

SHORT SKIRT IS TO STAY AWHILE

Abbreviated Garment Approved by Both American and French Women.

YANKEE DESIGNERS IN LEAD

Models From the United States Are Bought by Milady of Other Lands—New Spring Creations Are Captivating.

American designers, writes a New York fashion correspondent, have taken their places once and for all as leaders in the ranks of fashion. Abroad one hears the women of fashion sighingly say, "Oh, if only I could have one of those American things—or one of those American suits—something like!" We are producing here some conspicuously beautiful creations, ones that are distinctly the expressions of our own personalities.

They accuse us of dressing all alike. Well, if we do, that is because the American women have refused to open their eyes sufficiently to the possibilities of these American creations, for they are not all designed alike by any manner of means, and any sameness in our dressing cannot be laid at the doors of the artists who are working so hard to set the pace along distinctive American lines.

The fashion shows this spring, presenting strictly American-made fashions, have been a treat to the eye. The crudities which once were apparent are fast disappearing, and one delights in a showing of American gowns as much because of their fine points of design and construction as because of their utter suitability to the figures which they are meant to adorn.

There is nothing which we do so well nor wear so well as the street suit for women, and there is nothing, really, which we like so well. When one returns from abroad having seen all the styles in the world, one's eyes are overjoyed at the sight of the American suit, so beautifully cut and fitted, so artistically worn. An American woman needs a suit in her wardrobe and, if her circumstances are such that she can have nothing else, then she, somehow, makes that suit fit in with every occasion demanding her presence.

Our sport clothes, too, are a national expression which has nowhere else been equalled. Our designers have combined grace and beauty, in this direction, with utility, and we



This Model Has an Interesting Trimming of Blocked Linen, a Part of the Pattern of Which is Embroidered.

have at the disposal of our buying capacities the best selection of outdoor costumes that have anywhere been gathered together. We have woven special silks for the purpose. We have imported woolsens and adapted them to our use.

Simplicity of Line.
The day dresses for this spring season produced by American designers are lovely in the simplicity of their lines and in the general way in which the materials have been handled. The coat dress is something which has received the stamp of approval from American women, and there are some new styles in this street frock which are very beautiful. Our afternoon clothes and some street dresses are partial to the use of canton crepe, a heavy and perhaps more durable version of crepe de chine. There are lovely colors in this fabric, and they have been used with great success, the trimming being very much restrained, so that the lines of the frock have every chance to tell their beauty to the world.

Gray is surely the color for American wear this season. Everything is done in gray from hats to shoes. And if the creation is not all in gray then some part of it is sure to be. Blue capes have gray linings or gray collars. Blue hats have gray trimmings. Reddish tones of trimming are applied to a gray foundation. Gray suits are the order of the day. Gray stockings

are worn with black shoes, unless gray shoes are used. Always there is gray somewhere in the omni and, since there are many tones and shades of this one color, every one of every complexion can find something in color that suits her general make-up.

Skirts here are short. Yes, they are very short, and there seems no sign that they will increase in length at present. If we adopt the longer skirts we will do it in another season, that is all there is to it, for now we are delighting in the freedom of being able to walk about without having the slightest restriction about our ankles. There are absurdities in this length of skirt, just as there are apt to be absurdities connected with any leading fashion.

Circular Skirt Is Seen.
Now and again among the newer American showings the circular skirt is seen. It is the only evidence we have of any widening of the skirt, but



Here is a Suit of Two Materials Made on Conservative Lines and Which Should Appeal as a Street-Outlet.

when it is circular it has the greatest amount of fullness used in its making.

There are so many capes among the spring wraps, and these are so graceful, that they cannot be passed by unnoticed. They are made in every fashion, from the cape of heavy homespun to that of the strictest and fluffiest of taffetas for evening wear. The cape coat has been forsaken in smart dressmaking circles for the cape on strictly cape lines, which sometimes is left severely plain, and again embroidered or heavily trimmed in some way. One of these is made of heavy black satin with its lower edge embroidered for some distance with an arrangement of gray angora wool embroidery. It has a triple founced collar that is in itself almost another cape.

"Miffeta dresses are very much in favor for spring street wear. In fact, they vie with those of the canton crepe. They have, usually, fuller skirts, being made over lines that suit their texture best.

There are bouffant types in the Paris openings this spring, there are flights in a direction, there are Spanish flounces, but when all is measured, asserts a fashion authority, there remains the outstanding fact that straight lines are still a dominant characteristic and that the silhouette continues with slight divergences, practically the same as it has been. Of course, this is not meant to convey the impression that last year's frocks are good for this year. There is that subtle difference, slight though it may appear upon the surface, that marks one of the newer gowns as distinctively new. There can be no doubt about it. It has its own marks of novelty and is above everything else a spring 1921 creation.

Each of the couturiers in Paris, it would seem, has outdone himself in the creation of gowns for this latest season. The collections have been unusually large and the examples are more vivid than was expected. And the various types of gowns, it may be encouragingly reported, are thoroughly adaptable to the uses of the American woman.

Skirts Longer in Paris.
Skirts are longer in Paris—that one point is an established thing, but, just to prove that there is never a rule to govern the French couturier, Jenny has made all of her frocks and suits with skirts as short as ever they have been. To be sure, here are the youthful types, and, at any rate, those among the American women who now are rejoicing in very short skirts have Jenny to uphold their choice; they can refer to her decision if their judgment should hang in the balance.

Poirot, on the other hand, has dropped his skirts to a point below the ankles and he is making them as full as can be, with positive puffs out over the hips. All of the other couturiers range between these two levels; Callot likes them shorter, and some one else likes them longer, so there is at least a choice, and every woman has the privilege of choosing the thing that becomes her best.

Skirts are fuller, too, than they have been. A few of them are circular in cut and another few plaited. Even the straight skirts that follow the line capes of the figure are allowed a little more roominess than they have had recently, though those for suits and street dresses are kept fairly conservative in width.

NEW FACES

By GRACE E. RILEY.

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"There's company coming, Linda."
"I suppose, mother, you feel it in your bones?"

"It's the way that rooster's crowing. A rooster crowing in the daytime is a sure sign of company."
"Company," snorted Linda, "probably Mary for her daily cup of tea and Ma Lindsey for liniment for her son, or perhaps David will come for your recipe for sponge cake."

"Well, ain't that company, I'd like to know?" interrupted her mother. "Maybe you think so, but they are not company to me; I long to see a new face."

"It's not a mite of use telling you that old friends are the best. Young folks won't believe such things until experience has taught them. But what's wrong with David?"

"David! Mother, every one forces David down my throat. David's all right, but so deadily monotonous—the same yesterday, today and forever, as the quotation goes. If he would only do something unusual, just once!"
Saying which, Linda left the room. Her mother watched her, questioning. Linda's complex disposition, her vague yearnings and discontentment were incomprehensible to her mother. Alina Craig had no dark corners or shadows in her character. She demanded little of life, accepted gratefully what it offered, and warmed all with whom she came in contact with her wholesome light-heartedness.

A bell pealing loudly through the house interrupted Mrs. Craig's meditations. Hastily drying her hands on her apron and smoothing her hair, she opened the door to the handsomest young man she had ever seen.

"Mrs. Craig?" His smile was disarming. "I am Roger Colherst of Boston, Mrs. Craig, and am looking for a place to board for a few weeks. I have been told that perhaps you would take me in."

Even while her hospitable soul demanded that he be admitted, something warned her against this stranger, but she forced her voice to express the cordiality which she did not feel, as she ushered him into the living room where Linda was sewing.

"My daughter, Linda, Mr. Colherst; now, let's see, how long are you to be in Rayneville?"

"About a month, Mrs. Craig. I do hope you will put me up."
Linda, meanwhile, sat quietly listening to this surprising conversation. She, too, hoped her mother would put him up. Then she heard her saying: "If you'll come upstairs I'll show you a room."

There followed a month crowded with happiness for Linda and with many a misgiving for her mother. David came constantly, but always to find that Linda had gone out with Roger.

A month wore away—six weeks—and still Roger remained.

"I'm sorry, David, Linda is certainly infatuated, but I do truly believe it is only infatuation. Just stand by; I am sure it will come out all right. Many's the time I've wished that rooster dead for crowing company to our house the day that Roger Colherst came."

David laughed, but his heart was heavy, for his dream was gone. It was only in the sunshine of Mrs. Craig's smile that he found a ray of comfort and encouragement. She had told him to stand by, and stand by he would.

Then one day the entire countryside became agitated over the news that a bank clerk who had absconded with thousands of dollars, had been traced to this state. The day the news reached Rayneville, Roger Colherst was greatly interested, and almost enthusiastic about aiding in the search for the fugitive.

"I'll take my motor over to Clayton; there's a kick in it somewhere. Then when she's in shape, Crandall, we'll scour the whole state."

No one but David noticed that when Roger came downstairs he carried his bag. Instantly a vague suspicion which he had harbored became crystallized.

"Oh, I say, Colherst, would you mind running me over to Clayton? You can attend to your business while I am attending to mine."

Only for an instant did Roger hesitate. Then, "Sure thing, Crandall," he said.
After a busy hour on David's part, they started. David, knowing Clayton well, was aware that if he took Colherst to the farther end of the town, there would be no way of Colherst's car to pass out that way, unnoticed. When Roger left him, he apparently changed his mind, and instead of stopping at the garage, he went back over the road to Bayneville. If he could make the fork in the road and get to Dustin, he knew a way out. He smiled to think how easily David let him get away, for he had sensed David's suspicions. At the fork, however, Colherst drove straight into a trap which David had set for him. Not only was a crowd of men there, but one was the president of his old bank. Roger Colherst's debonair manner failed him. He broke down, utterly, as he was driven away.

Great was the enthusiasm in Bayneville over David's cleverness, but the words most welcome to David were whispered to him by Linda, when she said: "How proud I shall be of my husband when I am Mrs. David Crandall!"

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WHAT TO EAT.
Delicious Salad.
Take halves of canned pears, arrange on head lettuce. Fill the centers with chopped nuts and pour over it a dressing made of whipped cream and one cake of snappy cream, cheese, mixed and beaten with a Dover egg beater.

May Party Cakes.
Break into a large bowl six eggs, one cupful of sugar and three-fourths of a cupful of softened butter (not melted). Set the bowl in hot water and beat until the butter is well mixed with the ingredients. Add one cupful of flour, sifting it in a little at a time while beating and continue to beat until the mixture thickens slightly. Pour into a shallow pan lined with greased paper and bake until firm. When cold cut in fancy shapes and decorate—or use for jelly sandwiches.

MADE QUEER HIDING PLACE
Sleeping Appurtenances Proved Effective in Concealing Embezzled Individual in Lady's Bedroom.

Lord Rosemore, who has just died in England, was a great sportsman and hunter and had many good stories not only of the hunting field but of life in many other phases. One of these concerned his friend, Bay Middleton, whom he describes as one of the best riders to hounds that ever lived, and runs as follows:

"Bay once bet a lady that he could hide so effectively in her bedroom that she could never discover him. She hunted high and low, but never a trace of the hidden one could she see.

The lady was completely at her wits' end, and at last, when she had literally gone all over the room inch by inch, she was startled out of her seven senses by hearing Bay's voice exclaiming, 'Hullo! I can see you.' This was a puzzle and she inquired, 'but the mystery was at last solved for Middleton, who was long and thin, had got inside the bigger!'

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FAITHFUL TO OLD VEHICLE
Old Cars Still Used as Method of Transportation in Parts of the South and in India.

"Tractors are crawling over the snow-covered fields of northern Greenland carrying the supplies of the Lange Koch expedition. This novel use of a new-born vehicle recalls that some of the oldest transportation methods still are employed in regions whose civilization is older than that of the Greenland Eskimo," says a bulletin of the National Geographic society.

"The ox-cart still serves the southern 'darker' in North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, as well as in other portions of the South, as his coach and four for the Sunday 'go-to-meeting'. During the week the stolid beast plows tobacco and cotton fields. In India bullocks hitched to a wagon with an ornate beehive-shaped or elongated covering, not unlike the picturesque tobacco schooner, convey the Burmese man and his family along the road to Mandalay. Nor does this animal cease being a means of transportation upon his death. The natives blow up his skin and use it as a float or raft on which they cross the river."

Spelling a Five-Foot King.
"What's the gentleman saying? A heated altercation with the minister about?"
"He says he wants to patronize the silent drama."
"Well, isn't this a movie head?"
"Yes, but he says he can't hear the groans and sighs of other people when the hero and heroine part." Birmingham Age-Herald.

Some Squid.
First Coach—Why, I thought you said if your football team became vegetarians they would win all the games. How do you account for their loss?
Second Coach—Why, the squid team threw garden peas at us, and they became silent.

Old Experience.
In the old days of the draft the amirer was putting himself through the usual course of the previous military experience. "You've been in the army, haven't you?"
"Yes, I have." "How long were you in?"
"Three years." "What were you doing?"
"I was in the army." "What were you doing?"
"I was in the army." "What were you doing?"

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