

## What Makes for a Useful Winter Wardrobe?

### I. Material

#### a. Natural fabrics

Natural materials such as wool and cotton are more comfortable than man-made materials. However, one must be able to afford them, and find them in the first place.

#### b. Synthetics

Man-made materials are used widely today. They are the least comfortable directly on the skin. Tights, underwear and shoes made of artificial materials as such in principle are an imposition.

#### c. Usages

Loose fitting garments, however, often do well even as synthetics. Two of the four wraps mentioned in *Winter 2020* are not wool but polyester. Sweaters and polo shirts none-the-less do better if made of wool or cotton, respectively.

#### d. Care

Garments must be washable and easy to maintain.

### II. Form

#### a. Body-near

Underwear, tights and leggings are closely fitting. Loose leggings made of cotton are more comfortable and provide better temperature balance. The same applies to T-shirts and underwear.

Top in garment making are pieces that are shaped to the body and yet loose enough to permit perfect temperature equalisation and complete freedom of movement.

#### b. Free flowing

Fully free-flowing garments are not part of our culture. Dresses offer the compromise of free-flowing and body-fitted.

#### c. Combinations

Scarves and wraps are not only useful as neck and shoulder warmers, they also work well as skirts. Helpers are the waistbands of trousers or tights.

Well fitted and none-the-less loose garments, combined with appropriate undergarments, provide the perfect combination of temperature exchange and wind protection.

#### d. Purpose

As such they fulfil the task of garments. They shield from view and protect from the cold.

### III. Beauty

#### a. Source

A perfect wardrobe is the result of fit, colour and a combination of suitable fabrics.

#### b. Gestalt

Human shape and make alone is ingenious. Hence garments that reflect body shape and foster mobility are beautiful as such. Interestingly enough, this does not apply to really snug clothing, such as diving suits or athletes' outfits.

#### c. Design

In other words, there is room for design in garment making and production.

#### d. Craft

Design and choice of garments has always and happens today in a tension of personal expression and social consensus.

### IV. Efficiency

#### a. Numbers

Two combinations for the upper body, two for the bottom, two wraps and one coat are an adequate basic winter wardrobe.. Additional pieces offer variety and lift the mood in dark winter days.

#### b. Basic idea

Well fitting garments are beautiful, comfortable and useful, which makes them efficient.

#### c. Compilation

A skilful combination of colours and surfaces, natural and synthetic materials and their compatibility make for a useful wardrobe.

#### d. New looks

A clean and simple, well-fitting basic wardrobe is easily updated with fresh colours and new wraps. One properly chosen purchase per season and year will go a long way.