DRAPING CROWNS AND TOQUES

Draping.—Whilst acknowledging that few understand the art of draping gracefully, and that the unwary novice finds this part of millinery so difficult to master that she almost gives up in despair, the possessor of ordinary ability, given she have power to perceive where in her attempt she has failed in producing the graceful curves which ought to be its chief characteristics, should not be long—with practice and the hints contained in this chapter to help her—in becoming an adept in the art. If she be wise she will choose tissue paper for her first efforts, for in so doing she will gain the power to deftly handle light materials, the much-needed finger knack that will enable her to turn out the finished article fresh, airy, and dainty, without the handled look that characterises the amateurish efforts.

When manipulating paper or material the first endeavour must be to eschew tight, straight, conventional folds, and to drape in such a manner that the drapery takes on loose, flowing, curved lines. This may be achieved by making two or more folds emanate at a given point from one, and at still another point be broken into three, and again, resolve into four, or back
to the original one or two. The effect thus produced will be far more satisfactory, artistic, and pleasing to the eye than if the material be tightly draped, to say nothing of the becomingness to the wearer.

**Copying a Model.**—When making a draped toque similar to Diag. XXXIII. the piece used for the drapery should measure \( \frac{7}{8} \) by \( \frac{8}{8} \) of a yard in length and width; and in copying the shown model the student should take the longest side towards her, and, placing the crossway edge at back of shape, begin her draping by making the bottom fold, pinning the whole in place with steel pins prior to sewing, in order to ascertain that all the folds occupy their proper place.
Draping Bonnet Crowns.—Figs. 1 and 2, Diag. XXXIV., illustrate two different methods of draping with that very useful shaped piece the corner, which so readily lends itself to a multiplicity of styles, and is easily arranged. Some of the simplest fullings seen on bonnet fronts are made of a ¼ yd. corner. A good way to arrange one is to hold the bias side to bonnet edge, fold extreme ends 3 in. or more from the ears along the front, keeping edge of velvet inside of shape, gather or pleat the fulness to fit remainder of front, sew the crossway edge to the inside of shape, gather or reverse pleat point of corner, and, if for a stout-faced matron, spreading the fulness, but retaining a high tapering point in the centre; if for matron with a longish or thin face, keeping the height nearly even.

WIRE SHAPES

Tools and materials required:—

Pliers.
Tape measure.
1 ring of fine silk wire.
1 ring of fine satin wire.
Mounting wire, or
1 reel No. 10 cotton.
Needles.