

the most popular seem to be all the warm, but not vivid, shades of red and yellow; and the reddish browns of the wallflower. With these are seen warm tones of violet, and what is known as peony red. Green does not seem so popular as it was in the autumn, and a bright blue has taken its place, which looks very well with plaids; and I think plaid blouses may be said to be one of the prettiest forms of using that very difficult material. The plaid season has set in very severely this year. I do not know whether my readers notice it, but we have such a season every year, as surely as the autumn comes in. In France it is just the same thing, except that over there they have, at all times, a weakness in this direction; not to use them as entire gowns, nor even to employ the genuine Scottish tartans, but considering them with their varied hues as forming admirable reliefs, and as enlivening to the thick winter gowns. The French nearly always prefer fancy plaid, and no doubt are right in liking less crude mixtures, than some of the real tartans.

Some portion of my monthly space must be devoted to hair-dressing, and the new London modes. It is rather the fashion to say that everyone must arrange the hair on the crown of the head who wishes to be in the very latest style. This is true of the last-named class, perhaps, and there is a great deal of rather extravagant hair-dressing just now; the quotation of "the owl in the ivy bush" being unpleasantly near the truth as to some people.

The pompadour style being arranged about the face and ears, and standing out in such a way, one is certainly reminded of that owl's story. But this is not done by everyone, and the present style is very pretty if arranged with taste. The hair is crimped at the front and sides as well as at the back, and then all drawn up into a coil of small size on the very crown of the head; and there is not much fringe over the forehead. This is the extreme style perhaps, but the Greek knot in a modified form is still apparently quite as fashionable. With this the hair is still waved all round, both back and front, and over the forehead rather more fringe is allowed, but it must never be over-done. Many people dress the hair high for the evening only, and wear the Greek knot in the morning.

Hair-dressing leads one to the consideration of millinery. The hats worn just now are of moderate size, and velvet, plain, *mirair* and *plaid*, is the material most used in their trimming. There is a great desire on the part of milliners to bring back the fashion of wearing long ostrich feathers in the hat, which was a fashion of the early Victorian era. But, except in a few cases, I have seen no hats which appeared quite successful. Both high and low-crowned hats are to be seen, but very few. I am glad to say, of the picture hats; which after all are far more suited to the sun of summer than to the darker skies of winter. Quantities of wings of all descriptions are worn, and one may feel reconciled to seeing them, for so many birds that are killed for fool may be supposed to yield them. But



JACKET WITH ERMINE, AND THE NEW THREE-QUARTER LENGTH JACKET.