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And now it's the turn of Model C. Hers is a solo effort, one slow and lingering turn to show off all the points of the green and white check, and then down the stairs out of camera range. Two rehearsals, and again the camera burrs.

Short for Evening

The models hurry down to the dressing room to change for the next take. But we have no time to wait for the slow grinding of camera wheels, and have to content ourselves with viewing off set the highlights of the Simplicity collection.

"No long dinner or evening frocks," says the edict. But the simplified afternoon and evening models have lost none of their glamour through having their yardage restricted. There's a junior model in flame crepe with a shaped midriff band studded with enamelled stars, and sash ends that tie at the back, and a lovely little blue woollen peg-top dress with striped collar and cuffs. And for town or sports wear an emerald-green stud-front frock with pleats back and front.

Coats, too. One grey camel hair has a generous wrapover and large pockets with double cuffs.

"But isn't this a simplicity model?" we ask in bewilderment. "These things are really no different from the clothes we've been wearing or envying in shop-windows for the last year or so. We expected each model to be more or less a foundation garment, the apotheosis of simplicity, merely what was left of a reasonably attractive outfit after each superfluous inch has been purged away."

"No, that's one good thing about the regulations," says the Wardrobe Mistress. "We're restricting the amount of fabric

Simple travel coats have smaller lapels and flares instead of pleats



in the new clothes, but we've still had enough material left us to make each style distinct from the others. We haven't been reduced to bread-and-butter garments. Take this coat, for instance." She points to what appears a moderately voluminous travel coat in a grape-coloured check tweed. "Now we had a model like that before the restrictions came in, with deep, unpressed pleats in the back. It took half a yard more material than the regulations allowed. But now we've adapted it to conform, and instead of the deep pleats, we have a flare that falls into what look like unpressed pleats. The effect is almost the same, but this is the simplified version."

We sighed with relief. There is obviously no rigid line separating "simplicity" from pre-simplicity models.

★ Black silk and tweed suits with inset pockets and shorter, narrower skirts

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