## FABRIC RESTRICTIONS—YES



### Fashion Restrictions - No

E'RE on the set at the Government Film Studios, Miramar, and the crew is getting ready to take shots for the next Film Unit short "Simplified Clothing." And while cameramen push cameras back and forth and lightmen flick are lights on and off, the director confides to me that this is the first time the Film Unit has attempted anything in the nature of a fashion show, anything with a specific appeal to the female section of the audience.

In keeping with the subject, the set is simple. A simple pillar, a simple balustrade and a simple flight of four plasterboard steps, set against a simple background of clouds and landscape. And now we're almost ready for the models to arrive on set. But downstairs in the dressing room there's still some confusion. The models, who've never done this sort of thing before, gaze

Simplicity in a black wool dinner

rather askance at yellow faces and purple lips, and tweek skirts anxi-

ously and experiment with alternative hat angles. Finally, all are shepherded upstairs by the script girl and hover in the wings waiting the call.

#### Simple Suits

I eye them interestedly. All three are wearing simplified suits, and it's difficult for anyone but a connoisseur to tell the difference between simplicity and pre-simplicity clothing, at any rate, as far as suits are concerned.

"Why are they 'simplicity'?" I ask.

Model A, in neat black braid-edged tailleur enumerates the points of her costume. "It's rather shorter, for one thing. You can't have your skirts less than 15 inches from the ground, and this is 18. Then there's the coat, single-breasted and no pocket-flaps, and the sleeves narrow, lapels small, and an unexaggerated shoulder line."

Model B in greenish-brown Harris tweed redolent of Country Life, takes up the tale. "There's a regulation about the all-round measurement of skirts, too. Not more than 58 inches round the

hem if you're an under-forty hip measurement. So you see, there are only two pleats in the front and none in the back."

#### Solo Effort

"And what about Model C?" I ask.

Model C is an attractive suit of bottlegreen and white check. Its 'simplicity' was not, at first glance, apparent, for its three front pleats and three patch pockets suggest a certain disregard for the spirit, if not the letter, of the newlygazetted Factory Emergency Regulations. But even Model C demonstrates one plank in the simplicity clothing platform, for the longer-length jacket represents the maximum measurement (10½in.) from waist to hem.

But now there's a call for models. In a soothing voice from the right side of the stage the assistant-director gives instructions. A and B are to stand talking at the top of the steps, their attention is called to something at the right, they glance in that direction, then by mutual consent, turn together down the stairs as Model C comes up from behind.

Five rehearsals, the final one with lights, and then the take. Cameras burr, the director-in-chief yells "cut," and Models A and B relax till close-up time.

(Continued on next page)

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