

(ms. Hersh paper
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NOTES ON SEWING MACHINES.

What it is desirable to OBTAIN in the purchase of a Sewing Machine, and what the purchaser should AVOID.

None now dispute the utility of the Sewing Machine in comparison with hand labour, and none question the advantage accruing to the seamstress, the employer, or the consumer. Whether in the workshop or lady's boudoir, the hand needle is discarded. The lady who has once had a Sewing Machine never resorts to her needle, and the lady who has not one desires the possession of so great a boon.

It therefore simply becomes a question, not whether madam shall have a Sewing Machine, but, of the numerous makers and candidates for public favour, which shall be selected. And as most makers, through the various mediums of advertising, advise what qualities should be obtained in the purchase of a Sewing Machine, we propose not merely to enumerate these, but also to mention what qualities should be avoided.

QUALITIES TO BE OBTAINED IN A SEWING MACHINE.

1. Beauty and excellence of stitch *alike* upon *both sides* of the fabric sewed.
2. Lock-stitch made with shuttle the best.
3. Strength, firmness, and durability of seam, that will not rip or ravel.
4. Attachment and range of application to purposes and material.
5. Compactness, and elegance of model and finish.
6. Simplicity and thoroughness of construction.
7. Speed, and ease of operation and management.
8. Not being liable to get out of order, and readily learned.
9. Durability, and running for years with slight repairs.
10. Adaptation to every description of sewing, from the finest gossamer to several thicknesses of cloth and leather.

QUALITIES TO BE AVOIDED IN A SEWING MACHINE.

1. Heavy, noisy, and complicated machinery.
2. A machine with a handsome exterior, but roughly-made running parts.
3. One that makes a single thread *chain-titch*, under whatever name the stitch may be called.—(All machines working with one thread make this stitch.)
4. One that makes a stitch liable to ravel, wash out, or wear off in the laundry.
5. One that uses a large quantity of thread or silk to form a seam.
6. One that forms a ridge on the reverse side of the work.
7. Machines recommended as made on the principles of well-known makers, and greatly improved.