

Womans Changing World of Fashion

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—It is no use for mothers to declare any more that it is difficult to dress children, for never were the requirements of the juvenile world more considered. Even the dressing of the awkward age—the girl all legs and arms, and the boy a hobbledohoy—has become a comparatively easy matter, while for the naturally graceful child effective models are almost confusingly thick.

All sorts of charming devices—the messiness of growing girls, among which is a new bertha and a very unadorned width. The bertha, which is cut circular and delicately trimmed, falls often to the belt, forming a complete cape. Sometimes the skirt is shirred at the hips, sometimes it is only gathered, and in this case above the wide hem there may be several large tucks.

For girls below this stage—those who still show the roundness of babyhood—new fashions have a doll-like charm. Little gored skirts are of an incredible shortness, decked, in silk instances, with tiny ruchings of ribbon and quillings of lace, these sometimes forming wreaths and garlands.

headings of this often joining the seams of both bodices and skirts.

Challie is not usually accounted a wash texture, but the new challies are warranted washable, and many display charming border effects. Narrow wash ribbons are combined with these, with sometimes a stout lace for the yoke and cuff bands, but whatever the model of the challie frock, it is always designed with an eye to the washtub.

But the growing fondness for immaculate freshness results not only in fast tints, but in the placing of white above all color. Never, merchants declare, were white wash textures supplied in vaster quantities or more exquisite varieties. From the heaviest linen crash, as coarse in some instances as a basket weave, the

only slightly above the baby stage. A dresser suit made in pique, duck and linen is called "the duke." Knee trousers and a tailless blouse with a straight military collar shapes the model of this, which may show edges of color with a matching sash knotted Spanish fashion at the left knee.

Youths are next in the order of consequence, but except in the case of country suits, strictly speaking, the thin tweeds and flannels and serges used this long while continue to dress them. It is only in the matter of details that their manly and matter-of-fact turnure is altered, and these details are confined to odd waistcoats, eccentric colored handkerchiefs and flashy ties.

Apropos of such splendors and the colored shirts, which will be worn by both men

sorts quite good enough.

Belts for young children of both sexes are an absolute requirement, the long-waisted bodices and blouses calling for them. For these ages, however, the leather girdle is very narrow, entirely unshaped and supplied with the plainest metal buckle.

MARY DEAN.

Frills of Fashion.

Champagne is the leading tint in spring veillings.

For evening wear, cream color divides fawn with white.

Dressy summer gowns will be trimmed with triple lace ruffles.

Immense quantities of lace will be used on both day and evening gowns.

There are pieces of the pottery which are decorated with a clover design, leaves and blossoms; there are sweet pea designs,



DAINTY WASH FINERY FOR LAD AND LASSIE.

The bodices on such toilettes are equally pretentious, high necked in most cases, and sometimes adjusted with whalebone, for whalebone and even regulation corset bodices are worn by such ages in France. High lace and ribbon stocks, wide crush belts of silk or panne, and elaborate undersleeves are other features of these charming little gowns, which, of course, constitute the best bib and tucker.

Along with this delicious finery, importers also show other elegancies not usually accorded maids of 8 and 10. An automobile coat of red leather, with a hood to match, is supplied by one firm for a girl of 6. Another firm displays summer driving wraps for several ages in embroidered pongee, while real lace veils are supplied for curly heads from 1 to 4. These, which are white, of course, drape curtain fashion the fronts of elaborate poke bonnets, in whose bouffant face trimmings delicate flowers are put.

But to chronicle spring fashions correctly—for February inaugurates spring and summer styles for children—it is necessary to dwell longest upon wash textures, these constituting their main wear.

The wash materials now in the market clearly demonstrate the increasing demand for beauty. Colors and designs, with even the most inexpensive of the wash goods, were never lovelier, and the majority of them have besides the added virtue of really standing water.

For the white or colored piques, which will be much used, narrow wash fringes to match are seen, these edging on made-up models for girls of several ages quaint cape-collars and flowing-sleeve effects. Exquisite flower tints are shown by the new piques, ducks, lincens and drills, and upon the handsomer frocks displayed in these materials superb effects in braiding or hand embroidery are encountered.

The tinted chambrays and Scotch gingham, every year used, are still combined with white Hamburg embroideries, with

goods run to textiles as fine as cobwebs. A party gown for a girl of 12 is made of three and a half yards of Paris lawn fifty inches wide. Only upon the bertha edge and around the neck and sleeve bands is the lace used, and then only a single insertion and ruffle. The plain skirt is gathered full and deeply hemmed, and 18 cents a yard is the cost of the val lace used. With such dresses and other airy white frocks, colored sashes will be much worn, the hair bow and a bodice knot matching.

A pretty and stylish fad is to have the ornaments worn also express the color of the ribbon, coral beads with a sash of the same shade, turquoise with blue and amber with yellow. For dress-up purposes, white stockings are considered a necessity, and so much is this understood that the black legs once admired seem now distinctly out of date. Girls below 6, like boys of a similar age, continue to wear white socks, and for them short neckchains of white coral—the round beads faintly tinged with pink—are a new caprice.

In truth, everything is done to make the small child, whether boy or girl, pretty and picturesque, and no sooner is a popular juvenile created in fiction than the garments peculiar to him or her appear in real life. The long-waisted blouse suits worn by an irrepressible youngster of recent fiction have been a boon to 2-year-olds who hitherto were confined to the ignominy of frocks. The skirt-like tail of the coat makes the getup sufficiently babyish for looks and the tiny knickers underneath supply the mannish touch every small boy craves.

Such suits are seen in all the shops for children's wear, and though not labeled the little pink and blue chambray models are easily recognized.

Many Russian blouse suits are seen for boys more advanced in years, but somehow such models seem to recommend themselves principally to chappies around and

and boys, one recalls a shirt sported in Henri Murger's-inimitable "Vie de Boheme"—patterned modestly with a design of "wild boars chased by dogs." Exactly this story may not be told by the male bosom this summer, but it will be a tale closely resembling it; for pointer dogs and terrier and bull pup heads appear on a number of the new masculine shirtings.

Those designed for feminine use, when colored, run to extreme simplicity of pattern and delicacy of tint, with black and white effects everywhere abounding. White shirtings are still more seen, the made-up garments displaying for the girls who are permitted to wear them the strict tailor finish which is now approved. For girls under 12 the prim severity of shirtwaists is not advised, but above that age they may be worn, and much of their staidness taken away by a new skirt model. This is a full pleated affair held over the shoulders with ornamental suspender bands of the same material, which gives the shirtwaist underneath a more childish look. This skirt, especially if it is made in dark material—such as blue serge—will be found a valuable addition to a schoolgirl's wardrobe.

Both colored and white waists may be worn with it, and a touch of smartness be gained by one of the wide leather belts, which have succeeded the very narrow ones of a year ago.

These belts, originally designed in Paris, and costing still, in the imported shape, anywhere from \$7 to \$12—these last embroidered—are almost as much worn by children as grown-ups. The handsomest models in them are double or triple tongued with gilt or silver harness buckles, and the kid of the softest quality, which, because of the width of the belt, is necessary for a good fit.

Others far cheaper than these styles, however, may have the tongue gathered fustly through a single square leather buckle, and the young girl who has only 75 cents to spend on her belt will find such

fruits of different kinds as well as many roses and the chauticeer family.

A touch of gold is introduced in nearly all the passementeries, embroideries and laces.

To lend a bright touch to summer costumes of white mohair and serge pearl buttons, with relief design in gold, will be used as garniture.

Mohairs, thin cloths, plain, flecked and plaid Scotch tweeds and materials with lace effects name the leading favorites among spring fabrics.

A new aspirant for recognition is Scandinavian embroidery, represented by an openwork design on crash. It is to be had in sets consisting of cape, collar and cuffs and galleons and allovers.

Odd little foot stools are made with the standards of the sawbuck, cross-sticks being used, and the tops are covered with different materials that give good effect and service at the same time.

A small wall closet for medicines has double doors which, when open, show the insides lined with bottles, big and little, ready to be filled. In the body of the cabinet are many compartments for scissors, lint, sterilized cotton, court plaster and the various articles required for first aid to the injured.

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