FOREWORD

"Fashion is for ever changing," you will say. "A fool is she who buys a dressmaking book which will be out of date six months hence." You will think that clothes-making is so easy an affair in these days: all that is necessary is to fold a length of material in half, cut a round out for the neck, shave a little off the edges to form sleeves, run up the sides on the sewing-machine, and with the addition of an elastic round the waist your sack-like costume is complete—and quite in the fashion. That is so to a certain extent, but there is an art in cutting a hole or attaching elastic. If you take a walk down Bond Street, you will encounter many women wearing sack-like frocks, superficially like yours, but somehow they are different. You don't know where the difference lies, but you see it is there, and it puts you out of conceit with your own little sack that you were so pleased with a while ago, before you saw these more alluring examples. The reason is that their frocks are cut and made with the simplicity born of experience. The dresses may look simple, but they are not. All kinds of concealed fastenings and artful notions are hidden in their apparently guileless folds. Our clothes are very like our temperaments: the simplicity which springs from ignorance has no attraction; there is nothing behind it except more simplicity, and too much of even
this good thing spells boredom—therefore get wisdom, and your simplicity will have the spice of subtlety, an irresistible combination. Apply the same maxim to your wardrobe, and you have achieved the art of dress. This book will help you. The fundamental rules of dressmaking never change; you may discard some of the methods for the moment, but they all return in the cycle of time, and the knowledge of how things should be done will make all the difference.