

The Ladies' Journal

Devoted to Literature, Fashion, &c.

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OUR PATTERNS.

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REVIEW OF FASHIONS.

Fashions, which have been so showy in the salons during the winter, are quiet for the spring, and this very naturally. It is not now considered good taste to wear conspicuous colors or designs on the street; and, the season's gayety being largely over—society scattered or preparing to scatter, some starting for Europe, others closing their dwellings previous to summer wanderings—the dress requirements are of a quiet and solid character, adapted to travelling and migratory habits. Even the stay-at-homes are influenced largely by the action of those who leave—who go abroad, who give up fine apartments at hotels and boarding houses and return to country homes—because it reduces the available forces and weakens the motive for giving entertainments, and keeping up the strain of “receiving” and visiting. Descriptions of fine toilets look well on paper, and are eagerly read, but the wearers are often more glad to get rid of them and pack them all away, and go off to the country or the sea-side in a blue flannel and carrying a wrapper as a *robe de chambre*.

Nothing can be imagined more attractive than the pretty, soft woollens in fine heather mixtures, narrow stripes alternating in mixed colors, checks, diagonal plaids, for wear with plain combinations, and India boige, camel's-hair, or summer serge, in smoke-grays, cool-blues, browns, bronze, and dregs-of-wine shades. The thin tissues in all-wool for summer wear are also both pretty and useful, and appear in lovely shades for young girls—currant color, electric blue, butternut-brown, smoke-gray, bronze, etc.

The soft refined-looking surahs, chines, foulards, and other distinctively “summer” silks are a relief to the eye after it has been wearied with a procession of flowered and beaded satins and magnificent brocades. There is no apparent falling off of the favor accorded to soft, clinging fabrics, nor any desire to restore the stiff and stately poplin or the energetic alpaca to their former place in the popular estimation. Poplin dies hard; but it will take more than Queen Victoria's purchase of sample patterns for use at Windsor to displace the gentle fabrics we have all learned to love. The surahs seem to have won a permanent place in popular estimation, and their adaptability and inexpensiveness assist in retaining it. The foulards only vary in the form of their small figures, and in sometimes showing light spots on dark

No. 1.—A picturesque and stylish shape, in ecru-colored English straw. The brim, which is rolled high on the right side, is faced with golden brown velvet, and a band of the same shade of velvet is wound around the crown, and arranged in a fan-shaped bow in front. Two ostrich tips, *ecru* with a pinkish hue, fall coquettishly over the front, while an aigrette at the back of these rests against the crown.

No. 2.—The suggestion of jauntiness about this hat should make it as popular for the young as it is appropriate. The Milan straw is in alternating braids of two colors, gray and dark red. The facing is of *coquelicot*, or poppy red, velvet, and the edge is bordered by a handsome

grounds, at others dark figures on light grounds. They keep up a sort of vibratory movement, never venturing far from the beaten track; for they are patronized by a quiet and conservative class, who have gotten over the taste for novelty, if they ever possessed it. Last year the figures upon foulards were round dots, often of various sizes, from small to exceedingly small; this year they look like irregular bits of color on the cream grounds, which are in the majority. The embroidered pongees are many of them beautiful, and deserve a large following. But one of the pretty summer novelties consists of the embroidered lawns and nainsooks in white and colors. Gray and tinted lawns are to be seen embroidered in exquisite bronze leaf and starry bouvardia patterns. The hanging fuchsia is also a favorite design, the delicacy and variety in color and shading being finely managed, considering that it is machine-work. Gray-blue lawns sometimes show prim rows of small



FASHIONABLE MILLINERY.

gilt cord. Four bows of red Ottoman-faced velvet ribbon are placed at the left side, and a bunch of brilliant *coquelicots*, or wild poppies, is set against the front of the high crown.

No. 3.—This pretty capote, is fine Tuscan straw of a cream white hue, is faced with blue velvet, and trimmed with the admired hawthorn blossoms in the delicate white shade which combines so well with the variegated leaves. A tiny humming-bird nestles in each branch, and a small aigrette springs from the right side. The broad strings, which trim the back and tie in a large bow in the front, are of blue *crepe de Chine de epingle*.

No. 4.—This hat, which is known as the Henri Trois shape, is of English straw,

has a high, square crown, and a brim projecting a trifle in front and slightly curved at the side showing a facing of hunters' green velvet. A band of the same velvet is arranged about the crown, and three ostrich tips of a similar hue fall over the left side.

No. 5.—A shape that will be much admired by young ladies. It has a square crown, and a wide brim looped up on one side and having an under facing of chocolate brown velvet. Loops of the velvet are in front of the crown, and two ostrich tips of the fashionable *ecru* tint fall prettily at the front and side. The hat is of *ecru* satin straw.

English daisies and rose pink clematis, and small fern patterns or shaded migmonette. All-white dresses are always in demand at this season; and this year the solid materials—satines, linen lawn, striped or figured cambric, and the like—are trimmed with embroidery, while the figured Swiss and thin mull are trimmed with lace.

A great deal of ribbon, in the way of clustered loops and belts and bows, is seen upon the summer toilets in preparation for young girls—a fashion not at all new, but so becoming to the freshness of a fair, youthful face, and the grace of a youthful figure, that if dropped for a time it must be subject to frequent revivals. Bonnets of straw match street dresses, and are trimmed with velvet and shaded leaves or feather aigrettes. A gray-blue bonnet looks well lined with surah; and trimmed with feathers or aigrette to match, and velvet; but a bronze bonnet looks newer if ornamented with bronze and shaded leaves in add-

tion to the velvet band and bow. Flowers are beautiful this season, and an evident effort has been made to break up the monopoly enjoyed by feathers for some time past. They will be used largely for millinery decoration as summer approaches.

TEMPERANCE AND LONGEVITY.—Statistics of English life insurance companies seem to indicate very clearly the value of total abstinence from alcoholic liquors as a means of promoting longevity. In the United Kingdom and General Providence Institution the claims in the temperance section were, in seventeen years, only a little over seventy per cent. of the expectancy, while in the general section they were but slightly below the expectancy. In the Sceptre Life Association, during eighteen years, there were 116 deaths in the temperance section, against 270 expected deaths. In 1883 there were 51 deaths, only 7 being abstainers, whereas, to be equal with non-abstainers, there should have been 16. Some accidental insurance companies charge 20 per cent. less to teetotallers than to moderate drinkers.