



IT is impossible as yet to give any definite particulars about the new shapes for spring hats and bonnets, but there will be an immense variety to select from. For trimmings there is every indication that this will be another big flower season, with an entire change in patterns. In trimming materials crepes, chiffons, and chiffonettes, will occupy a first place. Fancy ribbons promise to be in great favor for the early spring trade, and ostrich goods, which are again working to the front as a hat beautifier, are likely to be used to a larger extent during the coming summer than for some seasons, chiefly Nacre and shot effects in mounts and tips. Many novelties will also be seen in other millinery requisites such as dress nets, veilings, flouncings, laces, belts, dress ornaments, gimps, passementeries, buttons, jet trimmings, jet sprays and ornaments, etc. In a circular to the trade, Messrs. S. F. McKinnon & Co., state that "the variety of goods we have to show is entirely too large for description in this circular, and we can only say that our display is larger and more varied than that of any previous season, having a resident buyer in the British and Continental markets, whose energies are devoted entirely to giving us the latest and best productions and styles."

MILLINERY IN MONTREAL.

(By Our Own Correspondent.)

Millinery does not figure to any extent in the operations of the month. Its place has been taken by furs. Rather its place should have been taken by furs. The mild weather has been disastrous to this industry and the retail business is the smallest in many years. Up to Christmas business did not cover the expenses of the season, and since then the situation has been aggravated by the persistently open weather. Before next writing the millinery business will be in such a condition of forwardness that it will be possible to say some thing definite as to spring styles and prospects; but any remarks at present would be purely speculative, based upon Paris and London reports, and therefore useless.

SPRING MILLINERY IN NEW YORK.

The Dry Goods Economist says: The shapes are small in the crown and small or medium in the brim, with many variations of the poke order and flexible brims bent to suit the caprice of the wearer. The back of the brim is narrow whether it is turned up or flat. What will keep the hats on remains an unsolved problem, as the crowns set on top of the smallest head and simply serve as a semi-foundation for the trimming, which will vary the usual order of things and appear on the crown, in front and on the side as well as

at the back. The new toques retain many of the attractive features of the old shapes.

Black straws bid fair to retain the lead, with tan, ecru and grey shades following. Fancy chips, fine Milans and many open-work braids will be favored. A light effect in appearance and weight has been achieved. New walking hats have lower crowns and a more square effect.

Nacre ribbons will find a rival in the exquisite velvet flowers that show these shadings. Roses, violets, orchids and chrysanthemums are among the first flowers seen. Velvet, silk, satin and muslin flowers are of lovely shadings and combinations. It is thought that natural looking designs will have the preference. Tall branches and stems will give the high effect over the low crowns. Silky leaves around a feather pompon are quite novel.

Striped, nacre and broche moire ribbons, satin and gauze effects will lead in the exclusive goods, with many handsome combinations of color, tan, yellow and pink remaining prominent with delicate green as well. Stripes are very stylish and satin effects appear with every other weave. Moire is undoubtedly the novelty, closely followed by gauze.

Feathers are still shown as aigrettes, delicate pompoms and such small ornaments, but the spring season is not a favorable time for feathers, though the mid-summer always brings us some broad brimmed feather laden hats, as the mid-winter season shows us flowers amid the feathers, which have had a good run.

PARIS FASHIONS.

The Paris correspondent of the Drapers' Record says: The following are some hats I saw at Viot's. One was grey felt with torsades and loops of moss green velvet, the front decorated with green parrot feathers. A smaller hat had a pointed brim of brown felt, and full crown of brown velvet irregularly pleated; lighter satin ribbon is twisted round the crown, and ends in a chou in front, which holds an aigrette.

Bonnets grow more and more difficult to describe; they get smaller and smaller and more intricate. Pinkish green metallic wings and crowns evidently appliqued, and of irregular shape, in which spangles and beaded trimming form the most important part. Many of the shapes are high at the back, and the tiny crowns are pointed. The brims are trimmed round with gold, black or white lace in a half-handkerchief form; above this is always a band of some fur—sable being the favorite. Red and coral velvet is much used, either for crowns or rosettes, or other bows which are so much worn now on bonnets and hats. These bows have invariably a small diamond (real or imitation) buckle in the centre. A new felt hat has a square crown, the brim turning upwards. It is surrounded by two sable tails resting on a broad band of old pink velvet, a paste buckle in front. Shaded velvet ribbons are the very height of fashion for millinery purposes. Some of the effects are beautifully soft, while others may be called rainbowsque. The most exquisite guipure lace is used to make the butterfly bows now seen in the centre of some capotes. In the centre is a paste buckle. At Viot's, where I saw the above models yesterday, I also noticed a great number of tiny sealskin and astrachan capotes. These are trimmed in the front only with guipure lace, or a small bunch of flowers.

The hats are nearly all flat at the crown, and have a certain masculine air about them which is very provoking, and sometimes even grotesque. The Scotch Highland bonnets and a modified kind