

FROCKS FOR TO-MORROW.

By "THE LADY DRESSMAKER."

THE last idea in the way of the shape of female dress which comes to us from Paris is, apparently, that we shall all be tall and slight; that all lines shall be long, and that if there are to be lines at all, they shall be straight ones. No bunches of any sort, no stiffening to the skirts, and no puffiness to the sleeves. If you happen to be short and stout, or even tall and full of figure, the first thing to be done is to learn how to manipulate your dress and your millinery, so that you may assume the virtue of slimness, even though you have it not.

Of course, after this notification, those who think about the matter will soon make up

their minds that certain articles of dress and certain forms of cutting and making garments will soon return to our midst. Long coats to the feet, for instance, have arrived already for some people, and in my last I spoke of the three-quarter length jacket as having been seen, and is going to be in the future the proper thing to wear, instead of the short jackets which we have all worn so long and which, to give them their due, have been most comfortable and useful, and have always looked, when well-made, smart and serviceable under all circumstances. All the new hats too, are of course trimmed very high at one side; and in Paris the fur muff has grown to an enormous

size, so that no one but a tall woman could be seen with such an encumbrance. Long and clinging tea-gowns, cut in the princess style, are already seen in considerable quantities here, and velvet seems to be the favourite material or at least one of those beautiful velveteens which it is difficult to distinguish from a real silk velvet.

Still, in evening dress, the short and rather full skirt holds its own, as it does also by day-time in our every-day life; and the prevalence of fur in bands, and even in flounces, is one of the things thrust on one's notice in real life. I have seen short skating dresses of fur. In fact I think one sees these in certain shops

every winter, though more perhaps this year than usual. Skunk fur is more used than it was, but even though it looks so well and wears almost better than any other fur, the first damp day brings an odour that is plainly perceptible even in the best cured and most costly skins.

Do not fancy though that the Russian blouses have been ejected from fashion. By no means. But their tendency towards too much bagginess, both in the back and the front, has been much reduced, and I hear it said that it will disappear in the spring, when they will look more like the Norfolk jacket of old than the Russian moujik's coat. The long coat is often made with a Russian blouse effect, and on a slight figure this is very elegant and effective.

I notice that numbers of tartan blouses of all kinds are now being sold and are most comfortable in use. Their only drawback is, that they are made for the white linen collars and cuffs, which are not becoming to everyone, and seem quite out of place with



THE BRAIDING OF TO-DAY.