

# The World of Fashion.

By MARGUERITE.

ALL women are discussing the subject of spring and summer frocks, frills, and furbelows at the moment, and as a consequence the width of the skirt comes in for a considerable amount of attention. The consensus of opinion of the creators of fashion is that the fourreau will be a trifle fuller than heretofore, but that the slender effect will be masked to a certain extent by soft draperies. There will be no revolution in the world of dress; as a matter of fact, many of the dresses that made their debut last year, with slight modification, can still be worn with the comfortable assurance that they are not demode. For instance, a dress of soft charmeuse built on Princess lines can receive a new

lease of life by the addition of a ninon, embroidered net, or charmeuse drapery of a contrasting shade or black. Imagine the basis of the gown to be old gold (no matter whether it be charmeuse or cashmere), the corsage at the back can be relieved with a half diamond-shaped empiècement of black, the point at the nape of the neck; then from the waist-line would spring a drapery of a black material that would carefully avoid the hips, but would be carried round to the front just a few inches above the hem. Indeed, the idea is a poisonise in the vicinity of the knees.

### A Threatened Revival.

A threatened revival is that of the "bustle," but in its latest guise it is totally different to its prototype of

of 1830 so attractive, are being revived in the realm of house-frocks, and no longer is the length of the skirt abbreviated. It rests on the ground all round, side trains being quite a feature; but where tailor-mades are concerned *La Mode* is pursuing quite a different route, the short skirt, about 2 1/2 yds wide, being accepted.

### Dutch Aprons.

No longer does the white apron of transparent materials, trimmed with frivolous ribbons and many lace frills, reign supreme as a skirt protector at chaffing dish parties. For the once the Dutch apron is in possession of the fabled field, and every girl who cannot afford one of the imported specimens made of dark blue, green, yellow or red sateen, with a printed border in a contrasting dull hue, that is half the depth of the entire accessory, does the next best thing and makes her apron of whatever material she has at hand. The border, printed Holland sateen, is about 2 1/4 in wide, and has the decoration along one edge, so that the work of making

than the imported Holland sateen are used, and many girls prefer the transparent tabliers of dark-hued chiffon or mousseline de soie, with a wide printed border, while other apron-makers are applying the borders of foulards to plain coloured surah or China silk. The main thing is to have the foundation of the apron—never longer than 20 in when finished—of a dark and dull shade and the border of a decided pattern and an entirely different colour.

### Modes for Spring.

Many of the smartest and newest costumes are made in sponge—that fascinating material resembling more closely Turkish towelling than the other abstruse adjunct which the name indicates. This cloth—if one may call it so—is light in weight and so open that it is exactly suited for spring costumes. It should be chosen for coats and skirts of the less severe type, as it is not beloved by the tailor on account of its somewhat stretchy qualities.

A costume like the one pictured on the left, is a good style for sponge. The loose little coat, full of slightly into a narrow belt, the Magyar sleeve, and floppy rever are details detested by the tailor, and, as a rule, successfully carried out by the clever dressmaker.

Berge colour is suggested, as this is one of the most successful shades in the material mentioned. The narrow belt is of golden brown suede, and the touch of embroidery on the one pointed rever is in Indian red, shades of blue, and a few threads of gold.

A pretty design for a simple morning dress is pictured at the top. This, in linen, cotton, poplin, or shantung would be charming, with a lace collar and buttons of a contrasting shade.

A flower-trimmed hat is sure of a welcome this month, and the one in the picture is of sand-coloured tulle, with cerise velvet ribbon and large single violets in a becoming shade of bluey mauve.

The pretty little silk coats which are just appearing are shiny garments, easily made. Imagine the one sketched fashioned in soft old blue taffetas worn over a frock of figured ninon or voile, in which the shade of blue predominates, relieved by touches of rose pink and green. Imagine the same little coat worn over a white lingerie dress, muslin, and broderie Anglaise, or, for that matter, over any pretty pale summer frock of a colour to harmonise, and you will see that this little addition to the wardrobe is a useful as well as a delightfully ornamental possession.



MODES FOR SPRING.

three decades ago. The fourreau of the dress has no undulation, and the draperies of ninon or other diaphanous material are arranged in folds to suggest this quaint little device. The young girl has had her linings, and now it is the turn of the woman who is entering the autumn of life. The shawl, the cape, and all those tribes that made the shapes

one of these aprons consists of narrowly hemming the two sides, turning over the top edge and shirring it three times across, thus forming a half-inch frill and two half-inch deep puffs against the front of the waist. The Dutch apron has no strings, but is secured to the belt by fancy pins, preferably of Dutch silver and handiwork. But materials other

### Fashion Notes from London.

LONDON, August 2

With the marvellous celerity with which such things can be managed in London sales, last week hives teeming with excited human beings tempted with the honeyed significance of "Half-price" goods, are now as if they never had been in most shops, and the business of the hour is receiving all attention. This, though dock strikes may wage and women and children to the number of terrible thousands be actually starving, seems to be the idea that August being another name for the holiday month, provision must be made for holidays. So the shops that decide to cater for the great middle-classes spread themselves, like fascinating peacocks, with all the colours of the rainbow fashioned into bathing gowns and caps. The sight of a beach may be enjoyed in an Oxford Street shop as a background for the newest things in elaborate bathing tents, smart gowns, and dressing-gowns, and new beach gowns, while those exclusive emporiums that send the class above fitted out as it should be, might not be in London at all, but set up on the purple leather, with mountains and streams around—new coats and skirts and soft tweed hats, business-like gloves and boots proclaim the glory of the moors, or the wiles of the streams where trout tantalise.

### For the Stay-at-Home.

If there is a decisive note sounded concerning fashion, it is merely the dictum that we must not, on any account, be guilty of the indiscretion of wearing blouses that do not match our skirts. Farewell to the fascinations of white lawn or net, the cool delightfulness of blue or pink, save we are in skirts of white, blue, or pink!

Fortunately, the New Zealand woman is too busy and too practical to let herself be much affected by the rules that sway Bond Street. There is this to be said,