

# The Ladies' Journal

Devoted to Literature, Fashion, &c.

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## OUR PATTERNS.

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## ONWARD.

It is our intention, commencing with next issue of the LADIES' JOURNAL, to considerably improve the paper in many respects. It will be set in new type: a short and serial story of very great interest; a Household Department; and other improvements, which our readers will not be slow to appreciate. Please recommend the JOURNAL to your friends, and so help to still further improve it, as it is our intention to spend all our profits for the next year or two to bring the JOURNAL up to what we consider a proper standard. Show your appreciation of our efforts by handing this copy to a friend after you read it.

## Review of Fashion.

There has been a lack of great and thrilling novelty in fashions of late years, and some persons wonder how it is. They do not see very far, and they only know that Fashion in time past has been accused of abominable things, of wild caprices and extravagance, of sudden revolutions and unexpected movements, of changes from one extreme to another; and though there was absurdity, there was also a certain kind of fascination in these daring and unlooked-for enterprises. It is a little disappointing not to have something of the kind happen now, not to be obliged to resist the temptation to commit a folly, or exercise courage in being the first to venture on a supreme and startling eccentricity. We are becoming almost too reasonable, too practical; we do not diverge from the sensible, we stick to the short street dress, we cannot be persuaded to take up hoops, and all the tendency of ideas is toward relieving the complexity of dress rather than adding to it. To be sure there has been a senseless revivals of the low-necked evening dress during the past season, but then how few adopted it, compared with the great majority that did not! and after all it is the majority that counts. The few women who did had not much to be proud of; they simply labelled themselves retrograders, they only announced themselves as incapable of progress, and they looked ridiculous, or worse. The time has gone by when women can make a fashion of bare necks and arms, and there is a time coming when it is considered as disgusting for women to make such an exhibition of themselves as for men.

One fashion has been introduced during the year that its past which holds its own and is likely to do so for some time to come—it is that of the full front, gathered or plaited as shirt, vest, plastron, or entire length of dress. It is so becoming to slender figures, and admits such pretty combinations and so much variety, that it is not

likely to lose its hold for the present. The fashion of immense figures in fabrics has not been relinquished; on the contrary, it continues, but modistes are learning better how to dispose of them; they are no longer used for bodices and but little for trains; they are employed for the narrow fronts of dresses, for panels, for plastrons, but not for the back, which must always be narrow to be elegant, and in which, therefore, these great figures do not only show to advantage, but in which they disfigure the wearer. Of course this refers to the raised figures, the cones, the fruits, the tropical leaves, and shaded balls which have been applied in such novel ways to the ground of rich fabrics, producing relief effects far more startling than embroidery, the depth of the design being often from half an inch to three-quarters in actual thickness. The scroll and serpentine patterns, that are undetached and form long lines, are not open to these strictures, and may be used interchangeably for front and panels, or train.

An attempt has been made to revive "dead" white satin for brides and for evening dresses, and soften the hard, chalky effect with tulle. This delicate fabric is always becoming, and placed over white satin, the effect is not bad, particularly if the wearer is young, and has a fair complexion; but we do not advise persons to choose dead white satin who will bring it in direct contact with the skin, or whose complexion is in the least harsh or florid; for these a tint, and the softening influence of lace is necessary. The lovely narcissus, lily of the valley, white hyacinths, and white carnations have all been used of late in the construction of bridal garnitures and bouquets, but lilies of the valley have occupied the chief place, and not alone for brides, but for corsage bouquets, and boutonnières. Soon we shall have the white lilac as an element in floral ornamentation, for one of the pleasant signs of the times is the habit which is becoming daily more prevalent of selecting the flower in season for purposes of decoration.

instead of depending entirely upon exotics.

At this early date there is not much to say in regard to spring fashions, but it may be stated that the colors likely to be in vogue will be fawns, smoke gray, blue gray, brown, yellow, and black with white; costumes of silk and wool, or satin and wool, will take the place of wool and velvet. The polonaise will be very popular, but that does not mean that it is suitable for stately or ceremonious dress. Naturally it is convenient, rather than formal, and if a lady was having a silk made up which she desired should be suitable for "any" occasion, she would be more likely to select the trimmed skirt and basque than the polonaise, although the latter is more in demand at this present season. It is useful for in or out-door wear when heavy wraps are no longer needed, and conceals the defects of half worn skirts. The polonaise is, besides, capable of much picturesque variety, and nothing could be imagined prettier for a young girl than one of old china blue, with red wafers, drawn back from a Moliers front and ruffled skirt of nun's veiling.

Some of the most beautiful dresses made for the coming season are combinations of fine wool with satin, and Ottoman silk with velvet. The cords of the Ottoman are extraordinarily large, and the combination especially in the fawn shades, very effective.

## Almost a Catastrophe.

When a lady and gentleman were driving along Gerrard street the other day, a nurse girl wheeling a baby in its carriage, attempted to cross the street in front of the horse. The driver drew up just in time to allow the girl to make the passage safely, but by wheeling it rapidly, the baby's carriage was made to sway from side to side, and the infant had no sooner escaped being run over, than it was thrown violently on the road by the capsizing of its own tiny vehicle. It was one of those objectionable sort of perambulators, having the two front wheels of small size, very close together under the dash-board. Had the carriage been properly constructed with large front wheels, sufficiently wide apart to allow the front of the carriage body to rest down between them, the carriage would not sway. All Whitney baby carriages are made on this improved principle. Ask for a Whitney Carriage and take no other, and see that it has Whitney's trade mark stamped underneath the body. If your store-keeper does not handle them, send a post-card to Smith & Fudge, Toronto, wholesale agents, and they will send you the address of a respectable retailer who does Whitney's is the largest factory in the world. They average 100 carriages per day the year round, and have 125 styles for you to choose from.

## Tucked Dresses.

Simple dresses of white, pale yellow, gray, and blue linen, and other light solid materials are being made with short skirt tucked lengthwise from the bottom to the top. The bodice is round and belted in, or the skirt may be accompanied by a blouse waist, also tucked and belted. This lengthwise tucking is light and lovely in simple summer materials, and is especially adapted to delicate tints and summer afternoon wear. But it is folly to overload it with drapery, because that destroys its motive and is entirely out of harmony with its idea. Lengthwise tucking is more becoming to almost all figures than the all-round tucks.

The Emperor of China's 200-year old bedstead must have absorbed a great deal of "rough on bugs" in its lifetime. That and the 200-year old pair of socks found in an Egyptian tomb would make a boom for a dime museum.



MISSES' COSTUMES

FIG. 1. — Costume of dark blue, cloth-finished flannel, combined with blue and white shepherds' check wool. The "Avis" jacket and the "Elvine" skirt are combined in the costume, the plain fabric forming the jacket and drapery on the skirt, and the check the broad kilt-plaits. The jacket is cut-away in front from a pointed vest of blue velvet, and the effect of revers is imparted by numerous rows of the "Kursheedt Standard" black silk braid, the same garniture simulating cuffs on the sleeves. The neck is finished with a turned-over collar and notched revers of velvet, and additional fullness is imparted to the back of

the skirt by plaits let in at the seams. The drapery on the skirt is simply hemmed, and is supported in a "hooped" shape on the back by straps of velvet which loop it high on the sides. The double illustration, showing the back view, is given among the separate fashions. Hat of dark blue straw, faced with blue velvet, and trimmed with a sash and long ends of fancy ribbon. The jacket pattern is in sizes for from twelve to sixteen years. Price, twenty cents each. Skirt patterns in sizes for from twelve to sixteen years. Price, twenty-five cents each.