

# The World of Fashion

(By MARGUERITE.)

Such a variety of design, colour and material as is put forward to tempt the lover of beautiful clothes at this moment was surely never before exhibited at this time of year. Eccentricity still exists, but so toned down as to be most attractive and to merit merely the term smart. The too conspicuous colours have also undergone a softening or are so veiled with their trimmings or so changed by combining them with other colours or shades as to be transformed, until the general result is bewilderingly satisfactory. Embroidery and hand work of every kind and description are most alluring, for they are of the finest kind.

Gowns, with coats or wraps to match are considered extremely smart this season. At the same time the gown is so fashioned in most instances that it is quite finished and complete without any outer garment and can be worn either in the house or the street.

One of the interesting details in the

gowns this spring is the combining of two or three different materials. With a plain crepe de Chine or voile will be combined pleated chiffon or mousseline de soie, white bands of silk or velvet form a point where the two fabrics are joined. In one waist will be seen two or even three kinds of lace and chiffon,

as well as the material that matches the rest of the gown—a small yoke and collar of fine laces to begin or end with; below this yoke there will be another of different lace of heavier mesh or even of gold or silver embroidered lace; then over this a pleating of chiffon extremely sheer in quality, and, finally, the rest of the waist of whatever may be the gown's material. In the description this sounds too involved and complicated to be really smart, but in reality, if successfully carried out, the fashion is most effective, and, furthermore, makes a waist seem much smarter and more elaborate than if merely finished in the regulation style of such long standing as has been the fashion for several years.

## Neck Ornaments.

Among the most striking novelties of the season are the neck ornaments, and though many of them are dainty and becoming, they are dangerous pitfalls for the unwary. The long, slender-necked woman can wear a high stock and toby-frill with the pleasant feeling that it suits her; but not so with the short-necked woman. The ruches so much in vogue, both big and little, offer the same difficulty, and the various knots in lace, ribbon, lawn, and so on, which look so well when fixed by deft fingers, are apt to look untidy if put on haphazard and without knowledge.

## Grass Green and Cherry Coloured Belts.

Belts of plaited rattias represent the latest addition to the smart tailor-made costume of the moment, the rattia being woven and interwoven in as many as nine or twelve strands and caught in front with a huge buckle of the same shape like the frame of a slate. As a matter of fact, the plaited belt is at the zenith of its popularity, and the same procedure is carried out in narrow thongs of leather in bright grass-green, cherry-colour, Nattier blue, or in fact in any shade designed to match the gown, green and cerise being the two favourite tones to accompany the costume.



GARDEN PARTY FROCKS.

Three designs, suitable for linen and cotton, are pictured. The first is a dress in pinkfrock style to wear with lingerie blouses, and is made of cool green linen, with green and white striped linen bands and buttons. The centre figure wears a simple little frock of spotted cotton material with white embroidery. The sleeve is cut in with the bodice giving a modified Japanese effect. The smart little coat and skirt costume is of a style suitable for linen or light twined. If the former, striped linen is used for trimming, and if the latter cross-cut striped silk is preferable.