

*This Young Lady Will Go Any Length*

# The Exaggerated Straight Front and Low Bust

THE LIZZIE SPENCER WOMAN

BY MISS MANHATTAN.  
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Lines that have been tabooed by women for three or four years are again making themselves conspicuous in fashionable feminine figures. Straight fronts are a little less straight, waists assume a decided French curve, and the low bust is no longer low, but has raised itself so that the effect is almost of the old-fashioned figure. This change in the feminine outline is due, so it is said, to the innate fondness of women for trim, slender waists, and even the average woman had to increase the size of her waist measure considerably when she wore one of the modern corsets.

The straight front corset was destined specially for the improvement of the stout woman's figure, and her sister wears it because the cut made very little difference with her bust while it did impart that long-for-perpendicular line from there to the hem of her skirt. This was all very well for the stout woman, whose appearance was vastly improved by the manner in which she elevated her abdomen and dropped the avoirdupois above. She could be belted, strapped and cinched into a harness without any great discomfort and look all the better for the struggle, although her waist measure was increased by the operation by at least two or three inches. Any stout woman could afford to add a little there in order to take away from other points. It was a different story for the thin woman, however, and after three or four years of straight and high busts she has at last declared that these are not for her.

A score of physicians were interviewed when the straight front first came on the scene, and the majority agreed that, hygienically, it was a vast improvement over anything in the corset line that women had ever worn. They even stamped the abdominal elevation with their approval, saying that the corset supplied support and bandages about as well in a way than anything they could give women to wear. And some of them insisted that it was impossible for a woman to injure herself by lifting her abdomen if she followed ordinary rules. This certainty was strong commendation, but with all the good that the straight front did it had one very bad feature for which the slender woman could not possibly stand. It increased her waist measure to such an extent that she felt she was losing all her attractive trimness. That she lost it, however, the waist is all too true. Physically this was said to be to her advantage, but much was said and written about the

SOME small figures, they say, all in the curvaceously in the make bad figures, so many of them build, and in the achievement of his own work of men

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able to lace themselves in as they did several years ago. She went so far as to state that it would be impossible to get their waists back to their former size, no matter how hard they struggled with the laces. Flesh, bone and muscles would have formed themselves during the days of freedom, and slender waists would be a thing of the past. In some cases this may be true, but there are a good many slender women who are willing to go through the same process all over again, to get back the tiny waist, if they do so, they were so proud once upon a time. The result is a result of the wearing of the small-waisted corset, and is partly due to the introduction of 1880 styles. Full skirts are ridiculous with

pouter-piecion figures. There must be a decided curve in the waist in order to give the proper effect, and when bodices are gathered and shirred over long, drooping shoulders, and then brought in snugly to the figure below to just, they must fit over a bust that is modeled on different lines from that of the popular straight front. Many of the newest gowns are supplied with very wide belts, which look extremely well, and are fitted so that they are perpendicular in the front and very nearly so at the sides. So the lines that were fashionable a few years ago, but not to attempt the squaring that was never pretty or attractive.

There is one great advantage in the attempt to decrease the size of the waist which makes the task easier than would seem possible at first. All the outdoor sports and games which are now being taken up by men and themselves of late has had a tendency to broaden their chests and diaphragms. Consequently, the comparatively small waist looks much smaller on account of the greater width of the shoulders and hips. It was by no means easy to pull the waist in till it looked slender. A man now wears a 23 inch belt gradually let it out to 26 or six, but his shoulders and chest were never so broad. Now that fashion demands a little less mid-circumference, a part of

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that increase can be taken away and the waist will look even smaller than it did before he started to diet. The new style is very little to be said against the revived style so long as the lungs and abdomen are not compressed. The new style is not so tight in just at the waist line without producing any serious effects. It was utterly impossible for any man to wear the new laws. No matter how eagerly and assiduously a woman worked to decrease her waist, she would find that the front corset she was never successful in wearing. In the first place, the corset was too tight at the waist, and then the moment the laces were brought together for an effort to lessen the waistline measure the corset began to ride up in an extremely uncomfortable manner. The corset in the former place the laces could be pulled in just so much, but not

fraction of an inch more. The waist had to be left as the corset designer intended it to be, and this did not altogether suit some women.

Periodically we expect to have changes in the fashion of the female sex, as we have in their general life, and the straight front, with its large waist and low bust, had a long and successful reign. But it is not to be expected that something newer will be brought forward to take the place of the straight front. It can be said to be in favor of the small-waisted corset-tied, and the small-waisted and small figure. What stout women are going to do about it is not definitely known as yet, but they will probably make some effort to cinch themselves into smaller proportions. They will also endeavor to reappearance of large abdomens and protruding busts.

## Rafia Hats.

Rafael is saving his keeping the fingers of many of our smartest women busy just now and the works of art that are turned out by some of these adepts at the weaving of the various ceremonial matters. In the Western States clubs have been formed for the sole purpose of saving the value of the time of those for which different Indian tribes are noted and side by side with the genuine work of the weaver, the basket maker will be duplicates done by young women who duplicate every detail of pattern and shape. For the summer months basket clubs are organized in the West and the girls, cliques than bridge and euchre gatherings, and instead of studying the best of the basket makers, they are busy and not care to do the actual weaving but like to learn something about Indian basket languages spend the time reading

up on these young women know the exact value of a Kilikiti or a Fraser silver basket the instant they set eyes on one, and the bargains that are pulled off between these learned persons and some of the squaws for a few are still ignorant of the reasons for the put upon. The latter would make a good collector envious. It must be said, however, that the women are not without left who are not eager to ask doubtful what they should for their baskets. So the dealer does not have to be troubled by Eastern travelers, who are willing to pay almost any price for a fine specimen of the work of the Indians of the Indian basket regions are beginning to resent what they consider ignorant interference.

Among the commoner baskets that are made are those of the coast and of the Kilikiti tribe of the prairie and

This sea on rafa hats are being worn in a newer and prettier style than they have been in the past. The grass is knitted in an open fancy pattern, and afterwards shaped into turbans or broad-brimmed plaques. Field flowers, such as daisies, bachelor buttons, ragged shales and poppies, are stuck into the rafa. The bright shades are so well set off against the deep yellow of the grass that the effect is very pleasing. The pinz are one of the rafa fads of the times. These are worn as neckties and are made of rafa and look lively and open. Larger bags are convenient for carrying the rafa. The rafa has created a great many of these little fads originated in the West. The rafa is very popular in the big cities of the East. Rafa hats, beads, belts, Natukid purses, and other things that have gained popularity on the Pacific Coast.

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