CHAPTER VI

PLACKETS

UNDERWEAR PLACKETS are made in the following manner. If there is no seam, cut the opening in the garment the desired length. It should be long enough to slip easily over the head. Cut for a lap a strip of material lengthwise of the goods. It should be twice the length of the placket opening and three and three-quarter inches wide. Fold the ends together and crease through center; open and fold the sides together and crease. Cut out one section to within a small seam of the crease as shown in Fig. 116.

Baste the long straight edge of the lap to both edges of the opening, making a narrow seam. Run it almost to a point at the lower end of the opening. (Fig. 117.) Make a narrow turning on the three edges of both the narrow and the wide part of the lap. Double the wide part back (Fig. 118), baste the edge over the line of the sewing, and hem. This forms the underlap. Turn the narrow part back on the line of sewing, baste the free edge to the garment to form an underlining, and hem. The end of the underlap is turned under, basted and stitched across. The finished closing is shown in Fig. 119. This placket has an outside row of stitching. It is usually employed for drawers, petticoats, etc.

Plackets such as are made for Unlined Dresses are shown in Figs. 120 and 121, on the following page. These illustrate the placket used on skirts of unlined dresses when the outside sewing would be an objection. Use a strip twice the length of the opening and three and three-quarter inches wide, without cutting away the section as in the first method.

The first sewing is made as in the first placket, then the free edge is turned under and hemmed close to the sewing. When this strip or lap is applied above the back seam of a skirt, it is set back an eighth of an inch from the stitching of the seam. One side is extended out to form the underlap, and the other side is turned under on an even line with the stitching of the seam. When the placket is closed, the entire lap is hidden as shown in Fig. 121.

The Plackets for Cloth Skirts require neat and tailor-like workmanship. Great care must be taken in handling the edges of the
PLACKETS

opening. They are generally bias, and stretch easily. If the upper edge becomes stretched it will bulge when the skirt is on the figure—a defect you probably have often noticed on other women. Hooks and eyes or patent fasteners should be placed sufficiently close together to prevent the skirt from gaping. Any stitching that shows through on the outside should be done evenly and with a suitable stitch and tension. Otherwise the placket-hole will have a careless appearance. A placket-hole should be ten or eleven inches deep unless the figure is unusually large and full, requiring a still deeper opening.

The design of the skirt regulates the position and finish of the placket. It may be at the center or side back, the front or side front.

A Placket-Hole at the Center of an Inverted Plait is shown in Fig. 122. The placket comes under an inverted plait at the center back of the skirt.

The first step in finishing the placket of a skirt of this kind is basting a narrow strip of canvas or cambric along each edge of the opening, with the edge of the canvas three-eighths of an inch from the edge of the opening.

The skirt edges are then turned back on the canvas and caught to it with small stitches. (Fig. 123.) Stitch the edges of the placket-hole and sew on the hooks and eyes as illustrated. Cover the canvas on the right side with a facing of silk. Sew an underlap of material an inch and a half wide, finished, to the left edge, and bind the raw edge of the lap with binding ribbon. (Fig. 123.)

A Placket-Hole at the Right Side of an Inverted Plait is used on a skirt of heavy cloth that does not require the canvas reinforcement. Join the center-back seam to the top of the skirt and cut through the right-hand crease in the inverted plait to the regular placket depth. Bind both cut edges of the inverted plait with binding ribbon or a binding of thin silk. This method, as you see, allows
the inverted plait to serve as a placket underlap. The outer left-hand fold of the plait should be stitched through all the thicknesses of the skirt, allowing the stitching to taper to a point. (Fig. 124.) The stitching on the right-hand side of the skirt leaves the under portion of the inverted plait free. Fig. 124 shows the position of the hooks and eyes and patent fasteners on this placket-hole.

The Placket-Hole at the Center of a Habit Back is practically the same as for the skirt with an inverted plait closed at the center-back seam. Face both edges of opening with canvas or cambric strips placed three-eighths of an inch from the edges which are turned back and catch-stitched to the canvas. (Fig. 123.) Stitch and in sewing on the underlap. The latter should go no deeper than the canvas, for the sewing must not show through on the outside of the skirt. The same care must be taken in covering the canvas on the right side with silk, and in sewing on the underlap. The latter should be an inch and a half wide, finished. It is slip-stitched to the left hand edge of the placket. Its free edge should be bound with binding ribbon. The other edge should be turned under and hemmed by hand to the canvas. (Fig. 125.)

A Placket-Hole at the Side Back or Front is used quite frequently. So far as the construction goes a skirt can open at any seam. When a skirt does not open at the center back the placket-hole generally comes on a seam at the left side of the back or front. The placket-hole in this case is made exactly as in the habit-back skirt, directions for which are given in the preceding paragraph.

A Placket-Hole Under a Strapped Seam is shown in Fig. 126. The right-hand fold of the strap is stitched flat to the skirt. The left-hand edge of the strap is turned under and stitched to itself, following the same line of stitching that holds the rest of the strap to the skirt. (Fig. 126.)

The hooks are sewed to the left edge of the strap. Notice that they are set close together and a trifle back from the edge. A strap placket must be held firmly to keep the line of trimming absolutely straight. For the same reason it is just as well to add a row of patent fasteners just back of the hooks.

The underlap should be an inch and a half wide and an inch longer than the placket-hole, finished. It should be made of the skirt material faced with silk or with a light-weight lining fabric.

Lay the underlap on the under side of the skirt with the edges of the skirt and lap even. Join them with a generous seam. The depth of the seam will depend largely on the width of the strap. After stitching the seam, turn the seam edges back and hem them flat to the lap. The other edges of the lap should be bound with silk or binding ribbon. Blind loops are used instead of eyes and should be worked on the skirt in corresponding
positions to the eyes. The patent fasteners are sewed to the lap. (Fig. 126.)

The Placket-Hole in a Skirt Set in the Same Belt with its foundation skirt is made by the same methods as ordinary plackets. In such an instance, the placket opening of the skirt is finished separately. The edges of the placket opening of the foundation skirt are turned under three-eighths of an inch. The right-hand edge is hemmed under the bill of the hooks on the skirt, and the left-hand edge is hemmed against the edge of the underlap of the skirt placket.

This style of placket is not used as much just at present as in former years, when almost every skirt was made with either a lining or a foundation skirt. While we dispense with the drop skirt in all dresses of heavy materials, it is still used with all thin evening fabrics and with a good many light-weight materials such as voiles, etc.

Whatever kind of placket is used, one should be particularly careful to see that the hooks and eyes or fasteners are so arranged that they will keep the hole securely closed. Nothing looks worse than a gaping placket, and any woman who takes a pride in her personal appearance will pay special attention to this part of her dressmaking.