

Fashion Notes.

Skirts are now made with many gores, and are usually plain, though a few new ones are



YOUNG LADY'S WALKING DRESS.

adorned with draperies, caught up at the sides. Braudwork, tinsel trimming, or frills are



GIRL'S SCHOOL DRESS.

frequently used on the front widths at the bottom of the skirt. Frills of the same

material as the dress are made in varying widths, and either one, two, or three are used, according to the fancy of the wearer. Lace trills are usually eight or ten inches deep. Sometimes a plaiting goes completely round the skirt; and occasionally it is put on across the front and carried up the sides of the back widths, giving an effect not unlike the old apron-fronts of fourteen or fifteen years ago. The old fashion of adorning the skirt with panniers also shows signs of reviving, but they are unbecoming to most figures. I forgot to mention that the new "bell-skirt" is often decorated with gold or fancy braid along all its seams from waist to hem. The back breadths of skirts are still arranged either in gathers or in fan-shaped folds, the latter meeting with most general favor perhaps.

Possibly it is to make up for this simplicity in the skirts that basques have just now more than their fair share of decoration. Some of them have the material shirred on a close-fitting



LADY'S VISITING COSTUME.

lining in the middle of the back and at each side of the front, and are finished with a narrow belt. Others have loose folds crossing from the right shoulder to the left side, and in this case the left side of the waist is frequently of a material different from the other, as shown in the figure entitled, "Young Lady's Walking Dress," or is trimmed with many rows of narrow braid or velvet. In one pattern a yoke of velvet is used, to which the material is gathered; and in another, a frill passes over each shoulder and terminates at the waist in points, both at the back and front. Many bodices have a deep frill or plaiting sewn on immediately below the waist, whilst others are cut into deep slashes. Sometimes a Zouave or Figaro jacket is worn over a blouse-waist of spotted or figured material contrasting with the rest of the dress. This jacket is shown in the "Girl's School Dress" of our illustrations.

Sleeves are still made high and full on the shoulders, and close-fitting from elbow to

wrist. A slightly new variety shown in our first plate rejoices in the unpromising name of the "Corkscrew," and is so called from its twisted appearance.

Collars, especially on garments for outdoor wear, are high and slightly rolled back, though a good many turned-down coat collars are also to be seen.

Outdoor capes are made with a yoke, cut either round or square, with high shoulders and stand-up collars. The skirt of the cape is full and deep, reaching some inches below the waist of the wearer. It is shown in our third costume picture.

Sailor and pinafore costumes, more or less elaborate in construction, are much worn by little girls, while for very small boys kilted skirts with sailor or blouse waists are in as great favor as ever.

Most shapes of both hats and bonnets are still trimmed chiefly at the back or on the top. The sailor-hat, with an excessively low crown, is seen everywhere, but a new shape promises to rival it in the favor of young ladies who like to wear something that is suitable for all weathers or employments. This is a shape made both in straw and felt. It is trimmed with a band of rather broad ribbon of the same shade as the hat, and has a silk bow or two on one side, which may be either inside the narrow brim, or outside as in the second illustration already referred to.

A new bonnet for young ladies has a pointed crown, and is trimmed with high loops of ribbon at the back and bows and ends in front. (See the third of our costume sketches.)

Home Dressmaking.

If you have never made a dress at all, begin with a print wrapper and make it very simply with a blouse waist, which will not require lining, and a plain skirt with one or two narrow frills across the front. Be careful to have all your measurements accurate, and don't be afraid of using the tape measure a good deal; you will find that it saves time in the end. Be careful, also, not to cut on the bias when you should cut lengthwise of the goods, and mind, in a figured piece of stuff especially, that you cut nothing upside down or wrong-side out.

But we will suppose that you have already served your apprenticeship on such simple cotton garments and are now prepared for a more ambitious effort. In the first place, don't be tempted by false considerations of economy to buy too little stuff—you will lose in time and effect what you gain in money. This is one of the besetting sins of amateurs, though I must confess that professional dressmakers often err on the other side. Secondly, buy a good paper pattern, follow the printed directions that accompany it, and get some other person to fit the waist for you.

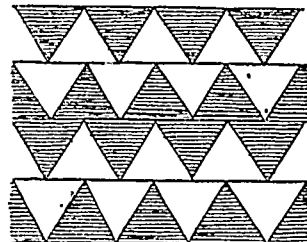
After both waist and skirt are stitched up, you must, if you wish to have your dress very nice, overcast the seams and press them open, all except the curved seams in the back of the waist. Some dressmakers press these also, but it is difficult for an amateur to do so, without doing more harm than good. For pressing the sleeves, wrap a piece of flannel round a smooth board or stick (a rolling-pin will do), turn the sleeve inside out over it, and press half at a time.

Lastly, be sure to put your buttons close enough together; if they are too far apart, it will spoil the fit. I have heard it said that a home-made dress can often be recognized immediately by its deficiencies in this respect.

If you can afford the luxury of having a dress made by professional hands occasionally, you will find that it will give you many ideas for your own work afterwards, as there is much in the craft and mystery of dressmaking that must be seen to be understood.

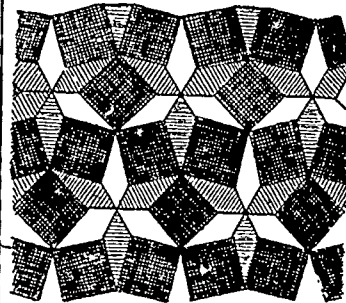
Patterns for Patchwork.

The zigzag is a simple and useful pattern for quilts. Two colors are used; and all the pieces are cut exactly the same size and shape. They are arranged as in the diagram.



ZIGZAG PATCHWORK.

A more complex pattern is called the Queen of Beauty Star. Either two or three colors



"QUEEN OF BEAUTY STAR" PATTERN.

may be used. In the illustration there are three, but for a quilt I think two would be prettier. A pink or blue star on a white ground would be effective. For this pattern the print is cut in two shapes as shown in the little diagram.



Pretty Toilet Boxes.

Glass jewel-boxes have again become fashionable as ornaments for the toilet-table. They may be made in any shape—square, diamond-shaped, triangular, or octagonal; and of colored, ground, or plain glass.

A very pretty one was made in a triangular shape, with puffed satin at the bottom. Three long, narrow pieces of plain glass formed the sides; the lid was made of a single piece (an equilateral triangle in shape), and the bottom was made of a piece of pasteboard of exactly the same size and shape as the top. The pasteboard was first covered with yellow satin, puffed on a lining and brought round the edges of the under-side, where it was fastened by sewing with long stitches from side to side. To hide these stitches, it was then lined with a bit of glazed yellow calico. The pieces of glass were bound with narrow yellow ribbon. This was done by drawing the ribbon tightly round the edge of the glass, and fastening the ends securely together with silk