

turned up, the garment wears better. If the goods are to be cut double—that is, folded before the pattern is pinned on, and both sides cut at one stroke, see that the right sides are together. Pin the patterns on the goods, observing all these directions, and with a bit of sharpened chalk mark all edges, notches and perforations. If seam allowance is indicated on the label of the pattern, cut exactly the size of the pattern; if no allowance for seams, the goods should be cut large enough to allow for a seam three-eighths inch wide. Where perforations indicate plaits or darts, take a tack through them with a needle and thread, in order that they may be even on both sides of the pattern. Do not cut darts, either in waist or skirt, for alterations in the pattern may be called for. Remember to carefully observe all directions and cut just like the pattern, even if the goods

must be pieced, but try to lay the parts so no piecing must be done.

Hanging the Skirt

It is very difficult for one to hang the skirt evenly without assistance, but one can approximate the correct length by finishing the top of the skirt, then putting it on just as it is intended to be worn. Have a good, straight yard stick; stand before a mirror, place one end of the stick on the floor, holding it straight up against the skirt. Put a pin in the skirt at the top end of the yard stick, and then move the stick an inch or two to one side, measure, and again mark with a pin; continue until you have a row of pins all around your skirt somewhere near the hip measurement. Take the skirt off and finish the bottom exactly one yard from the pins if you want it to touch the floor; if not wanted so long, al-

Latest Fashions for Readers of The Commoner



2198—Misses' Shirt-Waist, with Front Yoke, Three-Quarter Length Sleeves and Fancy Collar. In Prussian blue or olive green challis, mohair or albatross this model would develop well. Three sizes, 13 to 17 years.



2184—Misses' Nine-Gored Plaited Skirt. This model would develop well in any of the checked suitings, plain or striped cheviot, serge or chiffon broadcloth. Three sizes, 13 to 17 years.



2174—Child's One-Piece Dress, Closed at Centre-Back. This simple little one-piece model is made up in Delft-blue mohair and worn with a patent leather belt. Five sizes, 1 to 9 years.



2199—Ladies' Long Box Coat. As a protection against the changes of weather there is nothing more serviceable. Seven sizes, 32 to 44.

2181—Ladies' Tucked Shirt-Waist. Closed at Left Side of Front. Brilliant Scotch plaid in green, blue, red and yellow has been used for this jaunty shirt-waist, which is closed down the left side of front with flat brass buttons. Seven sizes, 32 to 44.

2187—Ladies' Nine-Gored Plaited Skirt. This is an excellent model for the separate skirt to wear with shirt-waists of silk or linen. Six sizes, 22 to 32.

2192—Child's Dress, with High or Low-Neck, Long or Short Sleeves and with or without the Bertha. This dainty little frock is adaptable for both every-day and party wear. Four sizes, ½ to 5 years.

2207—Ladies' House Dress—The Waist with or without Short Body Lining, and the Five Gored Skirt joined to the Waist. The model here illustrated was developed in dark red challis figured in black. Eight sizes, 32 to 46.



THE COMMONER will supply its readers with perfect fitting, seam allowing patterns from the latest Paris and New York styles. The designs are practical and adapted to the home dressmaker. Full directions how to cut and how to make the garments with each pattern. The price of these patterns 10 cents each, postage prepaid. Our large catalogue containing the illustrations and descriptions of 1,000 seasonable styles for ladies, misses and children, as well as lessons in home dress-making full of helpful and practical suggestions in the making of your wardrobe mailed to any address on receipt of 10 cents.

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low for a shorter length, two or three inches, as the case may be. The distance must be carefully measured from each pin. It is best to have an assistant.

Alterations

Few forms are so perfect that alterations are unnecessary, with the best of patterns. For the waist, the alterations should be made as much as possible at the shoulders and underarm seams; darts should not be cut until all fitting is done. For the skirt, the seams should be basted, plaits laid, and then, the waist band having been pinned properly around the waist-line, the skirt should be slipped on, wrong-side out, and fitted about the hips, pinning in place to the hand. In this work it is well to have an assistant, as few home seamstresses can fit themselves. The darts in the hips should not be cut, but simply pressed flat in place, allowing for alteration at some future time, if desired.

To insure a well-fitting sleeve, if there are no notches to guide, measure an inch back from the shoulder seam, fold the arm-hole together, and place the inner seam of the sleeve at the front fold of the arm-hole. If the wearer is stout, measure from one to two inches, according to need.

Cash or Credit?

One of the clearest lessons taught by the recent "stringency" and the resultant "hard times," is that it never pays the wage-worker to go in debt. The assurance for so long from certain quarters that there was nothing ahead of us but prosperous times, has fostered a spirit of waste and extravagance which nothing could excuse, and the masses have laid by but little, if any, for the "rainy day." When the shops, factories, and other employments began to close down, or lay off, or "short-

time" their employes, there were few situated financially so the hardships were not felt, but the minority who had conservatively kept in view the possibility of such a time are now reaping the benefit of their prudence. A merchant does not make his money off his cash customers, but from those who carry accounts or books with him; the cash customer who does her own marketing, knows what she is buying, and usually sees for herself, by home weights and measures, that she gets what she is paying for. The woman who places her orders with a boy, or over the phone, has half a pound added here, a small shortage there, an inferior quality in part or whole, and a little extra price for something because it is scarce. The merchant wants to get rid of his goods, and the entrance on the books never looks half as large as the same sum looks in cash.

If the credit customer notices and complains, there is offered a plausible excuse, and as she is accommodated with credit, she decides to "make the best of it." The merchant may not mean to be dishonest, for "modern methods of commerce" are not considered dishonesty, and these are largely practiced in every line. If you do not look after your own expenditures, your merchant is not going to do it for you. In paying cash, one can hardly go beyond her means, and every penny is forced to do its part; but when things can be "just charged," there is always a lot of ordering that could be well done without, and when payday comes, the result is very discouraging. The bill is always larger than we thought it would be.

Coats and skirts, to keep their shape, should each have a separate hanger, and the hanger may be covered and padded if desired. The hangers cost but little ready made, or can be easily made from shaped bits of wood and wrapped wire or hooks.