

REVIEW OF FASHIONS.

Present fashions recall many memories to those who are on the shady side of fifty, who have passed through several decades of fashions, and remember their own youth and the modes of their own day. That which is novel to the young is a revival of their own youth to them, for the fashions of to-day take in much that was current thirty and even forty years ago; and it is not at all extraordinary to see ladies appear in gowns that have hardly seen the light for upward of a quarter of a century, yet look not greatly different from those which have only just left the hands of the dressmaker. During the coming autumn the number of correspondences will be increased; for to the shot silks and figured muslins, the printed challis, and thin wool delaines will be added Irish poplins, the Scotch granites, and the useful mohairs, all of which have been consigned to oblivion for many years, and the reappearance of which is in the nature of a resurrection. It remains to be seen whether these fabrics, which demand straight, somewhat stiff, and stately lines in the cut and adjustment, will hold their own against softer materials, and more flowing draperies. The truth is, there is a place for all; long lines and stately fabrics are adapted to the dignity of age, soft materials, and pretty, varied forms to the grace and brightness of youth; but one style should not be mixed with another, and cannot be without producing a painful amount of incongruity.

The fashions of the present season, take them for all in all, have been marked by unusual simplicity and economy. Inexpensive materials have been largely used, the attractive designs, and light, airy, graceful trimmings, imparting to them beauty and the effect of higher cost. Satines, as a class, among the superior cotton fabrics, have been much less desirable in pattern than the same goods for several previous seasons, and perhaps for that reason have retired to the background. The best styles are the pale shaded roses, or chrysanthemums, on a black ground; the trimming coffee-colored lace, a shade deeper than *ecru*, and necessary to give character to the costume. These satines in almost the self-same patterns—at least in flower patterns on black and chocolate grounds—were in high vogue forty or more years ago, and were then costly enough to be prized as highly as silk. In fact, the reproduction in furnishing of the cretonne and flowered satine mania is hardly justified by the rank these goods hold to-day, for when they represented fashions in the past they also represented high cost.

This summer has seen the revival of "pink and white" in various charming combinations. We will not follow Mrs. Stowe's example and call it "tyranny," for fashion is nothing now if not various, and certainly cannot be called tyrannical. Still, there are always certain "kinks" that have a following, and ideas that seem to be in the air; and pink and white, instead of the yellow and white, which has floated about us so long, is one of these ideas or influences. Pink and white

surah, the skirt composed mainly of alternate narrow ruffles with lace over the pink, and a wide, soft ribbon belting in the waist, makes a lovely costume. There are also pink gingham for morning wear trimmed with white braid, and pink nun-veiling made over white, and embroidered with small starry white blossoms to a depth which forms an apron or a complete drapery. Very wide embroideries are a feature of the season; white dresses are made up with bands of embroideries, put on as flounces or draped aprons, half a yard in depth; or the entire dress, skirt, and basque is made of piece embroidery, and trimming with an edging matching its pattern and with ribbons, which are almost universal of all secondary toilets. Upright lines and panels are as fashionably used as ever, but it is a mistake to employ so much elaboration in the cutting and arrangement of simple washing or inexpensive woolen materials; the style should be carefully adapted to the material and its purpose; or it suggests ignorance, as well as the limits of the wardrobe of the wearer, for a lady who could have an elaborate design made up in silk or satin would never dream of copying the same model in ordinary woolen or cotton.

A recent fancy in imported ball dresses is adorning them with plants of which the roots as well as stems are visible. The skirts are masses of light gauze, tulle, or some equally thin tissue; the bodies are plain, solid satin, without trimming of any kind, save a group of roses apparently from the bush upon the skirt, but wholly destitute of foliage. Light feather trimming and groups of feathers are used upon tulle, but not if the tulle draperies are embroidered with flowers; in this case ribbons and enameled insects are preferred. A great novelty, imported, and of which only a very few have been seen, is the transparent (lace) bonnet, and parasol. The parasol has a small solid centre of satin, or brocade, from which handsome Spanish or Escorial lace is drawn down plain over a gilt frame and finished with a deep ruffle of lace, over which is a fringe of delicate flowers. A wide bow of ribbon is tied upon the stick instead of upon the top. Net, or more ordinary lace, is puffed upon the frame, or upon a silk lining. The bonnet has a transparent crown of white real lace, and small puffed velvet brim in garnet or dark green; the garniture is a lovely aigrette of feathers, with a butterfly in white and gold in the centre; and long slender gold pins, or needles, which fasten the lace strings. It is quite common for young ladies to have their pretty muslin dresses made with straight skirts, gathered "French" waists belted in with ribbon, and short puffed sleeves.

Smithers says there is just "no" deference between right and wrong.

"I understand your Emily is engaged to young Ferdinand, the son of Mr. Bullstocks, the wealthy banker," said their lady visitor. "Not now. She was, but received an offer of marriage from Mr. Rifle Twist, the celebrated pitcher of the Goose-egg nine, and we persuaded her to break the engagement with Mr. Bullstocks, as we desire to see her comfortably settled above the possible reach of want."

CHILDREN'S FASHIONS.

There is nothing to complain of with regard to the summer clothing of girls this season, because it can be just what the mother's sense, taste or judgment chooses. There is nothing obligatory in any particular style, color, or material—nothing but what the difference between conditions and circumstances may demand. If mothers take little girls to hotels at fashionable watering-places, they are naturally expected to conform to the showy and conventional spirit of the surroundings, but the average of children at such places is very small—the percentage of families who live at hotels is very small—compared to the great majority outside of them who live in pleasant homes, and therefore they are not, after all, so much to be taken into account. The summer and winter homes scattered all over this broad and smiling land are where the bright armies of children live, and in these the mother may consult her own discretion, guided by her acquired knowledge and experience without much fear of being "out of the fashion." For everything is fashionable for children—the straight skirt gathered to the waist, the princess dress with its addition of kilted flounce or ruffles and the simple Jersey with kilted skirt and sash, which nothing has been able to displace.

Perhaps the dress for girls most worn in city and country alike, most refreshing from its simplicity and its general air of ease and comfort, is the straight skirt gathered to a yoked waist, the yoke either made of the material or of embroidery, as in the "Gerda" costume. The style adapts itself to all ages, and is a favorite with slender stylish maidens of eighteen as well as the little misses of ten. Girls who have worn them all summer are having autumn dresses made in the same way for house and especially for school (indoor) wear. Of three dresses made with simple straight skirts, and waists as in the "Gerda" costume, one is of strawberry-red wool, with red velvet yoke of a darker shade; another smoke-gray, with velvet of a darker shade for the yoke; and a third electric blue with alternate lines of ribbon velvet, and embroidery upon bands of the material for the yoke.

Very pretty effects are produced by young ladies who adopt for morning wear simple gathered dresses of gray-blue linen, pink and white gingham, or cool buff chambray, and come down to country stations in their pretty phaetons wearing with these gowns white shade-bonnets of drawn mull or India muslin, and a three-cornered handkerchief of mull crossed in front and gathered up on the shoulders and showing a pretty corsage-bouquet of pink and white flowers, but no jewellery.

For little boys who have reached five or six years and outgrown kilts, nothing has been discovered more becoming or better adapted to their perpetual and illimitable restlessness than a shirt waist of hair-striped cotton, pleated, and "pants" of twilled flannel lined throughout the seat with thin twilled silesia, and cut off above the knees, which are protected by long-ribbed hose double at the

knee. This kind costs more to begin with, but they save much wear of time, and energy, and temper, and are most economical to end with. If another garment of any kind is needed, there is nothing better for the little fellows than a linen blouse belted in, or, for grave occasions, a tweed sack or ulster with side pockets.

It is comfortable to think that children are relieved of the horrors of the high-colored, checked, striped and spotted hose which obtained a few seasons back. Now their long stockings, drawn high above the knees, are of sober and dark tints and thickly ribbed, which adds greatly to their durability. Of course in dressing children for a garden-party at the Grand Union in Saratoga, hosiery of pink silk, and mauve blue will be used to match the dainty toilettes of silk and lace; but, as remarked before, it is not necessary to say much about those. We care more to inform the much larger majority, who do not take their children to hotel garden-parties, how they can dress best with the least cost and work. Complete white suits are always pretty for children, either boys or girls, but one day usually finishes them, and they are, therefore, better made of duck than flannel, unless money is no object; and the laundress can clean flannel without spoiling it; but with white dark red or black hose are employed, and narrow necktie to match. The band of Ottoman ribbon around the straw hat should also be of the same color.

Among the illustrated designs for the month is a charming dress for girls of fourteen or sixteen, called the "Gerda" costume. It consists of a yoked upper dress draped over a skirt, which is edged with a narrow plaiting and trimmed with a deep plaited flounce. The waist is belted in with velvet, the sleeves and yoke are of open embroidery, the body part of the material may be lawn, muslin, nun's veiling, or any pretty, thin material. The "Rabia" costume is adapted to a more useful class of goods—to light wools, to solid silks, to figured woollens over silk, or velveteen, and many other fabrics, including the new granites and mohair cloths. The full plastron may be of lace if upon silk, or of silk or satin upon wool or silk. Upon black silk a plastron of crimson silk or satin covered with black lace looks well, but this is rather old for a child. Upon gray wool a plastron and cuffs of clover-red wool look exceedingly well. Among the little dresses are two varieties of the princess, and a blouse dress, the "Eda," for six years. The "Mittie" is a good design in flannel in school wear in the early autumn, and the blouse dress may also be utilized in wool and trimmed with an embroidered ruffle, the work executed upon the material.

High-buttoned boots in French or Don-gola kid are the correct day wear for little women.

Fedora-front redingotes and garments for little girls are as popular as for grown-up women.

Point d'esprit, or pin-head dotted net, is the rival of the new imitation Chantilly piece-lace.