

But even as I write I hear rumours that the hair in the ensuing winter is to be lowered down to the nape of the neck, and that we are to return to the Greek suggestiveness of a few years ago. We are to retain the waved effects, but in the front, it is said, that we are to return once more to what the Americans used to call the "bang"—a style now seen only on young children, and very doubtfully becoming indeed to older faces. However, we shall soon see whether all these prophecies are likely to be verified.

The hair must look shiny and smooth at present, and rough heads are no longer liked. This effect is only gained by much brushing and a little oil or pomade, applied with a

The change is great in the shape of sleeves, and they appear to grow tighter and smaller every week, and longer as well, till really they are like those in fashion in the Chinese empire, for they very nearly cover the hands. There are very few without ruffles, though some are made with a rounded cuff, which being very long at the top, falls over the hand in the fashionable manner; and I have also seen a few pointed cuffs. Tucks are in such high favour at present that they seem to form the one and only idea of dress decoration. The other day I saw a lady dressed in widow's apparel, who was tucked from top to toe; the tucks were very tiny, and about three inches apart. I thought that perhaps

being also very popular. Braiding is said to be coming in as an ornament, but meanwhile we have gathered ribbon trimmings, or *ruches* as they are called, the ribbon used being from three-quarters of an inch to an inch wide, and gathered in the centre with strong silk, in order to draw it up to the required fulness. This trimming can also be made of the material of the dress or of silk, cut in bias lengths. In the illustration "A new cape," you will find it illustrated on the *revers* of the bodice worn by the centre figure. This gown is made of fine cloth, with a front of drawn *chiffon* and *revers* of fine white cloth. The skirt is braided, and the basque of the belted blouse is battlemented; and these are corded three times round with cloth cordings. The next gown is of navy serge; the braiding being put on in close rows. There is a vest of white silk, tucked, and a *chiffon* full at each side.

"The new cape" is one of those with the corners very much rounded at the front, a change in shape which is very good in one way, as it shows the pretty trimmings of the bodice beneath. The flounces which go round the edge of these capes are sometimes quite full, but are also seen as scanty as possible. Narrow lines of silk braid are used to trim them, and there seems every chance of their remaining much in the same form as our present model during the coming winter. The drawback to this shape is that they are rather old-looking beside the smart short ones we have worn.

In nothing have we arrived at greater perfection than in the manufacture of our waterproofs. They are soft, and thin, and perfectly odourless, and the shapes are immensely improved. The straight long coat-shape is an excellent one for wear in walking, and the loose straight-backed jacket is equally good for the bicycle as a protection from the weather. In the reversible capes and coats, with the bright tartan linings, there has been great improvement, and as travelling-wraps they are quite a success, being at once becoming as well as pretty.

Some very pretty little jackets, which are a late introduction, may be made of black satin or silk, or of cloth of various colours, generally drab or blue. Those seen in Paris were of black satin, beautifully fitting; in fact, in this last characteristic consists their true inwardness, as the slangy adapted phrase has it. No doubt these will also be a winter fashion, and I hope to illustrate them later on. Just now they are very useful to wear with the thin costumes we are wearing out, such as our foulards and thin frocks, and enables us to continue using them, and to keep ourselves warm in the chilly September days.

All kinds of small ornamental coverings, capes, boleros, and *fichus*, are being worn, and just now few people care to go out in the cotton or muslin shirt without adding to it some small adjunct, which may only be a *chiffon* neck-ruffle, or an ostrich-feather boa. Cotton shirts are more worn for the bicycle than for anything else, as their places are taken by the silk or muslin blouse. Chemisettes or fronts are returning to favour again for wearing with a small coat, and some of them are very pretty. There is still much fluffiness about the neck, but I noticed during the sales that there were many purchases of ribbons made, intended for the neck. These are to be worn twice round, and will be tied in a bow either in front, or at the back of the neck. It has been found that the tight and air-proof stocks so long used have injured the appearance of the throat so much that nearly all the women who care for their appearance are dismissing the stiff collars and replacing them by a wide ribbon necktie, which will be less hot, and more open to the free circulation of the air round the throat.



HAIR DRESSED WITH A COMB.

sparing hand. In many ways our ideas of hair-dressing have improved, for we no longer desire to load our heads with false hair; and this year we have been contented to wear our own and make the most of it. This change in the fashions has, it is said, brought the price of hair down to less than half in the country districts of France.

The use of the celluloid combs has been proved to be so dangerous that I hope my readers have taken warning, and dismissed any they may have been wearing. It is only needful to put them into a disused grate and set fire to them to find out how dangerous they would be if they really caught fire in the hair. It is said that a fall is enough to set them in flames. It is a pity they are really so pretty, for that makes the temptation to buy them.

The material itself might have been tucked, as they have been sold in the shops during the season; but a closer look showed that the gown was tailor made, and the tucking was tailor-made too. No crape was worn at all, the dress being quite untrimmed (save for the tucks), and the bonnet and long veil were of silk gauze.

Tucked sleeves are quite the latest and prettiest of our fashions. Sometimes they are tucked all over at small intervals, or they are arranged in groups of four or six; or the tucks are placed high up, at the very top of the sleeve, and take the place of a frill or a puff. But the tops of all the new sleeves are very plain indeed.

On the contrary, the bodices are very much decorated, nearly all of them have *revers* of some kind; the sailor collar and open front