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For the Baby.

ILL-FITTING and uncomfortable clothing is responsible for much of the ill nature displayed by men and women, and has made many a baby cross and fretful, that suitably clothed would have been happy and contented.

The material of a baby's clothes should be soft and fine. When the cost must be carefully counted, it is wise to discard all trimming and put the money thus saved on the quality and quantity of material. Plenty of garments are necessary, for a healthy, playful child and dirt seem to have a mutual attraction for each other.

Pretty percales, soft cambrics and flannels, in

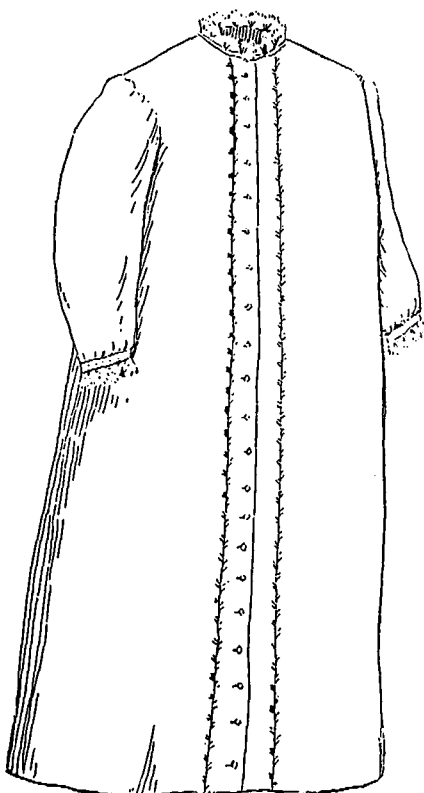


Fig. 1—Baby Wrapper.

these days of low prices, can be bought very reasonably. Neatly made, and when the time can be allowed, finished by hand, they are dainty enough to satisfy anyone.

When laundered, no starch ought to be put in any of baby's clothes. Indeed, soft, graceful folds are now so much admired, that stiff, starched dresses and skirts are things of the past for any one.

A wrapper of white cambric, like fig. 1, is a most useful garment for a baby. It is cut in two pieces only. The seam is in the middle of back. A hem, an inch wide, should be allowed for around the bottom and up each side of the front. A narrow frill of soft lace is put around the neck and bottom of the sleeves. A row of feather-stitching ornaments each side of the front. It is worked just inside the hem with crochet cord, No. 12. The wrapper is buttoned with small, white pearl buttons.

Percale with a white ground, over which there is a small figure of blue or pink, will make a pretty wrapper, simply finished with a hem. Such a garment will be found very convenient to put on baby in the morning until ready for its bath.

In winter, when additional warmth is desirable a blue or pink flannel wrapper will prove to be a thing not only of beauty but comfort also. When flannel is used, the edge should be finished with a binding of narrow ribbon of the same color as the material.

The diagram (fig. 2) shows exactly how the wrapper is cut. The front edges are straight and the

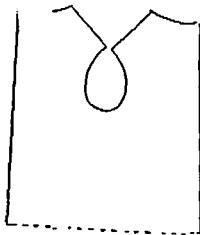


Fig. 2.—Diagram for Cutting.

back seam is bias. It is best to first cut a paper pattern the exact size wanted, then there is sure to be no waste of material. Unless the goods are very wide, twice the length of the wrapper will be required. The sleeves can be cut out of the pieces that come off the sides and should be loose enough to slip on easily.

A pretty sack (fig. 3) can be cut by this same pattern, by making it shorter and rounding the corners.

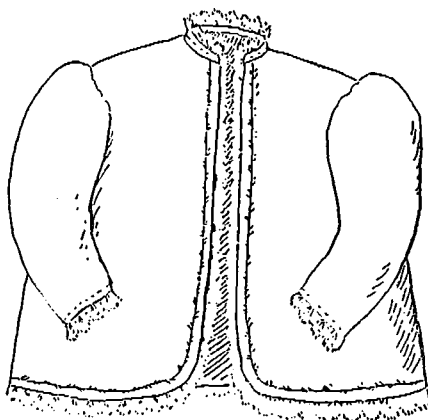


Fig. 3.—Baby Sack.

Flannel or cashmere are suitable materials. Cream white flannel makes a very dainty sack. It can be finished with a narrow roll hem and an edge crocheted of cream white two-threaded Saxony-yarn. Cashmere in any pale shade looks well in these little sacks, and another pretty finish is a small scallop button-hole stitched with silk of the same shade as the cashmere.

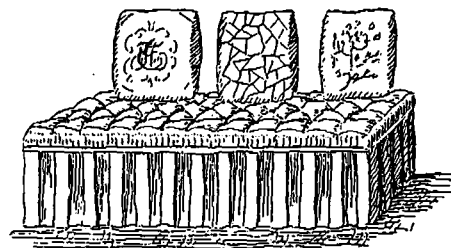
An apron for a child two or three years old can be cut by this same pattern. Fold the print or gingham in the centre of the width and place the straight edge of the pattern on the fold. This will make the apron bias at the back. Larger or smaller gores will have to be put on at the lower part of the back, according to the material used.

The apron is hemmed around the button, and the neck finished with a narrow ruffle. Buttons and buttonholes close it at the back. The bias edges on which the buttons are sewed and in which the buttonholes are worked are faced with a straight strip of the material. This prevents them pulling out of place when laundered. Such aprons are easily made and serve to protect the dress.

Home-Made Couch.

"KITTY D." writes: I have been needing a couch or lounge for my sitting-room for some time, but did not feel as if I could afford to spend the money. A week or two ago I happened to see a long, rather narrow box in the wood-shed, and the thought came to me to try what I could do with it. I had four casters put on it—left out of an old bed-

stead. I made a mattress and three pillows out of coarse muslin. The mattress and two of the pillows were stuffed with sweet, new hay. The other pillow was filled with feathers. It was all covered



HOME-MADE COUCH.

with dark-red oiled calico, of which it required ten yards. The mattress I fastened down at regular distances with buttons, and covered with the calico. For this I used an upholsterer's needle. Around the sides I tacked a box-plaited valance, reaching within an inch of the floor. The covers for two of the pillows I ornamented with outline figures; the cover for the other had a monogram on it. This work was done with yellowish-brown linen floss. When finished, it looked very nicely, and has proved to be comfortable and useful.

Helpful Household Hints.

A paste which will stick anything is said to be made as follows:—Take two ounces of clear gum arabic, one and a half ounces of fine starch, and half an ounce of white sugar. Dissolve the gum arabic in as much water as the laundress would use for the quantity of starch indicated. Mix the starch and sugar with the mucilage. Then cook the mixture in a vessel suspended in boiling water until the starch becomes clear. The cement should be as thick as tar and kept so. It can be kept from spoiling by the addition of camphor or a little oil of cloves.

To cure a felon, mix equal parts of strong ammonia and water, and hold your finger in it for fifteen minutes. After that withdraw it and tie a piece of cloth, completely saturated with the mixture, around the felon and keep it there till dry.

To give a brilliant white light, a lamp needs a thorough cleansing every little while. The oil should be poured out of the fount, leaving no dregs on the bottom. The fount should then be washed in strong soapsuds, rinsed in warm water and dried. It should then be filled with fresh oil. The burner should be boiled in soda and water until the network that crosses it, is freed from dirt and dust. If the wick has become clogged with the sediment, replace it with a new one.

Do you know how to make the quickest kind of tea biscuits in the world? Here is how: a quart of sifted flour, two scant teaspoons baking powder put in before sifting, work a good tablespoon of cold butter thoroughly into it with the fingers until it is nice and crumbly (a pinch of salt also put in before sifting) wet with sweet milk into a stiff batter, which you can poke from the batter spoon with the fingers into little round "dabs" on well-buttered tins; bake them in a moderately quick oven a delicate brown, and you have a "tea cake" that with a dish of fruit, some cold sliced beef, pickles and a cup of good tea, makes a light and dainty repast. To go back a bit, if the milk you use is rich, do not use so much butter (or lard); if it is grocery milk then you may; if you've no milk at all, use sufficient shortening and cold water.