

LATEST FASHIONS SEEN IN LONDON.

From The Drapers' Record.

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THERE is every indication of there being a great demand for lace this season. Many of the plain silk blouses and bodices for demi-toilettes will be trimmed with guipure de merecourp garnitures, and the day sleeves will be covered with those of this lace, while for evening nature will supply the foundation. The lace is most effective, too, over accordion-pleated chiffon, and it can be had in three tints, ivory, ecru, and black. Guipure boleros and corselets, the former having as a novelty graduated straps to the waist at the back, will be worn; also jackets with basques and semi-fronts in this black and ecru guipure, which is different from the familiar lace known by that name, having a silk cord introduced and outlining the design. Another new lace of a finer made has been given the name of Lyons dentellejuble. It is most effective for trimming blouses. With regard to the latter, I believe they will be more popular than ever, for they are fascinating enough to tempt one to extravagance as regards number.

The rage for black and white shepherd's plaids has somewhat abated, but checks will be very popular in colors, both in wool and mixture, cloths, and also in fancy silk zephyrs. A smart gown in a black and white tweed fastens on the side with three enamel buttons at the edge of the bodice, having a frill of green silk, this color being selected for the collar band, waist and cuff finishes, the first and last, however, being softened with lace frills. It is still a vexed question as to whether the skirts shall be skimpy or moderately full. I foresee that the latter will carry the day for all fabrics except tweeds, serges and such like heavy materials. Americans over here—so a leading dressmaker informed me—very much object to the tight sleeve, and will have none of them. Five yards is

the average width of the skirts, excepting tailor-mades, which run from four to four and a-half. No interlining of skirts, except some inches from the hem, is being used, as the under petticoat has to be fashioned full enough at the back to keep the skirt away from the feet. A new visite of pearl-grey cloth has long stole ends, and is trimmed with three rows of pearl-grey and silver braid; the collar is semi-Medicean and the lining, a yellow brocade repp, is a favored material for present wear. A dress shown is in the Royal purple, with bolero bodice cut zig-zag at the edge and outlined with three rows of purple velvet ribbon half an inch wide. The bolero opens from a vest of white satin overlaid with guipure and gold thread appliques, the wide belt of black satin coming to a V in front and centred with an exquisite emerald and enamel buckle. An attempt at a trimmed skirt is made with five rows of velvet put on in Vandyke design round the hips. Dove-colored voile created such a smart gown, the deep French hem enclosing at the top a roll of chine silk in Oriental colorings, and six multi-colored buttons on the hem at the front gores. The bodice and sleeves were of pink and dove brocade, and the sleeveless figaro of the voile was trimmed at the edge with a fancy braiding.

Accompanying this toilette was a green rush toque, the brim being entirely covered with pink roses in foliage, the latter and buds comprising the aigrette on the left side. Tulle is liberally employed for the construction of the early summer millinery, with flowers it is trimming a number of pretty blue and pink hats. One, too, in yellow straw has the crown of drawn yellow tulle, while the trimming is heliotrope tulle, arranged in a drapery around the crown, and into four large rosettes on either side, with an aigrette of yellow carnations and their leaves. Small hats of the turban description have their brims draped either with lace or tulle, while pleated silk is called into service as well as flowers for the decoration of the becoming four-cornered small hats.

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