

Suggestions for the New Year Party

THE children have their share of the holiday festivities, and dainty little party frocks of lingerie and lace are quite as important in the province of small folks as are the more gorgeous party frocks among the grownups.

But there is nothing really new in children's dressy frocks. Handwork on fine mull, batiste, linen, etc., is still the last word of smartness and elegance, and dainty hand embroideries, insuperable they hand fun tucks, narrow valenciennes frills set on by hand, herringbone or feather stitching and fluffy knots and bows of ribbon are as usual the methods of elaboration to which the makers of party frocks for small children resort.

Occasionally some variety is introduced by mingling of lace, fine real baby Irish being combined with valenciennes, or a fine real thomy insertion finding a place in the design, and in course there is infinite variation of detail.

It is in the fancy dress party that the small folk have a chance to depart from the conventional limitations of child frocks; and though, as many mothers contend, it is a nuisance to prepare fancy costumes for the youngsters, the fun that those youngsters succeed in getting out of a successful costume party ought to repay any effort of preparation.

The Mansion House party in London always bring out a tremendous display of the possibilities in fancy dress for children, and its seems rather a pity that New York has no corresponding function, no one occasion upon which we may enjoy the charming spectacle of hundreds of little folk in quaint and carefully planned costumes whose inspiration has been found in every land and every period. But if we have no great fancy dress party for children, at least the holiday season is full of small affairs of this kind, and mothers, seamstresses and costume-makers are called upon to exercise much ingenuity in the matter.

Of course, there are costumes that may be hired, chiefly of the commoner and more obvious types, and these are costumes who, if money need not be considered, will turn you out the most elaborate costume desired; but the average mother, who shifts responsibility in this fashion and a majority of the little costumes are prepared at home with the assistance of the family seamstress.



FANCY DRESS FOR LITTLE FOLKS—THE CHILD OF 1800. A CHINESE BOY. A BELGIAN PEASANT GIRL, A NINETEEN CENTURY DAMSEL. A DUTCH LAD, AN ALBANIAN BRIGAND AND A MISS OF 1840.

of appearing beautiful to at least one person in the world; but the admiration brings about dire consequences in the matter of children's dress, and maternal pride makes a lamentable Wateen shepherdess of a small girl who might have made a creditable gipsy, or a stolid Spanish dancer of what might have been a picturesque Dutch peasant.

simple enough. A multitude of illustrated books full of costume suggestions abound in any library, and if one does not want historic data the illustrated children's books of modern publication offer a fertile field of search.

ings, etc., may give great pleasure to the grownup onlookers, the fact remains that the costumes which are liked best by the children themselves and which add most to the success and gaiety of the occasion are those which are easily recognized by all the children.

Little Bo Peep and a Little Boy Blue, after the Mother Goose Model, may not gratify maternal pride so acutely as would a Velasquez Infanta or a Boy in Blue after Gainsborough, but the children will like them better and they will have more fun than their illustrious rivals.

The fairy tales, too, are full of suggestions for children's costumes, and the children of many lands are always well represented at a fancy dress party. These foreign costumes may in some cases be as elaborate as one likes.

We have seen this last week a most exquisite Chinese costume prepared for a small girl to wear on New Year's eve, and, thanks to the globe-trotting parents, the little lady will go clad in most resplendent fashion, all rich silks and gorgeous embroideries and gold. But her little cousin, who is to be a girl from Holland in wooden shoes and soft petticoats and muslin blouse and funny little cap, will be quite as attractive in her own way, though \$50 would cover the whole cost of her outfit.

The Dutch costume is a good and inexpensive one for a boy, too, and Italian, Spanish, German and Russian peasants offer good models demanding little expense, while the Montenegrin, Serbian and Hungarian costumes seem expressly designed for first aid to comic opera and fancy dress ball costumes.

We were told that at this same New Year's eve party of which we have spoken, whenever children wear fancy dresses they afford opportunities for detectable colorings and lovely effects, but they require skill and much artistic understanding in the designer and maker, for they are hopeless when bungled or when worn by children who cannot carry out the flower ideas.

flowers are sure to be well represented wherever children wear fancy dresses. They afford opportunities for detectable colorings and lovely effects, but they require skill and much artistic understanding in the designer and maker, for they are hopeless when bungled or when worn by children who cannot carry out the flower ideas.



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Activities and Views of Progressive Women in Various Walks of Life

Crusade for High Neck Gowns. A WENTON-FOUR women out of the million or two members of the sex in Greater New York deem the present time propitious for dress reform. The lid has been tightened in many directions calculated to improve the moral and material tone of the metropolis. Why not, they say, put the "low-necked gowns" are they not dangerous to the health of the wearers and an injurious strain on the eyes of men? No doubt of it. The leader of the two dozen is Doctor Adelaide Wallerstein, a woman of experience professionally and socially, and she claims to know the hidden and exposed perils of the abridged garment. Every member of the club is pledged never to appear in public wearing a bodice cut lower than the collarbone.

only to the clavicle, I consider that non-sensuous. "The shoulders and the neck of most women are fair to see, and the fashion of showing them to be commended, and the sight is far from demoralizing if the line commended by good taste is observed. No artistic woman needs to be told what this line is, and if she chooses to err on the side of the inartistic no club of women ever got together can keep her from it.

And this the fond husband eagerly repeats. "The so-called master of the house doesn't want a boss for a wife. He wants a baby. He doesn't even desire the refinement and culture which a school teacher might bring into his home.

the school ma'am, should she not be content with single bills? "In this regard the school teacher is not equipped for the married state. She is not, as a rule, attractive to men.

Jewett, and Mr. George Cadbury. These gentlemen, with others, have drafted a circular which will be sent to the chief employers of female labor in the city. It says that "organized drinking clubs" are producing serious results, physically and morally, among girls and women.

Women and Industry. The president of Bryn Mawr, speaking on a topic of unusual import, expressed the following opinion: "We are now living in the midst of great, and, I believe, on the whole, beneficent social changes which herald the coming economic independence of women. Everything seems to indicate that women will not only make their way into all except a few of the trades and professions, but that they will be compelled by economic causes beyond their control to stay in them after marriage. Already in teaching, nursing, library work, typewriting, bookkeeping, telephoning, telegraphing, they are steadily taking possession and driving men before them.

possible to buy gowns that would fit. The neck, sleeves, belt, everything in fact was a little out of gear. It was as though the clothes were made for no one in particular. But in these days it is very easy to purchase ready made clothes that will fit you, and the woman who cannot find a skirt to waist in her size and her style is no longer so unfortunate.

"Three years ago," said a woman, commenting on the proposed reform, "I made a trip around the world, during which I made this discovery: That in no other country on earth is the high, stiff collar worn by women to the extent that it is worn in America. In the orient a woman wearing a lace collar wired as high as her ears and fastened up tightly, or a stiff linen collar, would be looked upon as a freak, and the high, stiff collar is the fashion of covered up European cities the fashion of covering up the smallest fraction of the neck with some sort of uncomfortable stiff bandage doesn't begin to be practiced as it is right here in New York. Stiff collars ruin the shape of the neck.

As it Happens. They parted as girls, they met as women, relates Young's Magazine. "And what of all your sweethearts?" asked the old-time chum at length.

"The pedagogical is a gullible creature. She is constantly associated in her work with the immature mind. The teachers who do marry are not capable of intelligent choice. They are apt to be fooled by blarney. A smooth-tongued, sophisticated man may enthrall the woman whose associates are the fresh, simple, youthful-minded school children. And after the honeymoon comes misery.

Curse of English Factory Life. A meeting was held in Birmingham, England, recently, to consider means to check the spread of drink traffic among women and girls employed in factories. The prime movers in the agitation against the traffic have been Canon Denton Thompson, rector of Birmingham, the Rev. Mr.

knave that'll cost 35 cents," replied Willie. "Huh! I'd hate to have as stingy a mother as yours."

There is Difference. In England to call a woman homely means that she is fond of anything about home and is unpretending; in the United States it means not handsome. To be clever in England means to be destitute and with us the term signifies good-natured or honest. We say crackers, they say biscuits; our mail is the post; and a baggage check in England becomes brasses, while they say luggage for baggage. A tramp in England is a beggar, but in the United States is a man who must leave school to earn a living, with such preparation, girls are much better able to begin the work of life.

Chat About Women. Ainslie's Magazine says that the American girl is brought up to think more of herself than of marriage, and that if she feels like marrying she will marry upon some man; the French girl, on the contrary, has been taught to think more of marriage than of herself. In France the suitor is looked upon as a veritable Lohengrin, the knight who has come to free the sleeping beauty.

Sayings of the Children as Related by Fond Parents

Why School Teachers Do Not Marry. Miss Catherine Goggin, secretary of the Chicago Teachers' federation, gives some startling reasons why school teachers generally do not regard marriage as a desirable vocation. Miss Goggin is unmarried and is proud of it. Her opinion of the "lord of creation" is tart and yellowish regards him as a "lemon." From inquiry and investigation she deduces these facts and conclusions:

Tommy—Going to write to Santa Claus? Johnny—Yes; I shall say: "You and I are practical men."

Mother—Jack, when I gave you and Ella each an orange, you both promised not to eat them until after dinner. Is it possible you have deceived me? Little Jack—No, mamma; I ate Ella's and she ate mine.

Small Gilbert—Papa, didn't I hear you tell mamma we would have to economize? Papa—Yes, my son. Small Gilbert—Well, you might begin by getting me a pony, then I shouldn't wear out so many shoes.

Small Elmer—Why from the dictionary, of course. Kind Lady (to little boy)—Here is a dime, little boy. Now tell me what you are crying about and pocketing the dime? Little Boy (taking and pocketing the dime)—I ain't cryin', mum. Dis is me natural face.

Small Elmer—Teacher, may I go out to kneecap? Teacher—That is unnecessary, Tommy. You can kneecap in here without disturbing anybody. Tommy—I guess you never heard me kneecap.

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