

FASHION SUGGESTIONS

Review for February.

DAME FASHION does not exactly hibernate during mid-winter, but she decidedly retires from active work and leaves the field to bewildered womankind.

For a few weeks to come there will be no change in sleeves, nor skirts nor hats. The jackets purchased in December may continue to be worn with the proud consciousness that they are still in style. In fact, it is safe to predict that peace and quiet will reign in the fashion world until the horizon is disturbed by the shadow of Easter styles.

But of these, not a nerve-racking whisper as yet. And after a month or so of sartorial rest the sigh of relief will be changed into a murmur of expectancy. The thrill of the dressmaker will be welcomed, and the Easter gown will be the important consideration.

The death of Queen Victoria will necessarily give a prominence to black and purple, and a more sombre style will mark all costumes of the opening spring days.

Over-Worked Common Sense.

When it was finally decided this past fall that short skirts were to be the fashion, womankind proudly raised her composite head and said, henceforth the terms woman and common-sense will be synonymous. Men looked puzzled, but glad, and women of every size, stature and avoirdupois made haste to abbreviate their garments and step into the view of a somewhat cold, unfeeling world. Feet and ankles that had been hidden from sight for a half century were ruthlessly brought to light. And more badly-dressed feet, awkward ankles and bow-legs were revealed than were ever dreamed of in any philosophy. Oh, Horatio!

Short skirts are now being worn on bright as well as rainy days, indoors as well as on the street, for carriage as well as train car. And the question arises as to how much of this is common-sense, and how much a blind following after a new fashion whim.

The women who for several years past have been wearing short skirts in stormy weather, into dusty offices, for mountain tramps and travelling, knew them to be a blessing, but these women—who organized the "Rainy-Day-Skirt Club"—do not over-work their common-sense. They remember that there is such a thing as art and the value of graceful lines, and when an opportune time arrives out comes the long skirt with its pretty folds and graceful sweep, and with it the attitude of mind that forgets dirty offices, muddy streets and the commercial stress of life.

Short skirts, by all means, my wise women friends, not as an over-used temporary fad, but as a practical, permanent, and limited article of feminine wearing apparel.

Fashionable Garments.

SKIRTS continue to be shaped without fulness at the hips and flare gracefully around the bottom. Circular or gathered flounces characterize many of the newest modes. A new five-gored skirt may be made with a sweep or in round length, with the conventional or decided dip at the top, and with or without a gathered flounce around the bottom; and the fulness at the back may be disposed in an inverted box-plait or gathers.

A waist or bodice that is particularly suited to stout ladies is made with two under-arm gores, and the fronts turn back in revers, revealing a vest. The sleeves may be plain or fancy. The mode suggests an association of contrasting fabrics.

Military collars are fashionable adjuncts for waists and bodices, and an especially attractive example, known as the Aiglon collar, is in standing style with projecting ends, either lapped or flared. A standing collar, that may be closed at the centre of the front or back or at the side, is another pleasing type.

Box-plaited skirts are admirably adapted to slender, graceful figures, and this style is exemplified in a skirt with short sweep, the box-plaited skirt being hung over a five-gored foundation. The dip at the top may be decided or conventional.

The distinctive features of a new waist or bodice are the round yoke and circular bertha having a fanciful outline at the lower edge. The fronts slightly blouse, and the scanty fulness in the back is secured at the waist-line. Elbow or full length sleeves may be used, or over and under-sleeves may lend an air of distinction to the mode.

A whole back and becomingly bloused fronts characterize an approved shirt-waist that may be made with or without a fitted lining or bust-stay. The sleeves are in regulation shirt style, finished with straight wrist-bands. The collar is removable.

The Eton jacket remains in popular favor, and variations of the mode are eagerly sought. An example of unusual attractiveness is particularly distinguished by a vest and an Aiglon collar. The mode may be made with or without a centre-back seam, with sleeves belled or straight-around at the wrist, and gathered, box-plaited or dart-fitted at the top.

A ripple habit back characterizes a new five-gored skirt that may be in sweep or round length. One or two circular flounces may be arranged around the bottom, or they may be omitted entirely; and the dip at the top may be moderate or decided.

Two-seam sleeves for jackets and coats may be box-plaited, gathered or dart-fitted at the top and may be in bell shape or straight-around at the wrist.

A shawl collar is the point of interest in a slightly double-breasted jacket with sleeves that may be box-plaited, gathered or dart-fitted at the top.

A stylish seven-gored skirt with ripple

habit back may be made in sweep length, with or without a tucked circular flounce, from beneath which the skirt may be cut away, or in round length without the flounce. The dip at the top may be decided or moderate.

Shield sleeves are the novel and practical features in a new corset-cover of approved shaping.

A graduated circular flounce at the sides and back, from beneath which the skirt may be cut away, distinguishes a three-piece skirt with an inverted box-plait at the back. The front-gore forms a panel. The mode may be made with the decided or conventional dip at the top and in sweep or round length.

Another jacket of approved style has a fly-closing and automobile back. The sleeves may be dart-fitted, gathered or box-plaited at the top and straight-around or in bell shape at the wrist. Hip pockets and a left breast pocket with lappets are other interesting items.

A new two-piece costume consists of a slightly-flared five-gored skirt, which may be made with a graceful sweep or in round length, and of which the ripple habit back is a distinctive feature, and a blouse Eton jacket that may have a centre-back seam, if preferred, and bishop or two-seam sleeves to be box-plaited, gathered, or dart-fitted at the top.

A sailor-collar, that may be shaped in two different styles, and a removable shield are features of an unusually attractive blouse waist or bodice that may be



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made with or without the fitted lining. The sleeves are in the fashionable blouse bishop style.

German Lace in Crochet.

CHAIN 13 stitches.

1. One treble in fifth stitch of chain. Chain 1, miss 1, 1 treble in next. Repeat from * 3 times, cut the thread and tie securely.

2. Chain 12, fasten with slip stitch in the top of the last treble made in preceding row; * under this chain make 1 single 15 trebles, fasten the last treble in the fifth stitch of chain (counting from beginning of chain). Chain 12, + fasten this chain under the end treble. Repeat from * to + 15 times. Arrange the treble clusters so that there will be 5 in each end space, and 3 on each side—16 in all.

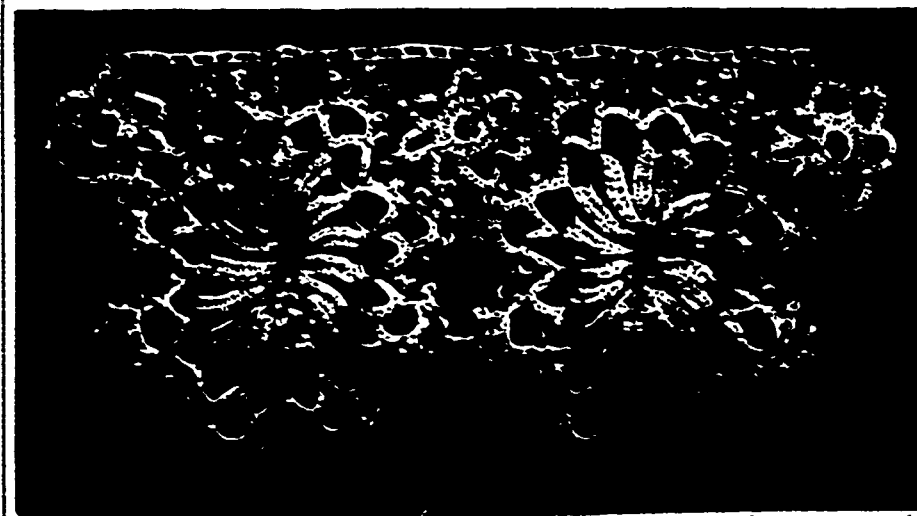
slip stitch in fourth stitch for a picot. Chain 1. Repeat from * twice, miss 1 picot and join to the next. Now make 4 picots of chain 7, fasten 3 in the next 3 indents, and the fourth in the first picot of next outer scallop. Repeat from first * all around.

Join the rosettes as seen in the illustration.

SMALL WHEELS.

Make a chain of 11 stitches and join.

1. Work 29 trebles in the ring.
2. Chain 10, miss 3 trebles, 1 treble in next. Repeat from beginning of row.
3. Make 13 singles under each chain loop. Join the wheels to the rosettes



GERMAN LACE DESIGN IN CROCHET.

Join the last treble of this row to the first stitch of the first chain 12.

3. Chain 10 and fasten in the top of the last treble of next cluster of trebles. Repeat from beginning of row.

4. Make 17 singles under chain 10, 8 singles under next chain loop. Chain 10, turn back and fasten in the eighth single of previous loop; under this loop make * 3 singles, 1 picot. Repeat from * 2 times, 3 singles; work eight singles in the next half loop. Repeat from beginning of row.

5. Chain 7, turn back and slip stitch in fourth stitch for a picot. Chain 3, fasten in the joining of outer scallop; make another picot and fasten in the first picot of the outer scallop, * then chain 6,

while making them, or with needle and thread after they are made.

HEADING.

Fasten the thread in the upper scallop of wheel. Chain 15, miss 1 picot, slip stitch in next. Chain 10, miss 2 picots, fasten in next. Chain 3, fasten in next picot. Chain 10, miss 1 picot, slip stitch in next. Chain 12, fasten in scallop. Chain 12, miss 1 picot, fasten in next. Chain 10, miss 1 picot, slip stitch in next, and so continue to the end of row. Work back with chain 1 spaces.

This is a handsome lace when completed, and its uses will readily suggest themselves to the worker.—J. R. Mackintosh.

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