







WHAT TO WEAR: CHIT-CHAT ON DRESS.

BY OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.

ANUARY is never a very active month in the matter of dress. Winter garments are provided, and it is too soon as yet to think of spring ones; still, I have plenty to tell you about, for each month dress is more varied and becomes more of a science. England depends more than she used to do on herself for modes, as well as fabrics. Dressmakers and milliners come over from London to Paris and make their purchases, but they seldom present them to their customers in their entirety, and the alterations they make prove more becoming to English forms and faces.

Skirts for morning wear are seldom more than two and three-quarter yards wide in the foundation, but when finished they appear far wider, for they are draped stuff upon stuff. A silk skirt first, in a good gown is considered essential, and certainly is an improvement, then over that comes the wool, even if the wool appears only as a full plain skirt. It is no longer considered essential to have either a ruche-kilt or boxplaiting at the edge, though they often appear, and for evening gowns a silk ruche is both becoming and well worn. Perhaps the kind of gown most decidedly the fashion of the year is the woollen skirt with coloured chenille stripes, wide or narrow, woven either horizontally or perpendicularly, with plain material draped over it. Sometimes panels are introduced, of plush, or as often of embroidery, in which the wooden or rosary beads play an important part; these are either carved and varnished of a natural colour, or