

A London Letter.

Forget the Winter—Think of Spring
and New Clothes.

CHILL blasts may lurk round every corner and fog may make grey days seem greyer, but here's a spark of brightness—a special letter from London setting out the latest in spring and summer fashions. Sales are now on in every town in New Zealand and, by the end of July, there will be on show just such garments as are described on this page. Colour will be a feature of the new season's frocks—and there's an interesting note, too, on what the well-dressed (or undressed) damsel will wear in the summer briny.

ONE of the most interesting dress shows that I have seen this season was staged last week by Burberrys of the Haymarket. It was especially interesting because it was a revelation of the distinction of their models and the excellence of their tailoring.

Take, for instance, a suit in navy worsted suiting with a grey pin stripe. The coat was hip length, collarless, and cut with clean lines that made for a slim appearance; it had a shaped shoulder yoke and a clip fastening. It fitted closely in front and a slight flare at the back carried out the "swagger" idea in a short coat.

Burberrys favour red in all its shades for many of their coats and suits, but blue comes next. An Air Force blue coat, collared with grey fox and worn with a little hat of silver-grey crackle crepe, was particularly charming—and there were one or two suggestions in green. A notable coat and skirt was in bottle-green soft wool, collared with red fox and made with a double-breasted fastening. The unusual buttons in two shades of green were a feature.

Among the red outfits there was a suit in tomato red flecked with black. The collarless coat was cut with a square neck and had a clip fastening.

Burberrys also showed the most advanced trousered suit for women that I have yet seen. It was made in a checked suiting and cut almost exactly like a man's lounge suit with a slightly fitting waist and a single-breasted fastening to the jacket. The trousers had correct turn-ups and creases. It was worn with a high-necked polo jersey.

Marshall and Snelgrove had a mid-season fashion parade last week when they showed their new creations for garden parties, race wear and other important spring and summer functions. The model gown buyer gave a highly interesting and instructive running commentary on the gowns, and one point that she made interested me particularly. She emphasised that the particular models that she was showing should be copied in the same material. They are all the result of thoughtful planning and are meant to be built of the same type of fabric as originally chosen by the creator.

FOR chilly spring days there was a coat and skirt in white and stone-grey checked tweed. It was worn with a white jumper-blouse and the new tip-up-at-the-back hat from Agnes's collection.

A beautiful evening gown in heavy silk with a pique appearance was moulded closely to the figure:

it had large epaulette loops of wide cre ribbon in royal blue.

Some of the most entrancing frocks for Ascot or the Eton and Harrow match were made of embroidered lawn. In one case the little shoulder cape was edged with lace, and in another there was a coatee of plain lawn made with wide tucks and cut on positively tailored lines.

Another frock for a young girl was a dance dress in white taffeta with a printed golden stripe. It was quite lovely, and to go with it was a three-quarter-length coat with long tie ends to the collar. These were crossed in front and allowed to hang down behind, so gave a high-necked appearance to the coat.

If brevity is the soul of wit it is also the rule of the most amusing of the new bathing and sun suits.

The parade of beach and cruising wear arranged by Dickens and Jones, of Regent Street, provided some startling swimming suits. They seemed to meet with universal approval from the audience, although if they are to be worn successfully, slimming exercises must be followed assiduously between now and the holidays.

The new suits consist of a brassiere and a pair of abbreviated trunks. In some cases the top is buttoned on to the panties, or cut in one with them, but usually they are divorced. The suits are made in pastel shades and white for the most part.

For those who do not like to present quite such an Academy appearance on the shore there are practical well-cut suits with the low-cut sun back. Some models are made with the new "flared" shorts. A one-piece swimming suit was in royal blue wool with insets of royal blue and white stripes and a decoration of chromium buttons.

Not many pyjama suits were shown, but there were several attractive beach dresses designed for sun bathing and complete with a little coat that transformed them into frocks that could be worn for motoring or walking.

Isobel, of Regent Street, has some beautiful capes in white ermine that would be very suitable to wear over Court gowns. One of these combines the advantages of a cape and a coatee. The back has a coat effect—it is waist length—and the front with its envelope sleeves looks like a cape.

A beautifully worked ermine cape is made three-quarter length and has a tie collar. It is interesting to know that Isobel is making ermine coats for the evening on the lines of the new "swagger" models. The ermine is usually white, grey, peach, or banana coloured.