

The World of Fashion.

By MARGUERITE

The Advent of the Waistcoat.

THE waistcoat has even found its way into the realm of rest-gowns in alliance with the bolero. Hence there is a host of possibilities to explore in the converting of an evening dress into one of these most desirable possessions, especially as there are signs on the horizon that black velvet or velveteen will lead the van for the bolero, and that the front of the corsage of the dress will be arranged as a waistcoat. All complicated fastenings can easily be abandoned, and the dress made to do up in front. Waistcoats of all kinds will be very fashionable with tailor suits, as well as in afternoon gowns. In the latter they will be surmounted by a lace vest, which will be cut in a V, thereby revealing the base of the column of the throat. That the majority of skirts will be slightly draped across to the left side is a foregone conclusion; but the woman with a limited dress allowance will be well advised to have those of her tailored suits made almost plain, as thereby they do not become dated. Blue serge and whipcord will be extensively worn; and as Turkish towelling under many names proved to even the most sceptical its admirable wearing qualities, it is sure to enjoy a period of prosperity. It never looks better than in a pale grey or navy blue.

Victorian Sleeves.

Many Victorian fashions are being revived and modified to suit our present tastes. The sleeve, of different material from the rest of the frock, was a great favourite in those days, and this idea is again being used in modern dress. A poplin Viola frock in apricot crepe-poplin showed sleeves of black satin. There was really a little coat-like corsage of black satin, but this was almost hidden by prettily-shaped pieces of the apricot poplin, which fastened just below each shoulder with a large button. Underneath was a delicate blouse of white Valenciennes lace, with pipings of pink velvet, and a pretty lace collar fell in deep points over each shoulder. The skirt was very new. It opened in front-cut-away fashion—over an underskirt of the same material. Graceful draperies starting with stitched pleats just about the knees were taken low down round each side and into the back. A pretty touch was given by a rather high waistbelt of black satin, over the front of which came two slender crossed straps of the poplin. These straps were really a continuation of the skirt and formed an artistic connecting link between the skirt and corsage.

Green, appropriately enough, is to be one of the most, if not quite the most, popular colours this season. It will be seen in every possible shade, from the vivid emerald down to the palest "till-a." There are still a number of people who consider green an unlucky



neck into a very becoming Medici collar. Over this comes a slip of cream muslin, slashed at each side to show the lace, and faced back with pale blue muslin revers, fastened with a black velvet bow. The long close-fitting sleeve is of doubled muslin, set into the shoulder seams with a piping of pale blue.

A row of tiny crystal buttons ornaments the front and cuffs and one side of each slashing, the opposite side being worked in pale blue silk to simulate button-holes.

The cuffs are finished with a frill of soft lace and a row of the same buttons. Remember to sew the latter on with blue silk, as it greatly improves their appearance.

The other blouse is for evening wear, and, carried out in net or muslin, will be most becoming. —Flash pink muslin, with black lace at the waist and a deep frill of fine white lace at the neck, would look charming. The belt should be of black velvet, ornamented with a spray of satin roses. This would look equally well in cream flowered net, lined with chiffon and a touch of some brilliant colour—purple or orange—at the waist.

Fashion Notes from London.

LONDON, April 11.

No sooner does one envisage fashion than fashion becomes a thing to be desired and an actual necessity. But this, it must be recognized, is only tantamount to saying that fashion has vices and virtues, and we probably appeal to its virtues because of a vice.

"This spring shall be a time of gorgeous colour," Fashion, the Virtuoso, appears to have ordained when grey winter departed with no requiem. "Let it be so!" Fashion the Jade appears to have answered softly; then shouted behind the other's back, "Well run amok!"

The Jade has it, evidently, and if we're not in a few weeks a collection of rainbows there'll be much for which to be grateful.

There's something about the average Englishwoman that makes her appearance rather repulsive as a rainbow, as if she were selling her birthright of dignity and freshness for a mess of Oriental unsuitability and ludicrous striving after what she is much more attractive without.

A riot of colour is less crude-looking than the singling out of two or three naturally antagonistic shades, half a dozen colours consenting to meet each other with less disastrous results than two or three enemies called on to spend their entire time together. And a discretion in materials saves trouble. Why should flowers be compelled to look their best when sharing honours with feathers, tulle, berries, and velvet?

"Noddars."

From the craze for attenuated feather marks of interrogation as military training we are flown to embellishments that nod in a manner that in its novelty is rather piquant, but that we shall soon hail maddening.

On the top of a twelve-inch wired stem occur all sorts of things, a couple of silk

colour, but now that it is to be the fashion I expect their foolish superstition will vanish. Far more worthy of respect is the woman who refuses to wear green on account of its unbecomingness. There are some skins which seem to lose all their delicate freshness when put in close proximity to green, and when this is the case the colour, however fashionable, should always be strictly tabooed.

Two Charming Blouses.

There is nothing in the world so useful as a tailor-made coat and skirt. In conjunction with a silk or flannel shirt, it is the most practical wear for the morning's shopping expedition or business hours, while a more elaborate blouse will make it quite smart enough for afternoon teas and such-like mild festivities. Nearly every woman possesses a tailor-made of some kind, so just now the question will be what kind of blouse is most becoming. Many girls are capable of turning out delightful confections for themselves, for with a couple of yards of satin and a little ingenuity there is no end to the variety of designs that can be carried out. This week, therefore, I am giving you two ideas for "best" blouses that any one of you can make yourselves at home.




The first model—that on the upright figure—is made of all-over lace, either shadow or Valenciennes, a kind of under-bodice, stopping short at the piped armhole and continuing up the



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