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Remarks on Current Fashions.



FIGURE No. 505 R.

FIGURE No. 506 R.

FIGURES NOS. 505 R. AND 506 R.—LADIES' TOILETTES.—(The Front Views of these Toilettes are shown on Page 472.)

The omission of trains from the skirts of walking costumes is one of the most noteworthy features of the Winter modes and will prove particularly gratifying to those women who have of late experienced the annoyance of constantly fraying hems and worn-out skirt-protectors.

The popular bell skirts look quite as well in round as in trained length. It may be stated, however, that trained skirts are more graceful for indoor and carriage wear and are quite as popular as heretofore for these purposes.

In one of the new bell skirts the severe and trying lines about

the hips are relaxed by groups of plaits made toward the back in the top. The plaits cause the front to fall in innumerable folds and wrinkles, which will be found improving alike to stout and slender figures.

Another skirt has a plain front and a plaited back and sides and is especially well suited to the development of bordered goods. The effect of a combination may easily be produced by using the border as a facing for the front.

"Pulled" basques have a pointed lower outline and show a group of plaits caught to a point at the center of the waist-line both back and front.

A quaint effect may be produced in a "pulled" waist by the addition of a fichu with a deep edge ruffle. The arrangement seems to increase the breadth of the shoulders and to emphasize the tapering lines of the waist, toward which, of course, the ruffle is gradually narrowed.

The daintiest, fluffiest fichus, by-the-by, are made of black French lace and edged with double frills that fall in long ends upon the skirt.

A plain basque may be rendered very ornamental for theatre wear by an applied fancy front, consisting of a yoke of *point de Gène* lace and an accordion-plaited lower-section of light silk.

Only a woman with a slender figure may with propriety wear the extremely youthful-looking bell-skirt that has a corsage-like bodice-portion supported by shoulder straps. Considerable skill is required to shape this skirt properly, but its beauty more than compensates for the trouble of making. It is to be worn in the house over a silk blouse.

A long, full *gi'tet* showing tucks at the top and flaring folds below is a handsome accessory for a tea-gown, and a train, though not imperatively necessary, is charmingly effective.

Blouse-waists may be appropriately assumed with contrasting skirts; they will, therefore, prove useful to accompany skirts that have outlived their original waists.

Swedish mousquetaire gloves the color of the costume are very stylish for dressy wear.

Short-wristed glacé gloves in the brown and tan shades are most popular for walking.

Graceful three-quarter length coats are made of Bedford cord and are preferably worn with costumes to match. They may be completed with a black silk braid binding, whether the material be light or dark.

Dressy top-garments of black or colored cloth are richly elaborated with jet passementerie.

Storm-coats of shaggy cloth may be given a dressy appearance by the addition of fur or Astrakhan trimming, both of which are as durable as they are ornamental.

A unique and ingenious fancy is expressed by inserting a puffing in the front of a basque above the bust between a yoke and a plaited lower-portion, the puffing extending quite across the front. From the lower edge fall long basque-ruffles that will be very improving to figures with prominent hips.