

EARLIEST AUTUMN HINTS.

Inquiries to this department will be answered on page 23.

THE buyers for Canada's big wholesale houses have returned from their trips to the great manufacturing centres, where prophets of fashion are paid fabulous salaries to interpret the signs of the coming season; and even now boxes and bales are arriving from London, Paris and Brussels, beneath whose lightly raised lids we catch glimpses of lovely novelties for autumn wear.

It is yet a little early for full knowledge; but we skilfully trap these wise modistes, milliners and buyers of stocks, and learn the signs of the near approaching season.

And while our pencil is busy with its jottings, our eyes are catching glimpses of colours and materials that will appear in full vogue at the September 'openings.'

In dress materials broadcloths are to acquire popularity, partly supplanting the favourite boucle cloths, although the figured boucle will still continue in demand.

The broadcloth comes in every possible shade. It is being manufactured in about twenty colours, so that the suggestion of sombreness conveyed by the word is needless.

With its smooth, even surface, and in the delicate new tints, it will prove very handsome material.

Serges will continue to hold their own; the blue and storm serges have become almost a staple goods.

Plaids and checks are 'in' for the autumn and early winter. This is emphatic. Tartan is the order of the season close upon us. It appears in wraps, blouses, skirts, even belts, in every variety of colour grouping, and representative of every clan that ever existed.

Very effective double plaids are shown. Black and tan shades appear in each of them, together with combinations of olive and green, green and red, blue, etc.

It is surprising what rich additional effect is gained in these plaids by a touch of silk woven in the material.

In making up early fall costumes skirts that 'sheath' about the hips are again to the fore. As close a fit as possible about the hips is the desideratum.

The godet skirt will still exist; but the godets will cease to be at the sides, and be confined to the back only, which possibly predicates their final extinction.

The new style of skirt varies between absolute and relative plainness. The skirt is made plain to the back of the hips, with some fullness at the back in the

form of a few close-set gathers, or a plait with gathers on either side.

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The really remarkable change is the disappearance to a great extent of skirt lining. The 'foundation skirt,' which has been confined to transparent materials during the summer season, will be extended to heavier goods. In the case of stiff materials, such as mohair, pique, taffeta, no form of lining is necessary, but in others,—cloths and solid woollens, for instance,—they will be made with false hem enclosing an interlining. These hems should be from twelve to fifteen inches wide.

In view of this, the quality and make of underskirts assumes a greater importance.

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The modification in width of the skirt is unimportant, since the change only demands a perfectly close fit over the hips; but five yards around is ample for light fabrics, while heavier ones require only four yards.



No. 4.

In ready-made clothing establishments

the skirts are usually cut in four breadths, one for front and back, one for each side.

This necessitates the sewing together at the further side seams of two biased edges, and when the fabric is of a nature to stretch readily it is preferable to tack a narrow tape on the seam, stitching it together with the edges.

Both tailor-made and silk skirts are cut with a larger number of breadths.

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Home dressmakers do not always appreciate the fact that the chic fall of the skirt resides in the disposition of the seams. The central front seam, when well managed, adds much to the style of the skirt, especially if the material be striped or checked.

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Autumn walking gowns are to be made somewhat shorter. But dressy skirts show a slight inclination to train. This very rightly emphasises the distinction between the purposes of the two.

A revival of a becoming mode of three or four seasons ago may be seen in a skirt to be worn with a blouse. The upper part of its closely-fitted breadths are carried up in the form of a wide-shaped belt or corselet, garnished at the upper edge with bows. This sort of skirt is open at the side.

'Pocket' trimmings, straps or other similar decorations, will be a favourite form of ornament. The skirts also show indications of trimmings of braid, ribbon, velvet or piping.

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Insertions of lace will be applied to silk gowns.

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An effort is being made to promote the taste for double skirts. But as yet it has gone no further than to mount a sheath skirt of brocade on lace underskirts.

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For the warm gown needed in one's wardrobe during the late summer season no colour takes the place of dark or navy blue.

It may be effectively relieved with facings or pipings of crimson silk, but this must be done with judgment and taste to produce the correct result. The crimson or scarlet silk blouse is a useful article in a woman's wardrobe during September month. This season it may be a plaid. Dark blue skirt and natty Eton coat, with scarlet silk blouse, and hat with poppies, is an outline of a most effective outdoor costume, which each woman may adapt in minor details to suit her individual requirements.

The plaid belt, with silver thistle buckle design, which we illustrate, is one of the pretty fads of the season, and will be much worn with the plaid blouse.



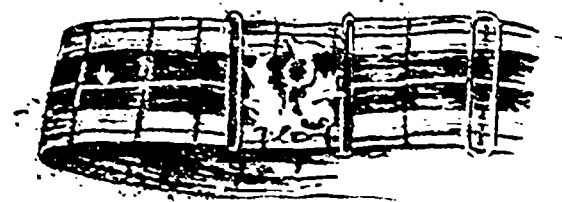
No. 2.

NEW GOWNS AND WRAPS.

We show this month a very pretty yet simple 'slight mourning' gown sent out in August by a leading Toronto firm. It is of black peu de soie silk, and has a short bodice reaching just below the waist line.

The back of the bodice is trimmed with two deep side plaits which begin at each shoulder seam and almost meet at the base of the bodice, giving a deep V effect to the foundation silk. The front is full gathered between a wide box plait on each side, caught in at the shoulder seams and extending to the base of the bodice.

These plaits are garnished with an over



trimming of black Valenciennes insertion edged with narrow lace. The touch of colour is given by a double row of mauve belé ribbon run through the insertion. The standing collar is similarly garnished with the lace insertion and ribbon, and finished with a large bow of wide mauve satin ribbon at the side.

The sleeves are tight to the elbow, and puffed. The wrist is slashed in three and filled in with lace, giving a soft and small effect to the hand.



No. 1.