

May Gowns.

GOWNS for the Horse Show and Races are in order; and some wonderfully pretty things, as well as some very startling ones are being made up by the modistes. By and by the most serviceable of these will go across the ocean to be 'finished out' in the jostle and push of the Diamond Jubilee throng.

SKIRTS.

Tailor-made gowns will have braiding of every kind, as a trimming. The military styles will be especially affected.

Plain silk-lined skirts, with fullness well to the back, and blouse or tight vest with dickey, and Eton or Norfolk jackets, are the general outline, on which many modifications are made. The style is not materially altered, except that the jacket is more jaunty, the skirts less full and braided in some large design. The braiding thus far is usually down



the side seams, not around the foot of the skirt. Perfection of cut and fit is everything in these gowns. This will be the general style for spring gowns.

The newest skirts, that is those being made of lighter materials for summer wear, have many and varying features, one of which is the fancy for trimming them around the hips, when there is no other decoration. Tucks and tiny box plaits extending four or five inches down from the waist are set in across the front and sides.

Alternate panels, elaborately trimmed, and breadths of accordion plaiting form some of the dressy skirts in grenadine and grass linen, and skirts generally are developing very rapidly in all the possible modes of decoration.

The entire tendency in summer gowns is toward transparent materials and soft clinging effects.

Black and white materials both in checks and stripes are decidedly in favor for the season. Some of the prettiest dresses worn in Ottawa during the present Session are in these combinations. One with skirt of rich black satin and blouse bodice of black and white striped satin; the white stripe in graduating width is remarkably rich. Plenty of white chiffon in front and sleeve puffs give it the requisite softness.

Red, especially geranium red, remains a favorite color. Recently one of Ottawa's large stores made quite an artistic effect by dressing one widow entirely in varying shades of red. The color will drop off a little with the advancing season, but come in again with scarlet autumn bloom.

Black trimmings are almost a necessity on any red gown to tone down the color.

The open meshed black fabrics, such as black canvas, are pretty made over the new purple red or china blue, and trimmed with black satin ribbon. Green and black are a peculiar but fashionable finish for a brown canvas gown.

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BODICES.

In our illustrations this month we show several pretty bodices to be worn with black skirts, very rich materials are used for these skirts, heavy silk crepon, brocades, and satin being the chief.

Fig. 1 is a mauve and black striped bodice that has a new thing in sleeves. Three mauve silk frills are let in almost to the elbow, gathered together to the shoulder giving it something the effect of slashing. The yoke and deep belt are of coarse white lace. White chiffon at neck and wristbands add a finishing touch, while carelessly thrown over the right shoulder is a cascade or fall of chiffon edged with valenciennes.

Fig. 5 is a black and green tinsel brocade. The yoke is of point venise over bright green satin, and is edged with black chiffon ruffles. Black accordion pleated chiffon frills fall gracefully over the shoulder in points almost to the waist.

One of the prettiest of the many pretty bodices worn at the Russell House dinner table, during the early days of the Session, was one of grass linen, embroidered in wheel design. It was made over blue silk, and finished with loose knots of blue satin at col-

lars and waists. sleeves are slightly wrinkled and finished with a black satin band; also collar and belt of black satin.

This wheel skirt will be very fashionable in transparent materials during the season.

Fig. 2 illustrates a stylish short coat of light greenish grey ladies' cloth, that might easily be adapted for the wheel. It is trimmed with black fancy braid, stitched down in four vertical stripes over the bust to the bottom of the coat, which is also edged with it, also collar and wristbands. Just below the small sleeve puff is a single row of the braid which runs bias across the sleeve.

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A pretty yet simple gown of checked wool material has a bodice trimmed in tucks edged with narrow black velvet ribbon. Both the front and back of the bodice are tucked.

The all wool black and white is quite in vogue; and nothing enriches it like slight trimmings of black velvet. It may also be trimmed effectively with military braid.

SLEEVES.

Sleeves are the special point of interest in the new spring gowns, as there is a decided difference in the cut. The new sleeve is almost close fitting, with very narrow equalet frills or drooping wing effects at the top.

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The plain sleeve is the unusual exception except in cloth gowns, and shirred, tucked, and trimmed sleeves of some sort are the rule. This is a wise provision of fashion, as it disguises the unbecoming effect of a close sleeve. They are shirred up and down in two or three narrow frills with a space between or around in puffs; tucks are set in diagonally, up and down around in groups, and all the sleeves which are intended to be long fall well over the hand.

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The plain cont sleeve with a little fullness at the top is the one

lar and waist.

Front and epaulets of much-beruffled pink and apple green chiffon, made dressy 'fixings' for another bodice of plain black satin.

Fronts of chiffon, either sparkled or plain, are most in favor for the evening bodice. They are soft, becoming, and capable of a tremendous variation.

In Fig. 3 we show an organdie muslin with three wide stripes of valenciennes insertion running parallel round the bodice, like barrel hoops. The bottom of the skirt is finished in the same way above the hem. A white satin collar and cuffs add a Frenchy finishing touch.

Fig. 4 is a pink organdie muslin with rosebud design. It is to be worn with the new sun skirt so much in vogue in New York. This skirt is cut in a perfect circle nine yards round the bottom, in graduated accordion pleats. Muslin or taffeta silk are the best for these skirts. The silk underskirt is put in the same band. The bodice in the sketch, to be worn with this, is gathered down from bust to waist in small flat tucks vertically stretched to a tight lining leaving the muslin full over the bust and the arms. It fastens invisibly up the back. The insertion is laid on horizontally to form a yoke, while two frills edged with this insertion set up over the small sleeve puffs. The

most in use for tailor gowns and cloth jackets.

TRIMMINGS.

Tucks will be pre-eminently the mode of trimming for summer gowns. Tucked yokes, tucked blouses, tucked fronts, tucked sleeves,—deep tucks, fine tucks, edged tucks, plain tucks; tucks in gingham and tucks in chiffon, tucks across, and tucks up and down. There will be variations but the tuck is the key-note.

FIGHTING THE MOTHS.

BY A LOVER OF FURS.

I REALLY think fighting the moths would be better than fighting them; for once they find their way into a closet, there seems no surety of getting rid of them.

A friend told me once that she thought the preservation of furs from moths a matter of good luck, not of good housekeeping; but then she was

