

The World of Fashion.

By MARGUERITE.

Some Novel Coats and Skirts.

HERE is much that is very attractive and charming about the new coats and skirts for the early winter. Their shapes are not nearly so exaggerated as they were last year, and although some of the skirts still show an undesirable tendency to curve inwards round the ankles, the greater number of them are fully pleated. Sometimes these pleats are continued all the way round, but in other instances they appear on either side, while the skirts are finished back and front, with broad, plain panels of material. All the new coats are very much shorter than they were last season, a rule which they will follow without exception when they are intended to make part of coat and skirt costumes.

Certain travelling wraps, however, intended to be worn with skirts in different materials, will be long enough to reach almost to the feet, and will be fastened low down, and with very large buttons. The coats for ordinary, everyday wear, on the other hand, will certainly stop short, halfway between the waist and the knees. That they gain immensely in smartness by so doing, the new costumes most conclusively prove. To nine women out of ten, also, a comparatively short coat is infinitely more becoming than a very long one.

Fine navy serge is one of the favourite fabrics for the new coats and skirts, and it is being trimmed once again with black silk braid in various widths, and with large braided buttons. A neat little gown on these lines has a fully-pleated skirt, and a very becoming coat, arranged in a semi-fitting Russian shape, with long basques cut up into a number of panels, each panel being braided in a very elaborate design. The slight fullness at the waist is held in by a patent leather belt, fastened with a dull gold buckle, while a very effective touch of colour is given to the costume by a collar of emerald green velvet, adorned with small gold buttons.

On other coats in navy serge, soft shantung silks are being used for collars, revers and cuffs, patterned with quaint oriental signs in Paisley colourings. The delicate shades shown in these shantung silks harmonise wonderfully well with the blue of the navy serge, and, in some instances, "three-piece" costumes, as they are called, are being prepared, arranged with pleated skirts, either trimmed with black silk braid or hemmed with black satin; very pretty close-fitting bodices, braided also, and arranged with chemisettes of the printed shantung silk; and neat coats, to complete the picture, finished with printed silk revers and small turn-over collars of embroidered lawn, edged with lace.

Costumes of natural shantung in coat and skirt style will also be useful, with the skirts a short walking length and the coats turned back with black satin revers. Afternoon frocks are being made in soft satin, and with perfectly plain skirts, trimmed only on the side seams, with rows of small round buttons. The seamless bodices are fastened on each shoulder with similar buttons, and finished at the waist with the usual grille of silk cord. Small round turn-down collars made in fine white muslin, daintily embroidered and edged with lace, look well with these plain satin bodices, while the sleeves, which are long and close-fitting are turned back at the wrists with tiny cuffs in lace-trimmed muslin to match the collars. These satin gowns are particularly pretty in pale shades of chestnut brown or willow-green unrelieved by any touch of contrasting colour.

In the accompanying illustration a very pretty suggestion is given for a white chiffon ball-dress, designed on lines that are entirely new and exceedingly graceful, since they emphasise pleasantly the slim, straight silhouette still demanded by Madame La Mode, but without giving way to anything foolish in the way of exaggeration. The three flounces of fully pleated chiffon, which finish the lower part of the skirt show the revival of a very pretty old-world fashion, and one which will probably assert itself

later on, in the case of afternoon frocks also, especially when they are carried out in soft satin and in crepe de chine.

The topmost flounce of the three is bordered with a garland of silver tissue roses, the centre of each flower being made in satin, chosen in a very pale shade of pink. The waist is outlined with the same decorative blossoms, arranged above a little frill of chiffon. The short sleeves are trimmed in a similar way with roses, while the whole of the under bodice is made in silver lace, veiled lightly with chiffon and finished in a most becoming fashion with a trellis-work of silver ribbon, held in place by single pearls.

Other dainty dance-frocks in soft bright satin are worn with long tunics of transparent net, bordered with pearl and crystal bugle embroidery, and sometimes arranged with sash-like draperies, brought round from the back and loosely knotted together in front, where they are finished with pearl and crystal tassels. The bodices of these gowns have very often a draped fichu effect of net and embroidery on one side only, weighted with a diamond tassel, while on the opposite side there are some severely simple folds of satin swathed closely to the figure and drawn down at the waist, under one of those girdles of silver cord, which, with their long tasselled ends, give so quaint a finish to many of the smartest of the new evening gowns.

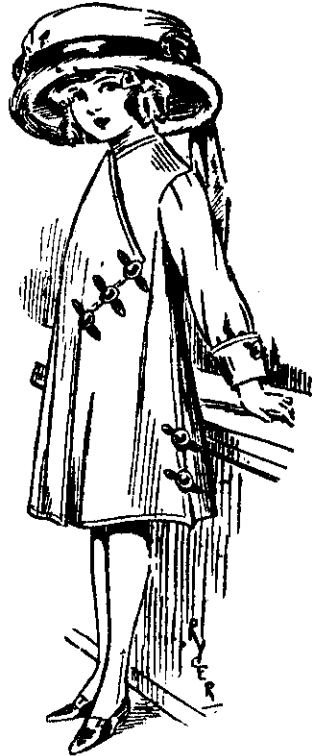


A NOVEL BALL-GOWN.

The Coming Vogue for Lace.

Good real laces, it goes without saying are never actually out of fashion, although from time to time they seem to suffer from a temporary eclipse, during which periods they are left to waste their sweetness in wardrobes and

berthes to correspond in design with the flounces on the skirts. An evening frock in ivory-white satin, well in advance of the more ordinary kind of London fashions, displays a very graceful skirt which is lightly gathered into the waist and finished there with a chine ribbon sash. The hem of the skirt is outlined with a deep flounce of the finest point d'Alencon lace, an heir-loom of considerable historic interest. The head of the flounce effectively outlined with garlands of tiny roses in pale pink chiffon, and trails of miniature forlidge in green China silk ribbon. A voluminous fichu of Alencon lace, matching the flounces, is draped lightly round the shoulders, the long ends being drawn in front under the chine ribbon waist-belt.



A CHILD'S COAT.

In White Cloth with Buttons and Loops of Brown Satin.

drawers, being brought out occasionally only for a brief inspection in the light of day.

Now, however, we have changed all that, and there seems every reason to hope that the coming Coronation season will be most emphatically a season of lace. The latest mode for instance, so far as evening gowns are concerned, shows a distinct tendency towards the arrangement of frocks with double skirts the upper one slightly draped, with a view to giving a slim outline to the figure but bordered at the same time with a deep flounce of lace. The bodices naturally are bordered with real lace

FASHIONLAND.

FASHION NOTES FROM LONDON.

LONDON, February 10.

It is somewhat of a marvel to me that in this age of remarkable imitations, counterfeit sunshine has never been patented by an enterprising commercial philosopher. It is hard, perhaps, for a person who has not lived in the heavy and depressing atmosphere of a London winter, to imagine the extraordinarily vivifying effect of a sudden day of sunshine. The blessed radiance seems to affect everything, generally "buck it up," and instil a wonderful interest into all things one has to do with.

We have had a little sunshine lately, and about a fortnight's fine weather, and for such small mercies one learns to be grateful indeed. The shops quickly respond to the mood of the weather, and dainty delights greet the feminine eye on all sides now.

Hats, dear reader, let me tell you, by way of a preliminary, are not only large, but very, very large, though Madame Fashion has permitted us quite an unusual freedom in following her, for some of the new spring models are also moderate in size and in trimming. Black lace veils are to be worn with bright coloured straw hats, and huge clusters of flowers provide the most popular trimming.

A large shop in Kensington is showing very pretty tennis gowns, made of vivella, finished off with buttons and belt of cloth and suede combined, to match.

At last two beautiful—and these very beautiful—styles of gowns are prepared for the Englishwoman if she will but buy them, and recognise that all her most graceful and lovable attributes will be accentuated by them. These are Puritan and Quaker dresses, designed in the rich and soft silks so much seen now.

One model I was shown on Tuesday was of dove-coloured charmeuse, the elbow sleeves turned back with Irish lace sewn plainly on. The skirt was in simple tunic fashion, the overskirt open

A 1911 GOWN NEEDS A 1911 CORSET

The Gown and the Corset should always work in harmony. If the Corset is one of the New

ROYAL

P.D.

RUSTPROOF MODELS

They will.

P.D.'s are correctly designed, and are accordingly comfortable.

They add a distinct charm to the Figure.

P.D. Royal Self-Reducing Corsets are procurable from all leading drapers.

