CHAPTER VIII

Getting the Length of the Skirt

After a skirt has been properly finished at the top, hooks and eyes on and can be put on firmly as it will be worn, there are two good ways to get the length.

One is to use a yard stick, placing one end on the floor as far from the feet as the skirt hangs away from the figure, but keep it the same distance in front and front side, then as you near the side back, set your yard stick a little farther from the feet, and still a little farther across the back.

This will be gauged by the fullness in the skirt, a circular skirt has more fullness to the side back and back, causing it to stand farther away from the figure where the greater amount of fullness is and also to be shorter the farther its stands away.
If the yard stick is kept the same distance from the feet all around, the back of the skirt will appear shorter than the front. Allow the yard stick to rest against the figure at the top and place a pin at that point. Move the yard stick two or three inches and pin again at top, continue until you have pinned all around the skirt.

Try to stand in a natural and erect position while this is being done as every movement of the figure changes the adjustment at the bottom.

Remove the skirt, place it on work-table, and place yard stick with small numbers at the top and the same number of inches above the line of pins that were just put in at the top of the skirt, as you wish your skirt to be shortened at the bottom, then mark with tailors’ chalk at the bottom of the yard stick every three inches all around the skirt, turn skirt up on this line and pin at edge where it is turned, again at edge of material turned up.
Try skirt on to see if it is just even around the bottom.

Always try to keep one position while the skirt is being turned up as it will not hang even unless you do.

Another way to turn up a skirt even is to use a skirt guage and chalk or turn and pin all around while the skirt is on, moving skirt guage around skirt and pinning about three inches apart. After the skirt is pinned up even baste on lower edge, find the narrowest place in material for hem, then measure at this point, allowing enough to turn raw edge well under. With tape line measure from bottom of skirt, this distance all around the skirt, cut off all extra material above mark except enough to turn raw edge under.

Turn on chalk line, use running-stitch, take small stitches, and run gathering thread all around at edge where the skirt is turned on chalk line. Draw thread up where it is necessary to make it fit the skirt, pin to place and baste.
Press with damp press cloth and stitch. After stitching press again on right side (see subject of pressing).

*Basting in a Sleeve*

Run gathering thread all around top of sleeve, hold sleeve toward you, place sleeve
so that center of lowest point of sleeve is pinned to lowest point of armhole under arm; and center of highest point of sleeve to center of highest point of armhole.

Adjust gathers so that sleeve will be eased in all around but a little stronger at top than remainder of sleeve.

If sleeve is large it should be eased in under arm and about half-way up the armhole, then the balance gathered in across the top and half-way down the sides. It is very important that the sleeve be held toward you while the work is being done.

Try sleeve on before stitching as it is sometimes necessary to make a change as all arms and shoulders are not just alike.

In real round shoulders the top of the sleeve has to set farther forward than in straight shoulders.

When fitting the sleeve see that the elbow comes in the right place, also that the center of top of sleeve at highest point on top.
Tailor's Seams

The finish of tailored seams differ according to style adopted.

Even, straight stitching is absolutely necessary in tailoring which can be done with less practice than the student will at first suppose.

Concentration while you work, is of the utmost importance.

Bound Open Welt

Allow one-half to three-fourths of an inch seam, pin, baste, and stitch seam in regular way.

Remove basting, trim off one side of material, turn the wide side over the trimmed edge, turning outer edge under the same as a hem, keep it smooth and even.

Baste and stitch on outer edge. This finish is for unlined garments. In lined garments the edges are left raw.
Strap Seams

Strap seams are frequently used in the finish of unlined coats made of silk, linen, or wool.

If coat is unlined baste so raw edges of seam come on right side.

After stitching trim seams off to one-fourth
of an inch and press open. Cut strap one and one-half inches wide, either cross-wise or bias, fold edges under, leaving finished strap three-fourths of an inch wide, baste, and press. Place center of strap over center of seam, pin, baste, and stitch.

Lined coats are also finished with straps, only when lined, the raw edges of the seams are on the wrong side of the garment, and the straps made, pressed, and center of strap over seam on right side of garment.

Suit skirts in tailor work should have the same finish and trimming as the coat.

_Imitation Strap Seam_

This finish is especially good for unlined garments.
Mark-stitch seam as usual, lap seam placing mark-stitching directly over each other, pin and baste on mark-stitching, turn edges of seam under and baste on both wrong and right side of garment. Stitch seam at edge where it is turned under. Be particular to have turning even.

Press before stitching.
Questions

1. What must be done to a skirt before getting the length?
2. Describe how to get the length of a skirt with a yard stick.
3. Describe how to get the length of a skirt with a skirt gauge.
4. Describe how to pin and baste in a sleeve.
5. How does the finish of tailored seams differ?
6. How can one become proficient in stitching?
7. Is the stitching of tailored seams important?
8. Describe a welt seam.
9. Describe a strap seam.
10. Describe an imitation strap seam.