LONDON AND PARIS FASHIONS.

VERY HANDSOME EVENING GOWN.

THERE appears to be a continual struggle after novelty in the designing of dress skirts, and this fact has led to the production of a new style, which is variously called the trumpet or cornet or trombone skirt, as one pleases. It is shaped precisely like the flaring end of a brass hand instrument, being curved outward rather sharply and very full at the feet. While the effect of the sides and back is very good, the front must be carefully arranged, or it has a flappiness which is anything but agreeable, and suggests an error in cutting rather than a distinctive style. The present fashion of long skirts has created a revolution in the fit and finish of petticoats and the lower portions of dress skirts. As it is necessary to raise the long skirt, it has become imperative that something in the way of attractive finish be provided for the under side, which is always more or less visible. For this purpose there are imported handsome ruchings or ruffings of coloured silk, either plain or changeable, and also in black and white.

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The illustration represents a lovely dress suitable for evening wear at a decidedly stylish party, be it dinner or ball. It is composed of pale yellow moiré silk, beautifully trimmed with dark brown velvet embroidered with coloured silks and floral designs in jewels. The dress could be carried out in less expensive materials, say a white surah for the base of operations, black velvet edging worked in metal thread and beads. The dress is cut *en princesse* fitting like a glove. The girdle is of beautiful jewelled embroidery, but could be imitated in loose braid and metal thread or iridescent beads. This could be easily done by clever fingers.

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Spring costumes are beginning to be demanded, and the choice of materials and styles is very nearly limitless. For every-day, practical, out-of-door use, there is nothing better than a light-weight, medium-quality serge. Dresses of this sort are made with plain bell skirt with a bias band at the lower edge, or with a hem turned up and stitched.

The Russian blouse, with or without trimming, is excellent for wear with these skirts. This blouse may or may not match the skirt in colour and quality. It may be made of surah, fancy wool or some grades of wash materials A handsome suit of this sort has a serge skirt with Russian blouse of Bedford cord; another skirt is worn with a blouse of Tartan surah; another with a blouse of white piqué; another shows a coat basque of white corduroy with gold and white trimming. The possibilities of combinations of this sort are almost endless. It is well always to have a fitted waist of the material like the skirt, which may be worn if desired, as there are occasions when the blouse is scarcely as appropriate as the fitted bodice.

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In silken fabrics there are taffetas with tiny dots of embroidery, glacé silks with printed designs in shadowy tints of contrasting colour, light qualities of surah with printed or embroidered figures, and the universally popular crépon in every imaginable colour, tint, quality, and combination.

In rich silks the moirés in plain watered effects, moirés with brocadings, moirés with stripes of satin alternating with stripes of changeable colour either plain or brocaded, are among the desirable goods for ceremonious dresses.

Black dresses of fine wool material for the street have the usual skirt in bell shape, and, it is a pleasure to say, will be sufficiently short to do away with the necessity of holding them up. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that short skirts are approved by the Paris and London houses, and no lady need feel out of fashion if she wears a dress that just escapes the ground. She will not only be quite as stylish, but will be far more comfortable, and will win and merit the respect of all sensible people.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE COMPLEXION.

WHAT a wearisome thing it is—all this talk about the complexion: what we must do, and what we must take, how we must manage it and the thousand and one petty details told in the minutest fashion; as though the complexion of womankind were absolutely a new thing, and no one had the least idea of how to get along with it. Will women ever learn that the principal things required in order to have a good complexion are cleanliness and a careful diet? Wash the face thoroughly and—speak it not aloud—the entire surface of the body, also.

If there is any mistake in the world which women and girls make, it is in the idea that they can play tricks with nature. Just stop a minute and think it over. The face and hands are but a very small portion of the surface of the body. They are, as a rule, the only visible parts. Society and custom demand that they shall be kept, at least, approximately clean. If this is not done, one's dear five hundred friends have no difficulty in finding it out. That the rest of the surface gets no particular attention seems to them a very unimportant affair, and they, therefore, bestow all of their time, strength and labour on the few square inches of face and hands. The consequence is that this much-washed portion is made to do duty for the entire system.

It is, as a matter of fact, much better for the complexion to avoid a thorough washing of the face, provided the body is neglected. The reason for this is apparent when one considers that the pores of the remainder of the skin are still closed with perspiratory matter, and that the face and hands furnish the only means of egress for the impurities of the skin. Having to do not only double but tenfold duty, what wonder that they become overtaxed and weakened, and that a good crop of pimples and other eruptions is the result?

Many a person has observed eczema and similar diseases in the face after a thorough bathing of the face, resorted to in the hope of bettering the complexion. Those who have not been in the habit of taking full and frequent scrubbing baths will do well to begin with the body and leave the face alone until the system has had time to accustom itself to the new order of things. The entire surface of the skin should be thoroughly scrubbed with a soft brush at least once every week—twice is better; or every second day, at least, a quick sponge-bath should be taken. Many persons cannot endure the daily bath. They are cold and tired and dragged if they bathe too much. The thorough cleansing of the surface of the body will do more towards improving the complexion than all of the applications ever invented. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon the minds of young persons that three-fourths of the eruptions and pimples are traceable to thorough washing of the face and neglect of the remainder of the body.

OBSERVING TRIFLES.

A NEUROLOGIST, eminent in the medical profession, told the other day the following anecdote, illustrative of the value to physicians and nurses of the habit of quick observation of trifles:

The doctor once was called in consultation to a case of peculiar nervous disease in a woman, which had baffled the skill of her physician. No cause could be found for certain perplexing symptoms. As the doctor stepped to her bedside he accidentally displaced an empty cologne bottle on an old highly-varnished table by the bedside.

'Oh,' said the patient, quickly, 'the nurse upset that bottle last light, and spilled all the cologne.'

'On this table?' asked the doctor, carelessly.

'Yes.'

When the physicians retired for consultation, the doctor who had held this conservation said, 'I think this woman has been drinking cologne. Alcohol spilled on that table would have left a white stain.'

Here the quick observation of a trifle and the chance knowledge that the alcohol in cologne-water would blanch a varnished surface detected a dipsomaniac in the patient, and enabled her physicians to treat her more intelligently.

The keen notice of trifles, and the rapid matching in the mind of cause and effect constitute what may be called the detective quality, which belongs in its highest grade to great inventors or naturalists.

One man, for instance, watches the force with which the lid of his wife's tea kettle is raised when the water boils, and out of that observation comes the steam-engine.

Another observes that the flame of his candle as he enters a door may be blown one way when he holds it above his head, and another when he lowers the candle, and out of that trifle deduces the explanation of some of the great atmospheric currents.

Yet how many thousands of men had seen the lid move on a boiling kettle with no result, and how many had carried flaming lights without detecting the secret of the mighty winds which had puzzled all mariners since the first ship sailed!

So keen an instinct for discovery is usually born in a man, yet the quality can be cultivated by every person. It is the eye of the eye that finds meaning and purpose in every object on which it rests.