

# THE Ladies Bazaar

A JOURNAL OF FASHION · INSTRUCTION · & DOMESTIC ECONOMY

Published monthly by  
THE LADIES' BAZAR PUB. CO.,  
4 Adelaide Street East.

VOL. IV.

TORONTO, MAY, 1891.

No. 5. { Yearly Subscription, 60c  
or 10c. per copy.

## DRESS FABRICS.



FIRST among the wool materials that are particularly liked for Spring wear are serges of all kinds and qualities. These goods were originally imported only in black, but their wide-spread popularity has given an impetus to foreign manufacturers, and they have been gradually turning their attention to the production of the goods in all desired colors. Nothing is more durable for constant wear than this material, and probably for that reason, more than any other, it has come to be almost universally worn for traveling costumes, and garments exposed to rough usage. The most desirable colors for street wear or traveling are, of course, the plain shades, of which this Spring's importations show a great variety. But the brighter hues make excellent wear for the little people, who, especially during the Spring and Summer, need dresses and costumes adapted to all weathers.

AMONG the most striking novelties may be mentioned some cloths with wide stripes of a long hairy surface, woven in one with the rest of the material. These look prettiest, perhaps, in fawn color, hyacinth blue, pale gray, and deep heliotrope. Homespun and tweeds, together with various other loosely-woven fabrics, promise to remain in favor. A fawn vicuna, with a woven design in pale gray, will make up equally well for gowns or mantles, and among other pretty things, which cannot fail to be greatly liked, is a lovely pale *réséda* cloth, with faint broken checks in brown. A black-and-white small check, with a narrow line of red, with other combinations of gray and white, and brown and white, too numerous to mention in detail, are among the new importations. All these woolens are double width, which is well, as the wide width is absolutely necessary for the correct make of fashionable walking skirts. There is a strong feeling for small checks in woolens in the beige and heliotrope colorings.

Mousseline de laine has so thoroughly re-established itself in the public favor, that this year an effort has been made to render it unusually artistic. The principal designs are floral, and there are about sixty new shades and patterns. White and cream grounds are greatly employed with patterns of one color, yet having an infinite variety of shade. The designs are often quaint, but always pretty. For early Spring wear the patterned vicunas are both warm and light. They make up most effectively, and the shaded, woolly, irregular splashes on their surfaces are most uncommon. Rich reds, browns and blues, besides gray, have these splashes in shaded gray.

CHECKS and plaids continue to be seen in all colors, and almost all materials. Some bright effect is given to the plainest designs by threads of red, yellow, or blue, in irregular lines over a plain or mottled surface. The all-wool plaids of every description are greatly to be commended for children's dresses, as they are soft and durable, and often not too warm for even ordinary summer weather at the seashore or the mountains. The lighter grades of cheviot and camels hair are most suitable for this purpose, though cashmere is one of the standard fabrics that will never lose its well-deserved popularity.

THE cotton fabrics seen this year are perfectly delightful in their fineness of texture, and beauty of design and coloring. Some of the French zephyrs have tapestry patterns which are not printed, but thrown in relief upon the surface by the peculiar weaving of the goods. One, very beautiful, is in roses shading from sea-shell pink to a rich damask, on a ground of pale primrose. The new cotton foulards are more than ever reproductions of India silk patterns, and at a short distance are almost indistinguishable from them. Herring-bone stitching is simulated by white and colored threads woven into the borderings, and on special strips and bands for sleeve and border trimmings.