



### DRAPING A MANTEL.

How to do this so as to produce a graceful effect without involving a large outlay; or, even if the expense be a minor consideration, without producing too heavy and elaborate an effect is often a puzzling question. A simple but artistic arrangement is developed as follows. A scarf of India silk, a little longer than the distance round the shelf, is bordered at the ends and at one of its sides with thumb fringe or little ornaments sewed on to form a fringe, and is run through a brass ring which is concealed by being button-holed or crocheted all over with cable silk. The ring is adjusted at the center or to one side of it, and the scarf is disposed with its untrimmed side on the shelf and its extremities falling gracefully at the ends. The edges which rest upon the shelf may be held in position by extending them beneath the heaviest ornaments or pieces of bric-à-brac and the fulness may be drawn into innumerable graceful folds as it escapes from the ring.

This arrangement is one upon which a great many variations may be rung. An exquisite effect is produced by using in con-

junction with the silk scarf as described above a piece of Irish point lace long enough to pass about the shelf. This may be arranged plainly with its depth hanging below the edge, and the scarf, run through a ring, disposed to overhang it slightly. A bow of ribbon matching the scarf in hue might be fastened where the draping is made with the ring. Mantel draperies thus arranged are easily taken down, shaken and readjusted, and this fact alone is much in their favor, especially where open fires are used.

Among the most beautiful of inexpensive material for draperies is a Japanese cotton crape, delicately figured in gold. Pongee, sateen, chintz, and all materials adapted to the purpose may be arranged in the manner described. Sometimes two shorter scarfs are passed through a large ring, and one end of each is carried to its respective end of the shelf; the remaining ends then disposed in any pretty fashion at the center, a favorite disposal being a fan-shaped arrangement which displays to good advantage whatever decoration is upon them.

