

THE WORLD OF FASHION

BY MARGUERITE

Evening coats in soft chiffon velvet will be in favour still, all through the early spring, and they are not without their advantages, more especially for theatre wear, when, as is so often the case, the stalls become a veritable cave of the winds the moment the curtain goes up. A dainty wrap in rose-coloured chiffon velvet is made in a coat shape with wide sleeves of Japanese inspiration. The long folds of velvet which fall gracefully from the shoulders and reach almost to the feet are cut up high at the sides and back, so that they form four handkerchief points, each one of which is weighted with a silver tassel. A broad band of silver fillet lace outlines this mantle throughout and borders the sleeves with excellent effect. The lining is of silver tulle, veiled with accordion-pleated white chiffon.

The tea-gown is capable of a remarkably elastic definition, and never more so than now, when to its many manifestations has been added what is very properly known as the tea-dress. This lovely garment is not one of the loose robes or negligees first of all introduced to the glad world of women under the title tea gown.

WHAT THE NEW TEA-FROCK IS.

It is a frock, the salient feature of which is that the corsage and skirt are both in one, though the natural waist line is defined, an end brought about in dexterous manner by the skilful manipulation of the stripes of lace and hand-embroidered lawn that furnish the fabric of the confection.

Made of white handkerchief lawn, with, as I have said, needlework decorations and lace insertions upon it, it is just the

possession for the woman, suiting her purpose not only as a robe to slip on for the tea-hour in the afternoon, but for morning wear about the house and in the neighbourhood of home. If the same idea were developed in colour, it would be charming, but in white it is perfection.



A PRETTY EARLY SPRING HAT.

THE SHEATH-LIKE GOWNS.

It seems to be the correct thing just now to talk about "Directoire" modes for smart women. I have not seen any of these startling costumes about the West End (writes our London cor-

respondent), and should imagine that the genuine article, in all its audacious extravagance of design, is not likely to make headway amongst English women. A sensation was caused at the races at Longchamps, Paris, the other day by the appearance of four dressmakers' models attired in Directoire costumes so daring that even the Parisians were shocked, and the police had to remove the four

was worn. So far only one wearer of the advanced mode has been noted by the papers here—a fair equestrienne from the Hippodrome. She has been riding in Hyde Park every morning in Directoire costume, and Mr. Winston Churchill and another man were so interested in turning round to gaze after the fair apparition the other day that their horses collided and the other man fell off!



ORIGINAL DESIGN FOR A THEATRE CLOAK.



A WEDDING ROBE

Of soft white satin, trimmed with pearl embroidery and tassels and old lace. A long spray of orange blossom fastened at the bust falls down the front of the skirt, and the net veil bordered with lace hangs over a tiara of similar flowers and completely covers the back of the dress.

women from the race-course to avoid a scene. They were afterwards brought before the Court of Correction on a charge of creating disorder in a public place, but this was withdrawn and they were allowed to go home. The offending dress was a revival of the fashion of the Directoire period in Paris at the end of the 18th century. It consisted of a "sheath" robe fitting so closely to the figure that it served to accentuate the outline and bring out every curve. The dress was slit up one side as far as the knee. No underclothing except tight

Of course there are plenty of modified Directoire robes, with the more daring features eliminated, and these seem likely to be fashionable. In one version the dress is made in one piece, opening up the back, and is carried out in khaki crepe de chine. The frock, which displays the figure in all its curves, is tightly swathed round it in a multiplicity of small folds, which in the fine material do not in the least thicken the waist line. Below the hips it is severely plain, lifted slightly on the left side, tunic-wise, to show a simulated underskirt of the same