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## DRESS FABRICS.



**INDIA SILKS** that form the new Spring models are exquisitely beautiful. They are many of them actual works of art in their dainty designs and colorings. A mignonette ground you will find strewn with creamy pink dogwood blossoms, a most becoming ecru covered with realistic bunches of violets, a stone gray with mingling apple blossoms and their pretty leaves. The combination of colors are again often striking; for instance, you may find silver, blue and russet brown all combined in one piece, and another shows green, red and yellow, yet all so beautifully blended the effect is only pleasing. Gray and maize are often now combined, and the idea is a novel one. A gray evening gown opened over a petticoat of yellow gauze, having tiny bias tucks apparently run on with black beads, and trimmed with black. Down the front were garlands of black currants, which could be exchanged for yellow tulips. Colorings are certainly vivid. A favorite, bright shade of turquoise is blended often with the wine tones.

**BENGALINES** are more popular than ever. It is a fabric which is part wool, the texture thus produced being characterized by an extreme smoothness of finish not observed in any other fabric. Bengaline is the perfection of luxurious softness in silk. The refinement of wool thus judiciously introduced has done much toward beautifying and improving that which has long been considered its superior fabric. Nothing is more effective in the dress of to-day than this same soft, insinuating quality, without which the garb of the modern woman would lose half its charm. Novelties in shades are quite frequent in the new silks, and a host of new terms confront the novice, who vainly seeks to describe these æsthetic tints on the basis of his previous knowledge. A new bengaline, known in the scale of coloring as gris, is a little on the order of mouse color, although par-

taking at the same time of the nature of brighter grays. Veloutine is a bright gray, approaching almost to silver. By the term neva is meant a grayish green, now very popular in bengalines. An indescribable modification of prune color is called tris. Angolais is the latest shade of brown. The newest shade, containing a suggestion of heliotrope, is known as etrusque. These are the reigning shades in all the new bengalines—the exquisite tints in which fashion's devotees will array themselves throughout the coming season.

**BROCADES AND POMPADOUR DAMASSES** are still the materials for dinner dresses this season, and lace will be their chief ornamentation. Old point laces and guipures are arranged in valence draperies at the edges of skirts of these rich gowns, which are made with gores in the old-time fashion, and consist of six breadths, one in front, two narrow gores on each side, and three straight breadths in the back. Those who have by them any antique waistcoats of brocade or satin would do well to utilize them. Modistes were employing for a tea gown of ruby plush an antique satin waistcoat more than 100 years old. It was trimmed with gold lace, which, notwithstanding its age, showed no sign of tarnishing.

**CHEVIOTS**, or wash silks, as they are more generally known, abound in our market this season. They have for the past two seasons been gradually working their way into favor, and this Spring they would seem to be prime favorites, if the quantities of them found on the shop counters are any criterion. At first their patterns too closely resembled chintzes to be really acceptable, but the manufacturers have perfected them in dull soft shades of rose, russet, reséda violet and other popular colors. They are used for night-dresses, for bath robes, and for underwear in some instances. The shirred and pleated blouses, always popular, will be found more frequently in these silks than in the former favorite flannels.