

The World of Fashion.

By MARGUERITE.

TRULY the wardrobe of the fashionable woman of to-day is complex. There are so many and such different gowns required, and not only gowns but separate coats, waists and skirts. The number mounts to a sum total that is rather overwhelming when the amount of money to be expended on dress has to be considered. These are days of luxuries, however, and various luxuries so called of olden time have become necessities. Costumes consisting of coat and skirt are no longer possible of variation—that is, the coat cannot be worn with any but the skirt made to go with it, and if extra warmth is needed for the Princess or Empire gown a separate coat must be added.

Waists worn with skirts of a different colour or material are not considered smart. They cannot be entirely done away with, for they are too practical and useful; but a woman who cares at all for being gowned after the latest dictates of fashion would not consider herself, nor would she be considered, smartly turned out in a lingerie shirt waist with a long train skirt of silk, voile or chiffon, as the case might be. The lingerie waist or the plainer silk or linen shirt waist has its place. It is in accord with the coat and skirt costume, for travelling and for ordinary practical wear, but the all one colour gown is far smarter.

For this reason the separate coat that can be worn over any and every gown

is in great demand. It is being made up in all colours and materials. Even in hot weather the separate coat of linen or silk is worn in order to protect the gown, while the separate coat, that looks well with everything, is made with as much care and attention to detail as if it were part of the most elaborate costume.

Linen and Pongee Coats.

Linen and pongee coats to be worn with gowns to match are the same in nearly every respect as the long separate coats, but when the coat is made to match the gown the length and its lines are considered more from the point of looking well with the gown, while the separate coat is, as it were, a law unto itself. Buttons as trimmings still find admirers, and extremely smart pongee and cloth costumes are lavishly adorned (7) with them. The silk crochet button in varied sizes makes an effective finish and is used on the sleeves and the back. A touch of black, if well managed, is delightfully effective, and jet buttons are used in different shapes and sizes. To many spoil the smartest coat, and the fashion is in many respects a dangerous one, for, unfortunately, there are so many cheap varieties of buttons and the trimming costs so little the danger of exaggerating what originally was rather smart is too great. Lace trimmed and embroidered linen

and pongee coats are fascinatingly attractive. Irish lace can be used to great advantage, and while there is no limit as to the amount that can be utilized, a collar and cuffs of fine quality are often all that is needed to make an otherwise too simple coat elaborate enough to be worn with a smart afternoon frock. The heavy silk and pongee coats braided by hand and embroidered in silk floss and chenille are perfect in style and detail. They are only suitable for the more elaborate dress required for summer resort life or garden parties. So elaborate are many of them that they are really better suited for the simple sort of evening coat.

The woman who buys coats because she likes the clothes that are for sale will find this summer a new style of coat that is delightfully smart and at the same time is useful for driving or motoring. It is the loose white serge coat lined with polka dotted foulard. It is always large, besides being loose fitting, with the full at the back held in by a belt of the serge. It is fastened with pearl buttons and has a turn down collar faced with the same silk as the lining. The collar can be worn turned up if additional protection is desired. Light, warm, comfortable and easily slipped on, this is a style that will be smart for a long time. In spite of its severe simplicity it requires to be well cut and made, much more carefully than many a model that appears to be more elaborate, for if badly turned out it has no style whatever and resembles much more a bath wrapper than a driving coat.

The Pannier.

A dress sketched on this page shows with what complete charm the pannier can be adapted to modern use, and with what grace the bolero can be depended upon to play a part in the new scheme. Almond green drap de soie is the material of which use was made for the gown's development, and upon the under-skirt there was a motif of stitched green satin in an arabesque design. The panniers were arranged en tunique, with a bordering of bronze ball fringe, which fringe appeared also on the bolero, beneath which was a Marie Antoinette flou of ecru mousseline posed upon a guimpe of lace a shade paler in tint. The pointed belt and the big bow were made of bronze tissue to match the fringe, and a gown instinct with beauty and far different from any so far seen was the result.

Jackets Without Sleeves.

Will the sleeveless jacket arrive? I think it will, and that it will be a welcome addition to our comforts as well as to our appearance.

An exquisite model seen the other day of delicate cloud-grey chiffon, separated by bands of grey satin, entirely lined

with frills of white lace, was as pretty a choice as any woman could wish to make.

Greatly daring, the dressmakers are covering these flimsy jackets with silk soutache, so that very little of the background is apparent. Furthermore, they are so wonderfully fitted and fastened with such skill that they look as if they had been slipped over the head instead of having been hooked and eyed or buttoned in the usual prosaic manner.

There would seem to be an unwritten law in fashion's domain: at present to eliminate the button from the full dress scheme as far as it is possible to do so. They are to be relegated to the morning frock again. Buckles, yes; cabochon ornaments, yes; embroidered plaques, yes; but as a rule in the latest smart model, buttons, no.



HAT OF BURNT STRAW.

Trimmed with folds of spotted muslin hemmed with straw.

A NOVEL BLOUSE.

This is the most novel blouse we have come across for a long time. It should really be worn with a skirt of the same tone rather than with one of contrasting colour. Notice especially the quaint slashed sleeves, and the novel application of piping.



FOR SHANTUNG OR LINEN.

This is the sort of useful, yet smart blouse, in which one always feels comfortable. Notice the folds of striped silk used as trimming. Black and white striped silk is being much used in this way just now.



A gown of almond green drap de soie modelled in the new manner, with a pannier tunic, and a folded Marie Antoinette flou beneath a bolero edged with ball fringe.