

# IS FASHION TO TAKE UP SHEATH SKIRT?

## GARMENT CAUSES CONTROVERSY

Many Varieties and Shades of Opinion Offered—Managers of Mountain Resorts Welcome Innovation—Expert Denies There Is Psychology in Dress.

New York.—Mixed in with all the other burning questions of the hour is the problem, to sheath or not to sheath? You can get as many different opinions as there are people to consult. It does not seem to affect the seaside hotels so much. As long as there are beaches and bathing the importance of the feminine costume with regard to the success of the season is small.

But with the managers of the mountain resorts it is different. To quote one of them:

"It's all very well to talk scenery and sanitation, the lovely views and the good food—that used to go, but when a man can take a boat or an auto and get all these in an hour or two from Broadway he isn't going to take a hot, dusty ride for the same result. If we could sprinkle a few of these sheath skirts along the mountain vias there is no doubt that the extremely painful sight, as familiar to the managers at present, of an Adam's Eden without even a serpent would pass away."

One of them with imagination pictures the scene as he has witnessed it and it might be:

### An Affecting Woman.

"Did you ever watch a lot of women trying to make out that they are perfectly happy, sewing and playing bridge and gossiping on the hotel balconies, every one mad as a hatter because she has been beguiled there in the belief either that she would have a flirtation herself or the opportunity

be commended. From time immemorial women have held their dresses up from the ground apparently to protect them, in reality for other reasons. If the same result can be attained with half the energy, naturally the new fashion should be recommended to everybody."

### Made a Sensation.

To one of the conservative stores downtown a young woman came the other day, quietly appareled as to color and cut of her dress, but with her navy blue gown coquettishly slit to the knee, displaying a dark blue silk stocking and a Louis Quinze slipper of small proportions. She began to buy some veiling with nonchalant ease, and the girl behind the counter waited upon her, ignorant of the distinction conferred.

Not for long. First a cash girl makes the discovery and brings a twin to see that she has not made a mistake. The news flies about the shop; it reaches the bargain counter and other places.

There is a sudden stampede, and in the midst of it the patron, with a scorching look at the crushing crowd, which will hardly allow her to move, makes her way to the entrance and thence with a flying leap enters a taxi, whose driver looks down open mouthed and eyed to get her directions. Disappointed faces frame the door, and one middle aged woman says cattily: "What did she expect?"

In this same store a buyer, a woman of many years' experience, is in the

petticoats need not be worn and the waist and hip lines should not be destroyed by a lot of unnecessary material. These bloomers fit closely to the figure and are pulled slightly above the knee—not too much, mind—and have a few rows of lace put on without very much surplus, just sufficient to give the dainty and feminine touch to a garment which is not essentially attractive.

"All the models in his place wore these bloomers at first with the sheath skirts. Now silk tights or fleshings are worn if required, as many women who wear the sheaths prefer them, just as many prefer to spoil their shape with the intrusion of the old style petticoat or drop, which should never be worn with them."

### Producing the Soft Fall.

"The soft fall about the feet which is so much admired by the aesthetically inclined is produced by various devices, usually small shot which are sewed to a band of tape, which in turn is fastened to the edge of the skirt or a few inches from the edge, as preferred. Paquin used a rubber band at the knee which went around the skirt and drew it in to give the required effect when walking, and some of the sheath skirts have two rubber loops through which the foot passes, but this style, although it gives the sheath walk all right, is very trying to an active minded woman, as she must never forget them, and while she may not mind the self-consciousness she does mind the discomfort.

"I remember one of my first views of the new sheath skirt was at the Paquin establishment, and a model—one of these lovely girls they have there—began joking and laughing and insisted that she could step just as far in a sheath skirt as in other kind. She tried it and tore the costume all to pieces along the sides. After that the sheath walk was adopted, which is the necessary result of the bands and shot."

Another buyer thought there had been unnecessary fuss over the sheath skirt.

### Puritanical Ideas Criticized.

"The very people who will sit on a beach and watch the short skirted swimmers, standing, sitting and running about, displaying lines and curves with generous abandon, are the very people who have these Puritanical outbursts at the mere idea of showing the same amount of figure on the street. Why is it?" she asked.

The pulpit has denounced the sheath skirt, which ought to encourage the makers, and one of the leading lights

drawing room, of the auto, not of the business or the professional world.

"A few years ago business and professional women saw in the adoption of the tailor made, the short walking skirt and various other utilitarian modes a disappearance of the lines of demarcation between classes. To-day they are looking with dismay at the chasm that is opening.

"Take the sheath skirt as example. A working woman must eliminate that from her wardrobe. She could not appear in court, at her business desk in it, not only because it would be physically impossible for her to do her work so swathed, but also because it would bring into business and professional life the very feminine element she is trying to keep away.

"The sheath skirt woman is opposed body and soul to her sex's freedom. The gowning of to-day is a challenge. Use all the arguments you have at your disposal, one woman says to her sister of the other world, and we will destroy them with the waving of a scarf and the curve of a figure in a clinging gown."

An expert on woman's dress who has given 37 years of his life to its study scoffs at the idea that there is any such psychology in dress.

"Nothing of the kind," he says, firmly. He says it as one who knows. "I do not think it is necessary to find occult explanations for such obvious facts."

### Paris Needed the Money.

"The truth of the matter is that Paris is hard up. She has suffered severely from our little panic. Russia too, one of her wealthy patrons, has also fallen off in her orders. Paris hasn't known what to do and has put her wits to work to evolve something to appeal to a jaded taste and above all to the American market.

"Whether we will prove gullible I cannot say, for it is as difficult to prognosticate here as in the publishing or the theatrical world. When 'The Old Homestead' runs a thousand nights you are surprised when the people suddenly demand 'The Soul Kiss,' when the romantic drama seems to be absorbing the literary world and writers are busy studying history, the taste veers and nothing but 'Dolly Dialogues' will sell; when you think women are at last cutting out the futility and adhering more closely to utilitarian standards they shriek for sheath skirts with rubber bands to hamper their walk, as a Chinese woman's shoes bind her feet.

"One thing we do know. Fashions never really present anything new. There is only a continual turning of the wheel. The sheath skirt is not any

# BOLERO AND BLOUSE



**BOLERO.**—This is a most useful little coat, in the same material as the skirt; blue and white striped tweed is used here, the revers and cuffs are of white cloth stitched at the edge. There is a wrapped seam down each side of front and back, with a small opening at the end of each, ornamented with buttons; buttons also ornament the cuff.

**BLOUSE OF SILK AND LACE.**—This little blouse is quite a novel idea and would be very smart when made; the bodice part is of the same material as skirt, glace silk would be most suitable; it fastens down the front, and is trimmed along the outer edge with a piece of velvet, the little tie-over collar is also trimmed with velvet, the under-arm parts and the sleeves are cut all in one, in piece lace, the sleeve is finished at the elbow with a band and cuff of the silk, the cuff is trimmed with velvet.

**BLOUSE TO MATCH SKIRT.**—This blouse would make up well in the same material as the skirt, providing the material is something soft; the yoke is of piece lace, piped with silk to match the material, which is tucked to fit the yoke, the tucks are about one-quarter inch in width, and are carried down three inches, the sleeve is a simple puff, gathered at the elbow and put into a shaped band which is piped with silk, a little bow of silk is worn at the neck; the waist-band also is of silk.

## STRIPES AND POLKA DOTS.

Methods of Trimming That Will Make Any Simple Frock Ornamental.

One of the pretty ways of making a simple frock ornamental is trimming it with an opposite design in the same coloring.

To be explicit, polka dots are in fashion and frocks in this design are trimmed with wide bias bands of plaid or striped material in the same color.

A striped frock is trimmed with a wide straight band of polka dot material.

A plain surface is trimmed with both the polka dot and the striped fabric, and when the combination is well done it does not really look like a patchwork quilt.

It can even be carried out in yokes and stocks, as nets in fashionable colors now come with a tiny polka dot of white. It is usually in a small open circle instead of a real polka dot, but it gives the same effect.

These nets are put in tiny tucks and used instead of lace, embroidery or muslin.

## Placing a Couch.

Couches are now so much used in sitting rooms that any arrangement that has even a spice of novelty should be welcomed. So try putting the couch in the corner of the room so that it touches the wall at one end and behind it. At the other end, with its back against the divan, stand a bookcase, which is a complete screen to the couch. The latter piece fronts out toward the room, so that any one entering sees the bookcase at once, and on going farther into the room the couch comes into view.

## Ivory and Gold in Scissors.

Ivory handled scissors are so pretty they may form a new incentive to feminine industry. A girl has just brought home from Europe a dainty pair of snippers that are attractive enough to make even an athletic maiden sit down and sew. They are made of the finest steel, of course. The ivory holes for thumb and finger are inlaid with gold. Nothing just like them has been seen even in the bags of gorgeous brocaded silks which contain the fascinating sewing implements.—New York Press.

## INDOOR GOWN.



Plain white lawn was used to make this indoor gown. The surplice waist has a broad trimming band made of triangular sections of tucking put together with a narrow beading and edged with lace. At each side are folds of lavender satin and a bow of ribbon with long ends conceals the closing in the waist.

## LITTLE ERRORS THAT WORRY.

How Some of Them May Be Avoided by the Home Dressmaker.

It is usually the little errors in dressmaking that are the most irritating and annoying to the woman who does her own dressmaking. The unlined waist is one of the hardest garments to fit correctly. When wrinkles come at the base of the armhole, the trouble usually is that the armhole has been made too small. If it is, do not cut it out, but simply snip it with the point of the scissors to see if the wrinkles are removed. If the wrinkles are not removed, then trim the armhole.

If the waist wrinkles at the base of the collar line in the back, see if your belt is in the proper place exactly at the waist line and that the line from the center back of the belt is plumb. If you are sure that the belt is correctly placed, then snip the collar with the point of the scissors at each side of the center back of the collar and wrinkles in all probability will be removed.

## Hosiery Decorations.

Since the fad for decoration has become so widespread, the girl with a talent for fashioning flowers and bow knots with her needle is decorating the fronts of her hosiery from toe to ankle with quaint designs. These are of natural flower tints on the delicate hosiery worn with evening gowns and in self tints for those matching street costumes. Sometimes lace butter flies and bow knots are used as insets, first being applied upon the webbing which is then cut away from the underside. Faded hosiery of a first-class quality may be successfully home-dyed, and thrifty young women overloaded with passe evening hosiery may easily transform it into a sort suitable for street wear by dyeing it tan, taupe, brown or blue.

## Ribbons Must Match.

Debutantes-to-be are most particular about their ribbon accessories, and, gorgeous, indeed, are some of the sashes, coiffures and blouse bows noticed at the week-end society festivities to which members of the younger generation are sometimes admitted. With her Dutch-necked dinner frock of girlish white Swiss or point d'esprit the jeune fille wears a flowered sash tied trimly about her slender waist and arranged at the back in butterfly loops, two of which may be drawn half way to the shoulders. The hair bow and sleeve rosettes may be of softest chiffon satin, matching the grounding of the sash, but her opera glass bag is preferably of the figured sash ribbon, lined to match its satin bordering.

## A Pleasant Economy.

This is the time of year when the mother with a small daughter may lay in a supply of hair ribbons, for they can be bought at this season of the year very cheap, and a ribbon is always of use where a little girl is concerned, either for hair ribbon or sashes. To put away a ribbon when one finds it for sale cheap is a very wise thing to do, and will save a lot of expense when school begins in the fall.

## Gold Bands for the Hair.

Gold bands are decidedly more chic than ribbon ones for the hair, and come in single, double, triple and even quadruple forms. These combined with tortoise shell or amber are extremely handsome.—Vogue.



of making remarks about one? Note these same women when a man is seen approaching, pretending to be indifferent if they are unmarried, and if married leveling opera glasses to see if it may possibly be husband giving them a surprise.

"If you have not had this experience you know nothing about the happy moments of a hotel proprietor's life, who is confident from past knowledge that when the cloud of dust resolves itself into a human figure it will be the heretofore sworn of the most interesting woman in the bunch and who suffers from the thousand and one complaints which can all be traced to that source.

"Unless the sheath skirt gets too common I am inclined to believe that it might do a great deal to relieve this situation, but mind, I say might, not will. I'd be willing to furnish some skirts on spec if I could get the women to do their part."

## When It Strikes the Kitchen.

The woman of the domestic variety, whom magazine editors study closely to find out what to give the world to read, asks with a deep wrinkle between the eyes that denotes unaccustomed thought: "What will happen when the style strikes the kitchen?"

"It always does," she says. "Get something new and next week Aggie or Nora or Mary has it in an exaggerated form."

"Our maid at present wears striped stockings, not stripes running up and down but round and round. These she varies with large plaids and her visible means of support look like dropical barber poles."

"I agree with my husband, who says that there is nothing more attractive than the sight of a charming le-m-b-g costumed in silk openwork through a side opening, but not the cook's le-m-b-g, if you please. I look forward with horror to the time when she will pass the soft shell crabs and the charlotte russe in a costume of that description. No split skirts in my household, if you please."

The physical culturist puts it on the ground of economics.

"Anything," says she, "that will save the expenditure of nervous force is to



some uncertainty as to the sheath skirt as every one else, but she has some information to give about it.

## Invention of Paquin.

"When Paquin died," she explains, "he told his wife on his deathbed that the sheath skirt, already known in the trade as the Paquin skirt, would be popular, and Paquin made few mistakes. But the sheath skirt of which he spoke did not have the latest improvement—if you call it that. It was simply a sheath, not a directoire sheath, and was not slit."

The first skirts made at his establishment had an unusual effect in the front, just a slight looseness of the material below the waist, known to-day as the Paquin cut. The success of the sheath, then as now, depended on its clinging to the figure, showing every line and curve, and ending at the feet with a fad of drapery suggested by the sculptured draperies of the Greek statues. If you note a carefully made sheath skirt turned out at the Paquin establishment, or at any other of the Parisian houses, you will easily trace the Hellenic resemblance, and in fact, in some places the sheath is known as the Ionian skirt on this account.

"To make the sheath a success great attention must be given to the undergarments. Paquin designed for it a new style of bloomers, so that



## FRONTIER WOMEN HAVE HELD THEIR DRESSES UP.

in the suffrage cause has come boldly forward in its favor. The stage backs and fills.

A club woman interviewed on the subject says that she considers the new style to have a distinctly psychological significance, as all fashions have.

"I consider it tremendously important as showing the trend of modern thought," she says. "Every epoch of transition and change in political and religious matters has had a corresponding reflection in the sartorial."

"Look about the streets to-day and in other public places and you will notice that the tailor made girl is conspicuous by her absence. If a sailor hat is worn or a Panama masculine in severity, like as not it is swathed with a chiffon veil and plumes and wings are added.

"All along the line you will notice a frantic effort on the part of the women to show the world that they are clinging fast to the womanly charms of seductive dress, to the fills and fancies and fads that woman has been taught to believe are the symbols of her power, and that she has little real sympathy with the republican simplicity that would be foisted upon her by a minority of her sex. She scowls everything that is severe, rigid, masculine, and riots in the distinction drawn between her gowning and that of women who are trying to waken their sex to something more important than chiffons."

## Simply Swing of Pendulum.

"Paris showed the same tendencies right after the simplicity enforced by the French revolution, and every crisis of history there has had a similar effect. The prevalent fashions of to-day are the fashions of the boudoir, of the