

FROCKS FOR TO-MORROW.

By "THE LADY DRESSMAKER."

JUST as I write, there is much discussion going on about the bicycle dress, and whether we shall wear the knickerbockers or not. The generality of women in England seem to me to be absent from the field, for they (the majority) have quite adopted, and are satisfied with, the skirt, which, when well cut and exactly of the right length, suits them better than any knickerbockers could possibly do. For have they not to wear the skirt on other occasions? And must they not look well in it, too? For instance, you go down to Wimbledon, to Richmond, or any of the suburban resorts round London, to spend a few days with a friend; and, if you have a

suitable well-fitting skirt, you are supplied with dress for your visit, with a change of pretty blouses, and even another skirt, and a more dressy one for evening use, it gives no trouble to carry with you, if you go by rail, or to send, if you patronise Carter Paterson. The knickerbocker is quite out of it in this case, for who would want to appear in knickers? And how useless they would be as a costume to wear daily for our three days' visit.

In Paris it seems, where they wore nothing but the bloomer, the taste has veered round to the skirt; but it is cut far shorter than we should fancy it, and is worn with boots of either black or tan.

These boots, too, are rather new in shape, and have a wrinkled top, like a cavalier of

Charles I. reign. My own opinion is, that for a young girl it does not matter much what she wears; but no woman over thirty should attempt to wear the bifurcated skirts.

Having discussed the very needful styles for the bicycle, I must turn to the novel ideas of dressing the hair, which put in rather a late appearance at the very end of the London season. In our sketch entitled "Hair dressed with a comb," is shown the way to dress the hair in the fashion that it has been most worn lately. To give it this effect the hair is not tied, but simply rolled up and twisted into a knot, which must be rather loose than otherwise, and the twist must be given with a due remembrance of the loose effect to be given below the comb, which is put in the last thing after the twist is up. The front hair is *crimped*, and, in fact, all the rest of the hair is crimped and waxed so as to look evenly and naturally on the head.



A NEW CAPE.