## FASHION LETTTER.

With the New Year come the best fashions.

It is from now on to the end of our brief winter season that the really smart thinge will be seen.
This may seem a most amazing statement to the uninitiated who. last September, hurriedly stocked their wardrobe for the winter and flattered them. selves that no further effort would be required of them until spring.
They have yet to learn tbat it is only when the Mutable Many stop buying that the Modish Few begin to make their purchases, thus avoiding, through the object-lessons offered by the Mutable Many, the mistake of copying too popular modele, and frequently seizing the opportunity of developing some originality in dreas.
That this is true is proved by the change that has taken place in Modish affairs, both socially and sartorially.
It is only a few years ago that everybody that was anybody hurried back from the country in the very early Autumn in order to haunt the abode of the dresemaker with a zeal that never flagged until she had acquired what she considered the necessary amount of "things" to wear on the "drees parade" of the Horse Show. She really seemed to think this was an obligation tuat was owed the public at large and that it could not be shirked, no matter what it involved.
Thank goodness! we Modishes are getting more sense. We are learning to take ourselves less seriously-and life more rationally
Hustling has been our trouble-indeed, it is iths National failing, I should say.

Vere de Vere repose of manner is the latest requirement with a Modish.

We absolutely frown upou the National weaknese, and "to hustle" is a verb set.
Take your leisura leisurely is the new maxim coined by a Modish leader, and it is being adopted by us all. We refuse to hurry to the town for the Horse Show. We refuse to hurry for the opera. We refuse to hurry at all. Consequently, the Horee Show has become a mere incident in our Modish lives. We leave the getting of special clethes for it entirely to the hoi polloi. The opera bas not the courage to tempt a Modish Providence by an early appearance, but wisely defars its opening by several weeks. since we have ceased "to hustle."
Really, you bave no iciea what mistakes in life one avoids by tollowing the precept of leisureliness.
In fashions alone it is invaluable. When I look back upon the wretched duds I have allowed to be thrust upon me when I was a slave to the mistaken habit of rushing through life, I simply am appalled; but-never again! never agann!-and I am not the only Modish who says "Never again!" and says it with emphasis.

It is for these reasons that the best fashions-as I was saying-do not afpear until the season is more advanced. The true woman of fashion now comes to town leisurely, makes her plans for the winter leisurely, gets her gowns and fal-lals leisurely and is now ready leisurely to exploit them and herself.
This is why you often see the smartest women the earlier part of the season wearing last year's clothes with an air of the utmost contentment, for they are conscious that their new toilettes are being constructed at the moment in
that leisurely way that is bound to that leisurely way that is bound to that the really smart woman is turned out better each year. Each year she is w lling to give more time to such thinge.

She takes her leisure leisurely and turne it to good account.
One of the newest faehions to be established in New York is the carrying of dainty muffs made of chiffon, lace or dowers to the opera or to the play.
This is a fashion that was launched last year by Mise Millward when she played Lady Algy, and it was much cavilled at for awhile, and later it was adopted by a few venturesome Modishes with such succees that now it has arrived for the world of fashion at large.
It certainly is a pretty fad and a useful one, too, for it insures one's fingers against the cold of the froetiest nights. These muffis are always tiny, and hould be made in the coloting of one's gown; they are usually deliciously setnted with one's favorite sachet.
By the way, sachet tablets are among the novelties of the year, and tney are ever 20 much more satisfactory in every way than the old-fashioned sachet powder that one spent one's time eternally having renowed.
The new ball gowns all incline to Em pire effects.

If the craze for ehort-waisted lines continues we may be back in draperies flowing from the shoulders before we rnow it.
Ball gowns that are not Empire are Princesses.
Mrs. Lee Tailer has a very smart new ball gown. It is built, and -moet succesefully built, on the difficult Prinenses lines
It is in heavy yellow lace-never mind the name-over yellow chiffon. It falls closely and clingingly about the figure as a lover's embrace, and flares out into an exceedingly gracefal sweep about the feet.

Un the yellow lace, spangles of a peculiar mother-of-pearl moonlight-on-thelake effect are thickly sewn.
Spangles, as everyone knowe by now, must be decidedly out of the ordinary in their coloring or they are no longer tolerated.
Blue spangles have been much worn in Paris for some time, but they have had no vogue here.
I don't know why, for they are certainly lovely.
Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs has one of the very few blue spangled gowns that I have seen. Mrs W. K. Vanderbilt had one, too, but that has gone over the seas and far away long ago.
The rage for fure still continues.
Black fox is being made yet more popular than it was the first part of the season, through its being worn by Mre, "Fred" Neilson and other ultra-smart women.
Ruseian wolf is a new fur that is hav ing quite a success. It is exceedingly smart but unuseally reasonable in price -a combination so rare it is worthy a note of commendation even from the sceptical.-Town Topics.

The Views of Lady Modish.
Next to Christmas presents given and racerved the topic of absorbing interest has been Mrs. George Gouid's Christmas theatricals at Georgian court, or "BuyGeorgian court," as it has been nicinamed by some unreverential soul. The women who were bidden to the ravels wore their smartest gowns, but Mrs. Gould easily outshone them all. The furnishing enjoy the reputation of urnishing the best living examplee of form" will have to look to their lald of or Mrs. Gould will be removing them gently but firmly from their fair brows. Mrs. Gould has a great fondness for coral.
One of her dinner gowns was io white laborately embroidered in coral and topped with a splendid diadem of coral and diamonds.
And yet it was not so very many

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