

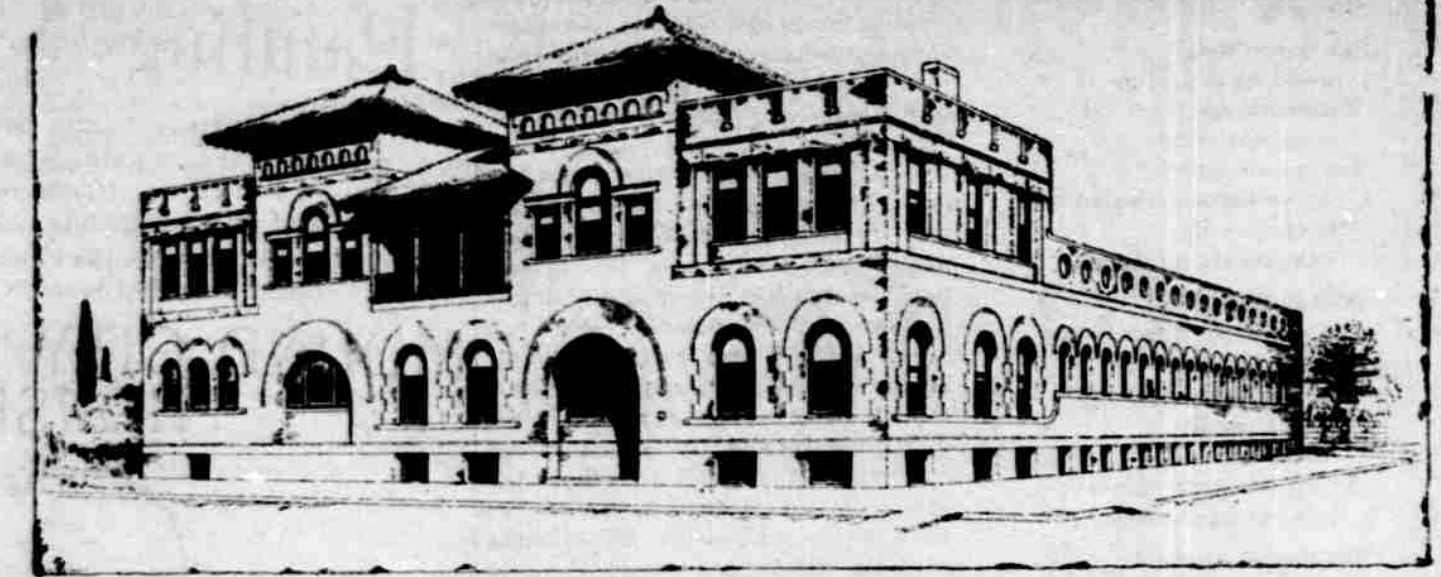
Fashions of the Day.

What Our Boys Should Wear—A Prophecy Fulfilled by the Advent of the Overshirt—Panels are in favor—Paris, the Oracle of Fashions, Returns to Speak.

Almost without exception writers upon the fashions have some advice to give as to the dressing of every member of the family except the boy. He, unfortunate and reckless young tough, is brushed to one side as hopeless, from an aesthetic point of view, and all efforts are concentrated upon his mother or his sisters, big or little, or even his father. A pariah, an Ishmaelite, yet he is his mother's darling and upon her, poor woman, falls the task of so dressing this potential of men that the good points of his anatomy, coloring and general make-up may be brought out to greatest advantage.

In his early stages, when emerging from the cocoon of babyhood he is no longer smothered in billows of lace and embroideries, but his toilettes at once begin to assume a severity as though to draw thus early the line of demarcation between the boy and the frivolous, if more attractive girl.

From two to four years of age the young male is clothed in one piece dresses, with very little attempt at elaboration. A becoming suit for a boy of from four to six is of brown or blue velveteen. After passing the sixth milestone and up to fourteen, knickerbockers are in order, a most sensible and, except in cases of ungainly or misshapen legs, most becoming style of dress which their elders are rapidly adopting under plea of bicycling or golf. For boys' knicker suits, tweeds and corduroys are to be the favorites this autumn, and have the undeniable and essential merit of withstanding long and arduous service. From ten to fifteen years of age they may wear, as



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fancy or necessity dictates, either "boiled shirts," negligee shirts, or even sweaters, either standing or turn down collars, and the plain cravats or four-in-hands. In a word, the outfit of a fifteen year old boy merges into that of a miniature man.

A particularly attractive outing suit is of imported check tweed, full knickerbockers, loose jacket and cap of the same material. No braiding or frogs, to my eye, look well on boys' suits. The plainer they are the better. An Eton suit, for dress occasions, should always be added to complete the wardrobe.

Little girls are to be resplendent in gay plaids; even their stockings and other favored materials are to be corduroys, velveteens, reps and serges.

So much for the little folk. Their mammas and the grown-up girls claim my attention now. As the season advances the tendency to generous trimming becomes more and more apparent; indeed, I am told that a plain untrimmed

kirt will be a rarity among well dressed women of the *grandee mondée*.

Panels, bands, frills and tucks are each and all in high favor, and the oft prophesied overakirt has definitely arrived.

An awfully swagger gown shown me is of gray cloth, with a panel of paler gray combined with velvet of a deeper shade, and white and silver galloon. The panels are on either side of the front breadth and extend from waist to hem; the bodice of the same gray cloth, blouse, of course, and slashed to reveal beneath it a close fitting corseage of the darker velvet.

Another smart costume was in blue-gray. Neither braid nor velvet was used in trimming, but satin, so dexterously arranged as to produce a most stunning effect.

I think panels are the favorite style for skirts, and they will be seen constructed of rich and rare embroideries, in jewels, spangles, gold and silver thread and even furs.

From gay Paris I hear of shoals of my countrywomen loitering later in the season than usual at their shopping. There have been very decided changes in the fashions there, one of the most marked being in the new chic wraps. They are totally unlike those of last year. Many are double breasted jackets, though some have the fly fronts, but for all that they are distinctly different from last season's. The skirts are not nearly so full; many of them have godets or plaits at the back, and fit closely to the figure over the hips and back. The box coat will again be a feature, having been taken back into favor. A smart model of the latter I saw was of brown diagonal cloth, double breasted and slashed around the bottom; the sleeves were close fitting, without a particle of fulness at the top; the cuffs were finished with narrow bias ruffs of brightest tartan silk; there was also a hood lined with the bright hued silk and carried around to the front, so that the effect was of tartan revers.

Very long coats are also slated as among the incoming fashions, but I doubt their taking well among our smart set.

The Directoire coat is much admired and is really a very stunning style.

There are to be lovely black velvet Russian blouses. One of these, just imported, has a very rich braided ornament in front, a braided girdle and braided collar.

My Paris correspondent hesitates to announce to me, authoritatively, the reigning styles for the coming winter. They are so numerous and so at variance, one with the other, that only time can decide which will prevail. Some of them are today set down as freaks; tomorrow they may be fashions or may be totally forgotten. Among other dis-

quieting rumors for those who have already acquired their winter toilettes, is the more than hinted at downfall of the blouse waist, which has hardly yet had a fair trial. Sleeves—those thorns in the flesh of so many anxious women—are, beyond a doubt, to be positively, not relatively, small, notwithstanding the protests of those who found in their voluminous and numerous trimmings such a scope for variety without the taint of heterodoxy.

Tucks are so fine they almost resemble cording, and sleeves of different materials appear in many of the models; for instance, in a gray gown of cashmere, the sleeves are of gray satin tucked in little groups.

Machine stitching will be fashionable, indeed quite one of the season's fads. Combinations of glace silk and cloth are very noticeable. Skirts will be made free from the linings, thus avoiding the necessity for haircloth, but as a consequence the silk petticoats must be much ruffled so as to hold out the skirt properly.

I hear of some very handsome black cloth gowns having black satin patterns stitched on in braided designs. I have been asked whether fancy waists are to be much worn and I answer, yes, a much as ever and as elaborately trimmed. My lady's neckties will be quite as important an item of her toilette as of her lord and master, and I confess I find them both stylish and becoming. Furs are to be used also in trimming evening frocks and when laid against a snow white neck produce a most artistic contrast. Plum tints continue in high favor. There is a new color, though called by an old name "puce," a purple-red, and there is one especially fashionable shade of blue which I hardly know how to describe. You will surely find it among any cluster of well dressed, up-to-date women. —Town Topics.

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