

Women's Changing World of Fashion

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—In these days of juvenile accomplishments the girl or boy who does not dance is at a distinct disadvantage. At the children's parties given by the smart world the dancing is always a prominent feature, and the costumes in which the small fry disport themselves tend no little to the charming effect.

For both afternoon and evening parties the majority of the girl toilettes are in white or faintly tinted materials, begayed with sashes in the same colors or contrasting. Dainty frocks of white silk, Swiss, cashmere, lawn and mull are appropriately trimmed and show the gala intention in the cutout neck and elbow sleeves. Scarcely a childish party frock is seen that is high in the throat, and if it is so made, the gamp or yoke is bound to be of a very airy description.

The juvenile décolletage, however, is of the shallowest nature. A tiny square, circle or V outlined by narrow ruches,

brodery are elegant details of many of these suits, whose rivals are Russian blouse suits of plain white cloth, or knee length sailor suits of the same.

Apropos of the Russian models, a well known dancing teacher exacts this easy get-up for the first hours of study. Both girls and boys are compelled to wear wide-puffed knickers and long belted coats of coarse brown lines, neither of which hampers the body at any point. Heelless black slippers and white stockings complete the get-up, and in every case the student is put through ballet exercises before the regulation one, two, three is given. Little

brown velvet collars and cuffs. Russian caps and belts of black patent leather are sported with these, and over his black "patent" shoes the young man may wear long gaiters of mottled wool or brown leather.

Children are not nearly so heavily dressed this winter as was formerly the fashion. Their outside wraps are of lighter materials than was once the case, knitted jackets worn underneath supplying additional warmth when necessary. In this way the clothing is lightened or made warmer, as the case requires, without the more dangerous change of underwear which the

should be neglected that brings children together on a footing of common elegance.

In place of the splendid velvets and silk corduroys used for so many of the girl's coats, some of the good shops are employing velveteens for similar models. These are trimmed with the same black silk braids, and the white fur sets which are shown to go with them are frequently of rabbit skin. Four white rabbit skins, at 45 cents apiece, will make a dainty stole collar for a small maid, whose bag muff may be fashioned of four more. Then hang the muff from a white satin ribbon and ruche the ends of the stole with quill-



SMART AND SUITABLE FINERY FOR DANCING SCHOOL.

ribbon-strung beadings, or flat bands of inserting. Sometimes the cutout neck is finished with a wide shaped frill falling bertha fashion, the flounces at the bottom of the short puffed sleeves matching this effect.

Very pretty dresses are seen for several ages of soft silk, finely knitted, and trimmed on the body with thin laces, through which black bebe velvets or chenille cord is sometimes run. When these are worn by chubby girls from 4 to 6 the effect of the long bodies and short, stiff skirts is quite doll-like. The low ribbon-tied slippers and the elaborate way of dressing the curled hair with wide ribbon bows or wreaths of small flowers increases this prettiness, and to see some of the little maids in their first clumsy steps is to witness the doll dance.

At a recent juvenile function the minuet was danced in costume, the boys wearing blue and white and the girls pink. Another dance given in every day dress revealed exquisite feats in home millinery, a number of the little frocks having been made by the fond mothers, who sat watching their fitting treasures.

A pleasing gown on a girl of 7 was a pale blue net shirred over large cords. Several rows of this formed the bertha band on the bodice and hip yoke of the skirt, whose lower portion fell in a full tucked flounce. A number of the soldier dresses—thin wools and volles in delicate colors—were trimmed with narrow pinked ruches of taffeta. These were in the same color as the costume and in one or two instances the narrower ruches were shaped into wreaths, which, in a limited number, trimmed both bodice and skirt.

Undersleeves are very numerous, the gamps supplied with many gowns including these, which hang under shorter sleeves in elaborate flounces or large puffs. The undersleeve effect is frequently only simulated by white ruffles, which, sewed inside those of the short puffed sleeves, are sometimes six inches deep.

The best-dressed of the small boys at the dances wear picturesque suits of black velvet with shirts of finely tucked lawn. Cravats and sleeve frills of lace and em-

feet that are especially difficult to train are shod in genuine ballet sandals, and the limbering of young legs is done over actual ballet bars; but once the body is fairly supple, with the dignity of real dances, the linen uniform is thrown aside for simple white wash frocks and serge and cloth afternoon suits.

At five swagger dancing academies visited, the most effectively costumed girls were in wash frocks of white lawn, linen or pique, smartened with ribbon sashes in gay colors. Many of the smaller boys also wore white wash suits in these materials, which permit ease of movement and continued freshening. To seem properly gotten up on these festive occasions an immaculate neatness is the primary consideration, so, since white is the thing for dancing, it stands to reason that wash textures, or those that clean easily, should be considered over all others.

For that matter, the winter shows a revived interest in wash textures for child wear, whatever the occasion. Juvenile parties descending from carriages for an afternoon at the matinee display superb coats of velvet and fur-trimmed silk, the plume-decked hats matching in splendor and white predominating over color. But when these fine wraps are thrown aside in the theatre, the eye in search of juvenile points rests upon the simplest frocks of white French lawn, exquisite only in quality and delicate stitching.

If the coat is of white cloth and ermine, soft sashes of white satin with ends of deep silk fringe may be worn, the kid boots and stockings white also, and the hair tied with a wide white satin ribbon. Charming coats of pale brown corduroy, with hats matching in color, are worn by many of these little maids, whose furs are generally of ermine or white fox. Corduroy leggings, the color of the coat, are worn by the smartest maids, whose little brothers may wear black corduroy leggings with blue or brown overcoats.

Small boy overcoats in the shape of Russian blouse smocks are much admired. They are made in supple brown cloth with

health of few children will permit.

Hand-knitted underbodies of fine white and gray lamb's wool are among the English importations for children. These button grown-up fashion at the front, and since they may be assumed at a moment's notice over all the other underwear they are invaluable for the thin white frocks now worn.

Hand-knitted petticoats are also seen in this soft, wholesome wool, in which all garments have a ragged, home-made air. The skirts are made to fit tightly about the waist, where they are drawn in with ribbons, and to hang with a frill suggestion at the bottom.

Except for the sleeves, the underbodies are almost shapeless, ribbons also holding in the wide necks and drawing in the bottoms of the sleeves. After they have been washed several times, the fronts sometimes elongate to such an extent that they may be tied surplice fashion at the back of the body, with quite an addition to comfort.

To see fashionable tots peel off their outdoor muffings upon arriving at dancing school, or at the afternoon birthday party, is a liberal education to the mother who is none too sophisticated in such matters. If the little maid wears her white party frock to the house, knee-length knickerbockers of white lined flannel take the place of the flannel petticoats that she must leave off for the occasion. But these she likewise discards in the dressing-room, as well as her lamb's wool underbody, rainbow shawls of fine ice wool supplying mufflings of the right weight for heated moments between the dances.

Throat mufflers, knitted sweaters, leggings and wristlets are some of the things that the dancing boy flings off on cold days, and if he goes to the function in white wash clothes, his fur, or velvet-trimmed overcoat, covers them completely.

In getting up gala finery for children, care should be taken not to have it too fine, for too much splendor is irksome to the small soul. But a little party feeling in raiment as well as heart is necessary for complete happiness, and since ceremonious occasions are good for all, no function

ings of the same, and see how pretty the set is. "Childish" is the impression you receive, and it is a good one to get with all juvenile toggery. MARY DEAN.

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