

## Chat of the Boudoir.

THE NEW SPRING HATS.

There is no subject which so interests the fashionable world as spring millinery. At all times millinery is attractive to women, but the spring hat is of peculiar fascination, probably because it is so utterly different from the necessarily heavier, darker hat that obtains during the fall and winter seasons. Velvet and plumes are lovely in their own way, but there is a charm about airy creations of chiffon, lace and flowers that appeal irresistibly to a woman. The appearance of the spring millinery is to her a sign that the reign of winter is over, and that long, warm summer days, in which she can array herself in colors like the flowers of the field are not far off. Then there is always a curiosity as to the changes in styles, colors and materials, and a desire to know whether the latest colors or shapes will be suitable to her particular individuality. The delightful uncertainty about these things sets most women on the qui vive at the very mention of spring millinery, and gives to the spring openings an ecstacy that rarely marks those of the fall and winter.

The millinery this spring promises to be lovely enough to satisfy the taste of the most fastidious. The airy, sheer quality of the materials used in the creation of the spring hats, the exquisite beauty of the colors and shades in chiffons, flowers, mechlins and ribbons, the presence of gold everywhere, and the quantities of lace and handsome buckles of every kind—these all combine to make the hats which will be worn at Easter things of beauty and costliness. So far as shapes and colors are concerned, there is no evidence of radical change. The shapes are the large toques, mushroom and pompadour in character, that have been so popular; they project over the face, yet flare off in such a way as to show above the hair the most elaborate facings of chiffon or lace or flowers. A noticeable feature is the way in which all the new hats fit closely to the head at the back. Walking hats and turban shapes in new designs are shown in thin, airy materials, such as chiffon or meclin in black with gold or silver braid put on in rows, and with trimmings of handsome black flowers having yellow centres. In toques and pompadour hats the triple crown has again been introduced. These triple crowns are made of the new handsome straw braids, or frills of chiffon or meclin, edged with ribbon velvet or gold braid, or of loops of ribbon in the daintiest shades.

And flowers are everywhere; it is this season a case of 'roses, roses all the way,' for roses lead as they never have led before, and the noticeable feature of all the flowers is their size. The roses are dreams of loveliness, large, exquisitely tinted things, whose silken petals gleam through gauze of sheerest make, giving an effect as novel as it is lovely. This shrouding of the petals of flowers in gauze is the new feature of the season, and the profuse use of black flowers with yellow centres, in combination with natural foliage, will be very marked. Chrysanthemums, pansies, roses are all immense in size, and come in black as well as in the natural shades, and in gold gauze. Foliage will be used to an unlimited extent also; it comes in all the gorgeous autumn tints, and is very beautiful, with all the effect of flowers in many instances.

As to colors, there seems to be no decided preference here. Geranium shades and reds are talked of in Paris and New York, but these tones are too warm for our spring and summer, and the authorities here say that there is not much prospect of their being generally used. All the familiar and varied shades of pink and blue are seen in the new hats, and those tones and effects that approach pastel. Black and white will be good, and black and gold or silver will be a very stylish combination. Here it may be said that though there is a profuse use of gold in all the spring millinery, there is nothing loud or ostentatious in its use. Indeed, its combination with splendid ribbons, velvets and malines results in a harmonious blend of color, that is very pleasing to the most critical eye.

White maline, meclin or tulle—they all mean the same thing—in combination with gold, makes some of the most exquisite of the pattern hats, and the cunning way in which braids are sewed to this delicate, perishable fabric is a marvel. Ribbon velvet also figures largely in some of the new models. A black maline, saucer toque, for example, is made of tiny frills of the maline, each frill edged with pale blue velvet ribbon. A big rosette of pale blue liberty satin ribbon trims the front. One noticed too, the use of huge jet ball pins. In a large beautiful mush-

room toque, having a soft crown of pale blue velvet, covered with creamy renais sance lace, and a black tulle brim embroidered with very narrow satin ribbon and jet paillettes, the large loosely draped bow of blue velvet which trimmed the projecting front was caught with a big handsome jet ball pin. The effect was novel and very stylish. Gold gauze roses, another effective detail of the new millinery, are effectively employed in a smart toque of white maline closely encircled with bands of narrow gold braid; it dipped slightly in the middle of the front with a sort of Marie Stuart effect; in this dip was placed a large gold gauze rose, and at each side were bunches of black satin and velvet foliage.

Black and delicate shades of blue, with gold and creamy laces, is a very marked and lovely combination that promises to be much favored. One of these hats has been already noted, and another, a toque to come down over the face, is of tucked and shirred black maline, with a soft crown of delicate blue velvet covered with the creamy cobweb lace. The latter is a net lace brought over with thread in designs like a spider's web, and one of the newest all-over laces.

Another striking detail of the new millinery is the long gold buckles with steel. These gold buckles attain to a length of three eights and even half a yard, and form no small part of the trimming. One of these is seen to much advantage on a mushroom hat of white plaited chip with gold threads crossing the plaits. The front is trimmed with a large coil of white maline ribbed with gold braid, and the brim is of the maline, tucked, each tuck edged with gold braid. At the back a very large black velvet ribbon bow is the background for a half yard long handsome gold buckle ornamented with steel.

Among the most stylish of the spring headgear are the picture hats, large picturesque things with fine lines and graceful plumes, that are made entirely of tucked black chiffon and lace or maline, and for finish have novel round buckles of pearls and rhinestones. Flower hats, that is, hats made entirely of flowers, will also be much worn this summer, and for early spring hats composed entirely of violets with a bit of creamy lace will be favorites. Wreaths of flowers are also used very effectively, as may be seen in an exquisite creation something in the style of a Pompadour hat or modified poke. The crown was a triple one of pink chip, and the flaring front was made entirely of the loveliest silken pink primroses. Another hat of the same style had the front of foliage with one large soft pink crush rose at the top, while the crown was made in three tiers with loops of green and pink shot ribbon. Gold tricotine formed the triple crown of an odd hat to come down over the face while chrysanthemum bows of narrow golden brown velvet ribbon with yellow roses and foliage completed the trimming.

A new feature of the gauzy materials so much used in millinery is the panne effect, that brilliant sheen which is characteristic of the panne velvet. It has been successfully used on chiffon and mousseline, so that we have now, in addition to the ordinary chiffon which will always hold its own, mousseline brilliant and panne mousseline. Epingle again appears as carmen plisse or epinglette, which diminutive shows that the plisse is even finer than it was last season. The magpie and jackdaw effects are seen in veilings which promise to be more popular than in former seasons, and lace in every shape and form, a deal of it embroidered with gold threads, will be protusely used. Whole hats will be made up of fancy straws and braids, which come in all shades and combinations, much of it with gold in it. Whatever may become of gold effects later on in the season, it is certain that they will have a tremendous vogue for early spring wear. But the wise woman will see to it that the gold braids, buckles, ribbons, etc., she buys are best quality, for the glare and glitter which come from cheap gold trimming are intolerably vulgar, and will stamp a hat as such at once.

Notable in the new spring millinery are the flower sets which include toque, bow, and little muffs made entirely of flowers or flower petals. They come in violets, roses or rose petals and are a most fascinating and charming addition to a woman's spring outfit. The bows are long floppy things that hang well below the waist line, and when composed of rose petals in some delicious shade are things to tempt the most economical woman to extravagance. Those flower sets promise to be very much worn at the spring social events, such as the races.

It is needless to say that the new models are legion. It is as though every style of head and face had been considered and provided for. In variety, daintiness and style the spring hats leave nothing to be desired. Flowers and laces are combined in a way that is artistically natural, giving

beauty without gaudiness—Helen A. Kerr in the Ladies Magazine.

### FRILLS OF FASHION.

A revival is promised of the old-time silk mitts for summer wear and especially with the elbow sleeves. One style of mitt has applique flowers of lace in the finest net.

Casual hints and glimpses of the spring millinery seem to reveal the fact that in general hats are still to be low and broad. And yet other reports assure us that the high crown in the Directoire style will be one feature suggested by the long coats.

Ever since last autumn the French fashion makers have tried to launch their full skirts into favor, but as yet the American woman will have none of them. The thin fabrics together with some very enticing models may win her fancy to this style, however.

A pretty blue silk blouse is trimmed with stitched bands of white cloth and gold buttons. The sleeves open the entire length on top, are strapped across with the cloth bands ending in a point at either side with a flat button and the undersleeves and vest of lace are also strapped with cloth.

Black velvet dotted over with gold beads, with a star decoration at intervals, is one variation of dress trimming which in the two inch width makes a very pretty belt.

Something very elegant in the way of a nightgown is made of finest lawn with a bolero bodice of medium heavy lace. The body of the gown falls into this bolero by means of fine tucks set in about three inches deep all around. The bolero varies in shape, but in one style it reaches to the waist and is run through on the lower edge with ribbon which forms a belt and ties in front with a bow and long ends.

It is not of much use to venture into the realm of neckwear, which consists of boas, collars, scarfs, stocks, rushes, fichus and berthas of both domestic and Parisian manufacture, with any definite idea of giving a clear description of the varied modes. But there is one little stock which is conspicuous for its simplicity and shape, pointing down a little below the usual line directly in front.

It is made of bands joined with an open stitch, or bands of gold cloth overlapping each other a bit, like folds, with a row of buttons or a silk band covering the seam which must be in front to give the pointed shape. A band of black velvet ribbon, relieved by a narrow one of embroidered ribbon with gold braid on edge, is very pretty with a belt to match.

Bands of silk, satin or velvet on a lace stock wired into position make one of the popular stocks, which is supplemented with loops and ends of the velvet ribbon in front a lace butterfly bow or a bow and soft ends of chiffon and lace.

The narrow turnover edges of lace or embroidery are still worn. Among the boas there is the short ostrich feather variety in white and pale gray, just fitting the neck, and finished with soft full ends of the lace to the waist.

Eolienne fabrics are very much worn. They show a sort of corded stripe this season, both in straight and curved lines, and also chine flower designs.

The Louise XV coats are to be one of the features of dress this spring if reports are to be relied upon, and they are made of plain taffeta as well as brocaded silks, fall fully fourteen inches below the waist line, and the revers and broad collar are of lace. This sort of coat is worn over a plaited mousseline, panne or silk skirt in plain color.

The uses for pretty wash silks seem to be legion, and they are made up into children's gowns, shirt waists, negligé costumes of all kinds, night gowns and men's pajamas.

The flare in some of the tailor skirts is produced by opening the seams on either side of the front and at the sides and inserting a plaiting of the material. In dressy thin gowns this fulness is sometimes of lace.

### TRICKS IN THE SILK TRADE.

How Shoppers are Fooled—Tests Which Show the Pure Material.

Pure silk, when it has been through all the processes necessary to bring out all its good qualities, is worth its weight in silver, said an expert the other day. Therefore the women who expect to buy pure silk at little more than the price of cotton must expect to be fooled; and there are lots of ways by which the manufacturer gets even with them.

They make stuff that is called silk, and

passes for it with credulous persons who don't know any better, out of nearly any old thing now. One favorite imitation silk is made of cellulose treated with chemicals. It isn't a good material to get on fire in. Then there are South Sea Island cottons and some mercerized cotton which, after treatment, look something like silk, though of course they wear very differently and their silken appearance soon vanishes.

But it is in adulterating goods which really have some silk in them that the greatest skill is exercised to deceive the buyer. To obtain the required rustle and body rough flax is often used for the wool of the material. This soon causes it to wear shiny.

Another trick is to increase the weight and apparent solidity of a flimsy silk material by using metallic salts in the dye vats. Pressing, with some kinds of silk, increase the weight also, but at the sacrifice of strength. Cheap, crackly, stiff silk which has heavy cords is good silk to avoid. It won't wear.

There are several tests which reveal readily the purity of a piece of silk. The microscope, of course, will show at once, even to an unpracticed eye. Pure silk has the appearance of fine smooth tubes. Another good test is by burning. Pure silk burns slowly with a slight odor; cotton flares up quickly and would throw off a decidedly disagreeable smell.

Then the tongue will readily reveal the presence of metallic salts. There is no mistaking their taste. But all these may be disregarded, said the expert when silk is offered for the price of cotton. You need not bother to test that stuff.

### TOLD BY A DOCTOR.

His First Meeting With the Man Whose Skull Adorned the Mantlepiece.

This is a story without a moral. Prof. G. Frank Lydson of the medical department of the University of Illinois tells it, impelled by its truth. Its dates are nebulous, its place is Minnesota only, and the names of the chief characters are repressed. But its tragic elements are all there.

About ten years ago Dr. Lydson was visiting a friend in the northern part of Minnesota. The friend was a practicing physician of more than middle age, with iron gray hair and beard, and distinguished by a snow white band of hair that ran from his right temple half way round his head. Dr. Lydson never had remarked this peculiarity, and the friend, in the three years Dr. Lydson had known him, had never referred to it.

But on the occasion of Dr. Lydson's visit the Minnesota physician had a peculiar skull on the mantel in his study. It had been beautifully polished, showing to striking advantage the strong, white bulldog-like teeth of the man who had found his being in the long, narrow, arching cranium.

'What would you say of the former owner of it?' asked the friend, noticing that Dr. Lydson was eyeing it critically.

The doctor remarked several cranial irregularities and made a general observation.

'That is the skull of a murderer who was hanged,' continued the host. 'Do you see this?' he continued, brushing his fingers through the white streak at the right side of the head. 'The owner of the skull did that, too.'

Then the physician told the story.

Ten years before when the Northwest was still troubled with the wandering Sioux and by still more lawless white men, the physician had gone from Bellevue Hospital to a town near Red Wing. Most of his work was in the probing for bullets and sewing up knife cuts; but the atmosphere of the great Northwest was pleasing to him, and he stayed.

One night he had a call by telegraph to go to a small station thirty miles down the railroad. It was 18 degrees below zero, dark, and a blinding snowstorm was blowing. Wrapping up the doctor went down to the little railroad station to wait for a train that was almost due.

Just as the physician reached the station platform two young countrymen were getting out of a buggy and saying goodbye to the man who had driven them into the little village. The three reached the waiting room door, to find it locked on the inside. They pounded at it for several minutes, until finally it was flung open, and they were looking into the muzzles of two revolvers.

'Come in here,' was the order, and the unarmed doctor and the two countrymen went in, only to find the station agent bound and gagged and lying on the floor. The two men wore black masks, and it was evident that they meant to hold up the train, then almost due.

TO THE DEAF.—A rich lady, cured of her Deafness and Noises in the Head by Dr. Nicholas Artificial Ear Drums, has sent \$1,000 to his Institute, so that deaf people unable to procure the Ear Drums may have them free. Apply to The Institute, 780 Eighth Avenue, New York.

## One Dose

Tells the story. When your head aches, and you feel bilious, constipated, and out of tune, with your stomach sour and no appetite, just buy a package of

## Hood's Pills

And take a dose, from 1 to 4 pills. You will be surprised at how easily they will do their work, cure your headache and biliousness, rouse the liver and make you feel happy again. 25 cents. Sold by all medicine dealers.

'Go through 'em, Pete,' was the remark of the man of the skull; 'I'll cover 'em.'

Pete made a satisfactory haul from the pockets of the two countrymen, but the doctor had only a silver watch and \$5 in silver. Pete made a particularly ugly remark to the doctor, and when the doctor resented it the robber gave him a kick.

The contemptuous kick was the straw that broke the patience of the physician. Forgetting the revolvers, the doctor swung his fist, striking the fellow in the face. At that instant the fellow's companion fired and the doctor dropped in his tracks.

Seeing the fight on the two countrymen closed in on the desperadoes, but when the shooting was done both lay dead on the floor. The robbers were frightened, however, and gave up the attack on the train.

Within half an hour a posse was on the track. At daylight in a running fight, Pete was shot and killed. His companion was shot through the shoulder and was forced to surrender.

A legal execution followed after a few weeks, and the body of the bandit found its way into a medical school in Minneapolis. Later the skull of the criminal was sent to the living victim of the holdup, for in the meantime the physician had recovered from the blow of the glancing bullet.

Today the Minnesota physician points out the skull covering of the motor centre which prompted the pulling of the revolver trigger.

**Man and Wife in Distress.**—Rev. Dr. Bochor, of Buffalo, says: "My wife and I were both troubled with distressing Catarrh, but we have enjoyed freedom from this aggravating malady since the day we first used Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. Its action was instantaneous, giving the most grateful relief within ten minutes after first application." 50 cents.—153

**Church—Singer was at the opera house last night.**

**Gotham—Oh, by the way! The new opera was brought out.**

**'Did Singer say he saw the new opera or he heard the new opera?'**

**'Neither; he said he endured it.'**

**The Kinks and Twists in Rheumatism Rugged Road.**—For 4 years the wife of a well-known Toronto physician was on crutches from Rheumatism Scourge, and not until she began using South American Rheumatic Cure could she get a minute's permanent relief from pain. Four bottles cured her. Write for confirmation if you're sceptical.—154

**Rusher—I can write a novel in a month but I can't sell it in five years.**

**Bighead—Perhaps if you reverse the process you might succeed. If you wrote a novel in five years you might be able to sell it in a month.**

**In Heart Disease it works like magic.**—"For years my greatest enemy was organic Heart Disease. From uneasiness and palpitation it developed into abnormal action, thumping, fluttering and choking sensations. Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart gave instant relief, and the bad symptoms have entirely disappeared. It is a wonder-worker."—Rev. L. S. Dana, Pittsburg, Pa.—155

**'What do you think of the no break/a st fad?'**

**'I think it's a splendid thing for people who don't get up until luncheon time.'**

**Stumbling Wrecks!**—Undone and overdone! Discouraged and desolate! Emaciated nerve wrecks! Not one of you is too deep down in the mire of disease but the story of such a potent remedy as South American Nerve can reach you and lift you back to good health. It's nature's trusted lieutenant, gentle, but firm and unflinching. It never fails.—156

**Teacher—Now, Willie, you may tell me what a tangent is.**

**Willie—A tangent? I guess that's a very light colored man.**

**Woman, Why?**—You have sallow skin, pimples, eruptions, discolorations. Why resort to cosmetics and powders to hide the effects? Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills regulate the system and restore to the cheek the healthful rosy bloom and peach blush of youth. From one to two pills a dose will clarify and purify the complexion in short order. 10 cents for 40 doses.—157

**Johnnie—Paw, what's a promoter?**

**Paw—It's a fellow who hasn't any money and who is looking around for some one who has.**

**The Great Serpent of all Diseases.**—Kidney disease may well be called the "boa constrictor" disease, unsuspecting and unrelenting, it gets the victim in its coils and gradually tightens till life is crushed out, but the great South American Kidney Cure treatment has proved its power over the monster, and no matter how firmly enmeshed, it will release, heal and cure.—158

**Friend—So your wife has saucer eyes? Jagson—Yes, whenever I come home in my cups.**