

HINTS FOR THE HOME DRESSMAKER

The Business Woman Who Finds Time to Make Her Own Clothes.

A DRESS was seen recently the general style of which would seem to be just the thing for a teacher or for a woman in some other branch of business to wear during the business hours. Elaborate or dressy clothes and many of the dainty accessories so much in vogue just now would be decidedly out of place during business hours, but, on the other hand, a person can and should be attractively and stylishly dressed, and this can be done and still strictly adhere to the things which are suitable. The dress referred to particularly was made of a good quality of serge; in a navy blue. The skirt was a kilted one, clearing the ground by fully three inches. The plaits lay towards the back, making the back come together in an inserted box plait, and there was a broad bias band put around the bottom, having its lower edge just cover the line made by the stitching of the hem. This band was three inches wide. The plaits were stitched down to the hip line only.

There was the prettiest kind of a jumper possible, which was attached to the skirt band, making it absolutely certain there would be no unsightly separating there. This jumper can easily be made from a skirt

one way of fastening a placket opening that is about perfect in its effect. Where there is an inserted plait in the back, on each side of the middle, the fold of the plaits coming nearest to the back is more or less bias. A straight strip of lining material or Prussian binding, eleven inches long, should be slipped in on the wrong side, so that one edge comes exactly in the crease made by the fold of the plait. Stitch each plait down close to the outside edge, also five-eighths of an inch inside—both of these stitchings will go through the straight piece laid underneath—and bring the inside row of stitching to a point, so it goes towards the outside row. The hooks and eyes are sewed to these plaits, the hooks on the right side, one inch apart, and so that the front edge of the hook is one-eighth of an inch in from the edge, and the eyes are sewed on the left side, so that the end extends far enough beyond the edge that the hooking can be easily done. The straight strips give something to sew the hooks and eyes to, and keep the plaits from stretching; and hooking plaits, instead of the placket opening underneath, keeps the dress together beautifully.

is on the bias also, and is put into the plain, shaped part by gathering. Any one with a little trying can copy this front by marking the outline of it on a shirt waist pattern. As can be readily seen, this waist opens in the front and is worn over a front and collar either of white tucked dimity or plain silk to match one of the colors in the dress. The bottom part of

On either side of the front are four groups of three buttons each.

With these waists should be worn some suit skirt if possible, preferably on the plaited order. It is of real importance that the petticoats worn with these skirts should be perfectly cut and fitted, and when finished they should be one-half inch shorter than the skirt. A

seven gored skirt pattern is excellent to use, making the plain part come a little above the knees, and attaching to this a gathered ruffle. There is a reason for saying the plain part should stop above the knees. If the full gathered part comes over the knees the skirt wears better than if the plain part comes there. Make the skirt with an easy fitting habit back, and put a facing on instead of a band, and button the placket opening.

A good way to keep the petticoat from gradually sagging in the back is to have a large hook on the corset front an inch and a half below the waist line, cut the petticoat down in the front to that depth below the waist line and slip under the hook. If chemises are worn for corset covers, a one inch square of cambric can be hemmed on to the chemise on the wrong side, where it falls over the hook, and a small eyelet pinned and worked; then slip this eyelet over the hook. The extremely tight fitting skirts which are both talked of and to some extent worn at present should be avoided during business hours. These are too difficult for a home sewer, unless a most experienced one, and these extremes are often only fleeting styles and not in good taste when in an office or school-room.

Other essentials in a business woman's wearing apparel are the kind of shoes she wears and the manner of dressing her hair. The shoes should have low, broad heels and either laced or buttoned as preferred. But the fancy cuts, colored uppers, and high heels are not in good taste.

The wonderful arrangements of the hair are also avoided by women who regard the fitness of things, and they realize that the waves, puffs, curls, etc. detract from the refinement of their appearance, and are entirely out of place, except in the evening, or for some occasion other than business.

It would seem as though there never could have been a time when there was such a variety of fascinating, pretty, and attractive neckwear as now. A woman's neck hardly seems well dressed unless some one of the dainty bows or jabots are worn. Several especially dainty ones have been selected to be shown with this article. One is made of several loops of ribbon in three shades of one color, the knot in the middle the palest shade, as are the shortest loops. This can be bought for 50 cents, but as the counters are running over with beautiful remnants, women who like these dainty accessories and yet who would hesitate to spend 50 cents apiece for several kinds of neck bows, could buy enough material to make several for the price of one ready made. Naturally a great many women can afford money for these lovely trifles and do not care to bother with the making of them; but there are many who must count the cost too closely to allow of such expenditure.

The smallest bow is the smallest kind of one and costs \$1.50, the second one is hand embroidered in the eyelet design, the ends shaped like leaves, with a cluster of tiny ones in the middle, and the price asked for this is \$2.50. To copy this the cloth should be cut out the right shapes and then the pattern marked on and embroidered. The third one is similar in general style, but really has less work on it in one way, yet it is somewhat larger and the price asked is \$3.50.



waist pattern by cutting off a piece of the material the right length, laying the plaits like those in the illustration, extending the shoulder seam about one inch, and lengthening the armhole underneath about the same amount. Then mark off the line where the neck is to be cut out, also mark the line indicating the line the braid trimming is to take, including the position of the opening on each side of the front at the bottom. The back can be made exactly like the front, and would be pretty for a slight figure, or the shoulder plaits can be left out. After the seams are stitched, bound, and pressed open, it is ready for the trimming.

To go back a little. After the correct neck, armhole, and other lines have been satisfactorily marked on, a fine basting thread should be run on all these lines, the material around the neck and armhole cut off so as to allow for a half inch turning, and the edges finely and carefully overcast, and the dart line should be cut, overcasting each edge also. So many woolen materials fray badly that careful and immediate overcasting is absolutely necessary. The backs should have the hem laid down the middle and then all these edges above referred to may be turned to the right side—making the turning exactly on the lines made by the basting thread—basted down carefully and pressed with a damp strip of cheese cloth laid over. A pretty hercules braid is the same shade of blue as the dress and the trimming used, and this should be basted on, pulling up a thread where it is necessary to make it fit smoothly around the curved lines. The ends of this braid should be firmly wound with a piece of thread or silk to prevent raveling. Any department store will make the buttons if a few scraps of the material are given to them. These buttons are made of the material and have a wooden rim; and can be made up with or without a shank, and only cost a few cents a dozen. The jumper was hooked up the back and it can easily be imagined how simple it will be to make it, how exquisitely neat in finish it will be, and how easy the dress to get into. There is a belt two inches wide made of the material, with two rows of braid finishing it which hooks on separately.

The waist worn with this costume was the same shade in crepe de chine, and was as simple as possible, and had the new sleeves, plain and tight fitting from the top to the bottom. The standing collar was high, as the velvet collars are, and to complete this pretty dress there should be worn white linen turnover collar and cuff bands.

It is possible that all women do not know about

Another style of dress which has a distinct air about it and is suitable for business wear would be pretty made of a checked mohair in any preferred color. This skirt is circular, which by many might be considered an objection, but if it is properly treated in the making it will be satisfactory and certainly there is no other style of skirt more graceful or prettier. In this the check material will have to be folded to get a true bias, or perhaps one of the longer biases for the middle front seam. Fold the goods exactly on the line where it is to be stitched in a seam and baste the edge back, so that the seam line makes a fold. This is done after one-half of the skirt has been cut out then lay this basted edge on the material so that the checks match exactly and the checks on the uncut material run so as to give the desired effect.

Pin the seam with small pins the entire length, matching every place exactly, then take a fine thread and hem the folded edge to the other material, only taking in the tip edge of the folded seam. The pins can, of course, be taken out as you go along and this hemming will hold the material exactly in place so the seam can be stitched, and does not interfere with laying the seams flat so they can be basted and stitched together on the wrong side. After this hemming is done take the basting out which held the seam back, lay the cut half back on the uncut material, matching it everywhere exactly, then cut out by the first half. The seam can be stitched and it will be found that both hemming and basting can be easily removed and a perfectly matched seam will be the result, and this, too, done the first time it is tried. The greatest care must be taken while handling a circular skirt, not to stretch it around the waist, and it should rest on a table as much as possible, and as soon as practicable baste a straight strip of lining to the waist line, holding the material a little full; this will prevent further stretching.

This style of skirt has to be hung up for several days before finishing it at the bottom, so as to allow of its stretching where it is bias, and sometimes small weights are attached to assist in the stretching. It should have the placket finished and the band put on before being hung to stretch, and after several days it can be finished at the bottom, then the bias band put on, finished in the front by two points, each decorated with a button. Then a second band is put on to simulate an overdress, making altogether a most attractive looking skirt. The body part of the waist

this waist should be put into a fitted girde, the boned foundation for which can be bought at any notion counter for 15 cents. It would be pretty to cover the girde with folds of the plain silk. The waist and skirt should be hooked together in the back, which will make them keep together quite perfectly.

A good many women are especially fond of a shirt waist and skirt costume, and, granting that these are well made and well put on, they are without doubt good looking. There are several waists shown with this article, and each and every one is correct in style. Plain silks, poplins, mohairs, challis, crepe de chine, etc., can all be used if one desires to avoid having too high a laundry bill, although if a person can afford the requisite number to insure enough changes, nothing is more attractive than the plain white ones. But they must be immaculately fresh and clean to be attractive, and in office work the pretty half-sleeves made of the handkerchiefs with colored borders can be worn, thus saving the waist considerably. One shirt waist shown is in white linen, made with two tucks, each one inch wide, stitched down about six or seven inches from the shoulder seam. A new feature of this waist is in the position these tucks are laid. Instead of being close to the armhole, the outside one escapes it by over half an inch, and between the two tucks is fully the width of the tucks. This waist is buttoned down the front with crocheted buttons, which are another new feature, and instead of a box plait in the middle of a front there is a hem. The sleeves are the simplest and plainest kind of a shirt waist sleeve put into a narrow link cuff, and a pretty touch is given in the embroidered monogram.

Of things in the shape of collars and dainty ties, bows, jabots, and the like, there is such a variety every taste can surely be satisfied; but the fancy, elaborate styles should be avoided. A white linen belt in a pretty buckle is the best kind of wear with a white waist, as it can be easily laundered. Another point is that a black or dark colored belt worn with a waist shortens the waist. Another waist which is severely plain but has a great deal of style has one shoulder plait stitched down a ways, and one plait at the other end of the shoulder going a little into the neck line. The middle plait is narrow, being the same width as the tucks. A pointed pocket on the left front with a monogram embroidered on it is the special feature of this one.

A third waist is of white madras and has what might be called a front panel, with a tiny scalloped edge on both sides embroidered in a colored linen. Crocheted buttons are put down on both sides. The waist has three narrow tucks, tucked down only about four or five inches, the tucks each measuring five-eighths of an inch. There are a pretty turnover collar, cuff pieces, and little tie, all with scalloped edges to match the fronts. The back of all these waists should be tucked, either in the middle or on the shoulders. One other waist has three shoulder plaits and the waist comes together in the front, showing neither box plait nor hem, the edges exactly meeting and the fastening being done invisibly underneath.

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