

The World of Fashion.

By MARGUERITE.

Flowers and Plumes.

COMING back to fashion pure and simple (these two terms are not to be taken literally), this is to be a year of flowers and plumes. The latter fashion will be welcome by British manufacturers, for it is well known that Great Britain is the world's market for South African and Aden ostrich feathers, and since the King and Queen have given by the expression of their wish and their high example a new impetus to the home manufacture of all sorts of materials and ornaments, to every branch of industry connected with feminine and masculine wear, we are simply expecting wonders to come out of British factories.

Evening Dresses.

Whatever is to come, at the present moment the rage for high-waisted gowns has overtaken everybody. The Josephine models are the most "recherches"—this is the kind of dress that the Empress Josephine used to wear, loosely hanging from under the bust on a corsetless figure. Although these toilettes are apparently simple there is hardly anything more costly than the trimmings, half hidden, half-revealed, that adorn them. There are no petticoats worn, but underslips which are little works of art in themselves. They are filmy things of tulle or mousseline de soie, with lace insertions and drawn ribbons faintly seen in transparency. White ninon is preferred for the making of young girls' evening dresses with touches of colour, but not vivid touches, just a hint of pastel blue or rose, unless that girl is of a very decided type which requires special setting. For instance, we all know that the blue-eyed girl, with golden hair, looks well with wreaths of forget-me-nots on her head, and bunches of that pretty little flower on the dress; but much more difficult is the green-eyed type of girl with black hair. If her complexion permits it she will look well in unrelieved creamy white; if not, the trimming of the gown could be of green matching the colour of her eyes, and a wreath of green leaves would certainly be becoming. If she is tall and stately, no longer a "flapper," old gold embroideries following a Greek key pattern on a palm design, will harmonise well with her style.

As for the very dark girl, she is more favoured than usual this year, as the two prominent colours, purple and scarlet, are both very becoming to her, and she can stand the mixing of them better than the fair-haired woman. Of course, one can always obviate this slight disadvantage by wearing bunches of sweet peas, roses and violets far enough from the face not to clash with the colour of the hair.

Revivals.

One of the revivals which is worth mentioning just now is the vogue for piping. Nearly every coat or gown has its edges and seams subjected to this process nowadays, and it is one of the fancies of the moment, that navy serge shall be piped with linen, or, as an alternative, with a striped black and white silk. As a matter of fact it represents a means of bringing a very attractive note of colour into the scheme, while in some cases the dressmaker or the tailor is far from content with a single piping, and no fewer than three are introduced into the toilette, only one of which is in the same colour as the gown. Even muslin frocks will be piped with linen so soon as the time comes round for the wearing of such filmy fabrics, and very pretty some of these frocks will be piped with striped linen and supplemented with the daintiest of little cross-over pelerines, which are folded over the bust and terminate behind in a couple of little tabs.

NEW WRAPS.

Sometimes the denure little one-piece frocks of blue serge, which are preceding the muslin period, are supplemented with these pelerines to match, likewise fashioned in serge, or as an alternative carried out in navy blue satin, while their only adornment consists of a couple of

buttons in gold or gun-metal of giant size, which provide the fastenings.

THE SINGLE REVERS.

With the serge costumes, too, there is an increasing vogue for one single and very large soft revers, brought across the chest and carried out in the colour with which the gown is trimmed or piped. Occasionally this is partially buried under another revers of pure white embroidered lawn edged with lace, while little lawn cuffs to match are likewise introduced.

AN OLD FRIEND.

Terry velvet is extensively used for hats this year.

This is such an old friend, and leads itself so attractively to the trimming of this season's headgear, that the milliner has taken to it with enthusiasm. In the days of our grandmothers this represented quite an indispensable part of the modiste's addenda, and white Victorian bon-

nets, trimmed with Terry velvet ribbon and moss rosebuds, constituted the going-away headgear of many a bride in those days. This year there are pure white Dunstable straw hats, trimmed with broad white Terry velvet ribbon stretched right across the front of the brim, and disappearing under it on either side. The lining is of black velvet, while a wreath of white velvet poppies follows the line of the ribbon right across the front.

The coat with Capuchin hood has proved a very welcome innovation to many women. It represents a decided change from the up and down type of costume of last season, and little granite-grey tweed costumes with huge Capuchin hoods lined with mint or lizard green bengaline represent the favourite schemes, and have a decidedly smart appearance on a bright morning in April.

Another alliance which is equally favoured is the costume of black cloth with panels of royal blue satin spliced into the skirt. Another panel is repeated at the back of the coat, while the Capuchin hood is lined with royal blue satin to correspond. The objection which many women find to these costumes with Capuchin hoods is, however, that they hide the neat line from the neck to the arm.

Notes for Women.

WOMEN "FIREMEN."

Burton-on-Trent boasts a ladies' fire-brigade.

The organiser of the new departure is Miss Gooch, a daughter of the superintendent of the Municipal Fire Brigade. Her idea is that girls and young women should be efficiently taught fire drill and life saving in the event of an outbreak, so that personal danger from fire might be minimised both in the work-shop and the home.

Some eighteen or twenty young people responded to her call, and for some time they have utilised the borough fire station for their drill. They have mounted the escapes, scaled tall ladders, slid down shuttles, run out the hose, and performed all manner of evolutions associated with the rapid extinguishing of fire and the saving of life.

They have also been taught to quickly attach the horses to the engine, and with such alacrity and thoroughness have the ladies gone through their drill that they are shortly to give a public exhibition on the principal football and sports ground in the town.



The lady with the bag wears a pretty dress in pinafore style which would look well in fine cashmere or Shantung, plain and striped. The dress buttons down each side, and has a small guimpe and under-sleeves of lace. The newest and smartest leather wraps are the lancer boots, which show the drooping effect that has been so much in evidence on hats for some time. One is pictured here, and, as may be supposed, it is a most becoming adjunct to a spring toque. A good design for a coat is given. This, in fine, pale coloured face cloth or Shantung, would be successful with black satin facings. Below this is a becoming hat in sage-blue Tugai. The crown is surrounded with exquisite blue forget-me-nots, and a bunch of velvet cherries and high cerise osprey adorns the right side.