CHAPTER XXI

SKIRTS

THE PRESENT STYLE of making skirts without linings has considerably simplified the work of the dressmaker. These unlined skirts, however, unless made of very heavy material, call for well-fitting underskirts as a foundation, and on them largely depends the fit of the overskirt.

THE FOUNDATION SKIRT may or may not be joined in the same belt with the overskirt, as preferred. In either case, both the overskirt and the foundation are made and finished separately, with the exception of the inside belt. The foundation skirt is made first. China silk, India silk, taffeta, and satin are good materials for this purpose, though for wearing qualities some of the lining materials, mixtures of silk and cotton, or the better grades of percalines, sateens, etc., are preferred.

Get a good pattern, and make a careful study of the figure which is to be fitted. Many women have a slight hollow below the waistline in the back—an ugly defect, but one which can easily be overcome. It is frequently found in connection with a round or prominent abdomen.

A Small Light Bustle that will not interfere with the wearer's comfort adds much to the set of the skirt on such a figure. It can be made of the same material as the foundation skirt. Cut a piece of the lining material the size and shape desired for a foundation, and hem or pink the edges. Make ruffles four inches wide, and treat their edges in the same way. Sew several rows of these ruffles across the foundation piece, and one all around the edge except at the top. (Fig. 276.) The completed bustle may be attached inside the skirt, or it may be hung around the waist under the corset by means of a narrow tape sewed at each side.

If the figure to be fitted is abnormally short or tall, stout or thin, or out of proportion in any way, instructions for adjusting the pattern to the figure will be found in Chapter XIV, "The Use of Butterick Patterns." Separate patterns are used for the foundation and skirt except in the case of tunics, overskirts, etc.

Cut the gores for the foundation skirt; baste them together according to the pattern instructions and try it on. If the skirt is to end in a full plaiting at the lower edge, measure the width of the finished plaiting and deduct this width from each gore in cutting, allowing, of course, three-eighths of an inch on each for a seam.

For the Plaiting, cut strips crosswise of
the material. The combined length of these strips should measure at least twice the width of the skirt at its lower edge. Stitch them together, and make a narrow hem along one edge. Then plait the entire piece. If a side-plaiting is used, run in a row of stitching along the upper edge to keep the plaits flat. When an accordion plaiting is used, the upper edge may be pressed flat, and a gathering thread run in to keep the fulness of the plaits perfectly even.

Lay the plaiting right side up along the lower edge of the skirt on the wrong side. Baste the raw edges of skirt and plaiting evenly together. Then on the right side of the skirt stitch a narrow bias fold or strip over these raw edges as shown in Fig. 277. This makes a neat finish on both the right and wrong sides of the garment.

If the foundation skirt is to be full length, the plaiting or flounce may be set on above the hem. The skirt in this case must, of course, be tried on and the even length secured all around the lower edge (see Fig. 301B), and the hem or facing finished before the flounce is added.

When the skirt is ready for the flounce, plaiting or ruffle, mark a line parallel to the lower edge of the skirt a distance above it to equal the width of the finished plaiting. Then lay the flounce face down over the skirt, with the raw edge over this line and the hem of the flounce toward the belt of the skirt.

Fig. 280. Box-Plaited Ruche

Fig. 279. Simple Ruche for Edge of Chiffon Accordion Plaiting

Baste a narrow seam along the mark, and stitch. Turn the flounce over and stitch again three-eighths of an inch from the turned edge, keeping the plaits even and flat.

If preferred, the flounce may also be hemmed at the top, and stitched to the skirt with a narrow heading.

If the plaited flounce is of chiffon, a dust ruffle of the silk is generally used under it. The lower edge of this ruffle is simply pinked, and the upper edge is finished with a very narrow hem. The ruffle is stitched on with a narrow heading. (Fig. 278.)

Another good method for giving the graceful flare or fulness at the lower edge of a foundation skirt is by adding several tiny ruffles or ruchings to the plaited flounce or ruffle. These are cut bias, if made of taffeta, and simply pined at both edges and gathered or plaited through the middle. (Fig. 280.)

A Simple Ruche of chiffon for the edge of a flounce is made by doubling a strip of the chiffon over on the center line with the upper raw edge turned under and the gathering thread run in along this line. (Fig. 279.) After joining as many strips of the chiffon to make the required length, cut the selvages off, as the stiffness will prevent the chiffon from falling into a soft, graceful ruche.

A Three-Tuck Ruche is used when more fulness is desired than is given by a simple ruche. This is made by cutting the chiffon strips about seven inches wide. After joining the strips as before, hold them in thirds, bringing the two raw edges together three-eighths of an inch from the folds. Run a gathering thread through all the layers of chiffon at one time. (Fig. 281.)

A Puff Ruffle is sometimes used over a silk plaiting or ruffle. This is made of strips of
chiffon double the width of the ruffle desired, plus the two inches required for the heading at the top. Fold the chiffon double, bringing the two raw edges together on a line one inch below the edge that will be the upper edge of the ruffle. Turn under the upper raw edge and run in the gathering thread, using small stitches. Baste and then sew the puff ruffle to the skirt above the silk flounce. (Fig. 282.)

A Circular Flounce may be used as a finish at the bottom of the foundation skirt if desired. This may be cut from any good circular pattern. The lower edge is turned up in an inch hem, and the upper edge joined to the skirt in a French seam. The flounce may be trimmed with tiny ruchings or ruffles, as may be preferred.

A Dust Ruffle is sometimes sewed on the inside of an outside skirt when it is desired to give it a graceful flare at the lower edge without making it necessary to wear additional underskirts. The dust ruffle is also used on foundation skirts when one is desired. It is usually four inches wide, pinked at both edges, and sewed to the skirt by hand with invisible stitches. The ruffle is held down at intervals by French tacks. They are made by taking a small stitch in the skirt and one in the ruffle, leaving a half-inch or more of thread between. Pass the needle back and forth once more, putting it into the same place, and then work several loose buttonhole-stitches back over the three strands of the silk thread. (Fig. 283.)

Foundation skirts vary in style and shape according to the prevailing fashions in outside skirts. These instructions are intended, therefore, to be of general use in making either drop skirts, petticoats or foundation skirts for evening dresses, etc.

THE DRESS SKIRT is, of course, made and finished according to the material used and the style of pattern chosen. Directions for putting the skirt together will be found in the pattern instructions. If the figure to be fitted is out of proportion in any particular, read Chapter XIV, "The Use of Butterick Patterns," before cutting out the skirt. The first step is to lay out the pattern on the material, following, of course, the perforations indicating the right grain of the material, and being careful to keep the nap or figure running the proper direction. (Read Chapter XIII, "Cutting Materials, Sponging, etc.""

Before basting, lay the gores together, with the more bias edge on top (Fig. 284), and smooth the two gores out by running the hand lightly down and across with the weave of the fabric, being careful neither to pull nor stretch the bias edges. Beginning at the top, pin the edges together at intervals, and then baste along the sewing line with small even stitches until well over the hips, where the strain will come in fitting. Below this point the basting stitches may be longer.
Try on the skirt, and make alterations wherever necessary. Be careful not to fit it too tightly over the hips, or it will tend to make the skirt lose its shape by drawing up and wrinkling when one is sitting. To set properly, the center line of the front of a skirt must stand exactly perpendicular. Draw the skirt up well at the back, and mark the line for the belt with tailor’s tacks, allowing three-eighths of an inch for the seam.

Stitch the seams and press. The finish of the seams depends on the weight and texture of the material. (See Chapter XIX, “Tailored Seams.”)

The Inside Belt—For your inside belt use silk or cotton beltling of the width recommended on the pattern envelope. You can get it at any notion counter. Cotton answers, but get it in a good quality or it will be too limp to hold the weight of the skirt. It is of the utmost importance to make the belt by the pattern, for if it does not fit correctly it will slip on your figure, bringing the skirt in the wrong place, in which case it will not fit at the hips.

Get the straight belting, and mark the darts by the belt pattern. Bring the V-shaped lines of dart perforations together, and baste the darts. Turn each end under one inch for a hem. Try the belt on with the fold edges of the hem just meeting. If the belt is too large or too small turn in or let out the hems. If it is too large at the top, do not make the darts deeper. Let the darts out a trifle, and take the extra length off the ends of the hems. When the belt fits snugly, but not tightly, stitch the darts and the fold edges of the hems. Turn under the raw edge of the hem and stitch the fold to the belt. Turn the darts flat against the belt and stitch them. Mark the center of the belt with cross-stitching, and sew the loops to the sides, to hang the skirt up by. Fasten your belt with good-sized hooks and eyes, number 8 are the best. For a belt of average width, sew three hooks to the right end of belt, placing them about one-quarter of an inch in from the fold edge. Sew them through the rings and over the bill. Sew three eyes to the left end of the belt, letting them extend far enough beyond the edge to fasten easily.

Sew them through the rings and at the edge of the belt. Some women use only two hooks, and their belts bulge at the center.

The hooks should be one-eighth of an inch back from the edge, and the eye at the top touching the seam of the facing and skirt.

A Hem two or three inches deep is the usual finish of the lower edge of skirts. The extra length required for the hem must be allowed for when cutting. The patterns usually allow only three-eighths inch for seaming. If the material is of soft texture, the hem is simply turned under, its edge turned in and sewed down by hand in blind stitches, or finished with a row or two of machine-stitching. The lower edge of the skirt measures more than the line of sewing, so it must be fulled or laid in tiny plaits here and there, to make the hem lie flat. (Fig. 286.) If the skirt is of heavy material the upper edge of the hem or facing may be bound with a bias strip of lining material instead of turning in the edge of the cloth. The stitching should be made through the binding. (Fig. 285.)
A False Hem or Facing is sometimes preferred for the finish of the lower edge, especially if there is a wide sweep at the bottom. The facing is cut in bias strips, or shaped to fit the lower edge of the skirt. The strips are pieced together and the seams pressed open. Then baste and stitch the facing with a narrow seam, to the lower edge of the skirt on the right side. Turn over to the wrong side and baste down flatly along the edge. Then baste again along the upper edge of the facing, turning in a narrow seam. (Fig. 287.)

Velveteen or Skirt Braid may be added to protect the lower edge of the skirt, if desired. The velveteen strip is first stitched by hand, on the inner side of the skirt very near the edge, then turned up, leaving a narrow fold extending below the edge, and again sewed to the inner hem or facing, as shown in Fig. 288. The skirt braid should be shrunken —wet thoroughly and pressed dry—before it is used. It is sewed flat to the under side of the skirt, its lower edge one-eighth of an inch below the bottom of the skirt. Sew it with a running stitch, just above the lower edge of the skirt. The upper edge of the braid is hemmed down. In other words it is sewed with two rows of stitching—running stitches near its lower edge and hemming stitching at its upper edge.

An Interlining may be used in the hem or facing if it is desirable to add weight at the lower edge of the skirt. The material used for the purpose may be strips of lining, or, according to the texture of the skirt material, any substantial material such as heavy flannel or broadcloth. These materials are used where body is required in the garment. Since it is simply a question of giving weight to the skirt edge, especially in the case of soft silks, etc., the interlining for the hem may be made of light-weight cotton flannel.

The interlining is cut in strips as wide as the hem or facing, omitting the seam edges at both sides. Baste it to the skirt along its lower edge, if the skirt is to have a facing. For a hem that is to have an interlining, mark the skirt all around a distance above the lower edge to equal the width of the hem. Then the strip for the interlining is basted along this line. The hem is then turned up, and with the narrow seam turned in at the top, one row of stitching catches through both the hem edge and the upper edge of the interlining.

When it is not desirable to finish a hem with machine stitching, and it must be done by hand, do it with blind or slip stitches. When this is the case, the interlining must first be securely stitched on the inner side of the facing, or the turned-up portion of the hem, with the seam edge turned over the upper edge of the interlining.
TUCKS are sometimes made above the hem for trimming or adding weight to the lower edge. If tucks above the hem are desired they should be basted in before the lower edge is finished. If the pattern does not allow for the tucks, the additional length must be calculated in the cutting. They may be of any width and of any number desired. If the lower edge of the skirt is straight the tucking is simple. The greatest difficulty is when the lower edge is very circular in outline, for then the tucks must be marked and basted before the stitching is done. Usually the skirt is fitted and finished at the waistline first.

_Nun Tucks_ are wide tucks, usually two inches or more in depth. The method for making all tucks is the same, more or less, but the wider the tuck the greater the difficulty in keeping the lines and the distances between the tucks even when the bottom of the skirt is circular at its lower edge.

The number and width of the tucks must be decided before the skirt is cut, and the additional length allowed in each gore. For instance, when two tucks two inches wide are desired, you must add eight extra inches in the length, and two inches more if a hem is to be used also.

After the gores of the skirt have been joined, and the belt finished, the length of the skirt is made perfectly even at its lower edge. The easiest way to get an even line is to try the skirt on the figure, standing on a footstool or some elevation that will permit the entire skirt length, including the allowance for the tucks, to hang straight.

The hem is then pinned up and basted. From the sewing line of the hem measure the distance desired between the tucks (the hem is counted as a tuck in this instance), and from this point measure again to a line two inches above, for a two-inch tuck.

Baste a fold evenly all around the skirt at this point, being careful not to twist at the fold edge nor deviate from the exact line. Mark with a basting thread a line two inches above and also one two inches below this fold edge all around the skirt. Then having the skirt on the lap board or sewing-table, with its lower edge toward you, baste in the tuck by bringing these two lines together. It will be seen that the lower line is a trifle wider than the upper one, and this is just wherein the difficulty of making tucks lies. (Fig. 290.) As you proceed, the lower basting thread must be drawn up a trifle here and there, to keep the tuck perfectly flat on its upper surface. The final stitching can then be put in, either by hand or machine sewing. (Fig. 291.) For the second tuck proceed in the same way.

PLAITED SKIRTS are more or less worn at all times, though some years they are more popular than others. Different arrangements of plaits are worn each season, but there are certain general instructions that apply equally well to the different styles of plaited skirts.
The first step, of course, is to read the pattern instructions carefully, and to get a clear idea of the particular style of the skirt that is being made.

In cases where the skirts are composed of seven, nine or more gores it is not so difficult to handle them successfully, since alterations may be made at the seams. But in skirts where few gores are employed, particular attention must be paid to the correct position of the lines, in order to keep the plaits perfectly even. Furthermore, the skirt must be joined to the belt and the material between the plaits properly disposed, so that the plaits themselves will have a uniform appearance.

Before cutting the material read the pattern instructions, examine the pattern and identify the pieces, observing the notches and perforations according to the directions. No fixed rule can be given for laying out material for cutting. It is frequently necessary to open out double-width material, cutting each part separately. Be careful in this case to observe the right and left side of the garment. In cutting a skirt, make a lengthwise fold in the material for the center of the front gore. Never start cutting with the widest part of your pattern toward the solid part of your material. Lay out your pattern carefully and place it on the material economically before starting to cut. If the material is narrow, it will be necessary to piece the lower part of this gore at each side; but this need not be done until after the rest of the skirt is cut, as some of the pieces cut from the side gores will probably be large enough for this purpose.

Single-width material should be laid out straight for all breadths except the front. It may be folded across at half its length, or cut in two and reversed (if it has a nap) and cut double. After all the breadths are cut, and before removing the pattern, mark all perforations except the ones that indicate the cutting or grain line, with tailors' tacks. (See Chapter IV, Fig. 71.) In a plaited skirt remove the pattern and place a yard-stick on the cloth with its edge even with the tailors' tacks, and draw a continuous line with chalk. Mark this line with tailors' tacks. (Fig. 292.)

The long threads should be cut, the pieces separated, and the breadths joined at the seams. In sewing a bias edge be careful not to stretch it. Basting the seams is shown in Fig. 284 on page 110.

For a Box-Plaited Skirt, after all the seams are joined (except the back seam, which is not basted until the plaits are all laid), begin at the front breadth and bring the two lines of markings at each side of the center front together and baste. This forms a large tuck. (Fig. 293.) The next two rows of markings are then basted together to form a second tuck. Continue in this way around each side of the skirt. Each seam corresponds to a row of markings, and is to be basted to the line
formed at the perforations on the breadth toward the front. After the plaits are basted into tucks, each one is flattened to form a box plaft, bringing the seam in the center on the wrong side. The method of forming the plaits is shown in Fig. 293.

Be careful to get the box plaits even, without any draw, especially where the edges come bias. As each one is flattened, it should be basted a quarter of an inch from the fold edge, as shown in Fig. 294, to keep it in shape. This will be found a great convenience later. The skirt is now ready to try on. Draw it up to reach the waistline all around, and pin it to the petticoat at the hipline. Then, from the hip up, arrange each box plaft in a good line. The basted seam at the center of each box plaft can be ripped as far as the hipline and the waist adjusted to the correct size. The bastings at the edges of the box plaits will hold the plaits in place so that their size can not be interfered with. They may be brought closer together to make the waist smaller or spread farther apart to make it larger.

The edges of the box plaits should be pinned in correct position at the fitting, and when the skirt is taken off, they should be basted as pinned. The skirt can then be turned to the wrong side and the ripped seams rebasted. When this has been done, mark on the skirt the edge of each plaft that has been altered. Then remove the bastings that hold them to the skirt, so that the under seam may be stitched.

The plaits should be basted to the skirt again at the line of markings made after the fitting. The bastings should run down as far as they are to be stitched. It would be advisable to rip the bastings of the back seam, as the skirt can be more easily handled under the machine if it is opened out flat. Stitch the plaits down through both plaft and skirt to the desired depth. In cases where the plaits are not stitched the entire length of the skirt, the thread-ends on the under side must be securely tied, as shown in Fig. 295. Then baste and stitch the back seam, put on the belt, press the plaits in place to the bottom of the skirt, and try it on again to secure the correct length. Finish the hem, placket and belt in the usual way.

When a box-plaited skirt is put on the belt correctly, it will be noted that the space between the plaits over the hips is wider than at the belt because the waist is smaller than the hips. Where seams are provided under the plaits, the superfusuous material may be taken out. Where there is no seam, however, the fulness which occurs must be disposed of under the plaits. If this fulness is not too great, the material may be held a trifle easy, or, one might say, puckered or pushed toward the line of stitching. To present a thoroughly well-made appearance, this fulness must be hidden; and on that account the plaits are very convenient.

Notwithstanding the fact that it is possible to dispose of all the surplus material under one plaft, it should not be done, since it would throw the other plaits out of position. There must be an equal space between the plaits. Where the figure is out of proportion in any way, either very large around the hips or small at the waist, the quantity of surplus material is increased. While a small amount may be managed as directed, and after
careful pressing be unnoticeable, a larger quantity would be too bulky, and had best be treated differently,

When the plaits are laid the full length of the skirt, and the skirt is being fitted, side plaits or darts should be used to adjust the extra material to a small waist. Fig. 296 shows the method of placing the darts. If a dart is used it is sewed in a position that will come well under the plait so that there will be no likelihood of its being seen. Even if folded over, the upper edges of the box plait should not be disturbed, for this would disarrange the size and width on the outside. The material near the stitching is folded over one-eighth or one-quarter of an inch to form a dart-like tuck, and these new lines are joined or folded in such a way that they taper gradually into the line of the original plait just above the full part of the hips, as seen in the illustration. It should then be pressed flat, and the extra fold will not be objectionable. Treat the extra fulness in this manner where it is necessary, and keep the spaces an equal width.

A Skirt Made with Side Plaits or Kills is shown in Fig. 297. The manner of preparing the skirt and marking the perforations that indicate the plait is the same as that already described. At each line of markings that represents the fold of a plait, the plait should be folded with the markings as an edge, and the doubled goods should be basted one-quarter of an inch back of the edge. This will hold all the plaits in the correct line, no matter what alteration may be necessary in fitting. Many plaited models have one row of stitching placed just back of the fold edge, and through the two thicknesses only, in the same way as the basting just described. This row of stitching answers a double purpose. It is ornamental and at the same time holds the edge of the plait in shape, and is especially desirable for wash goods or a thin woolen material that is likely to twist on a bias edge. The second row of stitching is placed a little distance back of the first and is taken through both plait and skirt. Stitch it to the desired depth and leave the ends of the thread two or three inches long at the end of the stitching, so that they may be drawn through to the wrong side and tied securely. (See Fig. 295 on page 114).

When a plaited skirt is made of heavy material or is lapped very much at the waist in fitting, it may be made less bulky by cutting away the surplus material after the plaits are stitched. The under-lapping goods is cut away to within an inch or so of where the stitching finishes. From that point it is cut across the top of the plait. The raw edges left in this way are bound with a bias strip of lining, that will finish across the top of each plait except where the seams that join the breadths form the inner fold of a plait, when the binding will continue down the raw edges of that seam to the bottom of the skirt. (Fig. 298 on the next page.)

As each figure has some trifling peculiarity, careful study should be given the instructions on the pattern and judgment used as to the best means of alteration or adjustment. It must always be remembered, however, that the tucks or plaits must be evenly arranged and that the space between them must be the same, as this is quite an important point in making a plaited skirt.

When a plaited skirt is made of washable material, the laundering is not difficult if one goes about it in the right way. The lower part of the skirt should not be pressed
out flat, but each plait as it is pressed at the stitched upper portion should be laid in position all the way to the bottom of the skirt, smoothed and arranged with the hand and pressed into position. Afterward the iron may be run under the plait to smooth the part underneath. This is the same method that is employed in pressing a similar skirt made of cloth. In laundering or pressing a skirt the value of shrinking the material before cutting and of observing the "grain" of the weave is realized.

Gored skirts that have a side plait or an inverted box plait let into the seams some distance up from the bottom, are sometimes troublesome because of a tendency of these plaits to show below the bottom edge of the skirt since there is nothing to which they may be attached. This trouble may be avoided in the manner shown in Fig. 299.

The seam edge and the edge of each of these plaits are bound, and after the skirt is finished a tape or strap of lining is sewed to the top of each plait and is carried from one to the other all around the skirt. The tape will generally be found sufficient stay, but in a woolen skirt of heavy cloth an additional tape or strap may run diagonally from the top of each plait to the next seam and be securely sewed there to the wrong side of the skirt. This stay also is shown in the illustration.

Flare Skirts are many-gored skirts that do not hang in plaits below the hips, and are made to stand out from the feet at the lower edge. These need special treatment in finishing, to preserve the flare and make them hang in just the right way. The proper finish of the seams on the inside can be seen in Fig. 300. After the seams have been basted and stitched, it is advisable to try on the skirt and pin a tape around the figure to determine the hip depth to which the flat seam shall extend. At the same time the length of the skirt should be determined by pinning it up around the bottom or by marking it with chalk. Mark the line for the bottom of the skirt with a basting thread and also mark the skirt with a thread along the edge of the tape. At the hipline clip both raw edges of each seam at the inside of the skirt in order to divide the flat-finished hip part from the rippled part. Make this clip or cut extend the full width of the seam edges, running in as far as
the stitching of the seam. The seam above the
clip is to be pressed open, clipping or notching it
wherever necessary to make it lie flat. It may be
finished with a row of machine-stitching at each
side of the seam and quite close to it, or both
dges of the seam may be turned the same way, a
row of stitching on the outside holding them in
lap-seam effect.
Mark the hem or facing depth at the bottom
of the skirt—it is usually about three inches deep.
Clip the seam in at this point; press this lower
part of the seam open in order to hem or face the
skirt properly. The part of the seam which has
not been pressed open should be bound as shown
in Fig. 301, using a narrow bias strip of lining
material for the purpose. This portion of the
seam is not to be pressed to either one side or
the other, but stands out straight from the in-
side of the skirt, and gives a fluted effect to the breadths. Baste a bias facing in place, hem the lower edge to the turned-over edge of the skirt. The upper edge may be hemmed
by hand or may have one or two rows of machine-stitching to correspond with the stitch-
ing on the upper part of the seams. The skirt should then be folded at each seam and
placed in the machine in the same way as when the breadths were first stitched together,
and a row of stitching, as shown in Fig. 301, made along the bound part of the seam
close to the first row and extending across the facing forming that into a small seam.

HANGING A CIRCULAR SKIRT. A circular skirt is cut on the bias and a bias will
always stretch more or less. One should let, in fact encourage, the skirt to stretch as much
as possible, before the bottom is finished so that it will stretch very little, if at all, after
it is hung.

A skirt stretches because its own weight and the weight of the hem or facing drags
down the bias grain. If you hang the skirt up for two or three days properly weighted you will
exhaust its powers of stretching. In your piece bag you will find plenty of useless material
that can be used to weigh the skirt. Cut strips three or four inches wide and enough of
them to make four or five thicknesses. Pin them to the lower part of your skirt. (Fig. 301 A.)
Pin the two halves of your skirt together at the top and
pin loops of material to the skirt to hang it up by. (Fig.
301 A.) Slip the loops over hooks placed just far enough
apart to hold the skirt band out even. Let the skirt
hang for two or three days with the weight of the strips
stretching it as much as it will. Then you can turn up
the bottom without fear of its sagging.

TO HANG A SKIRT. Cut a strip of cardboard two
inches wide and eight or ten inches long. Make a notch in
one long edge at the distance you want the skirt to clear
the floor. Put your skirt on and stand on a table. (Fig.
301 B.) Have some one mark the skirt with a marker and
pins or else with a needle and a long thread. (Fig. 301 B.)
Take the skirt off, turn it up at the marked line and baste
it. Try it on again to be sure that the lower edge is per-
factly even before hemming or facing it.

There is a homely but successful way to hang a skirt
if you have no one to help you. Get a dish-pan and place
it on a large, even pile of old magazines, arranging them so
that the upper edge of the pan is the same distance from
the floor that you want the lower edge of your skirt to
be. Fasten a piece of soft chalk to a long stick. Stand in
the dishpan with your skirt over the pan. With the stick
and chalk tap your skirt against the rim of the pan. You can easily mark an even line in this way. Take the skirt off, turn it up at the chalk marks and baste it. Try it on again to be sure that it is even at the bottom. This is an easy method for the woman who has no one to help her with her dressmaking.