

REVIEW OF FASHIONS.

It is one of the remarkable caprices of trade and fashion, that the present season's exhibit of dress goods has been designed upon what may be called, for lack of a better name, a wool basis. That is, instead of taking silk colors and silk effects as the guide for the coming season's materials, designers have taken wool colors and wool effects, and have so designed and made, as far as possible, even the richest and most elegant goods.

We are promised most emphatically "a wool season." Silks and velvets are secondary considerations in general wear. Of course many rich silks, satins and velvets will be worn, but for daily use, for the street, for home wear, for informal gatherings, and more especially for the seashore and watering-place, the exquisite qualities of veilings, albatross woollens, Spanish grenadines, bison cloths, flannels, canvas cloths, and light suitings will take precedence over all other materials. Very rich and elegant fabrics are more appropriately used for state occasions, and it is good taste as well as good sense to confine them, especially the heaviest and most costly, to such uses. Parisians, who probably devote more time to the study of the fine art of dress than any other women in the world, rarely appear on the street in other than wool dresses. They keep their silks for finer occasions, and usually take much better care of them than we do.

The popular colors for spring wear will be light browns, beige, the various grays, myrtle greens, sage greens, a couple of shades of dull red, and medium grayish blues not too light. Black will be almost arbitrary for street wear with the best class of trade and it is confidently asserted that more wool goods and tailor-made suits will be worn than ever before in the history of American fashions.

Combinations in all classes of goods will be the rule, from the pretty Scotch gingham with embroidered and plain goods, to the richest brocaded or flowered velvet and satin duchesse. The general tendency seems to be to make plain skirts and flowing draperies of figured goods and leave the plain for the waist and sleeves, which are more cut up. This will save us from the distress of seeing large figures mismatched, and even turned wrong side up, as has been done by careless dressmakers.

Cloaks and wraps have very pretty and desirable materials awaiting their making up. There are gold and silver tinsels on blue, gray, or black grounds; Astrakhan bourettes and tufted bison cloths, exquisite in effect and not specially expensive, and scores of brocaded materials in silk, wool and mixtures. All very stylish and desirable.

Cotton goods are running a very successful rivalry with wool fabrics in point of beauty, and certainly have the advantage of them in cheapness. The new satines are wonderfully attractive, and the exhibit far surpasses anything ever shown before. There are the prettiest crape-finished cotton goods, dainty armure-woven materials with bunches and sprays of flowers and leaves, a new cotton fabric known as *toile de Jersey*, and a material with a crinkled surface called Kensington crape, which is very pretty and will make some charming combinations. Then there are the loveliest batistes and linsens for warm days, especially for the South, where the first hot weather comes so early. The Scotch ginghams for more northerly use are almost as pretty as sum-

mer silks. They come in very fine checks, pin stripes and a sort of *chine* effect, and, stylishly made, could not, at a little distance, be distinguished from silk goods. One of the specialties of a leading importing house is figured linsens, and the trade in them is immense.

There are indications of even greater demands for lace goods than heretofore. Just how this can be it is difficult to imagine, as the limit appeared to be almost reached last season; but importers tell us that their orders for lace will exceed those of last year by at least one third. Black hand-run Spanish, a few fine Escurials, and real Chantilly will be especially desirable. Wool Medici lace will be one of the most popular garnitures and will trim cashmere and all-wool fabrics in both white and colors, and we are promised a revival of the old-time Llama lace; so that ladies who have choice pieces of this fabric laid aside may keep them carefully, provided they are secure against dampness and moths, certain of being in possession of a most desirable novelty before very long. But moths delight in Llama lace and wet rots the fiber, so they must be kept from these two enemies.

Embroidery will be lavishly used on all material where this exquisite garniture can be employed. Pongees are almost covered with it. There are yards and yards of rich "all-over" goods with deep flouncing to match, and embroidered suits without limit.

The present season's passementeries and beaded trimmings promise to rival all their predecessors in richness and variety. Cashmere colors, iridescent tints, and all the hues of the rainbow are seen in the new designs. Very rich and elegant trimmings will be worn, braid, tape, and fancy galloon fringes, and combinations of silk and beads in almost endless variety.

Very dressy and abundant neckwear is predicted by some authorities, but it will doubtless resolve itself into outside wear in the way of shoulder shawls, lace piazza wraps, and promenade scarfs that may be thrown off, rather than such elaborate styles in collarettes or fichus as are a permanent portion of the toilet. There is every indication, however, that snug dog-collars of beads, close fitting, full-ruched fichus of black beaded lace, and some, but not many, passementerie and chenille combinations will be used. There will be no arbitrary fashion in these matters, as there are many ladies to whom elaborate neck-dressing is positively disfiguring. If a plain linen coil is most becoming, wear it by all means. If it be a *ruche de crepe lisse*, that is the most desirable, and no caprice of fashion should cause a lady to wear anything that is unbecoming.

Jewelry for street wear is limited to a few simple ornaments. Ear-rings are said to be going out of fashion, but this is doubtless an evanescent notion, as they have been too long a standard item of dress for ladies to abandon them by any dictate of fashion. Bangle bracelets are declining in popularity and flexible bracelets seem to have the preference. It is the opinion of the best authorities that we are on the eve of a revolution in fashions in jewelry, and the present is the calm that precedes the storm. Pearls are by far the most fashionable of all the gems at present, and their remarkable increase in value has been a surprise to those who have not kept pace with the subject. A leading house not long since sold a very choice string of pearls, and when, some time later, it became desirable for the owner to part with them, they were bought back over the same counter for over fifty per cent. advance on their original price.

Spring millinery has some rather marked features. The shapes are more pronounced than for years. Hats are very high and fairly bristle with trimmings. Everything about them has a sort of aggressive look, as though they were aware of their queenliness but intended to stand their ground "for a that." There is an endless variety of trimming material used, in most cases shot or woven or stamped with gold in some form or shape.

There are long, heavy scarfs that are used for hat trimmings, and others of the lightest, flimsiest gauzes. There are heavy gold laces and braids, and tinsels so fine that they scarcely seem to have any weight at all. There are most exquisite ornaments and the gayest of feathers. Very large masses of flowers may be used and wide laces plaited and standing upright will surround them. Ties for bonnets are almost altogether abandoned in Paris, we are told, and if they have been omitted in winter they will hardly be revived for summer. Straws come in various fancy colors, indeed almost any dress fabric could be matched in braids, and they are so perfectly tinted that they are really beautiful. The English straws in standard colors will be preferred for early wear, and the various colored scarfs with a profusion of small pins will trim them. As many as fifty pins are sometimes seen on a single hat.

Few variations in shapes of bonnets are presented. There are the small, snug, poke bonnets and the well-known close shapes, varied by crowns with odd angles and eccentric braidings. Soft crowns of the almost countless materials will be very popular. A novelty has a slightly rolled brim, of maroon velvet, and the entire top and sides covered by a large, square canvas handkerchief printed in dull colors and gold. This is pinned on by a score or two of little pins, and there is no other trimming whatever. It is exceedingly pretty and stylish. There are novelties in the way of bonnets that are reversible, and one may wear them "wrong side to," which may make them convenient if one wishes to dress in haste and without a mirror. The trimmings are set very high, and all the flowers are sustained by stalks that wave and swing with every motion of the wearer.

Ribbons are very wide, six to eight inches not being considered unusual, while some of the scarfs are nearly two yards long and at least half a yard wide. Wool Medici laces with gold threads running through them, also gold block-work and leaves and sprays of tinsel will be exceptionally popular for millinery purposes, as will also all styles of hand-run Spanish and Escorial laces in edgings and net. Black and gold will be extensively used, also gold and cardinal, gold and green and indeed in all possible combinations. Many gold-net crowns are shown in the spring importations. Feathers will be in fair request for early spring use, but will doubtless give way to flowers later in the season, although short ostrich plumes will trim some of the tall hats so effectively that they will no doubt be retained by ladies who can carry them well. As general trimming they will not be prominent, but clusters of short tips will be seen on very many stylish spring hats intermixed with the new ribbons, flowers and laces; and millinery ornaments will be used in the greatest profusion and are unusually attractive. They come in all sorts of odd designs, long pins, short pins, and insects of every imaginable description.

Tournures are almost monstrosities, so pronounced have they become, and the most discouraging feature of the case is that they are still increasing. There are very short postilion basques to wear with them, and long, flowing draperies with very little looping. High-shouldered effects continue popular, and are so especially becoming to many ladies that they are not likely to be abandoned very soon. Gloves have few new suggestions as far as kid gloves are concerned, but in silk gloves there are some very elegant novelties promised.

A general review of spring styles shows a good deal of delicate, clear color, very elegant goods, unprecedentedly low prices, and while there are comparatively few striking novelties, there are a great number of charming and delightful modifications of existing styles and a sufficient suggestion of "newness" to make them very pleasing and acceptable.

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An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge, to all who desire it, this receipt, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NORRIS, 119 Power's Block, Rochester N. Y.

There is a rage for matching all parts of a dress and all its accessories in Paris.

Broken down conditions of the system that require a prompt and permanent tonic to build up the blood and restore failing vitality will be benefitted at once by Burdock Blood Bitters.

The low catagon coiffure rivals the Lady Teazle with its towering mass of puffs and curls.

"I have used Burdock Blood Bitters for attacks of bilious headache, and it always gives immediate relief," says J. White, flour and feed merchant, Riverside, Toronto.

Bodices, pointed back and front and quite long in the waist, are features in spring costumes.

There are a number of varieties of corns. Holloway's Corn Cure will remove any of them. Call on your druggist and get a bottle at once.

Changeable Surahs are combined with velvet broche Surahs in dressy toilets for spring and summer.

Rheumatism, Gout, Lumbago, and similar troubles will not linger with you if your blood is pure, if it is not, we would recommend you to take Burdock Blood Bitters at once.

What a queer fashion is that which makes French women wear black Surah chemises when traveling.

"Has given the most unqualified satisfaction in this section," writes John B. Dale, druggist, Wyoming, of the great blood purifying tonic, Burdock Blood Bitters.

Waists grow longer, basques shorter, collars higher, skirts fuller, hats and coiffures higher, dress less artistic.

Do not delay in getting relief for the little folks. Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator is a pleasant and sure cure. If you love your child why do you let it suffer when a remedy is so near at hand?

New coaching parasols have gilded frames with twenty-four ribs, and are in the shape of Japanese umbrellas.

When exhausted by physical or mental labor or by any weakening drain upon the system restore nervous tranquility and lost vitality by Burdock Blood Bitters.

The latest fancy in short petticoats, to be worn only in the coldest weather and in the street, is to make them of satin or alpaca and line them with chamois.