

HINTS for the WELL DRESSED WOMAN

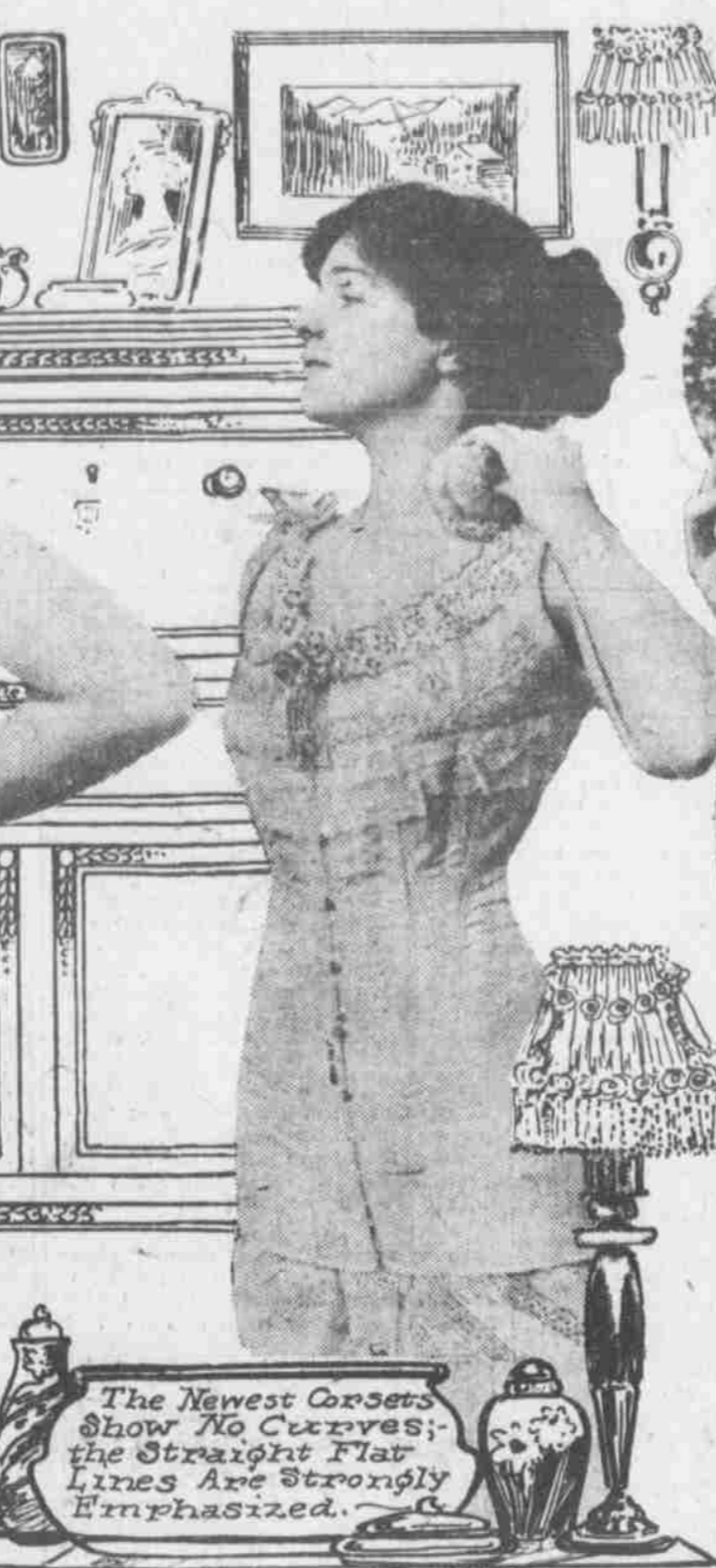


Daughters of Bourgeoisie

By Mary Eleanor O'Donnell.



A New Undergarment Called the Combination Knickers To be Worn with Gowns That Do Not Require Petticoats



The Newest Corsets Show No Curves; the Straight Flat Lines Are Strongly Emphasized.



STYLES in white underwear have changed little from those shown in the winter season. Daintiness is their greatest charm. Laces in the majority of cases are of the durable kind, and this is noticeable even on the most expensive of lingerie.

Cluny, baby Irish, and val lace trim the handsomest of the imported and domestic underwear. These are combined a great many times with hand embroidery designs. The sheerness and fine quality of the material used for the construction of the garments add to their attractiveness. The materials used this season are so soft that the introduction of a little fullness does not make any difference, as the garment falls in soft folds under a dress built on straight lines.

Trimmings on yokes of nightgowns, chemises, and combinations are arranged to give an empire effect, and while these shortwaisted lines have been used for some time, this season they have met with special favor. Ribbons in soft pastel shades are fashioned in dainty bows or modish rosettes as finishing touches. There is also an apparent unlimited use of lace and embroidery beading in wide patterns.

Everywhere there is an increased demand for combinations. Corset covers and drawers and corset covers and skirts made in princess, cut with narrow gores extending in unbroken line from yoke to bottom of edge, are well liked, as they eliminate unnecessary bulkiness. Buttonhole finish is used at the bottom of the drawers and skirts with the same idea in mind.

The fashion idea in regard to underwear is that it must be perfectly smooth fitting. There must be absolutely no bulkiness about waist or hips. The smooth line of the hips must be preserved and white skirts are somewhat fuller, there must be that pretty clinging movement about the feet. It is impossible to attain this if the full petticoats are worn. Even where women do wear petticoats they have this season adopted the plan of being fitted without them, and most women continue to wear, as they did last season, the sheathbocker, an illustration of which is given on this page.

This is simply the corset cover made in one. It is always made of soft silk or handkerchief linen or sheer cotton and simply trimmed about the neck, so as not to interfere with the fit of the corset. The women who are wearing petticoats insist on having them made of the softest material. For practical purposes they are nearly all jersey tops. A deep accordion plaited flounce is applied knee length, the edge of which has a narrow ruffle finish to keep the skirt from clinging to the feet.

The lingerie petticoats are all of fine white batiste, of one of the soft silk, that may have flounces trimmed with entreeux of lace. The collars or the sheath knickers will be much worn with the scar petticoat. They give such freedom and grace of movement; there is absolutely no weight to them, they do away with extra fullness about the waist and adjust themselves to the figure so well that they are altogether admirable for the new fashions.

Of course, elaborate lingerie petticoats are shown for bodice wear. The majority of the fancy petticoats are of some soft silk or satin, and these are shown in all the fashionable colors and shades. Messaline, liberty, fusser, china silk, and even crepe are used to make them. The colored ones are mostly self-trimmed. Black and white striped silk trimmed with rows upon rows of black velvet ribbon is a style that is a perennial favorite. Then there are quantities of pale colored silks and whites, these trimmed with lace.

A New Waist for the Slender Designed to Take the Place of the Corset

In planning an outfit a corset always ought to be the first garment fitted. Far too many women have new gowns fitted over half worn corsets, only to find that long before the gown is ready to be laid aside the corset will have to be replaced by a new one of a different shape. For the old style of corsets are constantly being thrown out to make room for the new. In this case the gown will have to be refitted.

The work of transforming the hour glass figure into one of classic or straighter outline began several years ago, and it must be continued this season. The first thing necessary to remedy the defects of the hour glass figure is to choose the right model for a corset.

This summer a woman must look slender. It is much easier than it sounds, for the modern corsets are cut so cleverly that they can accomplish miracles. They do not really reduce the figure, but they reduce its actual measurement. For instance, they will cut the front gore rather wide and the gore next to it decidedly narrow, so that the tissues are drawn towards the sides and the figure is flattened. They will put an elastic gore in the skirt of the corset so that the skirt can spread a trifle when one sits down and draw in again when one stands up.

New Model for Nightgowns in Striped Drapery with Insets of Lace and Embroidery An Attractive and Practical Model

I have seen women buy corsets because they liked the material they were made of, the lace at the top, or some other thoroughly feminine and absolutely inconsequential idea. They can't do that this season. In the new corsets the skirts are all long, so that the figure is carefully held in below the hips and there is no break at the lower edge. There must be at least three hose supporters; stout women will require more. The corsets are longer in the front and sides than they were last year and shorter in the back.

Of course, one's height must regulate the length of the corsets. If you are short you naturally cannot wear a corset that is long; you can wear one that is long for you—it should reach a little more than half way to the knees at the front, but in actual inches it will be as much shorter than a corset for a tall woman as you are shorter than she is. After settling the matter of length you must be quite as particular about the size of your corset. Corsets should measure three inches smaller than the waist measure. Of course, you can wear them smaller by

A Boudoir Outfit in Pink Messaline Trimmed with Embroidery Bands Yoke Made of Rows of Shirring Petticoat of Batiste, Embroidery Bands and Val Lace

using longer laces, but they won't fit you and you will suffer for it. Then there are the lacings to consider, too. Lacings must be long and soft and flexible. A corset can never be properly adjusted by a stiff, coarse lacing; neither is width desirable. A soft, flat silk or mercerized lacing, half an inch wide, is the correct thing. The eyelets in a corset should never be more than half an inch apart, and even closer together at the waist line.

A common error is the belief that a high bust corset gives the appearance of a lengthened waist. It is true that the line from the bust to the waist line is lengthened, but the line from the shoulder to the bust is shortened so that the effect of length is destroyed and the true proportions are distorted. When the bust is low the waist line in front can be pushed down to a proper proportion. In fitting a corset the first thing is to have the corset open to the full extent of its laces. Use laces from eight to ten yards in length, according to the length of the corset. When the corset is fully spread place it around the figure without lifting the flesh of the abdomen and clasp. Now fasten the hose supporters and see that the corset is well down on the figure. The next step is to pull the lacings at the waist line so that the corset can neither slip up nor down. The position at the waist line must be secure. Consequently it is necessary to draw the laces tight, then begin to lace in the hip line.

This is done by pulling the laces at the extreme lower edge of the corset, drawing them upward toward the waist line. Keep the same distance in the separation of the corset stays in the back. Never draw them too closely at any one point or they will surely bulge. When the corset is fitted to the waist line and hips, begin to lace the bust. Lace from the top to the waist line. Be sure to preserve the same distance in the open space. The stays must be on a direct line from top to bottom, otherwise the steel will twist and there will be a bulging line.

In addition to adjusting the corset around the figure there are other points to consider. Sit down and see if the corset steel is too long in front, the stays in the back too long, or the boning over the hips obstructive. Note the corset from the waist line up. Does it support without lifting the bust? This is correct. Is it sufficiently high at the back to support the flesh at this point and yet not so high as to form a ridge. If the steel in front is too long the corset will round, giving a line which is most objectionable. If the steel in the back are too long they strike the chair when sitting. If the corset is too full over the hips or at the bust a seam must be taken, or if too small a gore inserted. When removing the corset the strings should be untied and corset fully unlaced before it is unlaced. This saves a strain on the corset and it retains its shape longer.