

OBSERVATIONS ON FASHION AND DRESS.

In the absence of any change of style in out door costume, the following description of some walking dresses recently worn may be useful as affording hints for variety.

One consists of a dress of dark blue silk trimmed with five flounces, each flounce being edged with narrow ruches, ornamented by a spotted pattern in blue and black. A pardsessus of black velvet trimmed with bands of blue plush. Bonnet of blue velvet and black lace.

Another dress was of black watered silk, without trimmings on the skirt. The corsage high, and with a basque trimming with guipure of a gothic pattern. The sleeve slashed from top to bottom, and the openings connected by *traverses* or horizontal rows of ribbon and frills of guipure. Cloak of black velvet of the round form, with a trimming consisting of two falls or flowers of splendid guipure. Bonnet composed of Bias rows of pink therry and black velvet. A full ruche of black blond is placed at the edge of the bonnet. Inside trimming, roses of the natural color with black velvet leaves.

An out door visiting costume prepared for a newly married lady consists of pearl grey Gros-de-Tours with flounces, edged with plush woven in silk. The corsage, the basque and the ends of the pagoda sleeves are edged with plush. This dress may be made available for a dinner party *petite-soiree* by substituting for the silk corsage a vest of black velvet and Chantilly lace. The bonnet destined to be worn with it in out-door costume is of white silk, and is trimmed with two white ostrich feathers mounted in the weeping willow style. The feathers are fixed by a bow of white moire ribbon. The inside trimming consists of a wreath of camelias.—A cashmereawl completes the costume.

The corsages of ball and evening dresses are frequently ornamented with a berthe of colored satin, covered with Chantilly, guipure, or some other kind of lace. A berthe in this style has been added to a dress recently made up. The dress consisting of a black moire antique, sprigged with bouquets of flowers in various tints of lilac. The corsage of this dress is low, and has a berthe of satin covered with Chantilly lace. The sleeves are trimmed with lilac satin covered with frills of lace.

Among the new dresses remarkable for novelty and elegance one is composed of grey Gros-de-Tours. The skirt is trimmed with five flounces, ornamented with a black guipure pattern, woven in silk. The flounces are edged with large scallops, and the scallops bordered with nine rows of narrow ribbon, in shades of grey and black, placed one above the other.

A dress of grosseille-colored silk, trimmed with black lace flounces, has just been com-

pleted. The corsage, which is draped, is also trimmed with black lace. The bright color of the silk is very much modified by the black trimming, and the dress, which is in perfect taste, is thus rendered less showy than might be supposed. The coiffure to be worn with it accords with the rest of the dress, and consists of black lace, sparingly intermingled with gold beads and jet. Grosseille is, at present a fashionable color for evening dresses,

Silk continues to be more universally worn than any other material, whether for full evening dress, demi-toilette, promenade, or in-door costume.

One of the prettiest of the new bonnets we have seen is of lilac velvet. The whole of the front, and part of the crown is formed of bias rows of velvet, separated by quillings of narrow white blonde. The back of the crown, which consists of tulle, is not covered by rows of velvet, and over it descends a fall of blond, shaped in the fanchon or half-handkerchief form. This fall of blonde partially conceals the bavolet. On each side of the bonnet are two lilac marabout feathers spotted with white. The inside trimming consists of small white flowers.

In most of the new bonnets the trimming is placed chiefly on the front, and frequently the edge is ornamented by a ruche either of blonde or ribbon, or by a rouleau of feather trimming.

The novelties in wreaths and bouquets introduced for ball costume include some composed of foliage in crape, the foliage consisting of the leaves of various aquatic plants. These leaves are perfect imitations of nature. In general, the coiffure, whether consisting of flowers, feathers or ribbons is placed towards the back of the head.

At one or two of the recent balls it was remarked that some of the ladies appeared with the front hair dressed in long ringlets. These were in too decided a minority to indicate the slightest probability that ringlets will supersede the present style of dressing the hair in bands, either wholly or partially rolled each.

One of the prettiest coiffures we have seen consists of a demi-wreath of red flowers intermingled with leaves formed of gold blonde. Bars of gold blonde are added; they droop over the shoulders towards the back, and are fastened by long aiguillettes of gold. Another head-dress is composed of a small bouquet of roses placed on one side of the head. On the opposite side is placed a bow of black ribbon, lamé with gold, and at the back of the head a bow of the same.

For dinner costume the prettiest caps and coiffures, are formed of a combination of flowers and velvet. Roses and black velvet may always be admitted with the best effect where an admixture of different materials is required.