

THE WORLD OF FASHION.

By MARGUERITE

Neckwear is always very dear to the average woman's heart. The dressing of her neck either makes or mars her whole toilet, and it behoves her to be very careful in her choice. Dame Fashion is ever devising new schemes of treatment for adornment. According to the latest arrangement the stiff linen collar is doomed, and in its stead an abundance of fussy contrivances formed of lace, muslin, net and ribbon, are used. Soft, rich lace is a beautifier, and will soften the complexion exquisitely. If the throat is beyond the art of skilful masseuse, then swathe it in soft, flimsy, gossamer-like lace. No matter how hard the lines, this frail bit of cobwebby material acts like the retouching pencil on a photographic proof. The Cavalier tie will be worn in the spring. It is a very long scarf of white mousseline de soie, with encrustations of yellow lace upon it, and richly laced ends. Another of the pretty "concoits" for adorning the bodice is the net fichu which envelops the shoulders, finishing in front with a chon, and long ends falling half-way down the skirt.

An entirely new collar is made high—and in some cases it is pointed at each side—of velvet studded with glistening jets and nail-heads and cut steel, and having a graduated jet fringe falling from the lower edge. Collars of heavy crossgrain silk with jet and cut steel associated and steel fringe are also seen, while others are represented made of mousseline de soie embroidered in spangles and jets, with the fringe of heavy jet arranged in graduated or undulating style. This particular neck adornment will be sure to meet with approval, for the jet collars worn a long while ago were given up reluctantly.

The wide belts or ceintures are revived on the newest gowns. They really give the appearance of a slim figure, more than the narrow belt does.

Patriotic feeling is now shown by the trinkets worn, for I see that in some of the jewellers' shops little "brevets" or charms for the watch-chain or bracelets are being sold, containing tiny portraits of the various generals or officers out at the front.

A single jewel worn on a slender chain around the throat is a pretty new fashion.

The latest with regard to gloves is that the glace kids in the palest straw, biscuit and pearl grey are being sold for afternoon affairs, to be worn with dainty costumes.

In hosiery the latest novelty is a mingling of blue and purple silk and wool. There is a suggestion of plaid about the pattern of the stocking, but not by any means of a disagreeably blatant type.

Lace-fronted silk stockings for evening wear, very naturally still play a part of triumph among the exclusive few who can afford to buy them. The lace is applied on to the silk, and beautiful patterns are chosen with a view to lengthening the look of the foot and to accentuating the delicacy of the ankle.

There is a novelty at the present moment in millinery floriculture—which, though as airy inconsistent as most of the floral decorations of

instances, two very smart models interviewed recently were: First, a cherry-coloured areoplane (that old-world revived transparent) covered hat, with decorations of cherry blossom and cherries. The other was a drawn tulle shape of celery colour (a new shade), with runnings of black velvet hebe ribbon, and groups of blackberry blossom and blackberries. As no modish wardrobe this season will be complete without a black picture hat of some kind, in this figure we introduce out of many shown us, one which was a compromise between hat and toque, and therefore a form that might recommend itself to those who may not find one or the other specially becoming. This is built entirely of black chiffon on the broad lines so becoming to most faces. It is sprinkled over with tiny cut steel beads, the broad bows across the front being held by a cut steel buckle, and an aigrette of black ostrich feathers completes the left side.

A species of somewhat exaggerated sailor shape, either entirely swathed in one of the various transparencies now in vogue, or of fancy straw much trimmed, are obtaining just now, and are worn tilted up on the left side with a chon of some kind beneath the brim.



TWO EVENING BODICES.

This is just the season of the year at which oddities do make their appearance; it is so necessary to produce and show something out of the common at the turn of the seasons.

Often an idea that is highly sensational is made, simply to filter away into oblivion after a while, though there are some people who will insist upon purchasing such vagaries and make themselves look ugly by wearing them.

I like the chenille hats greatly. They are as soft as wool, and excessively becoming.

the newest pouched bodices are, and finished by a knot tie of white satin with lace insertion ends. A pretty toque is also shown here of grey tulle and pink poppies.

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Black and white effects still hold their own, and in Paris are being largely used for evening dresses. I made a sketch for you at one of the leading modistes here, which you will see in the column, of a dress made en tunique of black tulle Chantilly, encrusted with white lace and draped over white satin.

The tunic opened over a skirt of white mousseline de soie arranged in little billows. Tiny velvet ribbons were threaded through the lace. This is a vogue we admire immensely at the present time.

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TWO EVENING BODICES.

I paid a visit this week to a great couturiere, and truly I think if we choose the prettiest of the fashions, leaving the ugly ones alone, we may say that the fashions are very pretty indeed. (Charming was a gown of rough pinky-red tweed, the skirt elaborately stitched by the knees in a V



STITCHED PEAU DE SOIE AND GERANIUMS.

MILLINERY TO BUY, AND SOME TO AVOID.

This pictured hat is trimmed with a big bunch of geraniums, and is one of the most becoming of models, with a brim that is shaped most prettily and composed of dove-coloured peau de soie stitched with geranium-coloured silk. A soft sash of pink mousseline de soie wreathes the crown and angles with the blossoms.

There is a new rage in the shop windows for pastel flowers, which means that the blossoms are carried out in impossibly soft shades never seen in nature.

In effect they are faded-looking, and by no means attractive, especially in the cheaper varieties. Another positive furore that seems to have attacked the shop windows at present is a display of vine leaves and grapes. There, let us hope, the majority of the vintage may stay; it is no easy to overdo this sort of decoration on a chapman.

But there are the most wonderful specimens of headgear to be seen now. Some discrimination needs to be used in making a choice among them, for one should hardly burden one's heart against eccentricities purely because they are new.

A smart little bodice of fine black cloth makes its bow in this figure. It



BLACK CLOTH AND WHITE SATIN. It is cut with low neck and round collar to show an under collar of white satin overlaid with white guipure lace gathered slightly at the bust as some of



LACE THREADED THROUGH WITH VELVET RIBBONS.

shape, oft repeated, the back in a series of pleats, pressed down and machined at the top and left to fall lower down. The bodice took the bolero form, straight round at the back, but cut with a couple of spaded fronts either side. This turned back with double revers, the under ones of cloth plainly stitched, the upper ones of white watered silk, beautifully and minutely embroidered in faint coloured silks. These revers were like exquisite little handkerchiefs cut in half. The front of the bodice was of soft white lisse with lace over it, the collar of the same, and the sleeves were long and tight, falling in a rounded point over the hand. I greatly admired the two high evening bodices sketched here. The first is of cream-coloured panne covered with applications of white embroidery. Frills of cream lace form a kind of over-bodice, with little draperies of tulle above them. The other bodice is a little bolero of white taffeta, embroidered with little gatherings of ruches of white tulle, and embroidered flowers in soft colours. The vest is of pleated chiffon and the high centre of soft folds of pink and green ribbon tied in a knot at the side. You see everything is hand embroidered; everything bears traces of fine stitch-



BLACK CHIFFON AND STEEL.

up-to-date millinery we must content to thinking pretty. This is a bonnet of fruit blossom combined with bunches of its ultimate fruit. As