



JACKET OF BREITSCHWANG FUR.

when one sees the entire body of a poor bird in a hat, nothing can exceed the repulsion one feels at the sight. In the way of veils, those of black spotted chenille are the most popular as well as the most becoming to everyone.

White kid gloves are as much used as ever for both day and night, and green kid shoes will be the fashionable hue for evening wear, to be accompanied by green stockings. Muffs are small, and very pretty when they are composed of a mixture of velvet, fur, and cream lace; and the muff chain is as much worn, I think, this winter as it was the last.

The prevalence of fur as a trimming for dresses is very great, and the most fashionable for best ones is chinchilla, which looks quite delightful with velvet, either coloured or black. But for ordinary daily life this fur always seems too delicate; and fortunately we have a second choice, which is less expensive and more lasting, in the old-new fur now called "broadtail" or Breitschwanz, but which we knew of old as Persian lamb, and then as caracul. Jackets, of course Russian ones, with jewelled waist-bands, are made of it; capes with long ends and without them; and also the ordinary round cape reaching below the waist appear to be worn, made

moderation, are most becoming, especially to the brown-eyed blonde, or the fair-skinned brunette. A neck ribbon and waistband to match the hue of the toque are nearly always seen; and the newest waistbands are fastened on the left side, with rather a large bow. On the left side also are placed the sash-ends, which are still worn by so many.

The new shaped skirt has created much remark this month. The adoption of very narrow fronts, and side breadths, tightening the skirt above the knee, makes it fit quite snugly on the hips also; so that all the fulness is sent to the back. Everyone will, on seeing it, come to the conclusion, I think, that it is a skirt for very slender figures, but not to be looked at by stouter people. If not made by a first-class hand, it will be quite ruined for anyone's wear. However, we women are more sensible perhaps, and we have been recently so comfortable in our gowns, that we shall hesitate before making any radical change. Indeed any great change is impossible in view of the manifold uses of our thicker skirts, and the fact that we are both active and constant in our various exercises out of doors.

Amongst the newest things in materials are

those with tucks, generally black tuckings on a coloured ground. But, besides this, tucks appear to be adopted as a trimming for anything—blouses, sleeves, and skirts; and this seems to be the feature of the day; buttons of all kinds form another feature of the gowns; and rows of them are applied, without rhyme or reason, to all kinds of gowns.

The Russian blouse may be said to surpass all others in popularity; but the three-quarter-length jacket which has just come in, and which is illustrated in this article, is newer and quite the most becoming thing for the tall and slight. The other new introduction is the long coat, which is made of seal—if you be rich enough to afford it—or of plain or *broché* cloth. It is trimmed with a collar and *revers* of fur; but one does not notice fur cuffs this year; and we may conclude that they are no longer fashionable. Of course, the long coat needs a good upright figure, and for my part I do not like it for walking as I find the long skirt fatiguing. These three are the fashionable styles; and to them may be added, the cape in the fur or cloth. The toque seems to still hold its own, and being such a useful garment it was likely to do so. All of these, whether capes or jackets, have the high "storm" collar as it is called, and when that is turned down the small fur collarette is used. The magnificence of the waistbands is very wonderful, and at times, perhaps, they rather exceed the bounds of good taste. The jewelled *passanterie* of the present day is quite "too good to be true."

There is now in Pennsylvania a factory which makes all kinds of articles from rattlesnake skins, slippers, belts, bags, and other things are made, and waistcoats are amongst the articles promised. It seems dreadful to read that the supply of rattlesnakes is practically inexhaustible. That they are found in large numbers in a dozen of the States of the Union. The skins are brought in to the factory salted, and with the heads cut off; as none of the workpeople will touch a skin which has a head on it, in which the poisonous fangs might be concealed. Their preparation takes a month, by which time all the disagreeable smell is gone; and they have become a beautifully mottled skin, in black and yellow. Now, I was thinking, that this was an excellent method of getting rid of a dangerous and noxious enemy; and if a factory could only be started in India to tan tiger skins or snake skins and so get rid of them, perhaps we could reduce that awful Indian death-roll of human beings sacrificed under such horrible circumstances, which seems so preventible; and if there were any way of giving them a commercial value, we should soon see a great improvement. Will some great lady set the fashion of wearing tiger-skin boots, or cobra waistcoats, to save some of these poor helpless natives?

While speaking of the new skirts I must not forget to say, that I have seen several flounced to the waist, and also noticed a revival of the old three-tiered skirt, not three flounces, but three skirts, and I hear that these are to be worn for evening dress in three colours, or in three shades of one colour. Of course, the material must be of tulle or gauze, for only some very thin and gossamer thing would have the proper lightness of effect. Gatherings, or, as the manufacturers call it, "shirings," are applied to evening dress, and for these soft silks are the most often used.

The Spanish, or matador hat is still much worn, and all hats appear to be turned up on the left side. But they should not be over much tilted. Some people have been wearing their hats at a ridiculously exaggerated angle over the forehead; and this will prejudice all really nice girls against such a style, which was pretty and quaint-looking at first, but has been terribly vulgarised.