

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON FASHION AND DRESS.

A change, which may be regarded as an improvement, has, within the last few weeks, been gradually effected in the shape of bonnets. They are now worn more forward and less open round the face, the crown slopes less backward, and the ends of the front meet under the chin. The material with which the frame is covered, whether silk, satin, or velvet, is usually put on quite plain, and upon it velvet and black lace are disposed in a variety of tasteful ways. For bonnets adapted to a plain style of walking dress, velvet is much employed, and it is a material well suited to the present cold weather; the various shades of maroon, dark blue, and green, are most fashionable. Bonnets composed wholly of velvet are usually trimmed with bands of the same, or with bands of satin, each band being edged with narrow black lace. Round the front of the bonnet there may be a fall of rather broad black lace, turned back, or a small black lace veil may be worn, descending sufficiently low to cover the upper part of the face. The under trimming should consist of coloured flowers, mingling with the bows of black or coloured velvet, disposed in a simple style, so as not to interfere with the *neglige* effect of the bonnet.

For bonnets of a more showy character, silk or satin are favourite materials. Silk is particularly fashionable. A bonnet of grosgrain-colored silk, trimmed with black velvet and lace, has a most elegant effect. Brown, green, and dark blue are also highly fashionable. We have seen bonnets in each of the above-named colours, entirely covered with rows of narrow black velvet ribbon; the rows being crossed one over the other, so as to form a lozenge pattern. Sometimes the rows of velvet are partly disposed in this manner, and partly laid straight; the straight rows being usually edged with narrow black lace. The velvet, instead of black, may be of the same colour as the silk which covers the bonnet. The same style of trimming is employed for fancy straw bonnets, which, even at the present season, are not wholly laid aside, and which derive an appearance of warmth and solidity from the trimmings of black lace.

The fashion of wearing jackets or casques of velvet, with skirts of different materials, is still at its height, and we are pleased to see it, for never was there a more graceful article of dress. The trimmings are infinitely varied. Some are richly trimmed with jet, or have the basque and

sleeves edged with deep fringe, intermingled with bugles. Others are ornamented with embroidery in twisted silk, executed in such a manner as to produce a relief which shows very effectively on the velvet. Black lace is a favorite trimming for jackets, whether made of black or any dark coloured velvet. The basque and sleeves may be edged with three rows of narrow lace, or one row of broad lace forms in itself the basque. When the basque is formed in this way, the sleeves are edged with two rows of lace, somewhat less broad, and set on full, so as to form a sort of double ruffle just below the elbow.

We have seen a very elegant jacket composed entirely of bands of velvet, separated by rows of violet colored ribbon. The ribbon was edged at each side with narrow black lace and drawn so as to form a bouillonne between each band of velvet. The basque and sleeves were edged with three rows of narrow lace, drawn in fullness. The jacket corsage was worn with a jupe of violet coloured taffety, with three flounces. At the bottom of each flounce there were two rows of narrow black velvet, edged at each side with narrow black lace. This very elegant dress was worn with a round cap of black lace, encircled by a wreath of pansies made of violet colored velvet. Two barbs, or lappets of black lace, flowed loosely over the shoulders.

C H E S S .

(To Correspondents.)

AMY.—The Black Knight, in the position sent, gives legal check to the adverse King.

E. S., HAMILTON.—Your solutions are perfectly correct, but in your remarks on our last problem you have evidently mistaken R at K Kt 3d for one of White's pieces, owing, doubtless, to the badness of our Chess fount, which has been very imperfectly cast.

V. W.—Certainly a King can Castle after being checked. Get the "Chess-player's Handbook," and familiarise yourself with all these things before you attempt to play a game.

F. W. S.—You must retract the moves to the point where the first check was given by White; and, if then Black cannot evade that check, he is of course checkmated.

Solutions to Problem No. 15, by J. B., E. S. of Hamilton, W. C. C., and Amy are correct.

Solutions to Enigmas in our last by E. S. of Hamilton, Amy, Tyro, A. M. S., and J. B., are correct.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM No. XV.

White.

Black.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Q takes B (ch). | K takes Q. |
| 2. R to Q R 4th (ch). | K to Q Kt 4th (best). |
| 3. R to QR 5th (ch). | K moves. |
| 4. Kt to K 5th (ch). | K moves. |
| 5. Kt to Q B 6th, drawing the game by giving perpetual check. | |