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LONDON AND PARIS FASHIONS.

UCH prettier and infinitely more lady-like than

UCH prettier and infinitely more lady-like than the rather startling rose-coloured and cerise straws, that can only just be redeemed from vulgarity by being trimmed with black, are this season's mauve and violet plaiting. These are especially charming when smothered in sprays or beds of well-chosen blossoms, or becomingly veiled in tulle of the same tint as the paille. The neat little toque which heads my 'New Parisian Models' (shapes that hall fresh from the centre of chic and elegance) is 'turned out' in rich violet rustic straw. This up-to-date ground-work is covered with quite a parterre of mignonette, mixed here and there with a velvet pansy matching the shade of the plaiting, while standing up from this flower-bed is one erect spray of the reseda. Fixed in rather slantingly at the back is a bow of violet silk, which might, if the wearer feels so inclined, be edged with a Liliputian frill of lisse to match; for just now these dainty additions to a loop of ribbon are very much in favour, and remind one of another new mode, namely, that of bordering the latest wired and waved tulle hat frills with a narrow binding of black velvet. Besides the present rage for rough straws, there is also a great demand for ivory-tinted Leghorns, and corn and ficelle-coloured panames, that make up into such charmingly young-looking hats, and in-



duce one to think of quaint old-time chapeaux. It was a certain French beauty who, about a year ago, introduced the fashion of broad leaf-like brims bent very decidedly over the back hair and over the brow. However, only on extremely moderate lines—such as is exemplified in my second shape—are these curves really becoming to the majority of faces, and it's probably for this very good reason that Lady Modus has banished this season the exaggeratedly drooping brim. This hat is built of

corn-coloured Panama straw trimmed with a large quantity of white tulle frilling, mixed very artistically with a bunch of wild roses of a faint pink, their prickly stems and delicate green foliage converting the nosegay into a very realistic one. Secured on the left side are some narrow loops of black velvet ribbon, stiffened to the required height, a 'cunning' little rosette of the same material nestling under the discreetly-bent brim. This year white and cream veils are not so indiscriminately worn as last season, it being now deemed better form to 'sport' black net in conjunction with a dark shape.

It is becoming quite a fashion for girls and very young matrons to wear black in the evening, and certainly there is nothing that so sets off a fair young face with fresh complexion of milk and roses, and so amongst Princess Maud's evening gowns there is a black one which manages most skilfully to preserve all the advantages of black while steering clear of its sombreness. It consisted of a black skirt, the bodice being of white satin covered with softly gathered white silk muslin, and this in turn draped with very fine black net with a trellis design in tiny black and steel sequins; this net also veiled the skirt.

The latest fashionable fad seems to be for those who possess bicycles—and who doesn't, amongst fashionable folk?—to have themselves and their machines photographed in all sorts of attitudes, standing by it, mounted, in the act of mounting, etc., but slwsys with the machine occupying a place of honour in the picture! The custom is one which is not to be commended; for one thing, 'bicycles are like babies,' as a cynical man observed to me the other day, 'in that there is a good deal of sameness about them to everyone but their individual possessors,' and when one sees hundreds and hundreds of photographs of bicycles in circulars and in every illustrated paper and magazine, surely it becomes a trifle monotonous to have a photograph of a bicycle presented to us with each new photograph of a friend! Then again, bicycling costume, though neat and becoming in its place, is by no means the most becoming attrie in which to be photographed; the hard, angular outlines which the figure assumes in the photograph, and the absence of all softening or fluffiness near the face gives a certain appearance of hardness to even the softest face. No, decdedly evening dress or some simple pictureaque gown, and the more lacefrilled and sofily-draped the better, is by far the most becoming for a photograph. I saw the other day one of the most attractive cycling frocks in dark blue linen, with white silk lapels and linen to the little Eton jacket and a white cambric front with crosswise bands of pale yellow insertion all down the front. There is a growing fashion amongst certain of the cycling fraternity or sisterhood to decorate their bicycles with bows and streamers of ribbon to match their gowns, but this, which is terribly out of place and lacking in taste, is not likely to become more general.

The new sacking, left in its natural string-coloured condition, is voted to be one of the most chic materials of the moment. Though, up till now, there are very few women who have adopted the rough and ready stuff for whole costumes; as the true-born digante only ntilises the coarse canvas, prettily belaced or embroidered in silks, as a trimming on richer materials. Speaking of the newest weavings, our summer foulards are to be daintier and more dollish than they ever were; and I glean that the latest pattern is a big black check on a white ground, tiny floral impressions figuring between the more conventional design. En attendant the wearing of these essentially summer silks, fine woollen goods, glacks, gros-grains, and slpacas reign supreme, the latter material being quite as much in vogue as twelve months ago. Here is a delightful 'Church Parade' gown in one



FOR CHURCH PARADE.

of the novel fancy lainages. This particular material has a biscuit-coloured foundation interwoven with a spiash design of moss-green silk, and is used for the bodice and skirt, cut 'a la Princesse.' Over the robe, which moulds the figure to perfection, there is a biscuit-satin corselet, gathered slightly in front under russet lace rosettes that are repeated at the top of this overcorsage. Bordering the draperies of lainage, which fall over the biscuit-satin sleeves and completing the corselet, is a trimming of moss-green velvet ribbon. There