

# THE WORLD OF FASHION

BY MARGUERITE

## How to Make a Winter Dressing Gown.

At this season of the year, the girl who can make her own things finds, on inspecting her wardrobe, many serious deficiencies which must be remedied before the winter sets in. First and foremost in this list of deficiencies, a presentable dressing gown is very often to be found, the little cotton crepe kimono which has done duty since the spring being condemned as unsuitable. Choice

then has to be made between a befrilled garment carried out in cotton material and lace, in the hope that the weather may be propitious, and a more generally useful garment designed in flannel or cashmere on kimono lines. The latter material makes an ideal dressing-gown, but unless white is chosen, it cannot be entrusted to the laundress, and coloured cashmeres spoil and stain with water splashes.

Six yards of shrunk flannel, bordered with a four-inch band of Japanese washing silk in the same shade, or some contrasting colour, make a comfortable little dressing-gown that can be sent to the wash when soiled.

The modified kimono made with gored side-seams is much more suitable to tall English figures than the strictly square garment, which gathers round the feet when folded across in true Japanese style. The material should be cut into five pieces of equal length, one of which is laid aside for the sleeves, while two of the four remaining pieces are joined together for the back, the two front pieces being pinned together temporarily. The two large squares thus made are laid one on the top of the other, and the sides sloped off from top to bottom, until the top part is about half the width of the bottom. The arm-holes, which are very wide, start six inches from the waist-line. The side seams can next be run up, when the shoulders should be sloped off from the arm-holes to six inches from the centre join, and may be gathered up to the requisite width, or flat pleats may be made and stretched down for eight or nine inches back and front. The neck is rounded and sloped off to allow of its being folded across in front without any angle, and at this stage the garment should be put on to see whether the side-seams make points at the bottom and how much requires to be cut off.

The silk band to edge the neck, fronts, sleeves, and hem should have a lining of batiste to stiffen it, and the piece bordering the neck should be cut out as if it were a collar, and carefully fitted, so that no darts have to be made to spoil the roll round the neck and the sloped-off fronts.

The band reserved for the sleeves is cut in half, each half being folded over slightly on the cross, and the triangular pieces at the wider ends cut off. These form the bottom of the sleeves, and are bordered with the silk. The narrower ends are rounded and sewn into the arm-holes, no gathering probably being necessary.

All seams should be run up on the wrong side, and, if a machine is used, should be simply turned over and stitched down again, the raw edge being cut off close. A very neat finish, however, can be effected by sewing a piece of saracenet ribbon or binding along the seam, turning that over the raw edge and stitching it down.

In applying the silk border, tack the edge of the flannel back on the right side all round and machine the two edges together, the silk being already tacked over its lining of batiste. A cord waist-band with tassels is the correct finish to such a dressing-gown, and little slots should be sewed on the side seams through which it may be passed.



▲ THEATRE FROCK.



CLOTH CAPS WITH MILITARY BRAID.

They are descendants of the Russian peasant and military caps that have been so very fashionable in Paris lately—as a rule made of skunk. One of the type will be seen sketched on this page; part of a costume carried out in ruby cloth, the softest and most beautiful of colours, very handsomely braided with black soutache, outlined with gold thread and interspersed with black satin in the narrowest folds held down by gold thread.

Observe with the elaborately braided coat the studiously simple skirt fastened down the centre seams with black satin-covered buttons, trimmed with bullion—a contrast at present one of fashion's freaks. This is a toilette that would look very smart in myrtle green cloth and black braid, worn with a skunk stole and muff or all black for mourning wear.



THIN WOOLLEN MATERIAL FOR DAY AND NIGHT WEAR.

For the nightdress the accompanying design combines protection and prettiness in a very satisfactory fashion, and the lace at the yoke can be used in applique instead of insertion form, to ensure extra warmth. The smart little morning shirt shows a new arrangement of pleats which is very becoming to the figure—(by the way, the narrow pleatings should be continued at the back)—and you can introduce variety by means of the tussard belts.