F there is one especial time of the year when the stores like Nature

put on their brightest aspect, surely it is in the spring-time just before Easter. Be it in city, town or village, each shopkeeper seems to put forth his or her best efforts to render windows and showrooms attractive ; and, as a rule, the feminine populace turn out nobly in full force to learn "what is to be worn during the coming season." "Have I attended the Spring openings ? " Oh ! yes. Note-book in hand I have religiously" done" the stores, bothered the clerks, and worried the milliners; but what is that compared with the blissful sense of duty performed, and the knowledge that within that fat note-book is a store of information which I am sure cannot fail to interest and be of profit to the readers of the LADIES' BAZAR.

To begin. The two impressions I first received are as follows: Women possessing good taste will dress more quietly and elegantly than ever this season, while she who goes in for "the latest " and most "striking" effects irrespective of good taste, or what may be most becoming to her (and unfortunately this latter class embraces the great major-

-3147) Figure 2.-Lady's Costume. Lady's Basque (2927). Cut in five sizes, 32 to 40 inches bust measure. Price 25 cents any size. Lady's Trimmed Skirt (3147). Cut in five sizes, 22 to 30 inches waist measure. Price 30 cents any size. For full description see page 6.

(2927-

ity), will positively revel in the checks, plaids and beautiful this season than ever, and are reigning stripes in brilliant and variegated hues which crowd favorites with ladies who desire richness combined

the shelves of even our finest stores. Lovely goods? Yes, in plenty, if you can once impress the clerks that you do not care for the "latest from Paris" or

> "the newest New York style." Not that I would give my readers the impression that goods to be pretty must be last season's. No! The manufacturers are every season discovering new processes by which they obtain richer effects that consequently render their fabrics more lovely than ever. One exquisite pattern dress I saw in a Yonge Street store that is rapidly becoming noted for the charming costumes it turns out, was a peculiar maize-colored woolen fabric, orna mented by a deep border of heavy cream silk, with maize and brown flowers woven in the goods. This is the first season that goods of this class have been made, borders of silk woven in with the woolen threads have been no rarity, but this band was of pure silk and rich indeed was the effect.

Woolen fabrics are to be made up with silks this season, and one of the most charming combinations I saw was a soft grey Henrietta cloth with panels of a rich silk striped with alternate bands of moire and faille Francaise; these silks are reversible, and are indescribably soft and lovely.

Cheviots are more

