robin, Chester. He sha'n't learn it from the newspapers."

"Do so by all means. You will find he knows it already. We don't go to work in an underhand way, Master Cyril."

"What does he say?"

"He makes no objection, I believe. But he didn't write to me."

"Poor old fellow!" said Cyril dolefully. "What a blow for him, after waiting and hoping all these years! I didn't think Laura



## MY CLOTHES MONTH BY MONTH.

By "THE LADY DRESSMAKER."

QUITE a sensation and flutter has been caused in the masculine mind by the new fashion set by H.R.H. the Heir Apparent at

the Queen's garden-party at Buckingham Palace, where he appeared in a single-breasted frock coat, which will, no doubt, be

followed in all haste by those who look upon the Prince as the arbiter-in-chief of men's fashions in dress. Some of the reasons alleged for its adoption are, that it is far cooler than the double-breasted one for hot weather, and that it gives more opportunities for the display of the fancy waistcoats to advantage. Now, is not that a delightful bit of vanity? And I know all my readers will be as pleased as I am to hear that men are to have a really new fashion. I am always so sorry for them, for their clothes seem so dull and dreary; one wonders how they manage to be happy with so little variety in colour and form. We women are so much more fortunate; and our pretty light frocks and clean white gowns give us such a sense of refreshment and pleasant coolness, quite apart from any small vanities we may feel in looking our best.

The corselet-belt and sash seem to have



FOR A GARDEN PARTY.

White embroidered muslin gown over blue silk, with sash of pale blue and pale blue silk embroidery. Gown of figured voile, white ground with pale pink, black velvet trimmings, vest of pale pink chiffon.



come to stay with us, and many dressmakers are making the pointed Swiss band for the thinner materials of autumn. The old-fashioned baby-sash has also come back to us, and ribbon waist-bands seem more in favour for blouses than the plain Petersham belt. Ribbons and all floating ends are always considered a becoming portion of woman's dress.

We seem to have got rid of the severely masculine style of girls who used to haunt one's path two or three years ago, and we do not hear anything more about Rational dress, and the knickerbocker or divided skirt for the bicycle. Perhaps the general adoption of the graceful muslin blouse in place of the stiff cotton shirt did something to transform her, and the return of the be-frilled collar in place of the stiffly-starched ones, and the sailor tie. Of course, the cotton shirt is still worn, and is useful; but it has lost its masculine ways.

Cycling is now a thoroughly useful thing; and in the country everyone must cycle if they are to keep up with the outings and garden-

parties of the country-side, and so we see that girls in the country adopt a rather smarter style both of skirt and blouse; and the pretty muslin and lace one is in high favour as a smart-looking garment to wear at afternoon tea and tennis.

For the late summer the prettiest materials will be foulard, voile and silk, with muslin de soie, or batiste worn over silk. The chief novelty seems to lie in the sleeves at present, and the soft muslin inner bishop's sleeve appeals to most people; and one sees so many varieties of the three-quarter sleeves that we shall probably grow tired of them soon. Then we have the dress without any collar at all, and nearly all the very new vests are made in this way—a mode which has always had great attractions for the French; but which usually has none for us more practical people. It needs a very perfect throat, and the perfect throat soon grows brown and ugly when exposed to the sun and air without protection. The very long sleeve, known as the "mitten"—because it covers more than

half the fingers—is very popular for evening dress, and it will certainly do much towards banishing gloves. Already we notice their absence in many entertainments, such as concerts, and so, except for dancing, perhaps, they will go out.

We have already some very clear prophecies as to the colours of the future emanating from Paris, whence they report a tendency to adopt very deep yellows, an idea which was also seen last autumn as well. One of these deep yellows has been named in Paris "Cleopatra," and one of brownish shade is called "Eldorado," but I daresay they will be renamed over here, for every large shop selects its own names. The newest heliotropes are of a reddish tone, and the new blues are metallic ones, and so are rather cold in tendency. The pastel colours which we have been wearing have all been rather deepened in hue, as more suitable for the darker days of winter; and the new red, of which we shall see much this autumn, is called "peony," and is a very good reproduction of that well-known garden flower. There



THREE TRAVELLING GOWNS.

Tailor-made gown of thin checked homespun, linen vest, and linen revers, very finely stitched in lines. Bodice and skirt of cross-bar homespun, revers of velvet, and band of same. Jacket and skirt of summer tweed, finely stitched collar of same.





IN THE LATE SUMMER.

Frock of grey voile with trimmings of pale blue velvet and lace, vest of white tucked chiffon.

is a slightly brighter hue which is called "red currant," and this will be generally becoming. Greys, browns, and greens are the future colours for our gowns; and there does not seem to be much change in any of these, save in the greens, which are very bright, and, no doubt, in compliment to our neighbouring island, are quite Irish; and the green of Ireland is an emerald green of great force and vividness.

A visit to the shops in search of the various articles we may require, means much information to an observant woman or girl; and many detached items of information may be picked up. I was being fitted in a large shoe shop the other day, when the pleasant woman who served me remarked, "I remember that a very few years ago every lady who came in wanted threes or fours; and we constantly sold twos, or two and a half; and the lady who wore fives was quite ashamed to tell you so. Now that is all altered. I don't know whether it is the enormously long American toes, or the tennis and golf playing; but the ladies come in to-day and ask for sixes, and even sevens, and never mind it at all; and they will not have too small a shoe." Of course, the pointed toes make a long shoe needful, and I daresay you will have seen at every sale the "cast" portion of the stock consists of very small sizes; even four is a small size now.

Our illustration of tailor-made gowns proves that we have begun to think of travelling, and of holidays spent abroad and at the sea.

These gowns give very carefully the general effect of the autumn gowns and travelling and country hats. The short Eton with a swallow-tailed back, the double-breasted Eton and the various modifications of the Bolero still hold the chief place in our favour, and as will be seen there is little change in the skirts.

Mixtures of material have been in great favour, batiste and silk, serge and silk, brocade and lawn, and velvet and muslins; and in all probability this is a fashion which will be carried still further on. I notice that the old-fashioned long scarfs are being much used for both evening and day; they are of lace, silk muslin, or *crêpe de chine*, and some of them are hand-painted in the softest colours, and when in black are worn with the softest toilettes of chiffon and lace. They look very quaint, and are worn mostly by young girls, strange to say. Many that I have seen are undoubtedly old ones, but a great many, especially the hand-painted ones, are made to-day and sent home with the dress, or purchased at some well-known shop.

The rustic hat has been quite one of the season's successes, and these are delightedly hailed by the girl who has to make her own millinery; for they are so simple to arrange, and not dear to purchase. People who follow the last fashions say that the colour for autumn millinery is apricot, and that roses of that hue are to be chosen before all others. One of the favourite autumn flowers is the nasturtium, which displays its graceful trails all over some of the rustic hats. I notice also that hops and vetches of all colours have come in also, and for the early autumn millinery, nuts, cob-nuts, filberts, and some walnuts of modified size are being prepared. Hats and bonnets also show a tendency to get larger and fuller

over the face, and feathers become more and more popular. Everyone takes refuge in the black chiffon toque, or hat, in the last days of the season, and generally adds to it the new poppies with black centres, which look so lovely in the shades which range from pink down to the deepest red. Wreaths of green leaves are being brought into autumn millinery and evening wear, the pointed leaves being selected as the most graceful; but I have noticed that the shamrock wreath is in great favour. I have never seen anything like the popularity of the rose this year, and the lavish way in which they have been used. I suppose this is a kind of patriotic ebullition which the war has brought about.

I mentioned, I think, last month the renewed interest taken in swimming by society in London, and I hope our girls who read this article will make a note of it, and follow so good and so healthful an example. Amongst the funny things I noticed at a recent very fashionable competition in the West End was that one of the competitors had had a pedicure to dye her toe-nails a very deep rose pink. The idea was very novel but not quite the

thing, so the onlookers agreed. Everything about the bathing dress is in better taste when exceptionally plain and simple. No exercise is so healthful, and none likely to be so useful as swimming; and none is, I think, so easy to learn.

A novel idea this year has been to have the parasols made to match the dress; and, indeed, they have been frequently made of the very same material that the dress was composed of.

Handkerchief blouses have been very popular and smart this summer, and will probably continue to be so. A recent style is to have a toque to match; and still more recently we find that handkerchief-neckties, to wear with the toques, have been evolved. Many chiffon blouses in black have been seen, and the ready-made materials of muslin and Valenciennes lace in stripes are very excellent and attractive when made up as blouses.

I came to the conclusion this summer that a good well-made white or cream-coloured serge was a very excellent thing for a girl to have in her wardrobe, and more economical by far than any number of so-called washing frocks. Care must be taken to select a good knockabout serge, and to give it good washing, or, still better, cleaning whenever it is required. The best lining is sateen, and it should have, if possible, a pretty silken blouse of a pale colour.



## MY CLOTHES MONTH BY MONTH.

By "THE LADY DRESSMAKER."

THE autumn days are creeping on, and we are beginning to think already of warmer things. Indeed, September often proves itself a very cold month, and in many places, Switzerland for instance, the changes are distressingly sudden and unexpected, and a storm may bring the snow down on the nearest mountains and send a chill of winter through the air quite early in that month. Last year many people were caught in this manner, and this year people have been taking warmer clothes with them, and many girls have found

out that the additional warmth can be obtained with but little trouble by carrying a warm flannelette lining to their knickerbockers, and an under-bodice of flannel or woven wool, which can be put on under the blouse. There are so many pretty fancy flannel blouses, that that part of the dress is soon disposed of. This year has been most prolific in the introduction of pretty new cloths for women's wear, and the colours are charming, so if girls do not look well and smart it is their own fault.

Looking back, however, on the summer, one cannot see anything in the way of change to chronicle, no remarkable alterations or introductions. The skirts have been longer, and perhaps slightly more flowing, and tuckings have been the only attempt at novelty. This autumn, however, I see a tendency to return to the tighter-fitting round the waist, and some of the newest autumn dresses have been made as they were last year, the difference lying in the greater flow at the feet.

It is much to be hoped that we shall get



WARMER DRESS.

*On the left.*—Tailor-made gown in faced cloth; collar, lapels, and cuffs of velvet and cloth appliqué. *In the middle.*—Sacque coat, fawn cloth, lapels and collar faced with velvet, finished with rows of stitching. *On the right.*—Walking gown in peacock blue, cloth with plaid velvet and blouse. The revers and belt are of broché velvet, and the bodice is finished with strappings and stitching.



rid of the extremely long fronted gowns, as they will be perfect nuisances in the coming winter. There is some tendency to shorten gowns for wear in travelling and the country; and the new way of leaving the skirt unlined, and arranging the lining material as a separate skirt, will obtain throughout the winter. This necessitates the lining being of good material, nothing but silk looking really well, though some people use moirette. The skirt and under-skirt both require frills if made in this way, and that adds to the expense. The newer makes of silk for lining are, many of them, mixed with cotton, and consequently have but little wear in them.

Greys, browns, and greens are announced to be the autumn colours, and the newest green is said to be Irish in its tone, and if that is the case it is a very vivid bright shade, which will be trying to many people. Grey has been fashionable all the past season, but the new shades of grey are more metallic, and the same may be said of the winter blues. Yellow is probably to be one of the most used colours, and it is of a bright and vivid hue, which hails from Paris, and is called Cleopatra. There is a lovely autumn-red, called red currant by many of our shops, and which will be much seen in millinery. For our hats and



ON THE CLIFF.

On the left.—Grey cloth gown, yoke and panels of white cloth with trellis of black velvet. On the right.—Heliotrope cloth, with ivory lace chemisette. Hat of heliotrope straw and white lace.



IN THE AUTUMN DAYS.

Pale grey cashmere, with yoke of orange satin covered with lace band of same on skirt, large butterfly bow of pale green silk with black velvet on the edge.

bonnets this year we have decidedly had a perfect passion for fruit, especially cherries. Just now plums seem to have come in, but the Japanese chrysanthemums appear to be the flower for autumn, as well as the new poppy, which has a black centre, and is made much more effective by the change. It might be called a rose season, so largely were they worn, and so beautifully copied from nature. One drawback, however, is that the rose is a flower that can be very cheaply produced, and as a consequence, we see specimens that are not good copies of Nature's beautiful handiwork.

The double sleeves have become quite the rage, and we may expect that they will be one of the features of our winter gowns, and it is decidedly smart-looking, especially as it has been made up for the fashionable foulards with an under-sleeve of transparent lace. In the winter they will probably be made with velvet or satin, and will add to the smart appearance of our winter gowns.

The handkerchief fronts for blouses were much sought after at the sales, and so we have seen them much worn, of course. The looped ends are extremely becoming, either in front, or knotted at the side of the bodice, and they are very useful also to do up a half-worn blouse and bring it up-to-date. The American yoke is still worn for blouses, and the tucked collar with points at each ear, and the bell sleeve still decorates our wrists. There has been a great revival of stitching this autumn, and I hear accounts of its being used as the only trimming for friezes and tweeds, and in this case it is done in circles and figures placed closely together so as to cover the material well. White silk stitchings seem to have come in again, after their summer's eclipse, and they are always effective.

The tucked skirt has been more to the fore for autumn gowns than it was for those of the summer, and it lends itself admirably to serges and fine tweeds, and looks better than the absolutely untrimmed skirt. Irish friezes, too, are charming for autumnal days, and pale blues and pale greens are the most liked.



Some of them are made with full bodices, and the fronts of silk are beautifully embroidered with coloured flowers and leaves. The pink friezes are now of a rather deeper hue—a mixture of strawberry and tomato—and these are worn with black silk shirts, and black straw hats, and black satin *chou* bows. I notice that black shirts are much favoured with these Irish friezes, and also those of white washing silk. Blue serge, much trimmed with black braid, has made its appearance this autumn, and seems to have had a welcome; and tweeds, of course, for the country, and for Scotland, are much used. Some of these have been made with Norfolk jackets, or else a new modification of it, with a Norfolk back and an open front. This looks very well, and shows the pretty blouse beneath it, and also enables one to take off and put on, like any other jacket.

One of the novelties, and one which will very probably be copied in the future, is the adoption by Lady Randolph Churchill of pale blue chiffon as her wedding-gown, instead of the orthodox grey, which for ages has been the essential wedding attire for widows when re-entering the marriage state. It seems a wonder that someone has not revolted before, because there is apparently no good reason for such unwritten rules for dress, nor for grey being the colour *de rigueur*, though it was perhaps adopted as being a half-mourning

colour. At any rate, Lady Randolph Churchill wore a gown of pale blue chiffon and white lace, with a toque of the same colour, and her going-away dress was of the same hue.

I think I have mentioned before the mercerised materials which are now used for linings, and even for gowns. This process is applied to sateen, batiste, and duck, and it gives a delightful silky gloss to everything, which even washing does not destroy.

I am told that there is a novelty in stays, but I have not yet seen them; but hear that they are cut straight in the front, with a straight busk, which makes the waist very long in front; while the new cut, over the hips, makes it very short at the back.

Velvet waist-bands, with or without rosettes in front, but with a pretty buckle at the back, are the last fashion; and I think that they are very becoming and pretty, especially so for those who have rather large waists. The use of narrow velvet ribbons for every kind of dress decoration has been quite one of the features of this year's fashions.

A novel method of providing the general public with umbrellas in case of rain has been begun in America, where a well-known firm has opened small depôts in the principal streets, where umbrellas may be borrowed for the small sum of twopence, and returned when done with to any of the companies' other depôts. Let us hope that people will

remember to return them, for they very often quite forget to return those of other people! In England, however, we so rarely forget our own when leaving home that these small depôts might be unpatronised, and the new venture be a failure.

One of the last ideas is the mitten-sleeve. It is made with a very long point, which reaches to the knuckles, and it threatens to oust the glove by making it needless.

There seems a very good reason for believing that we have seen the end almost of the short boleros and Eton coats, for out-of-door use at any rate; and that this winter we shall go back to the three-quarter coat, fitting tightly, and with a single-breasted front.

There is no doubt that black satin has been largely supplanted by black silk as a material for making what are called "utility skirts," which means a really useful skirt to wear with dressy blouses. These seem to be quite adopted as the very best solution of the dress difficulty while travelling, for one skirt answers many purposes. One thing is most needful, and that is, to select a good silk at a good shop, so as to ensure proper wear, and then to have it cut by a good pattern. I hear that skirts with the shaped flounce will be used again this winter. This, however, seems to me doubtful, as they have been in so long that we are nearly sure to see some change.

## VARIETIES.

### SHE GOT A LESSON.

It happened in New York, but it might have done so in many a town between Land's End and John-o'-Groats.

He was an angular man with grey whiskers. He gave up his seat in the crowded tramcar with an alacrity which spoke well for the cheerfulness of his disposition.

The lady who took the proffered seat was stout and hearty. She stepped into the vacant place without a word.

The angular man looked at her thoughtfully; then he stooped over and said, "I had an uncle, ma'am, that had just the same affliction."

"Sir!" said the stout lady with an insulted toss of her head.

"Yes," continued the angular man, "he couldn't pronounce any word beginning with 'th' to save his neck. That's right. He'd stutter and stammer, and the best he could do would be to give it the sound of 's.' It was a dreadful affliction. His eldest son's name was Theophilus; but he always called him 'Sophilus.' Had it long, ma'am?"

The stout lady was dark-red from vexation. "You are insulting!" she snorted.

"Well, I don't wonder you hate to have anybody refer to it," said the angular man with great cheerfulness. "But I couldn't help noticing it when you took my seat and weren't able to say, 'Thank you.' I wouldn't have minded in the least if you'd said 'Sank you.' Oh, do you get off here? Good day, ma'am. Never mind the thanks."

And the stout lady flounced down the street to take the next tram.

**A FIGHTING POSTMISTRESS.**—In the Franco-German war, when the Germans entered Lorraine, the highest official present in a small French village was the postmistress. The men and youths, able and willing to fight, placed themselves under her guidance, and did their little best bravely, she keeping up good discipline and issuing orders as lieutenant. The gallant postmistress was afterwards decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honour.

### A BIRD ONCE SHOT A MAN.

Here is a strange tale of a wood-turkey, told by Mr. Robert Crawford in his *South American Sketches*, and positively asserted by him to be true.

The bird in question had been wounded, but only winged, and ran away when it fell to the ground. The man who fired at it laid down his gun hurriedly and gave chase, when a game of hide and seek took place among the brushwood.

In one of its doublings and turnings the bird passed over the gun, which was lying on the ground, and its toes happened to strike against the trigger of the undischarged barrel, the hammer of which had been left at full cock, with the result that the charge went off and wounded the sportsman.

Birds, we know, are sometimes taught to fire off pistols in those exhibitions known as "Happy Families," as well as to perform other unusual feats; but it is not often that a wild bird in the woods shoots a man with his own gun, as this one did in Uruguay.

### THE SNORING OF THE OCEAN.

"Do you sleep well here?" asked the mistress of a newly-imported domestic whom she was anxious to keep until the end of the Margate season.

"Sure, I don't, ma'am," was the reply, "because the snoring of the ocean kapes me awake all night."

**EQUAL TO THE OCCASION.**—"Before you open your mouth," says an old divine, giving wise counsel to his younger brethren, "be sure you have got the facts all right in your head." A Dundee minister one day read a chapter in which Tyre was mentioned. Then he said, "Tyre, my friends, is situated—" But immediately it dawned upon him that he had no idea where Tyre was situated. He was, however, equal to the occasion, and coolly continued, "Was situated, I say, in that portion of the world in which it pleased Providence that it should stand."

### A LESSON IN HUMILITY.

The following epitaph is met with at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, on the tomb of Dame Rebecca Berry, who died in 1697 at the age of fifty-two:—

Come, ladies, ye that would appear  
Like Angels fair, come, dress you here.  
Come, dress you at the Marble Stone,  
And make that humble grace your own  
Which once adorned so fair a Mind  
As yet e'er lodged in Womankind.  
So she was dressed, whose humble life  
Was free from Pride, was free from Strife,  
Free from all envious Brawls and Jars,  
Of human Life the Civil wars.  
These ne'er disturbed her peaceful mind,  
Which still was gentle, still was kind.  
Her very Looks, her Garb, her Mien,  
Disclosed the humble Soul within.  
Trace her through every scene of Life—  
View her as Widow, Virgin, Wife:  
Still the same, humble she appears,  
The same in Youth, the same in Years,  
The same in high and low estate,  
Ne'er vex'd with this, ne'er moved with that.

Go, ladies, now, and if you'd be  
As fair, as great, as good as she,  
Go learn of her Humility!

**CHOOSE THE DISAGREEABLE.**—Here is a remarkable aphorism of General Buller's quoted to us by one of his friends:—"If there are two courses of action open to us, always choose the disagreeable. It is sure to be the right one."

**HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.**—If it be true that "a healthy mind in a healthy body" is the supreme condition of happiness, it is also true that the healthy mind depends more closely than we like to own on the healthy body.

### ADVANCED ECONOMY.

*Boarding-house Keeper (to new servant):* "I wish you would go up and down stairs two at a time, Matilda; it would save the carpets so much."