

LONDON AND PARIS FASHIONS.



WHEN we confess the truth we own that often man's opinion on feminine dress is worth that of half-a-dozen ordinary women—especially if these ladies be of a jealous turn of mind and like to see their friends look at their very worst. Worth recording was the advice of a well-known critic to one of his womenkind: 'Clothe your feet in patent leather, which never retains the dust seen so frequently clinging tenaciously to glacé kid. Let your gloves be trim and immaculate, and *de préférence* lighter than your frock. Never wear out of doors a bodice that is darker than your skirt, and above all avoid very gaudy headgear.' After the heart of this subtle *connoisseur* would certainly be the toque that heads this column, and in which style and discretion are cleverly blended. It is made in a rough, silver grey straw and curved in such a manner as to droop down more at the sides than in front. The brim is lightly draped with very cobweb-like cream lace, while spreading on either side are



A CHIC TOQUE.

glossy, jet-black wings divided with artistic taste by a knot of ivory-coloured satin ribbon powdered with silver sequins. Such a toque as this can be worn on any smart occasion and does not, like many of the more gorgeous hats and bonnets, require the protection afforded by a carriage. There is beautiful colour-taste displayed in some of the French shot straws; but the daisies who is off early this year to the riverside, and who is already investing in boating raiment, should buy one of the latest Panama deerstalkers, with brims improved by being made very wide. A bright ribbon band sewn round the crown is the only trimming needful.

Checks (both conventional and broken lines of different delicate tints being often mixed) are extremely popular; and, in the taffetas silks, make up into wondrous blouses. These are more beloved than ever, and are now built with such exquisite care, precision and taste, that they really deserve the name of *chic corsages*. I give the illustration of a



A CHARMING BLOUSE.

charming bodice somewhat novel in design. It is planned in rustling ivory cream silk, and has a large check pattern of rose pink. A shaped cape in natural-coloured gulsips is laid over satin matching the design, and straps of cream ribbon keep the fulness of the blouse in its right place. The best sleeves—as exemplified by this model—are cut in one piece, the lower portion being sometimes finely tucked from elbow to wrist.

It seems but natural now that we have taken to athletics in earnest that we should take up for the occasion a mode of attire suitable for the fray—be it boating, cycling, golfing, or tennis. The form most favoured is the jersey, the rage of a few years ago, but now rendered quite artistic and enchanting—of course they are worn with large sleeves to the elbow and open on the top of each shoulder, where they are fastened by three small buttons. The narrow part of the sleeves from the elbow to the wrist also buttons up.

This is a great boon in punting, as the sleeve can be turned up in business like fashion out of all chance of getting wet.

Let's hope that the next months will not be rainy months; for shoes of all shapes are to replace the heavier boots. There will be smart patent leather affairs with a bold flap and huge Court buckles, glacé kid with crossed straps, or a series of bands buttoning across the instep, and shoes partly in cloth, to match the tailor-made coat and skirt. The heroine in the simple white book-muslin frock is now an exploded character. Even 'Sweet Seventeen' must have her elaborate dancing toilettes, and the evening raiment of the *débutante* is starred with imitation precious stones. For instance, a white satin is dotted all over with glass diamonds; while a willow green costume is sprinkled with make believe emeralds. For dinner-gowns there is less glitter, and metal threads are considered extremely good form. Very much admired at a large London dinner-party



THE LATEST IN DINNER TOILETTES.

was a black satin with the skirt standing out crisply at the sides, a *la Henri IV.* Gold thread traced graduated feathery borders on one side, and the corsage was embroidered likewise. A tiny black chiffon ruching modified the severe lines of the *décolleté*. Perched on very full elbow sleeves of buttercup satin were large knots of ribbon matching this gold coloured material. These bows are now replacing to some extent the rather heavier epaulettes.



ALPACA COSTUME.

My last sketch is a lovely grey alpaca gown, with a flop pink chiffon vest and ruffe. A line of black passementerie marks the revers, barques and cuffs. The skirt stands out in godet puffs, leg o' mutton sleeves.

HELLOISE.

CALLANT.

A REALLY polite Frenchman can be complimentary in the face of unkind remarks.

Such a man, who had been bestowing upon a lady many compliments, asked her why she kept a large and apparently savage dog which had just entered the room.

'I bought him only yesterday,' she answered, 'Hippant'y, and I'm going to keep him in my front hall to eat up my admirers.'

'Ah, so poor animal!' exclaimed the Frenchman; 'to die of indigestion!'

HOW TO AVOID THE INJURIOUS EFFECTS OF STIMULANTS.—The present system of living—partaking of too rich foods, as pastry, saccharine, and fatty substances, alcoholic drinks, and an insufficient amount of exercise, frequently deranges the liver. I would advise all bilious people, unless they are careful to keep the liver acting freely, to exercise great care in the use of alcoholic drinks, avoid sugar, and always dilute largely with water. Experience shows that porter, mild ale, port wine, dark sherry, sweet champagne, liqueurs, and brandies are all very apt to disorganize; while light white wine, and gin or whisky largely diluted with soda water, will be found the least objectionable. KNOS' 'FRUIT SALT' is peculiarly adapted for any constitutional weakness of the liver; it possesses the powers of reparative when digestion has been disturbed or lost, and places the invalid on the right track to health. A world of woes is avoided by those who keep and use KNOS' 'FRUIT SALT,' therefore no family should ever be without it.

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