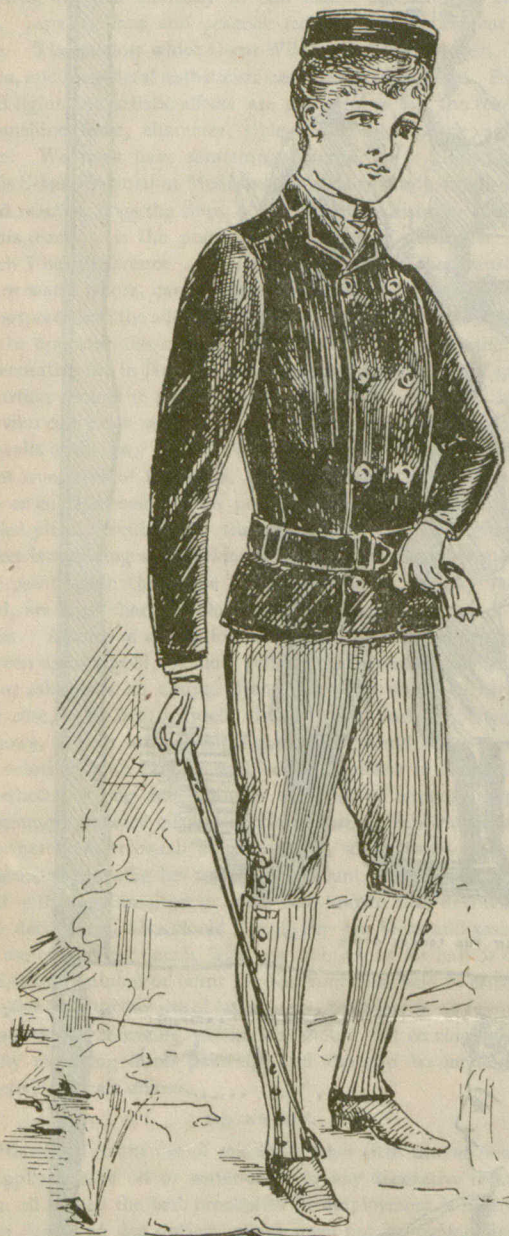


Fashions.

Address letters relating to this department to Editor "Fashions" Ladies' Pictorial Weekly, etc.

Riding Habits.

A little girl's riding habit is shown in illustration 54, having a simple skirt cut four inches longer on the right side than on the left, to be held up when walking by a strap and button. With a Nor-



RIDING SUIT FOR A BOY.

folk waist of the material—serge or tweed—this makes a pretty habit.

No. 55 shows a short cutaway coat and pique vest, silk tie, and collar. This mode is extremely good for summer wear, with melton cloth habit.

No. 56 is shown a favorite style, a double-breasted, tightly fitting waist, with round basque, very becoming to a youthful figure. It can be worn with a standing collar and demi-vest, or this may be removed and a white turn-down collar and silk tie substituted.

In the case of a woman's riding habit, it is quite necessary it should be made by a ladies' tailor. The skirt, as well as the waist, must fit to perfection, and work be substantial enough to stand wear and tear. The best advice is always to patronize a first-class house for such costumes. Just now light-weight whip-cord is highly recommended, as it sheds dust and does not readily spot or crease. As to cut, many women prefer the plain waist, buttoned down the front with a single row of buttons.

Top hats are chiefly in vogue, but veils are never used when the rider is well turned out.

Short, stout hunting crops are invariably carried by men and women in lieu of whips, even for ordinary riding.

Our Paris Fashion Letter.

The spring fashions cannot be commended for their originality, but depend for their chic upon some variations in cut and trimming of last winter's models. Long basques, belted bodices, clinging skirts and towering sleeves are not new, but a few deft touches suffice to give them that distingue air which excuses their lack of novelty.

Light colors, much jetted trimmings and plain straight effects are still the thing; an attempt is being made to revive small panniers, but it is not probable that they will be accepted. Women have become so accustomed to the severe clinging effects that it will be difficult to reinstate the pannier or the bulky full skirt.

Gowns are, if possible, more collant than ever, the contours of the limbs being distinctly outlined, although they still flare from the knees downward.

There is no present prospect of the revival of short dresses, the regulation gown almost touching in front and laying two or three inches on the ground at the back.

Long, pointed narrow trains are more fashionable than the square cut ones, and are deeply faced up with crinoline to keep them from twisting and turning over in walking.

The Stuart puff, which is a loose fluffy puff cut on the bias, is newer as a finish to skirts than the narrow flounces.

Some of the flounces are sewed beneath the edge of the skirt and trimmed up and caught near the top, the ruffle standing up instead of down.

Rose ruchings of India silk with pinked edges are made double and save much time to the dressmaker; they come in two shades of a color, the two toned rose ruching and also the yellow being lovely to behold. These ruches are decidedly perishable as the pink edges soon become ragged and untidy. They are not a good investment, as they cost several dollars a yard and do not last. Not only one but several pinked ruffles are sewn upon the inside of the skirt and in some cases these dainty balayuses are embroidered or finished with lace, either black or white. One can purchase these plaitings of almost every conceivable shade in the shops, and they are certainly a great labor-saving device, besides protecting the dress from wear and soil.

The double and even the triple skirt is again seen; it is no longer the voluminous double skirt of our mothers, but is two or three overlapping skirts which adapt themselves to the exigencies of the bell shape; sometimes the overskirt is simulated by trimming. This style of skirt is not as graceful as the unbroken lines of the plain skirt, but it is quite new and will be worn to some extent.

The dressmakers are divided as to the merits of the underpetticoat or the lined skirt; many skirts have the lining sewed in with the material, which can be easily done where it has several gores; with the one back seam the lining has an inclination to bag and set badly.

Some dressmakers make a compromise by sewing the upper part and the lining together half way down, and then leaving each separate and distinct from there to the foot.

Some of the wool dress skirts have no lining whatever and the strictly tailor-made ones have strapped seams.

There is an agitation among the purveyors of fashion in regard to the short waist, the tendency of the wide girdles and sashes tending toward short-waisted effects; there will no doubt be a steady opposition to this style, as it is apt to make the waist look large and the figure awkward if there is any tendency toward embonpoint.

The belted Russian blouse makes the waist appear short unless the figure is decidedly slender; to obviate this some of the new blouses have the back fullness held by a narrow strap and buckle, while the front is girdled in pointed fashion.

Wraps.

Some of the new capes are of bengaline in black and also in the drabs and tans. Not a few of these remind one strongly of the bell skirt, for they are cut on the bias with a very little fullness at the neck and flaring wider at the bottom; revers which form care-less hoods, deep ruffles of heavy lace from an embroidered or jetted yoke, or a jabot front, are the many styles in which these becoming garments are fashioned. In others the cape proper comes only just below the waist, the added length being made of gold or jet open work passementerie with *entre deux* of guipure or Russian lace.

In jackets there is scarcely any visible change, the shapes remaining almost the same as those of last winter.

Almost all of them reach to or below the knee and in most cases tight fitting; light colors prevail with an excess of braiding or embroidery. A jacket of pearl colored cloth is extremely chic. It is entirely covered with a delicate pattern in braiding, separated by narrow gold soutache.

A noticeable feature in jackets and carnails is the flaring collar and yoke which is cut all in one piece and not added to the yoke as was the case last season.

Ladders of gold and green or gold and blue braid appear on tan jackets, but are somewhat conspicuous; other coats have a bodice effect simulated by narrow sharp Vandykes of gold with an encircling line which forms a girdle; from this descends deep slender braided Vandykes.

Rosettes of jet or pearl are rather heavy, but extremely ornamental; they may be detached and used separately.



RIDING HABITS.

NO. 54. RIDING HABIT FOR YOUNG GIRL.

NO. 55. SHORT CUTAWAY AND PIQUE VEST.

NO. 56. DOUBLE-BREASTED, TIGHTLY FITTING WAIST WITH ROUND BASQUE.