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Zipping It Up

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Zipping
It Up
by Roberta Stock

so it would not be necessary to move such large pieces of heavy carpeting as would be necessary if the rugs were in one piece.

For this fall, there is featured an enamel on grosgrain ribbon and also a slide fastener studded with rhinestones that zips shut and leaves a sparkling seam on a dressy frock or formal. Bakedite zippers continue to be popular on silks and woolens and are not so prevalent on wash dresses or apparel that is cleaned a lot and receives rough wear. The bakelite fastener is twice as expensive and requires more care. All lengths, colors and styles are available.

Something new has happened to slide fasteners, for one company advertises the fact that they have a product that has been put on a diet and is now a streamlined number that is appealingly narrow. Pleasantly smooth and pleasingly flexible. Another firm offers durable finishes in 34 lovely colors and also gilt, nickel and oxidized metal. Also available are covered slide fasteners which when closed, allow no metal to show and leave a smooth, tailored seam.

Iowa State coeds learn in Textiles and Clothing classes several methods of inserting slide fasteners. On pockets and for front and back plackets, the fastener is exposed to show the color of the fastener. Or the zipper may be hidden, as in a skirt placket, by basting it back far enough so that the line of bast- ing actually hugs the teeth and makes the seam look like an inverted pleat. For a skirt placket as in a tailored suit, the seam is slashed and the fastener is fastened into position on tape edging leaving a smooth seam which lifts up to reveal the fastener.

Do you remember the excitement there was in Meadville, Pennsylvania, about four years ago when President Roosevelt realized the possibilities of slide fasteners and therefore ordered customs officials to exclude fasteners infringing on domestic patents? Meadville is the capitol of the slide fastener industry in this country and after that episode the manufacturers worked all the harder on new uses for their clever gadgets which at that time had been used on 150 million items of merchandise. Sales went sky high during the war. Fasteners were put on soldiers' money belts and the United States Navy adopted them as standard equipment.

Wind, rush through my tresses,
Blow the skirts of my dresses
Sky high, that I may feel
Your touch from head to heel.

—Alice C. Wood.