

in a firm and composed voice that reminded Max of the way in which she had given her evidence at the inquest of her mistress, Sylvia Chase. "He is the head of the German secret service in England, though there it is believed that he is a spy in the interests of England. Oh, he is a clever man—he is cleverness incarnate. The English suppose he is the head of their secret service here in Germany—nothing could be further from the truth; he is their most dangerous foe!"

"Hollander the head of the German secret service in England!" Max exclaimed, but in a tone of doubt. The thing seemed impossible.

"That was his real position," said Bertha Schmidt, calmly; "that is his

position now. The fraulein was in his pay; she was a spy; I was in his pay—to spy on the fraulein. Don't you understand?"

"Something of the sort I had begun to believe was the case," said Max, "but this about Hollander being all the time a secret agent of Germany is entirely new to me—so new, indeed, that it is difficult for me to credit it. Is it true?"

"Absolutely true," was the reply. "Listen and I shall tell you the history of the Hollander family in England—the three generations of them, this man, his father, and his father's father; it is a tale that will open your eyes."

(To be continued.)

## Conceits of the Moment

MANY simple evening frocks of velvet have appeared at the recent Paris openings, scantily adorned with trimming. Effective use is made, on velvet, of gold or silver lace and

a scarf of striped knitted silk to match the sweater.

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One of the very smartest furs worn this season is badger, consisting of the animal scarf and a chic round muff. Badger is a fur which always remains exclusive, and, with its tawny colouring, which is natural to the animal and not the result of dye, and its more or less rough-and-ready appearance, it is extremely effective when worn with a severely tailored outfit.

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### A Wealth of Gorgeous Fabrics.

The season's materials are wonderful. Velvets are in great variety. Panecla, a panne velvet unusually supple and shining, seems to be the favourite, but there are also Velours de Genes, Parterre fleuri and Zorania, a multi-coloured velvet with sparkling metallic threads that will be popular for trimming. Brocades are more alluring than ever. Worth has bought quantities of brocart Japonais and Pactol scintillant, brocaded with coloured metallic threads, and then there is beautiful faille broche that Calot is using great quantities of. This was launched by Gaby Deslys in London and will be popular this season. Jenny has ordered for her special use a wonderful red that is as mellow as wine, and Coudurier has copied a gown worn by Empress Eugenie that has all the rich tints of autumn and is called noisette.

Many woolen fabrics have wide borders of embroidery in heavy cording and Persian lamb effects, or gold and silver threads with openwork. There are many striped patterns, principally in Agnella which resembles the old-fashioned Scotch homespun. Trimmings are chiefly of metal embroidery and fur, though some odd silk and wool embroidery is used on afternoon and street gowns. Many of the new materials are so elaborate as to make the use of any trimming unnecessary.



A Frock of New Blue Serge, With Gold Stripes and an Unusual Back.

metal galon and embroidery. Lace of a rare delicacy, threaded with gold and silver, is much used by all the leading houses to enrich frocks of plain taffeta, faille or brocade; and there are innumerable little cravats, girdles, straps and knots of silver braid.

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According to a Paris couturier, the hair this season should be closely coiffed—not a stray lock, not a hair out of place. Slightly waved, it is drawn closely to the back of the head, is tucked under, and disappears. This rigid arrangement is severe, but extremely smart for those who dare it.

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A becoming sport costume consists of a sweater of rose-coloured wool jersey cloth, silk lined, trimmed with white silk collar and cuffs. With this is worn a skirt of black and white plaid serge and



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