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ILLUSTRATED DESIGNS.

In the designs for the present month our readers will find many useful and seasonable models for spring dresses and garments, and we particularly commend them to the "Melusine" costume, as furnishing a suggestive and graceful costume for immediate wear, or for later summer needs. The costume as given consists of skirt and mantle only, as any bodice may be worn with it, although, of course, in making it would be better to have the dress complete. The style, as arranged, shows a combination of materials, plain and figured, trimmed with the colored lace, noticed in another column as one of the spring novelties of the Kurshedt Manufacturing Company. The costume can be of silk, with a conventional figure in two shades of the same color.

There are two other examples of the fashionable small garments for street wear. The "Faïda" mantelet, and the "Anatolia" visite. The mantelet is a very good example of the styles preferred by young ladies for wear over tailor-made suits. The "Faïda" is made in light cloths, the pongee and beige shades being preferred; and is braided with several close rows of Titan braid, with a corded upper edge. The standing collar is in the military style, what is called the "officer's" collar, which is rather deep and stiff, and is braided to match the front. The back forms a fitted basque, with hollow box-plaited skirt, and is held in to the waist by an interior belt or ribbon. It is lined with silk.

The "Anatolia" would adapt itself to more dressy purposes, and suit older ladies as well as the young who require an elegant garment. It should be made in thick, plain satin, heavy silk or brocade, and may be trimmed with lace, soft ruffles or full tasseled fringe. The "Cleoria" jacket is somewhat different from the models lately given, in being half-fitting and made with a vest the depth of the jacket. The vest may be of silk or velvet, or summer plush, but it should show a contrast of material, not of color, to the jacket, which is of fine tricot cloth, ornamented with stitching and buttons only. The vest is turned back to form revers at the throat, a style which suggests at once the linen collar and the tie.

The "London Newmarket" is given as the spring coat or ulster for traveling and serviceable uses. It is a practical garment, neat and protective. It is fitted to the figure, though not so closely as the jersey redingote, and the fulness at the back forms inverted plaits, marked at the seams below the waist line by worked arrow heads. The fronts are shaped as a long coat without darts, and show useful pockets. It can be buttoned entirely down the front, or left open part of the way, as required. The buttons are small and plain; the silk lining or facing should be strictly matched.

The "Marise" skirt is novel, and looks well in a variety of materials. A deep flounce is shirred on the lower part of the skirt, above which a draped apron is ar-



SPRING COSTUMES.

FIG. 1.—This gives the back view of the "Marise" skirt and "Faïda" mantelet, made in dark-blue bison cloth and trimmed with "Kurshedt's Standard" spangled tinsel braid, a most effective garniture having gold threads interwoven with blue mohair braid. The arrangement of the front of the skirt and mantelet can be seen in the double illustrations given among the separate fashions, and the description accompanying each, states the quantity of material and trimming required for a medium size. The straw bonnet, made of alternate rows of blue and gold braid, is attractively trimmed with a puff of red velvet, blue ostrich tips and an aigrette, the blue velvet strings being arranged to tie under the chin. This costume is exceedingly effective when made in any colored cloth or woollen goods and trimmed with the braid mentioned above, and it will also be found satisfactory for numerous thin materials which can be decorated with embroidery or lace. The pattern of the mantelet is in two sizes, medium and large. Price twenty-five cents each. Skirt pattern, thirty cents.

FIG. 2.—An exceptionally stylish street costume, consisting of the "Cleoria" jacket and "Liska" overskirt worn over a plain walking skirt. The material is camel's hair in one of the new ecru shades, which is used for the jacket and overskirt, and with it embroidered velveteen is associated, the delicate figures being wrought in golden threads, which are unusually effective on the dark-brown ground. The velveteen forms the plain gored walking skirt, the revers on the overskirt and the vest for the jacket. The jacket and overskirt are both illustrated separately elsewhere, and the quantity of material required for a medium size of each is stated in the accompanying descriptions. The jaunty ecru straw hat is worn a little over the face, and is trimmed with brown canvas ribbon in which gold threads are mingled. The full bow is set high against the crown in front, and is pierced by a golden arrow. Tan-colored gloves complete the costume. Price of jacket patterns, twenty five cents each size. Overskirt pattern, thirty cents.

ranged so as to conceal the foundation skirt if needed, but if made of light summer materials, and all alike this would not be essential. The back drapery is laid in triple plaits and hangs straight, the trimming consisting of rows of braid, velvet or embroidery to match that upon the flounce. It might also consist simply of clustered tucking. The flounce should not be as full in front as at the back, and the finer the shirring the better the effect, particularly in thin woollen or silken materials.

The "Liska" overskirt is a graceful style, well adapted to thin figured goods, dotted nun's veilings, and all soft and easily draped materials. It is good also for fine serges and dark blue and white flannel costumes, for it turns over upon the edge, and may be faced with a color, blue or red, the facing forming the trimming, which may be repeated in the vest and standing collar of the waist or jacket worn with it. A tucked or plaited or plain underskirt would best suit the "Liska," as the high, stylish looping upon the side gives effect to the lines of the skirt, which should be therefore unbroken.

A pretty corset-cover is a desideratum, especially when the season for thin dresses comes round, and the "Margot" is as near perfection as a corset-cover can be. It is perfectly fitting, the embroidery forming a stylish square which admits of an open, or V-shaped bodice, without detriment to neatness.

HOW TO PRESERVE FLOWERS.

Poets are not always practical, but when they assure us that "the fairest flowers must fade" we are inclined to take stock in the assertion. Nothing can be more exquisite than the perfect bloom of a beautiful flower, and often have we lamented the swift decay of a lovely and expensive bouquet. Many processes have been invented and patented for embalming both fruits and flowers. The following simple method seems to promise success in retaining form and color, and we would be glad if some of our thousands of readers would try it and give us the benefit of their experience: "Fruit and flowers may be preserved from decay and fading by immersing them in a solution of gum arabic and water two or three times, waiting a sufficient time between each immersion to allow the gum to dry. This process covers the fruit with a thin coating of the gum, which is entirely impervious to the air, and thus prevents decay of the fruit or withering of the flowers. Roses preserved in this way have all the beauty of freshly plucked ones, though they have been separated from the parent stem for many months. To ensure success in experiments of this kind, it should be borne in mind that the whole surface must be completely covered, for, if the air gets an entrance at only a pinhole, the labor will be lost. In preserving specimens of fruit particular care should be taken to cover the stem, end and all, with the gum. A good way is to wind a thread of silk about the stem, and then sink it slowly in the solution, which should not be so strong as to leave a particle of the gum undissolved. The gum is so perfectly transparent that its presence can scarcely be detected except by the touch."