

Womans Changing World's Fashion

NEW YORK, Nov. 12.—Never in the history of fashion has infants' wear reached such a stage of perfection, for it is more delicacy of work and material than showiness which is admired. Splendid effects are achieved, but they are accomplished through delicate details, the smallest lace rosette employed upon a hat requiring infinite finish. Coarse materials and cotton laces are sharply tabooed, and no garment is considered too simple, if properly made, which means virtually sewed by hand, and with the good buttons and fine little linen tapes such things require, as well as stitchery beyond criticism, of course.

Some of the layettes shown by the children's outfitters and by the large shops are, to use the phrase of a shopper, "inexpressibly exquisite." Yet along with wash textures as fine as cobwebs, intricate stitchery and real lace, will be found the homely little cashmere sacques, bordered as of old with narrow satin ribbons, which tie at the round collar doll-baby fashion. Sometimes these sacques are in figured wools, but more often pale pink or blue will be used for them. They are, however, the privilege of the house only, for on going out the child in arms must be attired in pure white. The only touches of color in good taste are pink roses, which in tiny shape are mingled with the lace ruching of the bonnets of the youngest babies. These are more often a shirred model than in Dutch cap form, and with them will be worn long veils of white lace net.

The ornamentation of the veils is simple, some delicate lace flower or love knot design showing mainly at the bottom edges. The sides of the veils are finished with a fine lace braid, and the top gathers over a ribbon which holds them around the crown of the bonnet.

The length of the infant robe is far less extravagant than formerly, and three months is now considered the proper age for putting on short dresses. Nainsook and French mull are the materials most employed for dresses, though thin lawns are also much used. Dresses in these materials, if they are for ordinary wear, are made up as usual with square or pointed yokes, bishop sleeves and simply hemmed skirts. The more splendid robe may have a pattern of lace embroidery and fine stitchery down the entire front, but newer arrangements confine the skirt trimming to the bottom. There sometimes rises at the front in a point, or in some other ornamental way, the trimming of the yoke matching the design.

Superb laces are employed upon the silk and cloth cloaks which cover these wash dresses, which in the most splendid models are used for christening purposes. An effect of airiness, as well as lightness of weight, is also much liked, and in more than one case this will be achieved through a complete cloak of chiffon or lace net, hung loosely over a wadded silk lining. The drooping collars which widen the little shoulders often hang to the waist, and the under bottom of the coat is not infrequently fluffy with lace and chiffon flounces.

In the ribbon and Swiss trimmed baskets, which contribute so much to the mother's comfort and pleasure, the various boots worn by Sir Baby are generally kept. Among them are now included down-lined moccasins of embroidered kid for his six months' wrapper and kid booties lined with flannel. No shoes at all are supposed to be worn in the first month, and those the young gentleman begins life with are the usual infantile affairs of crocheted wool and silk, which for dressy occasions may be trimmed around the ankle with ruches of chiffon.

This basket must also furnish all sorts of little tapes and bolts of narrow ribbon as well as a pocket for baby's handkerchiefs, for handkerchiefs of the finest linen are shown at several of the good places for infants' use. Those for gala moments are very small, with rounded corners and lace edges; and such sorts are sometimes folded crosswise and put on as bibs. The quilted bib of time immemorial is also affected by the elegancies of the hour and now frequently shows real lace edges and delicate embroideries.

For the rest, baby may wear jewelry once more; coral and gold sleeve loops, gold and coral beads, and, in the case of a girl, even a bracelet.

Infants' cloaks and hats are generally in matching materials. Cloth bonnets are usually combined with silk and ribbon, and silk ones with lace, and quilted silk doublings are everywhere supplied for unlined lace caps.

Infants' mitts are entirely of silk or wool, or these materials combined. Tiny pins fasten them to his coat sleeves, which are also made long, so as to almost cover



TWO Dainty costumes for babies.

the hand. Care should be taken, however, to leave the baby's arms as free as possible, as the least hampering produces irritation. Under the new order of things, too, the old-fashioned bundling of the new-born is almost done away with. Baby is warmly but not too heavily dressed, and even in the coldest weather, if he is a hardy young animal, may go low neck in the house. But this is possible only to the strongest children, and for all the others see that there are relays of wool jackets in different weights.

A pretty and useful trifle in the infant world is a lined kimono sacque of flowered silk, bordered with plain. Those of plain silk, in the same models, are bordered with flowered ribbons, which combination seems even prettier.

New costumes for little maids nearest the baby stage are distinguishable by both a doll-like fussiness and a sensible plainness. The plain garments are those provided for school wear, the tiny "kindergartens" toddling forth in quaint braid-trimmed sacques and brilliant wool frocks which look as comfortable as they are pretty.

For girls from three to seven years of age there are long cloth beaver and serge coats, whose round skimp collars have a distinctly old-fashioned air. With these the accompanying boots have often tops of light cloth, plain or striped. A made feather of green cock's plumes, or one of white and scarlet, may deck the round felt hat, but many other hats have merely a scarf of some bright silk, while hats

trimmed with ribbon velvet and fuzzy silk pompoms are as frequent.

Some children of three to four years are seen in peasant hoods of the coat cloth, edged around the face with a ribbon ruche,

one of ravelled silk or a fur band. Cloth coats with double capes and stoles are worn by several ages, they are skirt length

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