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FASHION SCHOOLS

The glamour which surrounds the rapid rise to fame of many great dressmakers, like that of film and radio stars and famous actors, has a power of attraction for many young people. What young girl does not dream of becoming, some day, a world-famous creator of fashion... she has received a gift from heaven, a talent... soon... But alas! these are but castles in Spain!

Do people realize sufficiently the amount of work it takes to succeed in this career as in any other? Do people know what ceaseless learning of elementary subjects is required to obtain real skill, what patience for dull, monotonous, daily work, the little tricks one can only learn alone and by experience if there is no one at hand willing to teach? And, too, there is a certain element of luck, change, "turn of the wheel" — call it what you will. This does not of course mean that dressmaking does not hold out interesting prospects and excellent jobs for those who have a taste for this profession. *Fashion schools* can in this case prove a great help to young talent. Methodical training in theory and practice, adapted to the requirements of the trade — haute couture firms and outfitters — can teach their pupils, whether or not they obtain a dressmaking diploma, to become cutters or manageresses, responsible jobs which otherwise can only be won by long years of obscure toil and even then, without the certitude of final success. To learn how to plan a gown, a suit or a coat; to design them, to prepare the pattern, to cut and build up a canvas model, to drape, fit, correct the garment and know how to make a model to the very last stitch; to learn how to renovate old models and all that has to do with fashion, dressmaking and feminine apparel — that is what a fashion school can teach.



A lesson in fitting.

The students are either young girls having no previous training and who wish to get good commercial jobs, or dressmakers who wish to perfect their skill and knowledge; some students, too, are married women whose chief aim is home-dressmaking. The courses of study vary both in length and programme according to the type of student. Every year, thanks to the fashion schools and the training they can give, hundreds of women and young girls are launched out into the fashion industries, always an attractive career and which today can hold out many prospects.



Above: Fashion sketch.
Left: Valuable criticism.



Photographed in the
Albert P. Friedmann Fashion School, Zurich.