

## Fashions.

"It is not only what suits us, but to what we are suited."—LE PHILOSOPHE  
SOUS LES TOITS.

Address letters relating to this department to Editor "Fashions" Ladies' Pictorial Weekly, etc.

## An Evening Dress.

An evening dress of pale yellow faille française. The straight skirt, slightly trained, is made with bias back seam, and is simply gathered into the band.



AN EVENING DRESS.

## Fashions for Early Spring.

With snow covering the ground it seems odd to think of spring goods. The importers and manufacturers, however, have



COSTUME FOR BRIDESMAIDS.

thought of them for some time, and the holidays were hardly passed before the shops were displaying the light woollen and cotton fabrics and delicate tintings prepared for the approaching season. And how fresh and attractive they appear! There are a few novelties which at once catch the eye, the variety in the weaves, for instance, as shown in the crepons called "crocodile cloths," the pleated goods and the numberless fancy cords and diagonals. Beautifully soft and dainty are these new wools, and in coloring tender, neutral shades largely prevail, as wood browns, shadowy grays, tan, beige and mauve tints, which will be brightened by vests and linings of rose, porcelain blue or sage green.

The crepons that were introduced last year will be a very popular fabric this season, and should not be confounded with the old-fashioned crape cloth, as the wale is much larger, or else is scattered over with silk figures that fairly stand out from the dull surface. Crepon is a wiry material that does not crush easily, and from which the dust can readily be removed. The leading novelty of all, in wool goods, however, is the plisse cloths that are woven to resemble pleats, varying from the eighth of an inch to two inches in width. Some are of one solid color while others have the pleats covered with satin stripes of a contrasting hue. These fabrics are used for mantles and jackets as well as gowns. Not so new as the above, but extremely serviceable, are the heather mixtures, crossed or striped with bars of silk, which are especially fancied for travelling dresses. The camel's-hairs also hold their own, being figured as well as plain, while a few stylish ones are covered with rough, raised knobs and are known by the French as "Bouton cloths."

Black frocks are always in vogue, and in black wools those with a satin finish are now liked, while in silk the widely twilled vigogne takes the lead, being made up with a colored yoke or guimpe; or else much trimmed with jet or spangles. Six or seven yards of double-width wool is sufficient for a simple gown, as they are now made with a belted waist and Bell or French skirt; a little velvet, silk or satin being combined with it in the way of a yoke, belt, collar, cuffs and foot band.

Thin summer silks are out already and at remarkably low prices. Floral designs, waving stripes and bow-knots of ribbon are the leading patterns. The pink figures on a black ground are particularly pretty. Bedford cords, too, appear again in everything, wool, silk and cotton, and in these, as in many other materials, the fancy for Dresden china designs is shown by the gay little blossoms powdered upon light grounds. These are much used for children's wear; while there is a cotton Bedford cord in plain creamy white and delicate tints which, it is said, will likely take the place of the white wool tailor gowns next summer. It has the same lusterless surface as serge and flannel, while it can be laundered as often as is desirable.

Challies, also, come, once more to the fore, but I fear have had their day, as the new flowered patterns are too huge for good taste. For upholstery purposes they would do admirably and may replace cretonne. Striped grenadines are again in favor, for which we should give thanks, as no more refined ladylike costume was ever worn. Moire stripes are most stylish on the all-black ones, but very gay Roman stripes—red, blue and yellow—alternating with black are charming for young women, while some extremely dainty, neutral-tinted meshes are shown, strewn with bright polka dots or tiny rosebuds in silk embroidery. Forehanded women take advantage of the Lenten season to make up wash dresses, and those who do so have a better selection than those who want to purchase later; while they will certainly be surprised to find many old friends with new faces.

"What is this?" asked a lady the other day in one of our large stores, pausing to examine a fresh looking lavender and white fabric with a ribbed effect like corduroy. "It is Scotch gingham, madam," replied the salesman, at which her amazement was truly comical as she exclaimed to a companion, "Why! I thought it was something entirely new!"

Nor was this to be much wondered at, for gingham is now an elegant material; not only in the Bedford cords, but in the tartan plaids, that are fine as hair and have solid blocks alternating with blocks of delicate lacework. Of course these are expensive, as are the crinkly cotton crapes that come in the most exquisite Severes colors; but then, for every day there are lower grades of gingham, the somewhat *passee* satines, and the neat percales which are thirty-six inches wide and only a shilling a yard. Batistes and grass linens, too, appear largely among the wash goods, the former being generally of an ecru hue, to be trimmed with narrow lengthwise stripes of gay plaid silk running down the skirt.

Directoire falls of lace, fastened to a high collar and forming a vest-like decoration on the front, will be a stylish waist trimming for spring and summer frocks, and for these the antique Irish laces are much used, both in white and ecru.

HATS of all sorts are taking the place of the comfortable caps of muslin and cloth which have so long been the chief wear of babies and little children. The prettiest hats are those shirred on cords or reeds, and are as often seen in silk to match the coat as in lawn or mull. Around the edge of the rim is frequently sewed a frill of lace about three inches wide, after a manner which was fashionable a generation ago.

YELLOW is becoming a very favorite color in children's wear, and threatens to displace to a large extent the time-honored pink and blue. There is more variety of color employed in Baby's wear this season than for a long while, yellow, green, and even lavender appearing, as well as the conventional shades.

THE real old-fashioned diamond hoop is seen again. It is just a narrow band of small diamonds, with only enough gold to form a setting. It is, as in the olden days, used for an engagement ring, and becomes the "keeper" of the wedding ring.

ON the broad-brimmed picture hats loaded with feathers, Mademoiselle puts a bit of color in the form of a velvet flower, pink or sapphire-blue being most fancied. If possible, this is placed under the brim just in front, so that it rests on the hair, and looks most coquettish. If the shape will not permit this, then the flower may be nestled among the plumes themselves, and look out cozily and effectively from their darkness.

## A Handsome Gown.

A handsome gown made of black net, with full sleeves, has for its principal attraction a large, long sash, the ends of which are



A HANDSOME GOWN.

embroidered in an elaborate manner. These sashes, which have become so popular, bring back memories of childhood's days, when a new sash represented to us the Alpha and Omega of our fashionable joys. Sashes are of every conceivable color, and their greatest attraction lies in the fact that they render the plainest of gowns sufficient style for the most exacting society.

## Travelling Dress.

Travelling costume of navy blue cloth, with tan waistcoat and gauntlet cuffs, and navy blue hat.



TRAVELLING DRESS.