

FASHION

WHERE'S THE WAIST?

Paris popped the question—but has yet to give the answer. On the one hand, many leading designers showed a tendency to raise the waistline (*below*). But they were challenged by a strong minority that seemed determined to drop it (*opp. p.*). High-wrapped cummerbunds, corselets, Empire lines aided the upward trend; waist-less middies, lowered belts connived at the downward. Apparently, Paris has decreed it the year of the wandering waist. Where it will stop may well be up to American women.

PLEATS AT A PRICE. An ultra-fashionable New York City specialty store, proved that if a woman wants a skirt, money won't stand in her way. A mushroom-pleated wool crepe skirt, advertised for \$115, has sprouted into hundreds of orders to date.

A THREE-WAY PETTICOAT is the newest addition to the petticoat boom. Made of taffeta, each flounced petticoat comes with two extra button-on flounces in different colors (by Lady Duff).

Is it on the way up?

Emerick Bronson



Crossed bands under the bosom emphasize Dior's upward trend.



Shoulder-blade belt gives Dior's coat a high-waisted look.

Is it on the way down?



Straight midriff top of Balenciaga's dress drops waistline.



Patou's very low waisted dress is reminiscent of the 20's.

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FOR THE YOUNG AND PLUMP, New York City's Lane Bryant has just opened a "Junior Plenty" department. Based on the idea that not-too-slim glamour girls and young matrons want a young fashion slant in their clothes, the department's sizes will range from 19 to 25. The store has had illustrations made of the fashions carried in this department.

AN ACCENT OF BRAID has come back into fashion in a big way. Braid supposedly originated with the Romans, who used it to conceal the frayed edges of their togas, but this year's use of it is considered more luxurious than thrifty. Strips of braid or braid frogs have appeared on suits, coats, dresses, hats, shoes—in almost every kind of fashion. Example: Braid frogs made the skull cap (l.) worn by actress Anne Jeffries (John-Frederics). Her earrings and pin are by Wingback.



Jeffries wears frog hat.

PEOPLE MAKE FASHIONS: *In New York City:* Young women glamorized their last year's clothes with bits of braid. To give the new pointed look to a pair of brown satin pumps, a young television actress glued two strips of narrow jet-studded braid to the shoes' sides, brought them to a point over the toe. . . . Another young actress revived her last winter's suede pumps by sewing a braid frog on the top of each toe. . . . To dress up a steel-gray cashmere cardigan, a college girl substituted black braid frogs for the button-holes, replaced the pearl buttons with jet. . . . A young fashion model made a cocktail hat out of a black velvet calot by adding swirls of iridescent beaded braid, put matching bands of braid around the tops of her long suede gloves.

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