

FROCKS FOR TO-MORROW.

By "THE LADY DRESSMAKER."

IN the frocks for to-morrow as well as in those of to-day, the prevailing element is extreme lightness, and all the airy character that is given by *tulle*, gauze, and *chiffon*. But none of these, alas, are inexpensive, nor calculated to suit the purses of those who have an allowance only to dress upon. So we must fall back on something which is nearly as transparent, and far less expensive. This is found in the new woollen grenadines and gauzes, and also in those of even cheaper descriptions, made in linen and cotton. These are of wide width, generally forty-five inches, and so though the price may look large, there is so much material for the money, it is not dear. Those who have old coloured, or black silks, or satins, will now be able to make use of them, and even a pattern of the most flowery kind will not be a drawback; for some of the prettiest dresses are composed of brocaded gowns, with an overdress of gauze or grenadine.

All our illustrations in the present number are intended for summer use, and are of thin materials, so that you can see how to make use of any dresses you may have of silks or satins, or even of colours, and patterns in the way I have described. Our first one, which shows a gown of muslin, made-up over a silk underskirt, is a case in point, as it may be used for anything in the way of material. The muslin skirt has one of the fashionable Spanish flounces, which is edged in its turn with another narrower flounce, on which are several rows of narrow black velvet ribbon. The top of this flounce has a double heading. The bodice is of the muslin made over the same coloured silk. The cape has the rounded corners of the newest models, and is of a very pale grey cloth. It has three capes, and each is edged with rows of gathered white ribbon. There is a high collar which is lined with white satin, and covered with lace.

The figure at the back is wearing one of those new straight-cut sacque jackets, which seem to have made a fresh appearance this season, and have been adopted as a suitable shape by the waterproofing companies, and it commends itself to everyone, as easy to put on, with room underneath it for any amount of frills and furbelows. But though it is sensibly designed and convenient, it is rather an unbecoming garment, though for country wear and for driving, nothing can be more suitable.

Tucks and flounces are the two forms which our skirt decoration takes to-day; but is it not wonderful to see that the plain skirt has so many votaries, when it has been in favour so long. In the "Gown with tucks, and the lace skirt and flounces," both styles are shown. The first gown is made of one of the new *voiles* in pale grey, trimmed with pale blue. The tucks on the skirt are an inch in width, and all run horizontally; but those on the bodice are vertical. The sleeves are also tucked, and the bodice has a lace yoke, and a shaped cape of the blue silk and guipure lace sprays. The parasol, or more properly *entoucas*, held by this figure, will give an idea of the wonderful way in which those of the present season are decorated with gathers and folds inside, where most of the ornamentation is seen this year.

The second figure, with the lace flounced dress, shows almost the prettiest lace gown that we have seen this season. The material is Russian net, insertion and lace; and the style of making is carefully shown. A frill of net or lace goes round the shoulders, forming,



GOWN OF MUSLIN OVER COLOURED SILK.