

HINTS FOR THE HOME DRESSMAKER.

When She Graduates

By Mary Eleanor O'Donnell

THERE are two gowns in a girl's life that are prominently important: the graduating gown and the wedding gown. There is something so quaint and charming about the new styles, which are so simple that they are particularly adapted for the making of the graduating frock. The return of these "little girl frocks," as they are called, means that the skirt with flounces has again returned.

A word of warning should, however, be given to the short, plump, sweet girl graduate who wishes to rush to fashion's changes without considering whether the latest will be becoming or not. These new flounced skirts which are now being featured everywhere for graduating frocks are not really becoming for any but the tall, slim girl; for them this is a lovely way to make this most important gown, especially when dappled shadow laces or the sheer embroidered flouncings are used.

Somehow this style seems to call for a saash of flower ribbon, showing old fashioned sprigged designs in soft blurred colors. The body of these sashes, which are in soft satin, is usually in dull white or cream.

Now for the secrets of these slim looking gowns. The first thing to consider is the material. In graduating frocks just about the same materials are used from year to year, though this season spotted Swisses and mercerized stuffs, such as silk muslins, French batistes, organdies, and like material, seem to be more favored. Something soft and yet with a little body is much more suited to the styles of 1910 than the stiffer organdies. The silk muslin comes wide and is really inexpensive. Batiste of an excellent quality can be purchased most reasonably and chiffon lawn, which comes extremely wide, can also be purchased at little cost. All these materials will launder.

All modes shown for the graduating frock are obviously from peasant sources. The sleeves, almost without exception, are made short; that is, reaching to the elbow or slightly below, and finished with sheer undersleeves of more fitting form. The undersleeve, which is also short, shows only about an inch below the sleeve proper.

Some of them are cut to show the elbow, a deplorable exposure, for unless the elbow itself be practically out of sight in flesh and beautified by dimples, it is never attractive. Even the best looking of elbows adds to its charms by veiling itself in thin stuffs. The wise girl will have her sleeve come well over the elbow.

Unfortunately not many girls, even small, plump ones, can have tapering forearms, with small wrists and hands, and unless so blessed they should be most careful to have their sleeves cut of sufficient size, for tight sleeves accentuate the lack of taper in the arm and the size of large wrists and hands.

The sleeve cut in one with the bodice is seen in all these costumes. This style of sleeve commends itself immediately where the frock is home made. To cut the body and sleeve in one is to escape one of the most tiresome parts of dressmaking, the setting in of the sleeve.

The most charming of the blouses shown in these frocks is the one piece arrangement, if the material is wide enough. By this method the sleeve seam and the underarm seam of the waist are in one, so that there is only a single seam to be sewn on either side.

The style is most graceful, and where one is extremely slender the tendency to make one's chest look narrow may be avoided by properly placed tucks or a well shaped yoke.

In aiming for the simplicity of style, which is the chief requirement of the graduating frock, it must be carefully considered that there is always danger of an exaggerated simplicity, and this must be avoided. All new fashions, no matter what their charm or caprice, should really be regarded by womanhood as suggestions rather than as stern laws. It is always possible to get much beauty from an ugly fashion, just as it is possible to get much ugliness from a beautiful fashion. It is the personal element that counts in clothes. Therefore, one must study and strive for that which is adapted to the individual and which tends most to make attractive. It isn't the newness of the idea, so much as it is the newness with which it is carried out.

This spring it is the youth note that counts in graduating frocks. There is no place for modes that are complicated. The only touch of quaintness is that of the charming old time sort.

The popular corsage for these frocks has no neckband at all, so that the throat is left quite uncovered. In some cases no attempt is made to relieve the corsage of the somewhat unfinished appearance, such as the arrangement gives. It is a little girl fashion; that is certain. Any child looks delightful with her throat bare, and almost any girl graduate does too.

The collarless bodice brings in its train the vogue of the flat lace collar—the collar of our grandmothers. Time was when these dames thought nothing of investing anywhere from \$100 to \$200 in a lace collar. The woman of today, however, may buy them at almost any price, but it is the real hand made lace collar which is considered most correct. This may be credited by the girl graduate or be of Mechlin, point de Venise, Cluny, or Irish. Fortunately, indeed, is the girl who has such treasures among her heirlooms. The name by which these collars are mostly known is the Claudine collar.

What of the girl graduate with the scrawny neck? The only thing for her to do is to go to the beauty shop for bleaching and massage, and every day from now on until her graduation take neck exercises. But where a girl finds that any of the new V or Dutch necks are unbecoming to her she will do well to defy the collarless mode and keep at least a plain, sheer veiling of lace or mousseline over her throat. There is no denying, however, that much can be done to make an ugly neck beautiful.

In planning the graduating outfit do not get too many frocks. A frock for every class occasion is foolishness. The graduating frock and a pretty, simple little frock that will answer for reception wear are all that is needed. The graduating frock should, of course, be white, the other little frock will be found more satisfactory if chosen with a white background, with sprigs of flowers in it; use flower sprigs in pink, lavender, or yellow, with simply tucked or plaited skirts or gored skirts with clus-



A Charmingly Simple and Girlish Model.

ters of tiny tails on either side of front and the back and finished with two ruffles.

Bodices tucked or gaitered on the shoulder and made with a square Dutch neck finished with a little real cluny or Irish lace or Irish inserting and valenciennes lace. Sleeves a trifle full and ending just below the elbow in a lace cut band matching the neck-finish. Bodice and skirt joined together by a waist band of the material. With this frock is worn a sash.

The slim looking effect is the thing most sought for in these gowns. It rests in the arrangement of the lining and the adjusting of the top of the skirt. Most of these frocks are made without an attached lining, a separate slip being worn instead. Even for the full figure a dress of soft, thin material is much better unless if a heat, well made foundation slip is worn underneath it.

In selecting the lingerie fine grades should be chosen for the body of the material, rather than the cheaper ones and more elaborate trimming. It will be found that batiste is a much better choice than handkerchief linen. The latter wears well, but costs more and musses easily and is also inclined to get stringy. Every possible plait or gather is omitted from the lingerie, the lines following closely the lines of the dress. The combinations are the most popular. The pattern which includes the drawers, skirt, and corset cover in one, is by far the favorite. Whatever form is decided upon, get a good pattern. Trimmings are easily varied if the lines are good.

The favorite trimmings are valenciennes, cluny, fine Irish lace, and a tiny, fine torchon. Whatever the lace, hand embroidery is combined with it. The favorite forms in embroidery are wreath and festoons of small flowers, medallions grouped in different sizes, or detached bunches of flowers. The fashion idea in regard to underwear is that it must be perfectly smooth fitting. There must be absolutely no fullness about the waist or hips, and flat effects in decoration hold sway. In matter of shoes and hosiery, both should match the gown.

As to coiffures, fashion has again favored the girl graduate. The first demand is that it be simple. There are no more formal curls, no more hard and fast pulls, no heavy and hot rats. There are innumerable styles in coiffure, but all are characterized by simplicity and softness. This season it is the duty to emphasize the shape of the head. The hair may be worn in a low pompadour or parted in front. The side hair must be brushed back horizontally and



For Class Day Affairs



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