

CORONATION ROBES

Among the Earl Marshal's many duties before the Coronation is to issue regulations about robes to be worn by those attending the service. Economy as well as tradition are combined in the Baron's cap of state. With Blue Mantle Pursuivant James Freere, Norman Hartnell, one of the Coronation robe designers, checks that the velvet cap he has designed for a Marchioness will be approved by the Earl Marshal.

For ladies other than peeresses, strict regulations are also laid down. Instead of coronets or caps, light veiling falling from the head is permitted. Evening and afternoon dresses like this one in caramel lace will be worn in place of robes. Here's another lovely Hartnell design, a full-length dress in gold lace.

Next a creation in chenille lace with a full,flair skirt.

Now a slate blue afternoon dress with matching head-dress, deftly fashioned to add yet further sparkle to the Coronation.