

## REVIEW OF FASHIONS.

The fashions of the present season are very varied and very striking; there are many novelties in fabrics which attract attention, but are too pronounced to be permanent, for the majority of ladies are afraid of materials or designs that are "odd," or easily distinguishable, because they are remembered, and cannot be worn without being recognized and commented upon. This is a fatal error for one who cannot afford great variety, or frequent renewals, and the knowledge that it is so operates against many styles which in themselves are becoming and admired. For this reason no matter what fantasies may appear, and possibly win a brief vogue, experienced women always avoid them, and choose those having a permanent character. Detached fruits and even vegetables are among the patterns of the season upon wool, in conjunction with plain materials, but no design could be imagined more unfortunate, more difficult to adjust to the human form without making it absurd, or one of which the wearer would more quickly tire. Figures must bear some relations in their surroundings, or the incongruity is so apparent that they become ridiculous, and make the wearer appear so. The art of the Chinese and Japanese upsets everything, it is true, and places them in the oddest and most inconceivable relations, but they do it, not taking one thing—a plate, a fan, or a fish, for example, and covering an entire surface with exaggerated single plates, or fans, or fishes, but by drawing them in miniature, and mixing them all together, over-lapping, giving them in bits, and corners, and glimpses so that the whole design must be studied in order to find out that any one thing is even suggested in it. As a general rule figured fabrics are better for house than street wear, and if employed for the street should be either simple, small and rectangular, or natural and graceful, soft and undistinguishable in outline, and equally distributed. They should also be harmonious in tone if they do not match the tint of the body part of the fabric. There is an epidemic of figures of all sorts this season, particularly in velvet, cut and uncut. The uncut with curled loops, ("frise") is the novelty, and it appears upon woolen as well as upon satin and ottoman grounds. It is handsomer and more effective for cloaks and mantles than for dresses, although the combination of uncut velvet wool (a velvet pattern upon wool), with plain wool, is exceedingly good. There is a great embarrassment of riches in fanciful novelties, ingenuity having been exhausted in devising the magnificent patterns in velvet upon satin, in satin brocade upon velvet grounds, and uncut designs upon both. The grounds of all these are well covered, so that they differ greatly from the large detached patterns of last year, and are better adapted than these would have been to the purpose to which they are put. Last season the figured stuff formed the fronts and panels of rich walking, as well as trained, dresses now these splendid materials are as frequently used for trains and bodice, or princess train, which includes the bodice, and the entire front of



## FASHIONABLE MILLINERY.

No. 1.—A lovely gray felt trimmed with claret-colored velvet. The brim is rolled and projects considerably more in front than at the back, and is faced with the lovely color above mentioned; and a *rouleau* of velvet is arranged about the crown, the ends being secured under the claret and gray ostrich tips and aigrette which adds to its effectiveness.

No. 2.—A tasteful capote with a crown made of changeable silk goods showing a faint mingling of blue with tiny gold dots strewn over the foundation. The coronet is covered with gold lace, and three small blue tips and a graceful aigrette rests against the crown. The strings, which are of dark blue velvet ribbon with satin back, are arranged in a bow with loop and ends at the side.

No. 3.—This dressy little capote is exceedingly attractive, though simple. The crown is of velvet of the shade of green called *cresson*, and being lace arranged across the front has a softening and becoming effect. A bunch of poppies clustered with golden thistle buds renders this worthy of admiration. Strings of velvet ribbon matching the crown in color are arranged at the back, and terminate in a bow tied under the chin.

No. 4.—A becoming hat for a young face. It is a dark green felt with a high crown, and brim rolled in front and at the back, the sides drooping. The brim is faced with green velvet, and this same color is arranged in scarf fashion about the crown. A cock's head, with the tail

feathers of the same fowl, rests with an aigrette against the crown.

No. 5.—A stylish felt walking-hat of the fashionable beige color. The crown is moderately high and the brim has a pretty raised roll. A *rouleau* of brown velvet is placed around the crown, and a fancy plume of pheasant's feathers, the feathers showing a commingling of red, yellow and brown, is placed against the crown.

Stylish hats and bonnets are furnished through our Purchasing Agency for from \$10 upward, according to the materials. In sending an order, it is always best to state complexion, color of hair and eyes, the purposes for which the hat is to be used, and any preference in regard to color, etc.

the dress is lace upon satin, the sides arranged differently, one draped under ribbons, or an ornamental group of feathers and flowers, with perhaps an enameled butterfly, the other displaying a jabot of white lace, one end of which is arranged as a short hip or apron drapery. Tinsel stuffs and tinsel trimmings are a rage, at least they appear in large numbers, though it is pretty certain that their reign will be short; for though some of them are really beautiful and very expensive, yet the rapidity with which all novelties are copied in cheap, common goods consigns them quickly to obscurity. Tin-

seled braid, tinsel leather, tinsel stuffs are all used as trimmings, and contest their right to existence and favor with beaded embroideries and the duller passementeries.

Beads, however, are used as much as formerly; the dull passementeries and lace (*Escuria*) are in high favor, and the light-er laces are now outlined with gold thread. Combination suits are in vogue, and very much trimmed with braids and cords, or handsomely ornamented in braided cord in mixed soft satin and twisted strands. The majority are made with the skirt in plain, plaited cloth velvet or vel-

veteen, and the upper part, coat or drapery, or polonaise, in figured cloth or cloth figured with leather or braided. The velvet cloths are very handsome, and should be made over velvet skirts, but fortunately for the moderate purses, good velveteen is now so perfect a substitute for silk velvet, that a rich looking dress is not necessarily a very costly one. Velvet is certainly in great demand; it enters more or less into the composition of all toilets, and a "velvet" dress is a most desirable acquisition.

Red and turquois blue are combined in new fannel suits.