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The Up-to-the-Minute Parisienne

Her "Apache" Walk, Her "Ill-Fitting" Coat, Knee Slit Skirt and "Pasha" Headgear Described by Lady Duff-Gordon

LADY DUFF-GORDON, the famous "Lucile" of London, and foremost creator of fashions in the world, writes each week the fashion article for this newspaper, presenting all that is newest and best in styles for well-dressed women. Lady Duff-Gordon's Paris establishment brings her into close touch with that centre of fashion.

Lady Duff-Gordon's American establishment is at Nos. 37 and 39 West Fifty-seventh street, New York.



Lady Gordon's Sketch of the Up-to-the-Minute Chic Parisian

ries herself. It is called the "Apache" slouch—and I do not like it. The body is thrust forward slightly from the hips, and the feet are almost dragged along the pave. The idea is to proceed with a sinuous swagger. It is not graceful, and it is not natural. I hope to see the fashion soon die out with the turkey trot, the bunny hug and the other atrocious dances from which the walk has sprung.

The slit-up skirt is in its present form decidedly vulgar. Since its tentative introduction last Autumn a class of Parisians have taken it up avidly, and the result is not always pleasing. Personally I think that the slit skirt for afternoon and morning wear is too vulgar to need any condemnation. Its own grotesqueness should be its death blow.

The picture shown here is the slit at its worst. It is seen thus in Paris, and it has made its appearance in New York, but I know that it will not become really fashionable with you. In Paris the demi-mondaines are bound to kill it. No gentleman would wear such a skirt as this. With an underskirt, however, this model would be very charming.

Parisians of the fashionable world are, however, wearing in the daytime the skirt slit just a little in the back or at the side. This is very good style, even when the costume is tailored. The slit should be about eight inches high, and if no panel or drape is used there should be a petticoat of contrasting color. With a brown skirt one could wear a rose or a green petticoat.

The slit skirt for evening is really delightful when the wearer has pretty feet and slender ankles. But it should not be slit more than ten inches, and there should be a cloudy chiffon effect, so that the charm of the ankle is half concealed. Some of the evening gowns are slit on both sides, and always, to be in perfect taste, the stockings should be the same color as the gown. I have arranged fascinating little bouquets of flowers at the point of these slits, and this is a very fetching fashion.

The little rousing-about suits made of serge and tweeds do show a slit, even in the most demure styles, but these slits are invariably hidden by a fold of the material, and do not show the ankle unless one takes a very long step or the wind blows very hard. Here is one of the oddest of the new Parisian tourist costumes. It is all new, from the swirling effect of the trimmings to the adaptation of the soldier cape.

Quite a lot of covert coating suits and twills are going to be used during the coming Spring. It would seem that serge is not going to reign unrivalled. Some of these covert coating suits will show belted effects on the coats, a band of soft suede being just introduced across the front or at the back, but not being allowed to appear at the side in case there might be the slightest inward curve and break of that straight line which is still our chief aim and object to secure and proudly display. An almost severe simplicity is indeed in every way the chief characteristic of the newest tailor suits, and so it is most fortunate and fitting that the small and almost unadorned hat is to be the most favored and fashionable model all through the Spring season.

By Lady Duff-Gordon.
BEHOLD the up-to-the-minute Parisienne! I have had her drawn for you just as this instant she is stepping out on the boulevards. She is Mademoiselle Chic, the newest, freshest product from the couturier's hand-box.
 Notice that her skirt is slit up to the knee, and is draped to show the length of stocking underneath. The heels of her low shoes are extremely high—limit is six inches.
 Notice that the coat is short and appears to be ill-fitting, but it is the chic note to have the coat full like this. Notice, too, the peculiar draping at the back.
 The hat is still very small, and an enormous parasol plume is set in the back. The crown is soft and the brim is hard. The muff is huge and round. The tie is very small, and is generally attached to the coat.
 Notice the manner in which she carries



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