

Cofitures a la Mode.

A demand for a closer style of hair-dressing has been the result of the small brimless hats in vogue at present. The placing of the ringlets, and the style in which the hair is parted and coiled and twisted, is rather a more decided revival

lovers of modish dress. And charming as they are, and belonging as they do to a day of more opulent and of flowing outline, details they are, and details they must remain. Moreover, they must be used sparingly, scantily; they must be flattened, suppressed. If your hair is

pierre" frills to the coatee, and the neck arrangement of the corsage. The shady hat in paille d'Italie is wreathed in roses, and veiled in tulle.

The flower of the moment—for the fashion in flowers is as exigent and as changing as the form of a hat, is the dahlia, not the dahlia with its edges as regular as though done by machinery, but the dahlia dactyl, with ragged petals, like a chrysanthemum. In all their gorgeous colourings, they are carefully selected for the costume with which they are intended to be worn, but the favourite is the odd, nearly black-red kind.

"And him?"
 "Quite well gain. Here's his portrait front view."
 "Why, it's you!" she cried when she saw it; and then as realisation dawned upon her: "Oh!"
 The preliminaries had evidently made her very interested, not to say entranced, and I got on with the business without delay. No flowers by request.—Theta.



This blouse is designed in soft Carmine violet linen and embroidery.

of the days of 1830 than any so far accepted. Bunches of curls are freely donned, and the way in which they are finished with wide bands of velvet, ornamented with designs in French paste, is becoming to most faces. A French custom of making a short parting, and bringing rolls, lightly puffed, well to the front of the head, is very neat, and some designers are boldly showing hats which could be wearable only with a short fringe of nicely-burnished and lightly-curling hair. A tendency is shown to cover the upper part of the ears with the hair arrangement, hence the taste for long earrings in coloured pearl-shaped jewels, or the revival of filigree work with coloured stones inset.

more material in it than of yore, it must be so limp and arranged to cling so closely, that the silhouette shows none of the addition.

Our Sketch.

Perhaps the most charming representation of the latest word is pictured in the walking gown of our sketch on this page in lilac spotted shantung crepe, with apricot velvet cuffs to the half-length sleeves, the lower part of the corsage being of the same delectable fabric. The skirt is quite plain and long, the hem being cut in scallops, as is also the long "Robes-

Varieties in the Modes.

For the woman who must be practical, though she may yearn to plunge into fashion follies, chic simplicity is a better key-note than daring originality, and it is easy to sound this note at the moment. Never were prettier things worn that would come under this head than are seen at the moment here, there, and everywhere; and many of the models are really not beyond the talents of a second-rate dressmaker provided the idea is furnished her. White serge is always a feature of the summer wardrobe, and while each season brings out admirable models in this material, this summer showing is more than usually attractive. In Paris, during the gay season, white serge has been seen in many odd phases. The famous makers have, for instance, combined woollen materials with the finest linen, letting the cool lingerie material form the upper part of the bodice and sleeves, and perhaps a plaited or dented or embroidered skirt or petticoat under a tunic of white serge.

In the realm of details, I may mention that the so-called pomiers though they go by that name, their draperies are not really pomiers at all, have brought with them in their train a thousand and one dainty trills. There is, for example, a collection of the prettiest little lace blouses and trills, of tiny flower wreaths, of the dearest little bows, tiny quiltings and platings, fascinating bay rattles, sleeves, collars, narrow fringes, hats, rose-wreaths, and then smothered in swirling tulle, pelerines, sashes, the note of black velvet, and ostrich tips; wonderfully pretty noisins, linens, lovely in texture and colour, silks, beautiful, supple, and lustrous, embroideries, hosts of trimmings, many of them comparatively or literally inexpensive. Yes, truly, this is a season of opportunities for



LA FLEUR A LA MODE.

How I Proposed.

"In love affairs it is the preliminaries that are entrancing to most women."—Recent Novel.

"I have here," I began, as I entered the room, "a few—"
 "Commercial gentlemen," she interrupted, "are not seen after four o'clock."

"I have," I went on, heeding not the interruption, "a few photographs which may interest you. Number one;" and I handed it to her without, however, provoking any enthusiasm.

"Back view of a gentleman brushing his hair," was all she said.

"Note the care he is taking over the job!" I implored. "See the Blankson's Brilliantine, makes Parting a Pleasure, in the left-hand corner."

"I'll drink some next time I have to pay a dressmaker," she said, I handed her the second picture.

"Same gentleman and same hair at a later stage," I explained.

"Looks as though he were using a spirit-level to see if the parting's straight."

"That's a comb really," I explained again. "Of course, you guess that the man is anxious to look his best."

"Yes; but I don't see how it concerns me."

"You will soon. Here's the third portrait. Same back view selecting a tie."

"Natty neckwear!" she murmured. "What a vivid picture! I can see the pins and needles in his legs from standing so long in meditation."

"No; those are faults in the plate. Here he is tying the thing. Observe the anxious look on the bit of his forehead visible in the mirror."

"What's he standing so awkwardly for?" she asked.

"To avoid damage to the centre crease of his trousers. Here again you have him choosing his waistcoat. Shall he wear the stripes of an adoring tiger, or the spots of a love-lorn leopard?"

"Why love-lorn?"
 "Haven't you guessed that he was going to see a girl?"

"Oh, how exciting!" she exclaimed. "Do I know her?"
 "Quite well."

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