

"TOPPERS" FOR WOMEN!



The "Topper" With One of the New Heavy Spanish Veils

"High Hats" for the Tailor-Made Maid and the "Window Curtain" Veils the First Startling New Notes in the New Fashions

LADY DUFF-GORDON, the famous "Lucile" of London, and foremost creator of fashions in the world, writes each week the fashion article for this newspaper, presenting all that is newest and best in styles for well-dressed women. Lady Duff-Gordon's Paris establishment brings her into close touch with that centre of fashion.

By Lady Duff-Gordon
(*"LUCILE"*)

NOW, here is something, for the moment at least, quite new—"topper" hats in all guises. How long this particular fancy will last it is difficult to say, though I rather imagine that one soon may get tired of so distinct a change from the little close-fitting toques of last season, with the high standing aigrettes and paradise. Particularly as for the present at least all "toppers" must be more or less alike in proportion, though I shall try to ring in as many changes around this particular form as possible.

A "topper" hat is distinctly a hat for the tailor-made girl. It is a utility hat, and must in no way be overtrimmed or of any particular kind of material. The four that I have are the very latest, or may I say the very earliest of this delightful form of headgear. The little lady with the ermine muff has a "topper" reminiscent of the Sans Gene. It is of green panne, with a narrow piece of ermine terminating in a little black tail poised high on the right hand side of the crown and running down low on the left hand side of the back, where it terminates with a tiny ermine head. This should be worn with a green tailored suit and ermine furs.

The coach and four is another form, and absolutely made on the lines of the drivers' hats in the old coaching days, with curled-up brim bound and banded with a black moire ribbon. With this the wearer has a high black and white choaker stock to keep in the suggestion of postilion.

Yet another hat is of black beaver of rather a Victorian type worn by ladies when out riding. It has a bottle green lace veil drawn diagonally across the face and fastened high at the back with a green brush.

Our last friend wears a white veil with heavy Spanish design over her face, just showing the eyes below.

These hats, in common with other hats of the season, must not be worn crowded down onto the head, but rather higher in the back than the front, and in one or two cases a quaint little lady might be brave enough to wear a green chenille net over her headdressing up the back to be in keeping with the whole of the picture.

And now to tell you something of the dresses. I suppose if I were to say that skirts will be fuller and bodices tighter you would say, "We have heard all this before." But if you were to see the dresses you would say immediately, "I have never seen skirts so full or bodices so tight as these," for they are even fuller and tighter than last season, and in many cases shorter. The bodices are very long waisted and necessitate an entire new silhouette, so if you wish to be in the latest fashion you must hire yourself to your corsetier before you come to me. Hoops are, of course, in nearly everything, and it is surprising how in-



The "Sans Gene Topper" of Green Panne and Ermine
(*"Lucile" Model*)

elegant the dresses look without them if you see a really well-made one in a room in contrast with the others. I have even afternoon and morning serge tailored dresses, and revel in them, so pay no heed to the old frumps who call them ridiculous, for they themselves now are wearing the tight dresses they condemned four seasons ago.

Furs are to be rather interesting the coming season, and all coats will be volu-

minous and have enormous cuffs and bands of contrasting and bigger fur for decoration. The groundwork of these coats will often take the form of new pieced fur, such as squirrel, sable, chinchilla, top and other short furs, the skins being cut and pieced together so that the fur works in contrasting directions and so forms contrasting designs in checkered work, stripes and even more elaborate patterns than this. Speaking of chinchilla—I have seen the most astonishing imitation of this fur made from squirrel that no lady need be afraid of, however much she may detest imitations on principle, so excellent is it and so attractive and durable.

Furs are to be expensive this season,

and we have said good-by to such cheap rubbish as monkey, goat and those red foxes that became so common last year.

For evening most of the dresses are approaching on Victorian or what you would call Colonial, and to be in keeping the hair must be dressed to match—close to the head, the puffs or curls and very often tight braids caught up with queer stiff bows and little flowers. Big cluster earrings and brooches of the same period should be searched for now in the curiosity shops before they are all bought up.



Black Beaver "Topper," With Bottle Green Lace Veil Drawn Diagonally Over the Face and Fastened at Back With Green Brush
(*"Lucile" Model*)



The "Coach and Four"—One of the Newest of the "Toppers," Made Absolutely on the Lines of the Drivers' Hats in the Old Coaching Days—the Brim Curled Up and Bound and Banded With a Black Moire Ribbon
(*"Lucile" Model*)