A woman’s crowning glory is her hair indoors, but out-of-doors it is undoubtedly her hat. Hence the choice of her headgear is a most important point for the consideration of every woman, no matter whether she be buying a hat ready-made, or what is far more interesting, is thinking of making it herself. For the hat to be successful it must not only be the frame, as it were, for the face, but must harmonize with the rest of the wearer’s appearance, of which it forms so important a part. A smart, suitable hat will often redeem indifferent raiment; and, on the other hand, unsuitable headgear can ruin an otherwise elegant appearance. For example, the replacement of a large hat with sweeping plumes, as part of a Stuart costume, by a modern policewoman’s helmet results in a tout ensemble farcical in the extreme.

Many women have the natural gift of knowing what to wear and how to wear it. When planning a new costume or dress, they can not only visualize it as a whole, but grasp instantly the style and colour of the hat to go with it. To other women the vision is not so clear, and often when they want a hat they buy or make one that proves quite unsuitable. As a means of avoiding such disappointments, let us consider the requirements of what may be termed the “ideal hat,” suited to every face, figure and occasion.

The four main considerations are its (1) Colour, (2) Shape, (3) Material, (4) Suitability—to the occasion and the wearer.

Colour.—Students of millinery frequently find that their greatest difficulty in choosing a hat is to select a colour at once becoming to themselves and appropriate to the clothes with which
it is to be worn. Complexion and colour of hair and eyes must largely influence the decision. The pale skin must be warmed; the ruddy one must be cooled, the very red shade of hair neutralized, and the dull shades of hair toned up. "Match your eyes and contrast your hair" is a well-known saying that offers excellent, if limited, advice. To expand this into a few general rules one may say the following colours are becoming to—

**Blondes**

(a) *With Fair Hair and Pink-and-White Complexion.*—Pale grey or pink; rose colour, brown, white, eau-de-Nil, and any shade of green, purple, or blue. *Avoid* fawn, which dulls the hair and the pink of the skin. Shun also any strong colour, except in very limited quantity.

(b) *With Brown Hair and Pale Complexion.*—Blue, blue green, turquoise, and emerald; chestnut brown, wine colour, cerise and crimson; heliotrope and mauve, pink, salmon and brownish pink. *Avoid* shades of green, grey, yellow or dull brown.

(c) *With Golden Brown Hair and Ruddy Complexion.*—Cream, buff, fawn and soft tans, in conjunction, preferably, with black or a dark shade; any shade of grey—except dove colour; brown, sage and olive green, claret, pale or dark blues in soft dull shades; and soft bluish purples. Beware of bright shades of any colour, and avoid medium reds, blues, pinks, pale greens, and yellow fawn.

(d) *With Light Hair and Muddy Complexions.*—Crimson and wine shades; warm browns; medium and dark blues; sage and olive greens; emerald, pink and cerise in small quantities. *Avoid* greys, dull browns or fawn.

(e) *With Titian Red Hair and White Skin.*—Greens in dark and light soft shades; dark reddish purple and petunia; dark and light blues in soft shades; rich browns, tan, and warm autumn leaf colourings; soft greys; black, ivory, and pale rose pink in limited quantity. Beware of hard black-and-white greys; hard bright greens, blues, purples, or reds.
THE IDEAL HAT

BRUNETTES

(a) With Fair Skin and Fresh Colour can wear any shade of any colour.

(b) With Dark Hair, Clear Olive Complexion, and a Little Colour.—Navy blue, olive and eau-de-Nil green; pink, cerise, red and crimson; flame colour, maize, old gold and fawn. Avoid yellow and pale blues.

(c) With Dark Brown Hair and Sallow Complexion.—Warm navy blue; browns in red and yellow shades; white, olive green relieved with touches of pink; reddish heliotrope; wine colour, black in conjunction with white, yellow or flame colour. Avoid dead shades of grey or brown; also of pale yellow, blue, and fawn.

In regard to colour generally, it is well to remember that to be complete in itself a colour composition should afford some relief to every colour sensation that it excites. This may be achieved by the addition of darker shades of the colour itself, or of black. Dark colours require less relief than light ones, a touch of bright contrasting colour, or cream collar, on a dark dress often rendering it most becoming to the wearer. With light dresses a blonde should introduce a touch of black or deep colour—which is not necessary for a brunette whose dark hair supplies the desired relief. Dark colours make a hat look smaller, while light shades appear to increase its size. Black makes a fair skin appear fairer by contrast, but it takes the life out of some complexions, intensifying sallowness, and making a dull complexion still duller. Where possible it should be relieved by transparent white near the face. Transparent black and white are far more becoming than dense material. White and cream are becoming to all except those of colourless hair and complexion, and dull, muddy skin.

The foregoing remarks all apply to colours for day wear. As artificial light modifies the yellow tints of the skin, so that women of sallow complexion can often wear by night colours that would be most unbecoming by day.
Shape is the next important consideration. The general outline of brim and crown must be studied. A thin, narrow face requires a hat suggesting roundness and width of shape; a full, round face needs one suggesting length and sometimes height. Great care is necessary when choosing toques. They should be studied from all points when on the wearer, for the front view may be good, while the general contour is most unbecoming. Much improvement, however, may often be made by careful hairdressing, and by the softening of the outline of the shape. During recent years, the small-brimmed hat or close fitting toque has rather taken the place of the bonnet, for elderly ladies’ wear. But whether a shape be large or small, it should help to minimize any faults in the wearer’s features and accentuate all the good ones, just as the well-chosen colour adds warmth to the pale complexion, and cools the ruddy one.

For children, who are usually chubby and round featured, the simple round types of shapes are the most becoming. When the hair is short, a narrow back brim is more suitable than a wide one, and in all cases when making or buying children’s shapes it is important that they should fit comfortably.

Material.—Though much consideration may have been given to the choice of colour and shape, one’s headgear will not be wholly successful unless suitable materials are used. The season of the year, the occasion for wear, and the accompanying dress or costume, all help in deciding this question. Black velvet was at one time looked upon as a safe anchorage when one was in difficulty as regards choice, but nowadays georgette, aerophane, and ninon are most popular choices. To wear flimsy headgear along with a tailored costume, or dress, is in bad taste, just as it is when white shoes and stockings are neighbours to a dark and heavy woollen skirt. A hat of tulle or lace is pleasing on a sunny summer day if worn with a light voile, silk or similar dress, whereas a tailored hat or one of thick woollen material in, say, vivid red, would be most unattractive.

For hard wear, materials should be chosen from those that
are little affected by dust, fog, or rain, and they should be chosen with due attention to texture and colouring. For sports wear, oil silk, gabardine, tweed, and firm cloth are all satisfactory while for general hard wear, millinery velvet, fine cloth, stout silk, or satin, and, of course, durable felts and straws, can all be requisitioned with confidence.

As the lightness in weight of a hat is one of the chief factors in its comfort, this quality should be borne in mind when choosing materials. When completed, a hat should not weigh more than 2 or 3 oz.; if the weight exceeds 4 oz., it interferes considerably with one's comfort, especially if it is worn for several hours in succession.