



"ONE O'CLOCK . . ."

## DRESSMAKING

### Short Cuts To Those Finishing Touches

By L.J.S.

HOME-DRESSMAKING means more clothes per cash—an important asset in these times. And, as in most cases, it is the finishing touches that take most time and make for success or failure.

Seams are all-important. Heavy tweed or wool seams will be perfectly flat if they are soaped before ironing. When damping woolly seams preparatory to pressing, care must be taken to damp only the seam or else the cloth will stretch and pucker, resulting in a bulging seam. A toothbrush is invaluable for this work. Time is saved when

machining seams by doubling back both ends, making the tying of loose threads unnecessary.

### Buttons and Fasteners

Wooden buttons, or any that are likely to lose colour when washed, should be attached with snap fasteners. They are then quickly removed before laundering the garment. Attach one half to the back of the buttons and the other to the dress or skirt. Snap fasteners are also a good idea when putting white collar and cuffs on a dark frock, as they can then be washed apart from the frock, thus avoiding danger from running dyes.

### Tacking and Gathering

Tacking is quickly done by machine. Lengthen the stitch as far as possible, leaving the tension the same, and run up the seam, helping the material through a little to avoid gathering. The thread is easily withdrawn when the seam is finished, and tacking done this way is firm and even. Gathering, too, is less trouble if it is done with a lengthened thread. This need not be as long as for tacking. Run across the part to be gathered as when tacking, but without drawing the material through. Finally, draw the thread up to the required length and secure the ends.

When shirring is needed, the following method will be found the easiest and most effective, especially for children's clothes. Buy some very fine, round elastic which is on the market in various shades and wind on the bobbin, stretching hard at the same time. The usual top thread is used. Loosen the tension and lengthen the stitch and sew along the shirring lines.

Dress and skirt plackets have a habit of tearing, and to prevent this, sew a hook and eye at the foot of the placket, pressing the hook flat.

Make certain of an even hem, by having a stick notched at the required height from the ground. Try the dress on and find someone who will pin it up at the notch.

## BETTY'S DIARY

### SUNDAY

Such a day! To-night I feel like a wilted rag. Spent from morning until night rounding up our supplies for the Red Cross Drive to-morrow night. Mrs. Martin promised us a pair of fowls—and Jim was dispatched to bring them in. Mr. Crooks, our butcher, brought up a whole lamb, beautifully dismembered, and I spent an hour wrapping up each joint in cellophane paper and finishing off with a ribbon. Jim says they look more like a floral tribute. The entire hall is stacked up—cases of soft drinks, tins of biscuits, pieces of crockery, um-

brellas, suitcases, and a host of other contributions. Ellen has been busy all day baking cakes—till I feel I can never look one in the face again.

### MONDAY

Well, it is all over, and we have had a great social and financial success. The people were wonderful, and the shillings just rolled in. We had all kinds of fancy stalls, refreshment stands, a mock trial, a hat-trimming competition for the men (which Grace's husband won at a gallop), housie-housie, dart games, and, best of all, a spinning-jenny. I was in

(Continued on next page)

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