

FROCKS FOR TO-MORROW.

By "THE LADY DRESSMAKER."

THE frocks both for to-morrow and to-day have so much decreased in width, that we, the happy wearers, will certainly make some small savings thereon. The last ones from Paris, made of course with unflounced skirts,

measure only three and a half yards round the feet, and the flounced ones, with what the French call ruffles *en-forme*, which means flounces cut to shape about the same. I believe they are made by many dressmakers by cutting

out a skirt, and then cutting it up into the width of the flounces desired. This gives the exact shape which to-day's fashion requires, namely, plain in front; and while remaining without fulness at the top, becoming wavy at the edge, without falling into pleats. The skirt of the spring is absolutely tight-fitting, and shows no gathers, even at the back, where what fulness there is, is carefully concealed under a perfectly plain piece of the skirt. Below this one can see that there are gathers, because the back shows the fulness.

For young people, or for anyone who is slight of figure, this new fashion answers well enough, but those who are in the least degree stout must beware of it; though I am assured that good and careful cutting will do much to avoid the tight-looking strained effect which is so unbecoming. Trains not very long will be again worn by day as well as night; and the new skirts are made entirely separate from their linings, the latter being just like another skirt, with accordion-pleated flounces on the outside; so that when the dress is raised it looks like a second gown below. In view of the number of transparent materials which are being shown in the shops, it is evident that we are to be rather extravagant in the way of silk linings, unless we have been clever enough to find amongst our old gowns certain ones which can be dyed and made up with some small help from new materials. I have already seen rose-pink, yellow, and grey, used as under-skirts, and bodice-lining, for some of the new grenadines; and with the addition of a little jet and *chiffon* ruffles they are very pretty indeed.

I must try to exhaust the subject of making dresses while I am writing on it, and therefore must not omit to tell you about the making-up of one material over another, and of two different colours. Thus one sees grey satin over pink or blue satin; the front of the skirt (grey) being cut in apron shape with a back of the pink satin; the bodice of grey satin with white lace, and bows of pink velvet. Cloth dresses cut in polonaise style are made up over skirts of silk, foulard and taffetas—a supple silk, which has this season superseded foulard.

I wrote about the Princesse gowns last month, I think, and we have not seen many as yet here, but they will make an appearance later on with bodices much be-trimmed, lace yokes, and even sleeves, and many frills on the fronts. In short, this season Dame Fashion says we are all to be willowy, trailing creatures, slim and slight, leaving no room either for stout people or for those who use the bicycle, and take much out-door exercise, for who could ride a wheel in a trailing skirt?

An old-fashioned style of trimming revived is that of stitching flat bands of silk in a different colour from the dress. Thus a grey cashmere had bands of tartan silk, which were edged with a small galloon.



HATS, AND THE NEW SKIRT.