

towards you, place the centre front of the band to the centre front of the skirt and pin so that the seam will be on the right side. By so doing it is much easier to make an alteration if necessary. Pin along one-half of the band, then the other half, being careful to mark and have the seams exactly opposite each other, baste and try on the skirt, finish the band and sew on the fasteners.

Then it is time to turn the hem around the bottom, but not before for you cannot be sure of the length until the top is finished. The slightest alteration at the waist-line affects the length, and so time will be saved if the turning of the hem is left until all the rest is finished.

In fitting any garment, only one side should be fitted. If any alteration has been made, the bastings should be removed, the parts placed together and marked alike, then basted again. In this way only can one be sure of having straight garments.

Should the person be larger on one side than the other, fit the larger side, mark both the same; then, when you have made both alike try the garment on and take in what may be necessary on the smaller side.

In dressmaking establishments there is usually a platform on which the person stands while the hem of the skirt is being turned, so that it is not necessary for the one turning the hem to kneel or sit on the floor, as is the case when both are on the same level, that position being awkward and the work tedious.

In the average home sewing-room there is seldom space for more than the absolute necessities. A platform is not one of these. If the person to be fitted will stand at the head of the stairway and the person who is to turn the hem will sit on the first or second step, the work may be done quickly and with comparative comfort.

To the home dressmaker, an adjustable dress form is of much assistance, so also is a skirt hemmer. With these one can make a skirt and know it is going to be all right without troubling any person.

The walking skirt, to be correct, must be an even distance from the floor; and, as people are not always the same size on both sides, one cannot be sure of getting a perfectly even length by measuring the skirt off the form. To those who must work unaided, the following method, if carefully carried out, will prove satisfactory:—

Put on the skirt, place one end of a yard-stick on the floor, and, keeping it straight, place a pin in the skirt at the other end of the yard-stick. Repeat this until there is a row of pins all