

# THE Ladies Bazaar

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## DRESS FABRICS.



THE early Spring months in this country preserve so many winter characteristics, that a continuance of warm garments is imperative. But a number of desirable materials are imported that are especially suitable for just such wear, and this year our stores seem to be filled with an almost unlimited stock of new woolen goods. First among these are the cloths, a little less heavy in weight than the Fall importations, and in somewhat lighter colors. Those of Scotch and English manufacture will generally be found more serviceable and durable for constant wear than the French, though the latter are softer in texture, and hang more gracefully when draped. Long coats of the Huguenot style will be much worn during the unpleasantly chilly days of early Spring. The material most used will be the above mentioned Scotch or English tweed or suiting cloth, the French livery cloths also being admirably adapted to this purpose. Many of these are lined with silk of bright and contrasting color, and trimmed with cord, or silver and gold passementerie. The sleeves are sometimes slashed to the shoulder, the coat sleeve seen beneath being richly trimmed.

ALTHOUGH much may be deservedly said in favor of the rough tweeds, cheviots and other fancy cloths for serviceable wear, it cannot be denied that a self-colored fabric of smooth unpatterned surface presents a much more elegant appearance. Many of these plain cloths have been imported for Spring wear, and make up into exceedingly stylish tailor costumes, especially when appropriately trimmed with the handsome garnitures that add so materially to the effect. Cloths of light weight and color will also be used for the Cavalier capes which will be worn later in the season, both as separate wraps and as accompaniments of the tailor-made gown. These capes are longer than those worn during the winter. They are cut in circular form, and

are quite full, falling several inches below the waist, while in some cases they are gathered on to a velvet yoke fitting closely over the shoulders.

VARIETIES of design and color in all the new cloths are innumerable, although the general impression received from a hasty glance is that everything is either gray or brown. But closer inspection soon convinces one of the bewildering variations of shade and color, with their numerous combinations. Many of those that seem to be of a solid color are found to be crossed with fine lines of bright yellow, deep orange, or Egyptian red, while others are simply shot with bright threads in a vague design, or apparently no design at all.

BEDFORD CORD is one of the newest of the French importations. The peculiar method of its weaving, whereby the cord runs lengthwise of the material, recommends it to especial consideration for street wear and traveling, inasmuch as it sheds the dust and is more readily brushed than goods in which the cord runs crosswise. They come principally in solid colors, such as the different shades of brown and blue, together with the innumerable varieties of gray, and many of the new shades.

ALTHOUGH well advanced, the season for sales is not yet over, and many genuine bargains are still to be obtained by purchasers who exercise a little discretion, as quantities of the materials sold at reduced prices never go out of fashion. Anything very striking should be avoided, as it bears its date stamped too distinctly upon it; but plain soft woolens in quiet shades, and gray and fawn alpacas are safe, as are fancy fabrics of not too decided a pattern. Tulles, beaded nets, mousseline chiffons, and trimmings of all kinds will be certainly valuable, as they promise to be as fashionable this season as last, while soft silks and pieces of brocade should not be passed by.