

# The Cut of the New Skirts

## Evening Dresses Have Skirts of Beautiful Lines and Much Trimming.

HOW much longer, I wonder, will colored tulle laid across where the waist skirts be the all-absorbing topic ought to be!

Since the first director skirt burst upon our astonished eyes many moons ago, the garter of our lower limbs has been the ever-burning question of the hour.

If you happen to be near a group of half a dozen idle women you are very sure to overhear scraps of conversation that assure you that the skirt question is on the tapis.

"Dreadfully skimpy, but my tailor simply wouldn't let me—" "She just wound and wound herself up in it until finally she sat right down on the floor of the car." "—petticoats? My dear, no one wears petticoats!" "Two yards and a half around! Why, that's quite wide. Mine only measures—"

There is no lack of adjectives when one comes to describe skirts. Beautiful, bizarre, artistic, eccentric, graceful, hideous—oh, one could go on indefinitely and yet find there was more to say. For undoubtedly just now, the skirt's the thing. In it we find most markedly the rapid changing of the kaleidoscopic modes.

From France have come to us this season some amazing things. It would seem that the designers had turned and twisted their poor brains as they later turned and twisted the fabrics of their models to evolve the extraordinary garments which they have sent across to us labelled "correct" and with great dressmakers' names attached. And on skirts has most of their attention been fixed.

For each succeeding importation shows the skirt climbing ambitiously higher and threateningly to put the "bodice," as our English friends call it, out of commission entirely. Indeed, some of the fashionable ball gowns consist of little else than a long, tightly swathed skirt, a couple of shoulder straps and a few folds of flesh.

Long ago we discovered that this year—such a thing as a waist-line would be unknown, and as for a waist-belt! Oh, back to the woods for daring to suggest anything so completely out of date! Of course, there are a few beighted and

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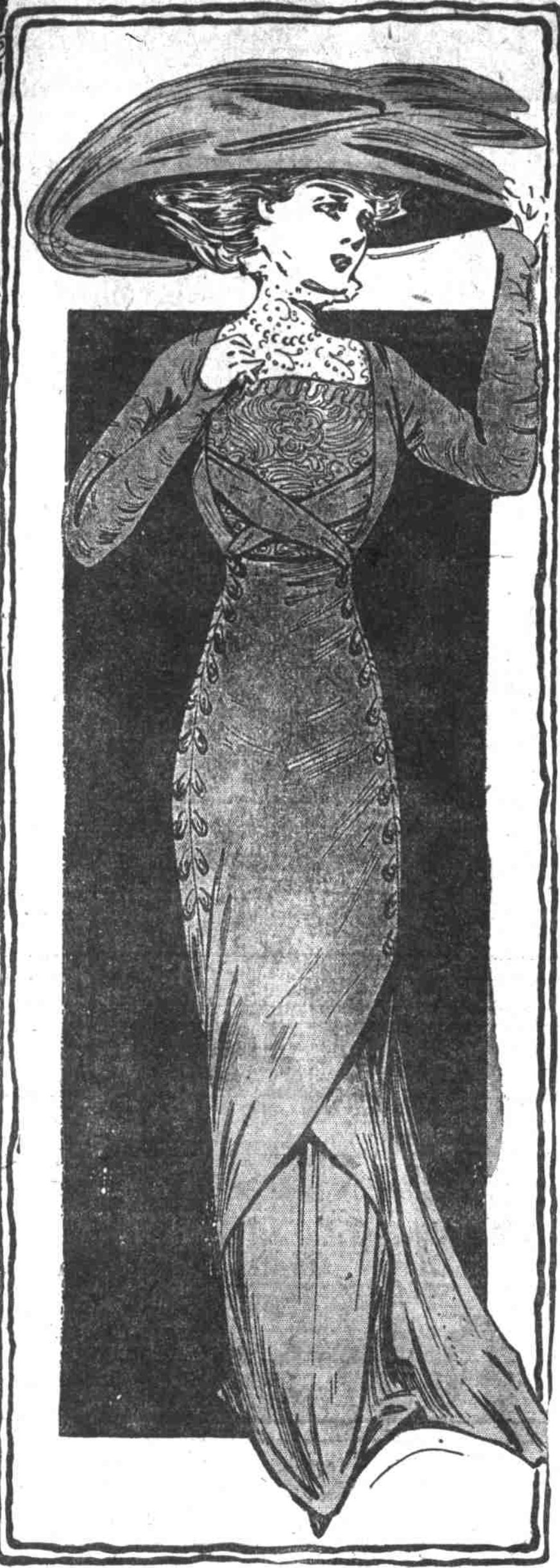
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By Mrs. Cholly Knickerbocker.

## The New Models Are Elaborately Draped and Weighted With Embroideries and Braidings. Only Two and a Half Yards at the Hem, and Cut Just to Clear the Ground, the Short Skirt Is Used Solely for Walking.

of fine lace completed a simple but individual frock. Satin ribbon, like all satin fabrics, is playing a large part in up-to-date fashions. Run through large, embroidered eyelets it is used to lace together the skirt shown in the sketch lettered "A." Well for the wearer of this model if she be slender and fashionably hipless, for this form of trimming has an unfortunately widening effect.

And speaking of widening effects, have you seen some of the dear fat ladies in the new habit back skirts? I'm quite aware that "fat" is the most insulting of epithets, but "fat" they obviously are—a sight to make one weep. Do let me implore you, if Nature has been over-generous in the matter of hips and your physical culture teacher has not yet been successful in subduing them, to eschew the habit back skirt. On a slim, up-and-down figure nothing is more charming, but on any one inclining to stoutness—you see how delicately I put it, don't you?—it is, to say the least, not becoming.

American women long ago decided never to be parted from their comfortable walking skirts, cut to clear the ground. I am sure that this year their resolutions were shaken, if they were ever going to be, for the French designers persistently sent out models, so-called street suits, with gracefully trailing skirts. Then did the adapters of fashions on this side find it wise to "get busy" and chop off those graceful trains, for the American woman would have none of them. But it took more than one struggle to stick to the resolution, for graceful and beyond question are these long skirts, and absolutely in keeping with the long lines of the fashionable coats.

Only in the most strictly tailored suits for morning wear will the woman with any pretensions to smartness have a short-cut skirt, and then it must barely escape

the ground. Ankle length skirts are now in the worst possible taste. With suits for every occasion but walking for visiting, feasting or calling, skirts sweeping the ground will be the thing. In long, scant lines they hang, obviously without under-skirts. In walking length skirts the "box cut" is the latest and most fashionable. It hugs the figure tightly almost to the knees and is extremely narrow around the hem. Pleated skirts, although a few are still being worn, are fast going out. And I, for one, breathe a sigh of relief. Pleats that stay in are all very well, but pleats that are always coming out are an abomination.

The untrimmed gored skirt, perfectly cut and hung, with perhaps a bias fold of the material directly at the foot, is a good model in a walking skirt and one you would be safe to choose. It may have the perfectly flat back and open on a side seam in front, or have an inverted pleat and opening in the back. But not an inch of unnecessary material must there be.

The appalling "split" skirt has done the disappearing act with great success, and all that remains to remind us of its brief and meteoric career is an occasional skirt buttoned up the side, a few buttons left undone toward the hem. Below this is a thick and modest underskirt, which is indeed part of the skirt itself. Rarely it is of a contrasting color.

Afternoon and evening gowns have skirts of almost indescribable designs, so quaint and fanciful are they. With panels and overskirts, long, sweeping draperies and stole-like hangings, caught up with flowers tied in with ribbons, bound about with sashes and weighted with gold and Oriental embroideries, it is difficult to give a pen picture of them. That they are the last word in feminine charm of dress any one with the eye artistic must admit. Alas! that not always is the form within

suits to live in such environments. Only one figure had the designers in mind when they evolved the triumphs of this season, and that the slightest and mostvelte. However, here's hoping we may all attain it before the fashion changes.

Dancing frocks with long draped over-



old-fashioned women who insist on their tailor-made skirts at least stopping somewhere near the equator. But they are women with ideas of their own, who decline to follow slavishly the pace that foreign fashion-makers set.

As some one very patly remarked to me the other day, "If you haven't got a

waistline, how can your skirts stop there? There is certainly something to that. So we find the line of the skirt lifted high up under the arms in all fashionable frocks and—call it what period you please, Empire, Directoire or Renaissance—it is here to stay for some time. Charmingly supple and drapable—to coin a useful word—are the cloths of this season and tailors and modistes are taking full advantage of these qualities. Some of the new model skirts are hung by hands whose art one can't deny. As witness, the skirt sketched in the illustration lettered "D." One fold draped wrongly and the whole effect would be spoiled. But as it is, it is a skirt as graceful as unique and the heavy hand embroidery running up the boxplait gives it a touch of richness, which is repeated in the suspender-like straps of embroidered cloth which suspend the skirt from the shoulders.

Of quite another effect is the model shown in the sketch marked "B." Here we have a very simple and ordinary overskirt lifted far out of the plane of the usual by the clever use of wide satin ribbon. A charming idea this is, and one quite capable of copying. In this case the dress was made of a silky cashmere, but silk voile, messaline or chiffon cloth could be used to equal advantage. Long sleeves of the same material and a guimpe

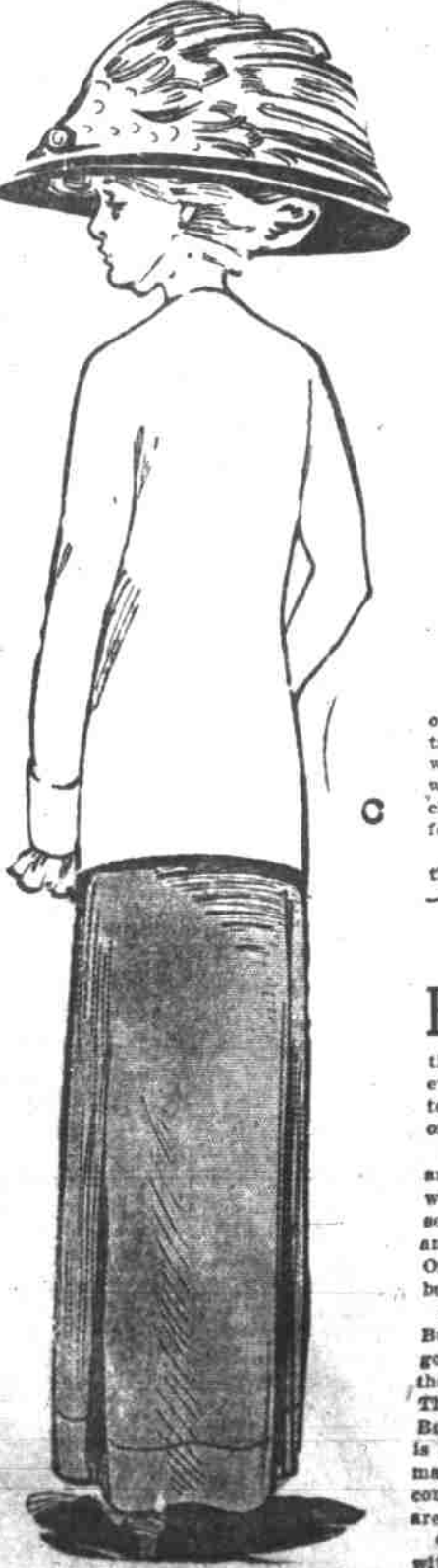


A—Afternoon Skirt with Novel Lacing of Satin Ribbon on the Overskirt.  
B—A Charming Model for a Slight and Youthful Wearer.  
C—The New "Box Cut" Walking Skirt.  
D—Skirts Draped from Back to Front Below the Hips Are Some of the Late Importations.  
E—Skirts Are Seen Cut Completely on the Bias.  
F—A French Model Walking Skirt.  
G—The "Envelope Skirt"—One of the Successes of the Season.  
H—Dancing and Dinner Gowns Have the Skirt Lifted at One Side to Show the Foot and Ankle.



skirts are lifted at one side to show the dainty slipper and silken stocking. And, by the way, stockings ornamented on the instep with little dangling tassels are a new conceit, the outcome of the general rage for dangling effects.

One thing it is well to remember, and that is that the line between skirt and waist must be as nearly lost as possible on gowns intended for all occasions. The skirt must in some way be brought up and incorporated with the material of the waist.



## Some Things for the Housewife to Remember When She Goes to Market.

ENFORCEMENT of the Pure Food law is now a very great protection for housekeepers against dishonest practices by tradesmen. Still it is best for every one who has occasion to go to market to be able to further minimize the chance of being imposed upon.

It is the woman who beats down prices and wants everything as cheap as possible who gets adulterated goods at times. And serve her right. If she wants things cheap and bad, it is right she should have them. Only, as a rule, she wants things cheap, but at the same time, good.

When made is full of sticks, always a sign of poor tea. Add to this blacklead to give a dark color, sometimes a definite amount of red or yellow ochre to produce a reddish or yellow hue in the drawn tea, with small pieces of iron filings or of lead to give weight, and this is the quality of a good deal of cheap tea. The tiny atoms of lead or iron are rolled in gum so that they stick to the leaves and cannot be detected. In this case the leaded paper is as heavy as possible, and the whole cheap packet may be a fraud.

Very cheap coffee may be nine-tenths chicory, a cheap enough root. Roasted peas and beans mixed with the coffee berries also when these are bought whole cannot be detected. The color is the same, and the pieces are stamped out to imitate coffee when the berries are bought whole and ready-roasted, it is quite impossible to find them out in the crushed coffee. The cheap, and est kind is mixed with burnt bread, and this can be found out in the grounds. A poor, who can least afford to be imposed

upon, who fall the readiest victims, albeit many poor women are veritable adepts in marketing and bargaining. Sandy sugar may be rare, but dirty sugar is not; this is the cheap stuff again. All sugar sweepings are gathered together and sold at a price below the market price for ordinary sugar. It is not good policy to buy it, either for cooking or for any other purpose.

Flour, instead of being all wheaten, may not have denied her the happiness of fully entering into the joys and pleasures of the evening. It is not flirtation. Do not know an engaged girl convert herself into a positive "wallflower" because she thought it would not be right for her to dance too much with other young men. Surely, had her lover been there, she would not have danced the whole evening

flour, or with other cereals. Sometimes it is kept in a damp place, and then it weighs more heavily. Butter may contain so much water that an unwary marketer may pay a quarter of its price for water itself. Fancy paying butter-price for water! Again, when an unscrupulous tradesman is sure of his customer, he may mix margarine with the salt butter and sell this at the higher rate. Eggs may be new-laid, fresh, store, or crate. Each of these terms indicates a different degree of freshness and of price. Stale eggs float on water and fresh ones sink. In breaking shop eggs, it is wise to crack each into a cup for fear of a bad one, or a whole batch of good material may have to be thrown away.

## Why Flirting Is Often the Real Cause of Lovers' Quarrels.

By a Woman of Experience. It is the case with many lovers after a quarrel to take the first opportunity to rush into a tremendous "dirt." Now, could anything be more unwise, more insincere? Flirtations are more productive of heartfelt pain than anything known or, and I strongly advise my readers not to fall back on this very, very questionable form of "paying back an old score."

I have before now remarked that sweet hearts are prone to expect too much of one another; now, I would suggest that lovers are too often led to "misinterpret"—that is, they magnify very simple actions into "flirtation."

I am acquainted with young men and women who positively growl and grumble inwardly if one or the other passes the time of day with a member of their respective opposite sex. How very foolish, how very mistrustful! Whoever you speak to, the one you love and who loves you should remember that you possess one

another, that you are constantly before one another—in a word, you just love one another.

Perhaps the most troublesome period in the lives of sweethearts is when one has to go to a dance or ball without the other. Now, take a dance, for instance. I have known an engaged girl convert herself into a positive "wallflower" because she thought it would not be right for her to dance too much with other young men. Surely, had her lover been there, she would not have danced the whole evening with him; and, surely, if her sweetheart really loved her, and trusted her, he would not have denied her the happiness of fully entering into the joys and pleasures of the evening. It is not flirtation. Do not know an engaged girl convert herself into a positive "wallflower" because she thought it would not be right for her to dance too much with other young men. Surely, had her lover been there, she would not have danced the whole evening