LESSON XVI.

To buy well, depends on oneself—and it is no easy matter to get full value for money expended. Think carefully and systematically of what you are about to purchase. Successful shopping depends on the comparison of prices and qualities also as to what use the article is to be put. Many ladies are inveterate bargain hunters and what they may think is a bargain often proves the opposite, for somebody must be the loser. At the close of a season is about the only time when you can actually find bargains for it is then when the shopkeepers are anxious to make way for new goods. In the height of the season, beware of the bargain counters.

Remnants are not always a wise investment as they frequently are either too large or too small for the use you wished to put them to, and eventually you will spend more than a whole piece of cloth would have cost in the beginning. Every woman with the right kind of respect desires to always look her best, and to do this she must exercise the best of judgment in buying unless her purse is full to overflowing. Buy linen only from reliable houses, as it is so easily adulterated. Wet tip of finger and put to the linen; if it absorbs the moisture readily the material is very apt to be linen.

In buying silk, crumple in hand; if it wrinkles easily it is not of a good quality. If the threads of the material pull readily apart, do not buy it. Cheap silk is a waste of time in the making. For linings, use the very best grades of silk.

Never buy cheap woolens of a rough loose weave, as they will shrink and draw out of shape. Never invest money in cotton and woolen mixed goods. To detect shoddy woolens is an easy matter. Ravel a piece of the material and if the short ends break away beware of the cloth. Shoddy is a combination of short woolen fibers and various other materials. Do not buy cottons that will fade in ordinary washing. It is always best to try in soap and water a sample of the material before purchasing.

In buying velvets, always buy the best you can possibly afford as it will then last you for years, while if the
material was of an inferior grade, it would soon grow rusty and become faded and worn in appearance.

Many things must be considered in planning a new garment—the figure of the person for whom the garment is being designed is the most important. If the subject is short and stout, avoid stripes or trimming going around or loose fluffy trimmings. Aim to give her height. If you cannot design a garment for her yourself, then select a picture in a fashion book. You can choose what is best from several styles—a sleeve from one picture, a skirt from another, a touch of trimming from another, a waist from another. But the trimming on each of these must be in harmony.

In buying materials, always select the best the purse will afford and buy sufficient quantity that the garment can be cut out easily without some ungainly piecing. Buy just enough. If you measure your pattern you can readily tell just about the exact amount of material required to make a garment.

Be very sure that no shades clash on a garment. Every color, every tone must melt into each other as the sinking sun melts into the horizon. Avoid colors and effects that are loud and suggestive. Use good taste. Do not use cheap trimmings. A plain dress well made is far more satisfactory than one elaborately decorated with gaudy materials. That indefinable something called style does not belong to all of us and we must make up for this defect by giving to our good points some thought and consideration. Do not rush into new styles too readily nor hold too long to the old. "Be not the first by whom the new is tried, nor yet the last to cast the old aside." Strike a happy medium in the selection and making of your clothes and you are certain that you are always tastily and properly attired. In such garments you are happy and at ease, for you know you are dressed in good taste.

In choosing shades and colors, select those that will blend with the eyes, complexion and hair. Gray with touches of old rose; brown with a note of yellow; dark blue with green; black with turquoise, and grass green with tan are all very smart looking. Black with red; old rose with touches of pale green; pink with white; lavender with heliotrope and, most every shade and color toned down with black may be made into striking costumes.
Rich dark brown touched with vivid red, or bright plaid is a fine combination for a dark, sallow woman.

Cream or white is good for the brunette with high color. All pinks are good for her; so is gray if her complexion is good.

Any shade of blue is good for a blonde, so is green and scarlet if her skin is white.

Black is good for the blonde and brunette alike, and no woman's wardrobe is complete without a black gown.

The short stout woman should look to the long flowing lines, and avoid frills. Banish the high collar and wear soft turndown affairs of lace. Extremely tight fitting garments on the stout woman only accentuate her avoirdupois; tight garments are only for the good figure—neither stout nor thin.

The thin woman to make the best of herself must omit the word lines from her being. She should avoid tight waists, lengthwise trimmings, long flowing sashes, unbroken lines or anything that tends to give length or flatness. Fit her up with soft, fluffy ruffles and frills, and trimmings encircling the form. Always aim to soften her contour and break up those angular lines.

Women owe it to themselves and to all they hold dear to ever and always look their best. Do not make people suffer through your vanity, but a certain amount of it will work wonders in a woman's makeup. The well dressed woman is received where she of plain raiment is shunned. Try going to a high class hotel or department store in shabby garments and note the attention you will receive by those intended there to serve you—but let an elegantly gowned lady enter a store or hotel and all will strive to be attentive. Then, too, the woman who knows she is well attired is happy with herself, and to be happy means that she be pleasant and congenial to all those about her. Be as well dressed at all times as your purse will afford. Go on to the street, go shopping, go calling, go to dinners, in the proper garments so as you can look the whole world in the face with a self-satisfied air. Study your customers carefully when they are ordering new garments. Be very sure you are designing the proper garment for them. If the customer is flat chested, narrow shouldered, tall and thin, build her gown that it will give her breadth and take away from her height. If your customer has uneven proportions, note this carefully and remedy. If she is stout but lacking
in some perfection, note this and build her out. If she is stooped, design her waist so as to conceal this as much as possible. If she has hollows about the arms and neck pad her out. If she is short, make her appear taller by using lines, lengthwise trimmings and long skirts, but do not put too short a skirt on the tall slender woman, or she will appear awkward and ungainly.

ADVICE TO THE LEARNER.
You must be careful to distinguish between good and bad sewing; too much pains cannot be taken in this particular for often an ill made garment can be traced directly to this carelessness. It is better to do the work well than to have done much. Do it well, no matter how long it may take you to do it. We are anxious to have you "get on," but it must not be done at the sacrifice of well made garments.

FIVE RULES TO REMEMBER.
1. The facing of a skirt if wide must be cut the shape of the bottom of the skirt.
2. Padding should be done wherever necessary in building garments. If the person is flat-chested use crinolin or muslin ruffles under the lining.
3. Hair cloth and canvas should always be sponged. Wet and hang up till almost dry and press between cloths.
4. Never buy material for a garment nor the trimming until you have decided on the style in which it is to be made. This will save much money and much worry.
5. Always buy a little more material than is actually required for the making of your garment, as it will help you if you desire to remodel it.

QUESTIONS.
1. Tell how you should buy with good judgment.
2. What colors should a blonde wear? A brunette?
3. Why should care be used in designing?
4. What kind of garments should the tall thin woman wear?
5. What about the blending of shades and colors?
6. Tell how to buy linens, silks and woolens successfully.
7. Why should women dress the best their purse will afford?
8. What should you do to make a garment set well on a person of ill proportions?
9. What about the trimmings for a dress?
10. Why buy expensive velvets?