

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

THE London fashions for concerts and so forth run to gay silk blouses. A pretty one designed to be worn with a skirt of black brocade is made of rose-colored silk shot with gold, which takes especially beautiful tints under the gas-light. It is made in the new style, which is likely to be a feature of the summer blouses, a wide-folded piece coming from each shoulder, and lightly crossed in front, the two ends drawn round to the back and tied in a fussy empire bow. Another pretty one is of pale yellow chiffon, very fully pleated, and with yoke and trimmings of fine guipure lace. Still another and a rather quaint one is a black Bengaline blouse, striped with a gay plaid of many colors. Blouses cut low are generally finished off with a deep berthe of embroidered chiffon or some soft lace, and the white sash is guaged in the centre with a very long narrow buckle drawn through the middle. These sashes slope down into quite a narrow width at the side and are spread out again to their fullest extent at the back where they fasten.

A pretty and convenient addition to the new dresses is an outside pocket hanging from a girdle, somewhat in the style of the old-fashioned reticule. They are made of the same material as the skirt, and are just about large enough to hold a handkerchief and a pair of gloves.

Capes will be much worn this spring, but they will be longer than those worn during the winter, and will be provided with a hood. Both cape and hood will be lined with a contrasting collar to that of the costume. The cape and gown are of pale-gray foulard, striped with steel-blue, ottoman silk, adorned with cut-steel buttons and a steel-blue silk cord.

WHAT RETAILERS ARE SHOWING.

New shawl serpentine waists, boys' shirt waists and new bolero waists.

Suits: Challies, Eton, bolero, velvet, Scotch plaid, serge and fancy cloth.

Crepe, crepe-de-chine and plaid and glace velvets for use in spring millinery.

Silk-lined serge, flannel and broadcloth skirts, and silk waists in all new plaids.

"Columbus lace," a dotted ground with floriated border, showing ships afloat.

Black, white and biscuit colored laces wrought with gold and other tinsel threads.

TO MARRY OR NOT TO MARRY.

Commercial travelers are generally regarded by those who know very little about them, as being men out of the ordinary run of human nature, and of very exceptional character. As none know better than themselves, commercial travelers are but men after all, and seem possessed of as much human nature as most folks. Following up this line of exceptionality, we are now confronted with the question, Should Commercial Travellers Marry?

Why should they not, I would ask. Is

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there anything so special about their existence, or conditions of life that they should remain bachelors, and never taste the bliss which according to the romancing novelist generally attaches to the wedded state? Morally and physically they are constituted as other men. They have the same desire for happiness, domestic and conjugal, as the rest of their kind, and why should not these desires, quite legitimate and natural, be realized at some time or another?

It is almost superfluous to say that there are temptations in the life of a traveller; there are temptations in the lives of all men. But the commercial traveller is peculiarly open to the temptations which beset the man who is away from home and its restraining influences for the greater part of his time. We know that the temptations we allude to are often, and in many cases far too often yielded to by those who ought to abjure them and be stronger in the flesh. To me it seems that the married man should most certainly be better able to withstand these temptations than the single one. He can be firmer, he can be fortified by the ties of home, and the strong bonds which matrimony has woven around him, rightly too. Of course there are some natures even among com-

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mercial travellers who are so given to "worldlings" that neither domestic or any other ties will have any restraining influence for them. But then there are black sheep in every flock.—Argosy.