

## SKIRTS ARE TO SWEEP INSTEP

Style Advanced Last December by American Designers Now a Midseason Fashion.

### LEADING FACTOR IN DRESS

Career of Topcoat Was Abruptly Ended When Capes Became the Fashion—No Diminution in the Fashion.

New York.—It is difficult to talk of economy and conservatism in respect to a brand-new fashion that is hurried at us out of the blue. Yet the combination is not only possible but often times satisfying.

What is called the new skirt was advanced last December in America by American designers, and it had been exploited here for house gowns six months before, so it is not new, recites a fashion correspondent. It might be called a purely American design, although the house that exploited it for the evening is under the strongest French influence. However, it was an independent action and had nothing to do with inspiration from Paris.

The second American house that started the long skirt for the street acted in an independent manner. This skirt was not taken up although it was constantly worn by the woman who designed it. We are rather slow to catch on to a new fashion, but when we do like it we overdo it. Therefore it is likely that the long skirt will become an accepted thing in mass, before Thanksgiving. This prophecy may be wrong. It is no time to forecast anything in any quarter of life. But the propaganda for the long skirt is sinking deeply into the hearts of women and spreading itself far over the continent.

Mind you, these skirts are not according to the lines that we have worn. Sometimes they are straight, but often they are slightly draped upward at the back, and there is a growing tendency



Broad silk Hercules braid is used in conventional lines across the front of this skirt of thin blue serge. The sides are treated in an unusual manner. They are slightly full from armholes to waist; are held down by braid over the hips, and then flare into plaitings, to make a skirt, exceedingly narrow and sweeping the instep, and then a draped tunic, which is a quick reminder of the pullback skirt of other days.

So, you see, the designers are kind to us after all. They provide a new skirt and a new silhouette, but they do not compel you to buy a new gown. She who has money and little leisure will purchase the new garment; she will find it possible to arrange the new idea through the combination of an old frock draped into a tunic and a new skirt narrowly cut at the hem.

Conservative women are delighted. They abhor the short skirt, which, through our usual extravagance in overdoing things, has resolved itself into Scottish kilts.

#### Facing the New Season

August is a serene or stormy month, as you look at it. You may determine to wear "whatever" clothes, faded and shabby, until the first frost demands a warm frock; but if you do this you are not making the best of things. You will find that all about you women are extraordinarily keen about their appearance today. Those who were sloppy have become careful; those who were shabby have become smart;

those who were unstylish have pulled themselves into the picture of the hour.

Clothes have undergone the same transformation as everything else in America. Economy and conservatism are the keynote of dressing, but only the very indifferent or the overburdened and modish woman is careless of her appearance.

The word "morale" has become the foundation stone of this war, and women, who are keenly emotional, hold on to it as to a life rope. They must not be morbid and they must not be shabby. Optimism must shine from their faces and their clothes. This is a part of their burden, and



Unusual cape in black and white satin. It hangs loosely over the figure and is pulled upward in folds, across the shoulders, and fastens at the waistline with a loose grille. It is lined and piped with white satin, and the unusual cuffs are fastened with jet links.

The news of women have risen to it, as women can be depended upon to be in any national emergency.

Capes Attract the Popular Fancy. There is small hope for a top coat these days. Its career was abruptly ended when a cape became the fashion. Forstretched women indulged in the loose, picturesque cape two years ago and clung to the theory that it was the comfortable and suitable type of covering for a frock or a suit. The shops finally took up the theory and offered house wraps at all prices, from \$15 to \$120.

There is no diminution in the fashion. The economical woman finds that a fresh new covering can hide a faded or dusty gown and give one a feeling of self-respect in public places. The new capes are suitable for coat suits as well as frocks, and their fabrics run the gamut. Satin, georgette crepe, all the heavy Chinese silks, striped and plain taffeta, broad cloth, velours and chiffon are chosen.

Now the top coat has become a part of a costume and even periods a cape to be worn over it. It is rather fascinating as a redingote. It resolves itself into this kind of garment, but when it is of crepe de chine or extra soft satin it is slipped over a severely plain chemise frock of another color and forms a polonaise.

These new topcoats follow the path blazed by the jackets that belong to suits, in that they do not fasten in front. In fact, they do not pretend to even meet in front. They are broad enough to reach across the chest and waist, but the fashionable trick is to push the fronts back until they are almost under the arms, in order that a broad expanse of the frock may show.

If you do not run over this item as an insignificant one, it is a fashion that was begun in Paris five months ago, when the first warm weather broke into being, and it has ruled since then. In America we are just beginning to take it up with any enthusiasm, and by the time we have established it as a fashion our cold weather will make us bring the fronts of our coats together and fasten them snugly from collarbone to hips.

If one uses a jacket, long or short, as a redingote the need for fastening will not present itself, for the cold weather will bring in the cape of cloth or fur, with its huge collar, and one may wear any kind of costume beneath it. Herein lies its value to the economist.

The Pompadour black and white combination is brilliantly done in capes that are worn on the street as well as to evening affairs. The body of the cape is of black satin, and the decorations are of white satin. The weather is hot enough to permit these thin fabric capes to be worn during all the waking hours. They cover a multitude of bad details in a gown that could not do service if exposed to the open air.

Sash for White Frock. A white union frock, dotted with gray and pink posies, accepts a wide gray sash as its only trimming.

## ONE-PIECE FROCKS

Wool Jersey Popular Fabric for These Simple Gowns.

Imported Models Are Being Shown for Early Fall Wear With a Large Collar.

Wool Jersey continues to be exceedingly popular for the one-piece frock of utmost simplicity. Several of the very good looking imported models are shown for early fall wear with a large collar which can be dropped about the neck, this arrangement being one which lends an air of distinction to its wearer in these collarless days, observes a fashion writer. It also gives an undisturbable serviceable air to a type of frock which would formerly have done duty as a sport costume, but is now considered suitable for all kinds of formal wear.

Sassy blue wool jersey enjoys scant favor as compared with blue serge, but there seems to be a decided vogue for black jersey, this material being surprisingly attractive. Invariably it is embroidered in bright colors or white.

One smart black jersey frock for early fall wear was embroidered boldly in black and white chenille. The high collar and grille were of knitted chenille in black and white. There was a crocheted border of white chenille around the tunic and white buttons fastened the blouse and tunic down the side front.

Another wool jersey frock was in beige and of monastic simplicity, its swathing collar being tied by a severe cord with weighted ends. This interesting collar and large patch pockets afforded the only note of relief to the severity of this model.

Satin is very much used for the mid-season frock and numerous smart new designs in black, gray and blue satin are appearing these days.

A particularly smart model in taupe satin was seen recently. The gown is fashioned on Russian lines and has no trimming save for a narrow frill of white at the neck and sleeves. The blouse is fastened at the left side of the front with small round material buttons.

### SKIRT THAT SHOULD APPEAL



Separate skirt of silk poplin, with pointed tunic at sides and back. The flat grille of poplin is finished with bead tassels.

### TO MAKE THE PARASOL BAG

Contrivance Is Roomy, Easily Spread Open and Very Beautiful—Yellow Lining for Black.

If you have a handsome parasol belonging to show wear at the center of the top, carefully remove the silk from the frame and cut out a circle 5 inches in diameter.

From new silk, in a shade to match the predominating color, cut two circles 7 inches in diameter, placing parchment between these. Fit this into the opening made in the center of the parasol, this forming the bottom of a bag.

At the points of parasol sew rings covered with draw silk cord, stitch. Through rings draw silk cord, finishing with large tassels and also place tassels at bottom of bag.

This bag is roomy, easily spread open and very beautiful. If silk is thin from wear, a lining can easily be added, using a section of parasol for pattern.

A black parasol lined with bright yellow with black cord and tassels would be very effective. A bunch of yellow silk oranges could be added.

#### Capecoats of Mohair.

Smart capecoats are of navy blue mohair with lining of blue and white. Foulard. These capes are pleasantly light and easy to carry over the arm and offer sufficient protection for summer evenings. They are cut in the prevailing lines, with crossed waistcoat section that holds the full cape to the figure at the front.

## GOWN THAT FLATTERS FIGURE



Rich satin, draped in graceful folds that flatter the figure and reveal the luster of the fabric, is one of all things most desired for afternoon gowns. The gown pictured is a wonderful example of the dressy satin mode.

### NEW VELVET HATS FOR FALL

Trimnings for Tailored Headgear Include Wings, Quills, Burnt Ostrich Feathers, and Others.

As the fall season draws closer, velvet hats for women are coming into greater use. The popular models, according to the official bulletin of the Retail Millinery Association of America, are made of velvet combined with hatters' plush or panne velvet, and satin antique combined with hatters' plush, panne velvet, ordinary velvet or beaver cloth. In the tailored models, it says, velvet with beaver and hatters' plush is used extensively. In the "classic" models the other combinations noted are seen.

The trimmings for tailored hats for the new season include wings, quills, burnt ostrich feathers, ribbon or velvet bows, bunches of cut steel or stone and both large and small rhinestone pins. For dress-hats stretch linings, fancy tips, jet or beaded ornaments, pearls, etc. are used. The leading shades for fall are black, purple, navy, brown, taupe, and sand, though some hats are seen with light-colored linings.

The bulletin also says that many velvet models for fall are being combined with novelty beads. One of these beads is made of two or three strips of felt joined together with silk floss stitching and is used on bangs and side crowns. It is seen chiefly in light blue, sand, and rose. Another novelty is ratine braid, which looks like heavy cloth with a rough finish. It is used mostly on tailored or semi-sport models.

### VOILE DRESSES ARE FAVORED

Fabric of More Substance and Lasting Quality Brings This Material to the Forefront.

Next in favor to the organza come the new voile dresses. There is a tendency at this season to employ fabrics of a little more substance and lasting quality and for this reason if for no other we begin to see great number of voile and georgette frocks. A good voile dress which admirably brings out several of the latest notions—the modified medall collar, the sleeveless, mignon age blouse and the side panels of contrasting colors.

As the body of the dress is of white voile, blue is used for contrast and the delicate features just mentioned. The medall collar on this frock is really more reminiscent of that high flaring fashion than actually the thing itself, as it is a narrow strip only, rolling, however, high up at the back of the neck to finish in that line so becoming to most women and without which often the handsomest robes seem incomplete. It is of alternating strips of the blue and the white voile and ornamented with French knots, white on the blue, and it becomes the merest point in front where it rolls away from the throat.

#### Panel Swing Loose.

Blow-about frocks seem to be the demurer for street wear. The really smart new models, shown at exclusive houses, are a maze of swinging panels, fringes and fluttering slash ends. In the serene quiet of the shop all these appendages fall gracefully in straight slender lines about the figure, but wait and watch them when a brisk breeze whisks around the tall buildings! The narrow skirt must cling close—it cannot help itself, having no surplus of fabric to drape, but swinging panels, flap-like yellow slips on a cloth-like slash ends which gustily about and fringes ripple and toss. There will be plenty of motion about the autumn maid—whether she stands still or paces with dignified restraint of manner.

## WAR WORK SUIT

Comfortable Clothes Which Do Not Call for Much Outlay.

Coats Have Pockets Arranged Below Belt, Suitable for Carrying Home Small Bundles.

Another mid-season adjustment of clothes which does not call for much outlay of money is the acceptance of the thin striped flannel suit to carry one over until October. It is a good purchase today. It takes the place of one-piece frocks that have nearly finished their service, and it keeps one going in an attractive manner, until there is a necessity for warmer fabrics.

France started the wearing of these suits as a measure of strict economy six months ago. They come in brown and white, black and white, and in white and black horizontal stripes. The skirts are nothing but two widths, heavily stitched at the sides, and the mannish coats are worn over blouses of colored silk or linen.

Joffre blue, geranium pink, Chinese yellow and amethyst purple blouses are considered very smart with any suit. They go especially well with these mannish flannel ones. The wom-



New pale gray and blue striped flannel suit with the multiple pockets. There are two on each hip and one on each side of the front of the hem.

an who can afford laundry bills wears a plaited Chinese silk skirt in ivory tone.

The coats of these suits sometimes have six pockets arranged below the belt, three on a side, one above the other. They are called package pockets, and were designed in Paris so that women may be able to carry home all their small bundles, leaving only the large ones for the one-delivery-a-day system.

### CURTAINS FOR DINING ROOM

Figured and Flowered Chintz Cheery—Printed Linens Also Provide a Very Satisfactory Material.

Figured or flowered chintz curtains are cheerful and especially to be recommended for the informal dining room; or, if the room is furnished in oak and the windows are fairly large, some of the newer, printed linens which are heavier than chintz may be used. A darker tone of the wall color is a good choice for silk hangings, and if the dining room is very small, is usually to be preferred to the brighter and more insistent figured materials.

There are many quaint Chinese patterns, which would go well with a Chipendale suite. Fabrics printed with classic motifs are to be had for the Adam dining room, and, if selected in soft gray green which was the Adams' favorite color, they will seem to be much "of the period." Good plain materials for side curtains are silk repps and rough Shantung silk, or, for the small room which lacks light, a thinner silk; while more formal fabrics, such as damasks, brocades and velvets, are in order for the formal type of dining room. The thin net curtains, next the glass, can usually be dispensed with in the dining room, where the silk side drapes will be fringes and fluttering slash ends. In found sufficient.

#### Collarless Blouses.

Collars and cuffs of white washable satin, on colored blouses and similar adjuncts in colored silks—often fine narrow skirt must cling close—it cannot help itself, having no surplus of fabric to drape, but swinging panels, flap-like yellow slips on a cloth-like slash ends which gustily about and fringes ripple and toss. There will be plenty of motion about the autumn maid—whether she stands still or paces with dignified restraint of manner.

## COATS WITH FUR COLLARS



Nearly all coats are designed to follow the straight-line silhouette and many soft-faced fabrics—velours, broadcloths and others—are favored for them. There is an effect of semifitted garments made by the use of loose belts or by cutting the back so that it follows the lines of the figure and belting in the sides and front. On the better grades of coats furs are used for collars and cuffs.

The coat shown above is of velours with cross-bar tucking on the back panel, a narrow belt of the fabric and a large, rich-looking collar of Hudson seal.

### TINY CROSS STITCH ANIMALS

Latest in Hand Needlework on Juvenile Costumes—Colored Cotton or Worsted May Be Used.

Hand stitchery continues to give the touch of distinction to simple little frocks made of inexpensive materials. Smoking, feather stitching, hemstitching, tiny hand run pin tucks, small buttonholes worked with exquisite care, dainty dresses for tiny girls these days, and a little frock of cross barred dimity smoked or feather stitched, with minute buttonholes fastening over lace buttons is infinitely better style than an elaborately trimmed costume loaded with machine made lace.

The latest thing in hand needlework on juvenile costumes is cross stitch animals. Rabbits, kittens, lambs, cows and other lovable creatures—from the child's standpoint—are worked in cross stitch with colored cotton or worsted, the designs being somewhat conventionalized and rather square and angular but unmistakably representing what they intend to.

A red and white striped gingham frock for a little girl of eight has a white yoke yoke cross-stitched with tiny rabbits in red. A white and blue percale has cross-stitch bluebirds, and so on. The cross-stitch animals are very tiny and are usually embroidered in a hood effect, each design taking up exactly the same space and the pattern being geometrical and less regular when completed.

### DICTATES OF FASHION

Voile shirtwaist frocks have long slashes of self material.

Many jersey dresses are trimmed with heavy lace.

The untrimmed low-cut necks of dresses are becoming only to plump and lovely throats.

Many of the prettiest georgette frocks have only tucks and hand drawn work for ornament.

A smart sport coat is made of black satin lined and trimmed with black and white tartan.

A dress of white dotted-rose foulard can be very attractive if trimmed with brown rabbit fur.

A novel bridal veil has a chin strap attached to the cap fashioned portion of the flowing tulle.

A pretty collar and one that is different is of organdie in folds and tied at one side with velvet ribbon.

A charming afternoon frock may be made of white cotton marquisette and point d'esprit insertion.

Many of the new fall suits have a high necked vest of the same cloth as the suit with fur collar. Others have these vests in contrasting color.

A lovely little boudoir cap is made of net, banded with little ruffings of half-inch wide pink ribbon. The cap is cut with a long point, like the to-hoggan caps of childhood, and on the very tip end is a downy pink tassel that bobs on the shoulder.

#### Simple Chemise Blouses.

The simplest of flesh georgette chemise blouses with open sleeves has narrow bands of blue georgette crepe for trimming, these bands being outlined with beads. An excellent navy georgette suit blouse for autumn wear has long back and front panels of beige georgette, bordered by a band of bright wool and silk embroidery. And one of the new French blouses is in black taffeta, short at the waist, but with a loose hanging panel of black tulle and with a full tulle underleeve, all brightened by delicate gold embroidery. Chiffon of oriental print forms many pretty frocks for afternoon or dinner wear.

#### Washing Velours.

Velours is successfully washed by making a lather of soap and warm water. Soak the velours in it, squeezing it, but not rubbing. When finished, rinse thoroughly in clear water and hang out to dry.