

# THE WORLD OF FASHION

Year in and year out, season after season, the conflict continues on the subject of the advisability of the short skirt or the long skirt for street wear. At one time all odds are in favor of the practical short skirt, in which one can go about with so much comfort; at another a universal vote is obtained in favor of the long skirt, with its graceful and becoming lines, and in which it must be admitted by even the most violently opposed that a woman looks her best. But there are individuals of note, well learned in the arts and crafts of dress, who do not hesitate to say that the little short skirt is gaining for itself so firm a place in the modern outfit that it will be long regarded as absolutely indispensable not only to comfort, but to style.

Country life has had a great deal to do with the popularity of the short skirt, for it has long since been conceded that a long skirt in the country is not only not practical, but, worse still, "bad style," and the woman who does not own a country place of her own and is merely a guest at house parties no longer finds it advisable to be inappropriately even if becomingly, gown in long, trailing skirts. Then it is fashionable to take some account of physical exercise every day. Walking is part of the fashionable routine, and women pay no end of attention to having their walking gowns smart and becoming. They have demanded of their dress-makers smart short skirts, and consequently this season even those dress-makers who have been loudest in their championship of the long skirts have found it imperative to bestow time and skill upon turning out the smartest and most original street costumes.

For the morning the simpler and more practical styles are the smartest, and while the braiding and trimming so popular this season are to be noticed on even the plainest costumes, much more depends upon the perfection of cut and fit and the choice of material than upon any elaborate or ornate finish. Plain clothes, especially those in the lighter shades of color, are not considered nearly so smart or desirable as the rougher mixtures in the darker colorings. Serge and cheviot of all kinds and designs are very smart, and there is an unusual variety of choice in weaves and patterns in both fabrics. There are many weaves of serge that are fashionable, while blue serge, generally relegated to summer wear, is in unusual demand for not only the skirt and coat costume, but the waist and three-piece costume. Black braiding is considered smart with blue serge and all widths of braid are used, the narrowest soutache and also the inch wide fancy braid with glossy finish edged on either side with the narrow soutache. Many different effects are obtained by the use of these different widths of braid, and it is not at all necessary to use a lot of it in order to obtain good results. In fact, it is difficult to obtain a good effect with an elaborate design of soutache braiding on serge if the serge is of the larger weave or cord. The plain cloth of a lighter shade shows off the braiding far better, and is in consequence used on collars, cuffs, facings and waistcoats.

There would seem to be an uncertainty as to the smartest model for the short skirt. The sheath skirt is not under any circumstances possible, nor is the too scant skirt possible unless it is long. At the same time fashion has decreed that close fitting styles are to be worn, and every effort is made to follow the decree. A most serious problem it is, for to cut a scant skirt so that it will be becoming, not immodest and yet be fashionable requires skill; but the task is not an impossible one, and with the aid of a good skirt pattern it is wonderful what can be accomplished provided time and care be bestowed upon the problem. The marvellous improvement in the ready-made skirts this season is a proof of this, for in almost every place where ready-made costumes are for sale it is possible for any woman of average figure to purchase a smart, attractive and well-fitting skirt.

## Latest Paris Fashions, Practical Tailor-Made Costumes

Costumes are for sale it is possible for any woman of average figure to purchase a smart, attractive and well-fitting skirt. The pleated skirts which attained such a high degree of popularity last summer are no longer the latest, but none the less among the best and smartest models must be the many pleated skirts. They are easily on quite different lines from the round side pleated ones and are, in fact, in box pleats, quite large pleats there are clusters of pleats inserted at intervals, apparently to give so fullness below the hips and prevent the coming "sinking in" that is a disagreeable and unbecoming feature of the too scant skirt.

The newest short skirts are a good length, not exaggeratedly short as was the fashion for a while last year, but short enough to clear the grid satisfactorily. It is astonishingly smart and becoming a short skirt can be made if the plan, the length and width are properly carried out. But so enough to clear the ground does mean so short as to show the feet; and on which many a carefully planned short skirt costume is wrecked is the model that is chosen to copy. The del for a long skirt is rarely, if ever possible for a short one. The lines are quite different, and in nine cases out of ten an attempt to cut over a train it into a short one means a dismal failure. A practical piece of economy is the two skirts for the same coat, for the costume is suitable for both morning and afternoon wear. In a clear velvet this is much more practical than in the rougher materials, such as serge and cheviot, which are not smart afternoons.

Waistcoats are a great addition to the cloth costumes this winter. Wear with the elaborate reception on the embroidered or brocaded ones; most effective, while for the plain street gown the heavy ribbed silk or satin, or "vesting" as it is called, is better. Single and double breasted styles are equally fashionable, although it must be admitted that there are more of the double than the single breasted type up. Black is much worn, but it is popular to have a lighter shade in the linings of the gown and then to have the linings of the coat match the waistcoat. A green and black striped waistcoat, with black satin waist and facings of collar and cuffs also satin, is a good example of this fashion, while a blue serge, with heavy velvet waistcoat of green and the coat lined with green, is an instance of the color contrast that is in favor. Most fascinating contrast is seen in waistcoats of primrose color with a blue serge costume and with facings at linings of the primrose. Heavy silk cloth may be chosen.

Almost without exception the long coats are considered the smartest in spite of there being among the smart models a few shorter ones to be noticed. The long three-quarter length is the most popular and with a little more little time to come, as it is the most practical in winter, as well as best suited to the tailor made costume, under which heading are included all the sible short street gowns.

Loose backed coats are still the most fashionable, but as there are a great many women to whom the style is unbecoming there are now new lines being introduced to modify the most trying effects. Oddly enough, it is this.



A TAILORED SHIRTWAIST FOR MISSES AND SMALL WOMEN.

Not only for in cloth and silk may this design be developed, but linen, lawn or madras may also be used. The front shows the popular coat closing and is made with tab trimmed box plaits. The back has a box plait over the centre. The sleeve shows a new style with tucks from wrist to elbow and is finished with a narrow cuff.

slender figures that look the best in these apparently shapeless fashions; the woman who is at all stout may not look well in a too tight fitting and plain coat, but in a loose coat, if it be not most carefully fitted, gains the effect of many pounds in weight. The seams must have some curve at the side just below the sleeves, for if the coat hangs too full from the shoulders, or on the other hand, is too scant, the width across the hips and back is accentuated in a most trying manner. Braid and folds of satin are a godsend to the tailor who has to make for stout women, for by their aid he can give the effect of long lines that the wearer of the coat certainly has not received from the hand of nature. The same thing applies to the strapped seams on coat and skirts, and it is interesting to notice how the placing of the braid, the folds or strapped seams will give the effect of almost a slender figure when the same costume without such treatment would be most unbecoming.

—A. T. Ashmore, in New York Herald.

### HOUSEHOLD HELPS.

How to Test the Oven for Heat Without a Thermometer.

Different cooks have different tests for oven heat. Here is a simple way, especially for a gas range, which usually heats quickly. Place a sheet of white paper on the bottom or rack, whichever you wish to use. If the oven is very hot, the paper becomes blackened, and it should be cooled by opening the lower door of a gas range, or by closing the draughts of a coal range. When the oven is fit for pies, the paper turns a light brown in five minutes, when it turns yellow in five minutes, it is ready for bread.

When you serve macaroni for luncheon, and if in a hurry, make a nice sauce of one-half a pound of sharp cheese, grated; one tablespoonful of flour, one-quarter of a teaspoonful of salt, one-fourth of a teaspoonful of mustard and one-half a pint of sweet milk; cook these two minutes, stirring constantly; add two cupfuls of boiled macaroni, stir and cook three minutes more, season lightly with salt and black pepper; serve in a hot dish, with buttered toast as an accompaniment.

The next time you serve cream cheese balls try rolling them in chopped black walnuts or a mixture of ground nut meats. (One may use the meat grinder.) Whole cloves make a good and handy remedy for nausea and for travellers' headache; they are equally good for those dreaded troubles, sea sickness and indigestion. For either disturbance chew until there is absolutely nothing left of a white clove; repeat every hour until relieved.

When buying canned goods of any kind always look and see if either end is depressed. If the ends are bulged out reject the cans, as it is an indication that fermentation has set in, and the contents will be unfit for use.

If the sewing machine runs heavily, oil it with kerosene. Let it remain over night, wipe it off in the morning with a piece of old flannel; then oil it everywhere with bicycle oil. Give it a good rub with a fresh piece of old underwear and a final polish off with soft cheese cloth.

Oven-broiled bacon is wholesome and delicious. To make it put slices on a rack in the oven over, over the dripping pan. Cook under a moderate flame until a light brown; turn it frequently to prevent burning; serve as soon as possible.

Never drop greasy towels into hot soapuds; it sets the grease. Wash them in lukewarm soapy water first, then in very hot suds; rinse well, dry out of doors. Great attention should be paid to dish towels and dish cloths, but, strange to say, they receive very little usually.

Delicious and satisfying sandwiches can be made with a filling composed of equal quantities of almonds, raisins, dates or figs. Put these through the meat grinder; then reduce the mixture to a paste with unfermented grape

juice. Spread bread very lightly with butter or Neufchatel cheese, according to taste. Then with the other mixture serve the sandwiches on a pretty plate for luncheon or tea. In making sandwiches it is easier to cut the crust from a loaf of bread. Spread it, then cut the slices off as thin as possible, using a very sharp knife.

When stewing tough meat or poultry add one tablespoonful of vinegar. It will save at least an hour's cooking.

Have a clean duster, and a place to keep it, in every room in the house; it will save you many steps.

A knuckle of veal makes a nice stew, but be sure to use boiling water to make it, and a large slice of onion, a generous amount of parsley, chopped fine, and a teaspoonful of sugar to the gravy; it improves the flavor.

Should you meet with the distressing accident of shutting your finger in a door or window, plunge it quickly into the hottest water you can bear; change the water as it cools. Do this for at least half an hour; it affords great relief.

White silk discolors easily, so be sure your irons are not very hot when you iron your white silk waist. It should be ironed before becoming quite dry to have it look smooth; iron on both sides.



AN EFFECTIVE SHIRTWAIST DESIGN FOR MISSES AND SMALL WOMEN.

Stitching forms a desirable finish for this model, with it is arranged three box plaits over the shoulder and a single tuck on each side of the centre plait gives fullness to the waist and relieving the severity of the plaits. The back has a centre plait with a row of tucks at each side.

### THE BRIDE AND HER WEDDING.

Old Family Lace is Draped Without the Slightest Scissoring.

This season has been remarkable for the number of smart society weddings that have been solemnized. The wearing of heirloom lace upon the marriage robe is a prominent mode in matters sartorial, and the ingenuity of the dress-maker is exercised in order that the lace may be well displayed without suffering the sacrifice of cutting.

In one case last week a bride wore a magnificent skirt of Carrickmacross most ingeniously draped on fichu upon the corsage with one end hanging in front and the other and longer end draping the train.

In one old English family the same wedding ring is used at the marriage of all its members, and is changed afterwards for an ordinary ring. The faithful adherence to this old custom is never allowed to lapse.

A long retinue of maids is chosen by the bride of to-day to follow her to the altar, and conspicuous among them are almost always one or two tiny girls, and very often a couple of boy train-bearers.

The bridesmaids of Lady Edith Campbell's wedding wore dresses of white cascade crepe embroidered with white floss silk Net yokes and sleeves and pale blue sashes were added, and large lots of delicate blue satin wreathed with big white chiffon roses entwining in dark autumn red leaves.

Whether to choose wreaths or hats for the bridesmaids is a matter of individual taste. The maids who followed Lady Dorothy Godolphin Osborne to the altar wore chaplets of green leaves, hunched at the sides with pink blossoms and blue ribbon, which hung in loops.

An extremely pretty effect is produced when the bridesmaids as well as the bride wear white robes, and the bridesmaids follow the example of the bride in decking their hair with chaplets of flowers or foliage. Veils are added in many cases.

With their green leaf wreaths the bridesmaids just mentioned wore white mousseline satin toilettes, and very picturesque capes of blue satin fastened on the shoulders with links of white satin, and edged with ball fringe. Their dresses were perfectly plain, and the bridesmaids were belted with white satin sashes heavily fringed at the ends.

Very interesting as well as effective was the choice of a recent bride, whose name, Dorothy, inspired her to give her bridesmaids baskets filled with red roses and golden apples, in order to recall the legend of St. Dorothy and Theophilus, who was converted to Christianity by the appearance of a child from heaven, bearing from the martyrred saint an offering of roses and apples. The trousseau made for Lady Dorothy Godolphin Osborne exhibited a number of embroidered with chenille to match and original and beautiful ideas. Of a truly charming grace, for instance, was the going-away dress of grey velours souple, furnished with a round chemise of white mousseline de soie.

### Free Advice.

A traveller, passing through a mountain district in northern Pennsylvania last summer, came across a lad of sixteen cultivating a patch of miserable potatoes. He remarked upon their unpromising appearance, and expressed pity for any one who had to dig a living out of such soil.

"I don't need no pity," said the boy, resentfully.

The traveller hastened to soothe his wounded pride. But in an offended tone of one who had been misjudged, the boy added: "I ain't as poor as you think, I'm only workin' here. I don't own 'this place.'—Everybody's Magazine.

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### BRIDGE RIGS.

Tight Sleeves Just the Thing—As to the Dress.

For a considerable proportion of town and country folks, says London Ladies' Field, the great winter amusement—especially in bad weather—is bridge, and bridge in the winter often starts at 3 o'clock, and among enthusiasts may end at any time between then and midnight, with, of course, intervals for the refreshment of the inner woman. Like everything else that women indulge in, it means an occasion for a distinctive frock. The fashions of the moment are particularly adaptable to unconventional social gatherings of this kind. For instance, the long, tight sleeves, with neither frills nor fur-bowels to interfere with the movements of the hands or objects on the table, are a distinct advantage at a bridge party. The blouse and skirt is one thing and the house or bridge frock is another. If we are distinctly fashionable we do not wear

blouses and skirts unless they be of the same color, and this means, for all practical people, that our bodies must be very cool if it is to take the place of the crocheted and chiffon, delightfully comfortable, undined creations we have been accustomed to for so long.

The up-to-date gown boasts of hardly any lining, even in the sleeve; this makes for coolness and comfort under the fur coat, but it does not always serve the practical purposes of women on small dress allowances.

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"Do you believe in the literal idea of future punishment?" "Not for myself," answered Mr. Sirius Barker. "But I favor it for a lot of people I know."—Washington Star.



A PRETTY, PRACTICAL DRESS FOR MOTHER'S GIRLS.

Of course frocks should always be neat and pretty and mothers also require that they should be practical, so if they express individuality, childishness and grace, they are sure to win favor. We have shown in the model here portrayed a pretty effect for checks, plaids or plain linen or cotton. A shallow yoke of contrast with a group of tucks at each side. The sleeves are of the bishop style.