PREFACE

There has always been a feeling among women that millinery was something beyond their power of accomplishment, that the construction of hats required a great amount of creative ability and highly specialized training. This belief has been fostered by two factors: first, the pathetic creations that many women have perpetrated when trying to make their own hats; second, the professional milliner’s attitude. The latter has always encouraged the idea that great talent and highly specialized training are necessary for the successful making of hats. This has been done for evident trade reasons.

Two things, creative talent and special training, are necessary for anyone to become a real designer of hats. But the nonprofessional or home woman need not be a designer. There are not fifty actual style originators in the United States and France together. Most milliners and trimmers are merely specialized adapters of ideas.

Any home girl or woman with average good taste and judgment can very quickly learn to copy or adapt the styles she sees in shop or style magazine to suit her own needs.

Knowledge of millinery principles and processes of construction she does need, as does any professional worker. This knowledge is not so deep and difficult of attainment but that any girl of average intelligence can master it.

For the student there are these things to remember: no true craftsman is ever satisfied with any work which falls short of
perfection; there is no creative work, whether it be music, painting, cooking, or sewing, in which one attains perfection without practice; one learns more from applying principles than from mere perusal of them. Many times instructions which seem difficult at first reading are very simple when followed step by step.

The object of this book is to so classify and set forth the practical and technical principles of millinery that a working knowledge of it will be easily within the grasp of the student.

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