

The Delineator

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Remarks on Current Fashions.



FIGURE NO. 400 R.

FIGURE NO. 401 R.

LADIES' EVENING GOWNS.—(The Front Views of these Toilettes are Shown on Page 270.)

Many of the new designs in feminine attire differ decidedly from those lately prevalent. Fluffy, fanciful modes are gradually winning their way back to favor and are quite as much admired as the severe styles that have for so long a time held almost undisturbed sway.

The latest bell skirt is draped—very slightly, of course, but yet enough to effectually remove the appearance of tenseness and rigidity which characterized the original shape. This change is most noticeable about the hips; and at the bottom the skirt is sufficiently distended to merit its title.

The back-breadths of bell skirts are generally cut with bias back edges; this tends to reduce the fulness at the top and give the skirt a more graceful spring toward the bottom. Paniers follow very naturally in the wake of the hip-draperies; they cause the waist to appear more slender, without in the least impairing the sweeping lines of the hips.

In a newly designed costume the plainness at the top of the undraped bell skirt is most agreeably relieved by paniers that fall from the lower edge of the short basque.

A well stayed pointed bodice or corselet is desirable for evening wear, especially when arranged over a basque that presents a very fluffy effect at the top. A deep hip-ruffle applied to such an adjunct gives it an exceedingly dressy appearance.

Fanciful collars that flare from the neck are liked for evening costumes. Medici and Valois collars are as fashionable as ever, but they are not practical for bodices that are to be worn under top garments.

Sleeves are fuller than ever above the elbow.

An artistic evening costume has elbow sleeves arranged to present countless minute puffs that are a boon to slender arms. Sleeves of this kind, when not met by long gloves, may be extended to the wrists, being made to fit smoothly below the elbow.

Another full sleeve for evening gowns is puffed both above and below the elbow and frilled at the wrist.

A very full sleeve designed for stout garments falls like a bell over its foundation, which is only visible for a short distance at the wrist.

A charming redingote costume is presented and is especially improving to stout figures. It has a plain skirt that is disclosed only at the front, between the flaring edges of the redingote, the front and sides of which extend to the hips and are lengthened by smooth skirts to be of equal depth with the full, plaited back.

The lower edges of skirts are frequently cut in battlements and in leaf scallops, between which plaitings of silk are artistically displayed.

Another pretty skirt decoration consists of a self-headed flounce that is the depth of an ordinary foot-ruffle at the back, and gradually increases in width toward the center of the front, where its upper edge is pointed.

Fashionable women just now express a fancy for ruffles of ribbons upon skirts of Bedford cord or cloth.

One of the dressiest and most refined-looking of the new jackets is designed with severe plainness, with the exception of its collar, which is in graceful Henri II. style.

A more fanciful jacket has fronts that flare over a short vest, a prim military collar of regulation height, jaunty pocket-laps and cuffs that flare from the wrists.

A lately designed bell skirt has two front-gores and two back-breadths joined by bias seams at the center of the back and front. It makes up most satisfactorily in plaids, checks and stripes.

A blazer vest of wash silk, having a plaited jabot in front and a stock at the neck, will be frequently made up to take the place of a partly worn vest in a Louis coat-basque.