

Modified Short Skirt Styles

THE fashionable skirt has gradually but surely undergone a general transformation within the last year, and though tailors and dressmakers are still experimenting with it its new lines are fairly well determined.

Of the vagaries of the long skirt we have spoken on the opposite page, but the short walking skirt has limitations which set it apart from the long skirt of the dressy frock and allow it to follow the whims of the latter only at a considerable distance.

The walking skirt has conformed to the new skirt rules in that it is as smooth and close fitting around the hips as possible and that it has given up much of its bouffant flare at bottom. Another concession has lengthened the short skirt.

Long, clinging lines are fashionable and

circular cut and straight side seams as well as between plain gored or circular breadths and plaited panels.

One finds, too, skirts gored over the hips and down to a point of union with a deep circular band on lower skirt, which is cut in one with a front panel. The stripes and plain model of the central cut on the opposite page will illustrate to some extent what is meant by this last description.

Perfectly plain circular skirts with inverted plaits in the middle front and in the back and with some very narrow line of flat trimming around the foot are used in many smart French walking frocks, all ornamentation being left to the coat and blouse and nothing being allowed to detract from the desired length of skirt line.

The plain circular skirt with the centre front seam and the flat bottom trimmed tabs meeting in chevron shape along the seam is another popular French skirt design upon which variations are run. A single row of buttons with little silk loops on each side



NEW DESIGNS FOR WALKING SKIRTS.

while the walking skirt cannot cling beyond a certain point and cannot trail it can be dropped beyond the extravagantly abbreviated length which was affected by extremists during the last season. The ultra-modish walking skirt today just clears the ground all around, is gored or circular and has some flat tunic fold trimming or, still better, some arrangement of buttons and loops down each side of a center front panel or a center front seam.

The front panel is a natural accompaniment of the popular princess or princess frock, and in striped materials it is very often formed of bias lengths so set together that the stripes will form a chevron design. Plain front panels trimmed in buttons and loops down each edge are popular, and soutache embroidery is much used to adorn the front panel of the dressier street costume.

The plaited skirt has not entirely retired from the field. Even the most fashionable tailors and dressmakers are still making plain plaited skirts and fashionable women are still wearing them, but they are not so new as the gored and circular models and the latter more certainly stamp the new tailor frock as of this year's vintage.

The number of gores must be determined according to the figure over which the skirt is to be worn. A little flare, more or less, a very slight variation of line may make all the difference between the becoming and the unbecoming.

Upon one thing there must be insistence. The going of a skirt down without a waist must be allowed, as is very often the case, to curve the skirt line in below the bend of the body at sides and back throwing into too great prominence the outlines of the figure.

The gored skirt, too, must be sufficiently loose to allow of sitting down without awkwardness and a stretching out of shape of the cloth. The woman who is having a new close skirt made will be wise if she has a seated fitting as well as a standing one. Some of the new models run up distressingly in front when the wearer sits down.

The habit back is the usual rule. In princess models one sometimes finds a full length box plait in the back as well as in the front, but this is usually unbecoming and does not fall or swing gracefully when the wearer walks.

The circular cut is, of course, the ideal cut for the accepted line, but unless the material employed is very firm the circular skirt is likely to sag and it is seldom that one hangs perfectly after a few wearings. Clever tailors, however, effect successful compromises between

is a successful finish of this sort.

The two deep bands used so generally on last season's walking skirts are varied by ending these folds at either side of a front breadth or a centre front seam, the ends of the folds being rounded off and finished by buttons, as in the skirt sketched here.

In place of the one deep straight fold so familiar, the makers now prefer an equally deep fold set on in tunic fashion, with a point front and back. One objection to this arrangement on the short skirt was that in order to run the fold up to an effective height on the sides and secure a sufficiently acute angle in front and back the trimmings had to run to a side height, which shortened the skirt length unbecomingly. To obviate this the designer is now inclining toward the adjustment indicated in one of the cuts, the tunic fold ending at each side of a plain front breadth and thus leaving the front skirt length unbroken.

Horizontal skirt trimmings are less used than they were, and when they are employed are most often brought to an end at each side of a front breadth or panel, the reason for the arrangement being the same as in the tunic fold model just described.

Flat deep bands or circular skirt bottoms set quite on the bottom of a gored skirt and either running up to a point and finished with buttons as in the picture model are modish, but need skillful handling.

For the circular skirt taffeta, while less in accord with the clinging character prescribed by modish materials than some other stuff, is desirable, since it is firm enough to hold its shape well and is in comparatively little danger of sagging if well made.

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What the Women Are Doing

Ironing Out Surplus Flesh.

REMARKABLE method of disposing of surplus adipose tissue, a method more heroic than any attempted, is reported in theatrical circles. It is known as the ironing method, and is said to have melted twenty-five pounds of extra fat in two months.

The experimenter was Miss Virginia Harrod, known in private life as Mrs. E. H. Sothorn. Miss Harrod explains the new process and says it is possible for any one to lose five pounds in a week, ten or twenty in a month, or forty in three months, if that much is necessary.

The process is simple enough, according to those who have tried it. It needs merely a skilled masseuse, an old-fashioned "flat" or "saw" iron, a great many squares of flannel and as many of old muslin, and a subject who is not overly nervous, but determined to brave everything to reduce weight.

Miss Harrod recently found that she had acquired something decidedly more than subpoint. None of her friends were permitted to say it in so many words, but the scales at the Turkish bath told her unerringly that she was really getting fat. Fat! Ugh!

Heroic measures were decided upon. Then Miss Harrod heard of the ironing out process and determined to try it. Twice a day Miss Harrod has been ironed out for the last two months—once before breakfast and again after dinner; the first at 9 a. m. and the second at 11:30 p. m.

At the times when she is being ironed out, Miss Harrod wears a white silk robe de nuit, made very full and with a quantity of ribbons. Before the woman who does the ironing, first inspects the roll of clean white flannel, then looks at the muslin, lays them out carefully and has a bottle of witch hazel ready to her hand.

Then two hot irons are brought in from the kitchen. One is placed on top of a spirit lamp and Estelle takes the other. Then Miss Harrod thrusts her arm out of its loose sleeve, it is swathed in bandages

of muslin, just as if the arm were a bit of the week's washing, and the ironing proceeds.

School Life of Japanese Girls.

William T. Ellis, in the Outlook, says of the efforts of the modern schools of Japan on young girls, that it would not be easy to find anywhere happier companies of young women than the Japanese girl students. Always smiling, as all Japanese are taught to do, yet a smile of joy is a new significance. It is not ostentatious, but the outcome of a greater freedom of life, and its resulting happiness. The truth of this is shown in the fact that Mr. Ellis saw a young girl come to take leave of her teachers on her approaching marriage, weeping. Formerly, even the deepest anguish was masked by the smile of stilted quiet; now, instead, they weep at parting.

The Japanese school girls, from the smallest to those who are full grown, wear a distinctive costume, its distinguishing feature being a dark red or purple hakama, or skirt, worn outside the regulation kimono, which is always of a quiet color. The obi is omitted. The modern style of hair dressing, "the simple American pompadour," which Mr. Ellis says is coming into vogue among all classes of women, is a regrettable change. The former elaborate style was individual, while "the American pompadour," save the mark! is often a thing of horror. It would seem to an American that a better thing would be the adoption of a sensible shoe, instead of the difficult-to-manage, and uncomfortable wooden clogs. Probably the Japanese girl would prefer the pompadour if she elects to copy any modern fashion; to the Regal, or Sorosis shawl, protected from damp and dirt, by what the English love to call "golobes."

The new girls schools are equipped with all the modern apparatus; lighting, ventilation, furnishings, all are up to date. Mr. Ellis says that one of the requirements of the government department of hygiene is that there should be a huge and hideous receptacle labeled "spit box" in every corridor and hallway.

The courses of study pursued by the

Japanese girl are necessarily in several respects different from those of the American. Japanese history and literature as a matter of course, general history, mathematics, physiology, geography, philosophy, psychology, sociology, botany, physics, ethics, drawing, music, sewing, gymnastics, domestic science, all have their place. In the woman's university at Tokio there are also gardening and chicken raising, and "practical kitchen classes both in foreign style and the Japanese."

Essentially Japanese is the art of writing verse, painting on paper, silk and porcelain, flower arrangement and flower making. It goes without saying that great attention is paid to physical culture, both in the gymnasium and in outdoor games.

Speaks Forty Languages.

A new distinction has been added to the long roll of international fame won by American women through the recent triumphs of Miss Mary Elizabeth S. Colton of Easthampton, now on her way home from the far east, who has recently achieved the honor of being the champion linguist of the world.

Miss Colton speaks forty languages fluently—that is, she has a conversational and reading knowledge of each and has also made a careful study of the religions and philosophy in which each of the different tongues and dialects is spoken.

Previous to Miss Colton's new record, says the Boston Post, the most accomplished linguist known claimed a knowledge of only thirty-three languages.

Miss Colton's list, moreover, includes a

long roll of different tongues, which are numbered among the most difficult in the world to learn and which include Chinese, Pali, Avestan, Sanskrit, Hebrew, Syrian, Assyrian, Arabic and Persian.

While this now famous American woman was following the humble occupation of a vocal teacher at the Farrington (Conn.) seminary for girls, a number of years ago, she first became interested in the oriental language through having been brought in contact with several pupils from the far east. Her interest soon became a passion, and in the interval since that time she has acquired of the different tongues. Many years ago she became a fluent user of the romance languages, such as Italian, Spanish and French.

The greatest tribute to her wonderful memory lies in the fact that the roots of the numerous eastern languages which she has learned are all entirely different from those of the western tongues. In the present day colleges throughout the world separate courses are held in such languages as Hebrew, Sanskrit and Persian, and to obtain a working knowledge of any single one is considered a difficult task.

Leaves from Fashion's Notebook.

Oblong and square canoes united by chains make lovely neckties. Canoes are also used for scarf pins and handsome cloak fasteners.

The long, light-fitting coat sleeve with big buttons, of pailles, or arrangements of soutache to fasten it down the outside of the arm looks extremely smart on certain tailor-made coats of the picturesque order. The "fastenings" in one case are

carried down the arm and right to the hem of the skirt, making a change from the usual custom of placing them down the center of the back or front.

It is considered very smart to wear a waist that matches one's hat, and it is quite English to slip off one's coat to display a lingerie waist in white with a hat to match. The waist is embroidered in colors and the hat is trimmed with the same shades.

The very wide scarf all enveloping the figure is no new idea in reality. A fashion plate of 1849 gives us an example, in that case of deep purple gauze, hemmed very heavily with what looks like chivalric floral patterns.

A pretty spring hat is trimmed with violet, not the big double Neapolitan sort so dear to the makers of cheap artificial flowers, but the single kind and of natural silk, in a variety of shades—white, palest mauve, pinkish mauve, Neapolitan mauve, Russian mauve, and the usual violet.

A remarkable suit is made of voile in the most obvious stripe, but its peculiarity is that the stripes run neither up nor down nor round and round, but diagonally on the skirt. This makes the back seam a combination of straight and diagonal stripes, and gives to the whole dress the appearance of a rather odd top.

The new blouses are full of wonder to the uninitiated. Not only are they beautiful, but they have many new features to make them delightful. The favorite color is white, but that does not prevent one from wearing the delicate shades in silk, in voile and in chiffon velvets. As for crepe de chine and chiffon it can be obtained ready made in all shades.

Much depends on the figure of the wearer in regard to the choice of a blouse. A small round waist loses half its curves if hidden by the large bulky array of gold or silver beads on some individuals, while the small dainty ornament is lost to sight and its effectiveness gone if the figure be large and massive. Let the

lady of size wear the buckle of majestic proportions, if it be worn at all, trusting that in admiration for the ornament the critic may overlook the contour of the belt it fastens.

A woman who is quite deft at making French hats has taken a hat of last season and wired it lightly around the edge of the brim. This she has bound with pale blue silk. And with deft fingers she has turned it slightly rolling in shape around the crown she has set a double wreath of little pink button roses and at guard during the revolutionary war. Her husband, Hec, William Miller, who became a lawyer and supreme court justice, died some fifty years ago, leaving twelve children, of whom five are living.

Mrs. Harriet Stanton Blatch, youngest daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who in Seneca Falls, N. Y., Thursday, to make arrangements for the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the first woman's rights convention of the world, which was held there on July 19 and 20, 1848. It is planned to have several noted speakers at the convention, and a fitting marker will be placed in Johnson opera house, which, as the old Wesleyan Methodist church, was the building in which the first convention was held.

Mrs. C. William Beebe, wife of the curator of birds in the Bronx Zoological garden, New York, and herself an enthusiastic naturalist, has sailed with her husband for South America to spend several months studying bird life in the interior. This objective point is the unexplored forest region of British Guiana. Mr. Beebe will make an effort to bring back with him a specimen of the seldom captured hoatzin, an ancient type of flying creature with webbed characteristics. The young have claws upon their wings before they become feathered.

novely, there are still large sections of the country, including portions of the province west, where there has been no feminine touch of the local profession. Miss Nellie C. Brewer, a winning young woman of Albuquerque, N. M., has received the honor of being the first of her sex admitted to the bar of that territory.

There died at Mount Vernon, N. Y., recently a real "daughter of the revolution," Mrs. Elizabeth Miller, who had come within a month of reaching the age of 101 years. She was a daughter of Colonel Seth Webb of Stamford Conn., who served in the coast guard during the revolutionary war. Her husband, Hec, William Miller, who became a lawyer and supreme court justice, died some fifty years ago, leaving twelve children, of whom five are living.

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