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CORRESPONDENCE PAGE of FASHIONS AND BEAUTY

FIG. B.—SEMI-TAILORED SUIT FOR SUNDAY WEAR, CALLING, ETC.

The Boarding School Girl's Outfit

THE mother who is outfitting her eldest daughter for the latter's first year at boarding school feels as if she were providing a trousseau. This is because boarding school life is little understood by the average mother, who is far more apt to provide too much rather than too little.

In a first-class finishing or preparatory school of good standing, simplicity of dress is almost mandatory, and the over-dressed girl is an object of ridicule and not of admiration. In fact it will take her some time to live down the reputation of being newly rich or underbred which too elaborate a wardrobe will give her.

Silk frocks, crepe de chine waists, many separate blouses and fancy skirts—these are among the articles of raiment tabooed at good schools. This does not mean that the up-to-date school outfit is cheap, but it does mean that it is simple and shows fineness of material rather than elaboration.

In frocks, certain things are absolutely essential. The girl of sixteen or thereabouts must have what the boarding-school miss calls her Peter Thompson suit, which is really a very finely fitted and tailored suit with deep collar, embroidered shield and pleated skirt. In one material, tailor made, this suit will cost, to order at least $25.00, but it is the one costume the girl will perhaps wear during the entire term in the class room and for her ordinary outdoor exercise.

If the suit is made at home—and this can be done by employing a reliable pattern—it will cost considerably less. French serge in navy blue is the standard choice for this suit, and the same quality of material can be had in hunter's green, maroon and warm nut-brown.

Care must be taken about finishing the suit to give it the tailored look which is considered smart. Pressing and fine stitching alike are important factors in securing this result. If any trimming is employed, it must be a flat braid in self-tone or black, rather than one showing violent contrast, such as white or light tan. The dickey or shield may be made of the same material or of white pique. If made of the serge, a piping of pique or linen must be worn around the neck, a narrow linen ruching or a fine but plain turnover.

In the model shown, Fig. A, the requirements of the school room are admirably met. The skirt is laid in broad side pleats, finished with two rows of hercules braid in contrasting width. The buttons may be omitted on the skirt, as they are apt to wear against desk and books. Despite the prevailing craze for three-quarter length sleeves, for general class-room wear full length sleeves with narrow turn-back cuffs of linen or lawn are in better taste than the shorter sleeve. The skirt should have a narrow matching belt, finished with stitching or fine braid sewn very flat.

Next in importance in the school girl's wardrobe is the semi-tailored suit which she wears while traveling to and from school and for trips to the shops, church, etc. While this is tailored, it should not be too severe, or the girl will feel the necessity of a trifle better suit for church wear and other more or less dressy occasions. The design shown in Fig. B gives a fairly good idea of what is needed for this purpose.

Here you have plain and striped cloth of the same weight, excellent combined, and the sleeves are roomy enough to admit of a fluffy waist beneath for dress-up occasions. For traveling, a plain matching blouse of silk or veiling is used, while for better wear a very fine marquisette or chiffon cloth over silk, with strappings of the cloth, may be substituted. Whatever the blouse, it must match in coloring and simplicity the design of the tailored suit. This design was drawn from a model in rich tan color broadcloth, trimmed with striped broadcloth, tan and brown in hue, and a touch of embroidery in VanDyke points, brown, tan, gold and a tiny dash of pale blue. The tailored blouse was of tan-colored silk, but for dressy wear a blouse made of chiffon cloth over matching silk, with touches of ecru lace and embroidery in matching tones, would be most effective.

A third important dress for the boarding-school miss is the pretty and girlish confection which she will need for faculty receptions, hops, etc. This should be developed in a distinctly girlish fabric, such as batiste, mulle or other so-called tub fabrics—never in silk, satin or crepe de chine. The only silk permissible for a boarding-school wardrobe is the soft China or taffeta silk underslip which is used beneath thin frocks.

The design shown in Fig. C will develop in half a dozen pleasing fabrics. It was done in white silk mulle with a silvery sheen and trimmings of imitation Irish lace. Pale blue mulle with ecru lace, fine batiste with batiste embroidery in plain white or with the dash of delicate coloring, blue, pink or yellow, which is shown in the newer embroideries, would be equally effective. The deep tucks in the skirt and the kimono effect of the jumper are particularly becoming to a slender figure.

In addition to this evening gown the young lady will need a simpler dress or two for wear to dinner each night. Tub fabrics, made with full skirts and Dutch neck blouses and soft ribbon girdles, are worn in the average school where steam heat is found. For cooler nights, an Empire design developed in challie, cashmere or veiling, with a deep yoke or tucker of lace or tucked net and elbow sleeves with cuffs to match the yoke, is far better than separate silk skirts with fancy blouses that do not harmonize and are much ever-trimmed.

A very important feature of the girl's outfit is her storm skirt and coat for long walks in bad weather. She also should have a well-made gymnasium suit. Her shoes should include heavy walking boots, a pair of dress shoes to wear with her best tailored costume, a neat pair of ties, if she likes low shoes for the class room, a pair of dancing pumps for evenings, and a pair of bedroom slippers.

Plain lisle or silk stockings are preferred to open-work or embroidered designs, brown hosiery with tan shoes, black with black. She should have three hats—a severely tailored one to match her suit for traveling and ordinary wear, a more dressy one with feathers or fancy wings for church, and a soft, boyish felt hat for rough weather wear.

She will need a liberal supply of simple, not over-trimmed, lingerie, practically what she should have at home, and everything must be clearly marked.

Mary Dean

FIG. A.—THE POPULAR SAILOR COSTUME FOR CLASSROOM WEAR.

THE ETIQUETTE OF ENGAGEMENTS

THE regulation crop of engagements is about to be announced, as the result of moonlight nights and vacation propinquity. Some of these will be typical summer boy and girl engagements, which nobody but the two interested parties will regard seriously. Others will affect the happiness not only of those immediately concerned but parents, relatives and friends, to whom the engaged couple owe certain obligations.

The American girl considers it to be her right to pass first on a proposal, and then she expects her well-trained parents to agree with her. For this reason the old-fashioned custom of a young man's asking permission of the father to pay his addresses to the daughter is dead. He proposes to the girl, and from her gets an idea of the psychological moment for consulting her father and mother. As a rule, the up-to-date man calls in person on the parents, but if the young people are far from the daughter's home—perhaps they have met at the house of mutual friends or abroad—the young man writes a straightforward, manly letter to the father. If his suit is accepted, he then notifies his own family, who must call on the girl if they live in the vicinity, or write her cordial little notes showing that she will be welcome in the family.

The girl returns these calls or answers the notes promptly. Many an unfortunate matrimonial difference arises because the young wife, when a fiancee, was careless in her treatment of her sweetheart's mother, or assumed that she was not welcome in the family.

If possible, at the beginning of her engagement a girl will avoid visiting the family of her fiance. Let her become a little accustomed to the new relation before she becomes too intimate with his family.

Two problems which immediately confront the engaged couple are these: The amount of time to be spent together and the number of presents the man is expected to shower upon his fiancee. This is not so much a matter of actual etiquette as of common sense. A girl has a perfect right to expect an engagement ring in proportion to the income of her fiance. Generally speaking, a diamond solitaire of medium size is selected, but if either party feels a certain sentiment for a stone, it may be chosen, or a girl may choose her own birthstone. A young man is supposed to remember his intended's birthday and to send her a remembrance at such times as Christmas, Easter, etc. But the girl engaged to a man of moderate circumstances, whose salary she knows will just support them comfortably after marriage, should not expect to be showered with expensive gifts. She may be sure that after marriage she will pay for this extravagance in some form of household stringency. No well brod girl accepts either money or clothes from the man to whom she is engaged.

Many an engaged couple make the mistake of seeing too much of each other, and more than one broken engagement can be traced directly to the cloying effect of frequent meetings. A call two or three times a week and perhaps on Sunday is quite sufficient. It is not at all necessary for a girl to abstain from all other social interests simply because she is engaged. Only a most unreasonable man will object to her dancing with other partners, but he has a right to object to her driving or walking regularly with another man.

The girl who expects her fiance to ignore the existence of all other women is entirely unreasonable. The fact that he has asked a girl to marry him is the highest compliment he could pay her, and she should not interpret his courtesy to other women as a slight upon herself.

Where the family connections are very large and the two families well acquainted, a dinner to relatives is sometimes given for the purpose of announcing the engagement. When the two families have no interest in common, or live far apart, it is far more customary for the bride's mother to give a little luncheon for her daughter's girl friends, at which the engagement is formally announced. It goes without saying that the guests will carry the news. Formal announcements either by card or in the newspapers are not necessary, nor desirable, except in Jewish society, where the betrothal is a very formal affair and regarded as seriously as the marriage itself.

When a girl is away for the summer or abroad she announces her engagement to her friends by mail, brief and informal little notes being sufficient. These friends must reply immediately, congratulating the man, if they know him, and wishing the girl much happiness. You never congratulate the girl.

When the engagement does not terminate happily, and, for the good of all concerned, it is broken, the tact and diplomacy of both parties is called into play. While nothing is said the man allows it to be regarded as a foregone conclusion that the girl asked for her release. Both should refrain religiously from discussing the matter with their acquaintances or relatives.

Prudence Standish

FIG. C.—EFFECTIVE EVENING FROCK FOR HOPS, FACULTY RECEPTIONS, ETC.

Dog Day Ailments and Their Relief

THE midsummer heat seems to bring to light every latent skin ailment and particularly to emphasize complexion defects. Perhaps the most common affliction of the summer girl is freckles. In this case one ounce of prevention is worth two pounds of a cure, and her first aid is veiling the skin. The woman with a tendency to freckle should never go bare-headed or bare-handed, because the more sensitive her skin, the more deeply will the freckles be rooted. For driving, motoring and long walks, she should add to the broad shade hat a veil, brown or red preferred. The new geranium or cerise colored veils break the rays of light admirably, and are most useful for this purpose.

To keep light freckles in subjection there are various homemade lotions, all within reach of the summer girl. One of these is fresh buttermilk, which should be used night and morning, and allowed to dry on. The best method of applying it is to dip an old piece of linen into a bowl of milk and then pat the face with it gently. This is equally a good remedy for tan and sunburn. Another home-made lotion consists of a teaspoonful of horseradish, grated and mixed with a cup of sour milk. Let the mixture stand for six hours, and apply two or three times daily. When the freckles are very deep set a more vigorous treatment must be used. Every night before retiring bathe the face in water as hot as it can be borne, then apply a pomade as follows:

Oxide of zinc, 10 grams; talcum, 10 grams; powdered soap, 60 grams; lanoline, 8 grams; tincture of benzoin, 10 grams; rain water, 92 grams; glycerine, 10 grams. The soap, powdered for this pomade, should be one of the plain white soaps, which contains no free alkali and does not bite when touched with the tongue. Allow this pomade to remain on over night.

The girl who is not accustomed to outdoor life and who wakes up in the night with a stinging sensation in the face and arms is very apt to seek relief in cold water. If she only realized that she had an incipient case of sunburn she would flee from the water basin and use a remedy that will not increase her suffering as water does. A mild solution of witch hazel applied to the affected parts will give temporary relief. In the morning bathe the face, arms and neck with water as hot as can be borne, repeating the applications for ten or fifteen minutes. Then pat the face with old linen, or antiseptic gauze, dipped into cucumber cream, made from the following formula:

Oil of sweet almonds	4 ounces
Fresh cucumber juice	10 ounces
Essence of cucumbers	3 ounces
White castile soap (powdered)	½ ounce
Tincture of benzoin	2-3 drachm

The juice of cucumbers is obtained by boiling them in a very little water. Slice them very thin, skin and all, and let them cook slowly till soft and mushy; strain through a fine sieve and then through a cloth. Make the essence by putting an ounce and a half of the juice into the same quantity of high-proof alcohol. Put the essense with the soap in a large jar or bottle—the larger the better, as the mixture requires much shaking. After a few hours, when the soap is dissolved, add the cucumber juice, shake till thoroughly mixed, then pour out into an earthen bottle and add the oil and the benzoin, stirring constantly till you have a creamy liquid. Be sure that the cucumber juice is strong, for it is the natural arsenic in the cucumber which imparts its wonderfully whitening powers. Put the emulsion in small bottles, keep tightly corked and in the dark, and always shake before using. It is so quickly absorbed by the skin that it is very pleasant to use.

If the eyes burn in summer, and show a tendency to inflammation of the lids, use an eye cup containing tepid water with a few drops of boric acid. This is a very simple and effective remedy. If a girl so afflicted spends much time on the water she should train herself to wear blue or smoked glasses.

Many girls write to me that they are annoyed by the heaviness and sourness of their hair in midsummer when it is apt to emit a somewhat unpleasant odor. For this, of course, the one cure is cleanliness. The hair must be shampooed, using a little borax in the water, rinsed very thoroughly, then dried and ventilated in the sunlight. Never braid the hair or dress it when it is a little damp next to the scalp. This is the most common cause for the sour odor. Shake the hair in the sunlight until it is dry to the very roots. Unless it is very dry and apt to break, there is really no harm in washing the hair once a week in summer. Between shampoos, moisture, perspiration and oil can be absorbed by ventilating the hair at night, shaking orris root into the scalp and brushing it out carefully in the morning.

Another common complaint from the summer girl is her inability to keep her hair in curl. I give a most reliable curling lotion, which can be used in connection with kid curlers, but not oftener than two or three times a week. Divide the hair into strands, dampen with this lotion and put up on curlers until dry, or over night:

1 ounce of good gum arabic; ½ ounce of good moist sugar; ½ pint of pure hot water. Dissolve this and when cold add 2 fluid ounces of alcohol; 6 grains each of bichloride of mercury and salammoniac. These last two should be dissolved in the alcohol before admixture. Lastly, add enough water to make the whole a pint, and perfume with any desired cologne.

Katherine Morton

Rejuvenating the Summer Hat

THIS is the time of the year when the effect of the sun on dainty hats has almost ruined them, yet it is too early to invest in a fall hat. Consequently, the girl of foresight will bend her efforts towards making the old one take on a new look.

The first move is to rip off all the trimming. Then, if the hat is a black straw, wash it off with a little warm suds, let it dry in the sun, give it a liberal coating of shoe blacking, and again dry in the sun. This will take away the dusty, gray look. But if the hat is a colored one, faded to some indistinguishable hue, go to your druggist and buy a dye of the same color for straw. In buying dyes always state what you want them for; there are dyes for wool, dyes for cotton, dyes for silk and feathers, and dyes for straw. Dye the old hat the same color it originally was, and follow the directions carefully. So much for the hat itself.

The ribbon should be void of all threads, and if it was wired, this also must be taken out. Ribbon which has not faded but is simply soiled should be washed with naptha soap and lukewarm water. Do not rub it, but put a lather of soap on the ribbon and let it remain for a few minutes, then rinse, and iron dry between two pieces of sheeting or some white cloth without lint. Black ribbons are best freshened by going over them with a cloth dampened with warm water, to which a few drops of ammonia have been added. They should be ironed under a cloth. This done, baste back the wire and arrange the bow as before.

Flowers that are faded badly are almost beyond redemption, but if they are merely soiled they can be given new life by dipping them in naphtha several times and letting them dry. Wash the green leaves off carefully one by one with the naphtha, and your bunch of flowers will be fairly gay once more. If the flowers do not lend themselves to treatment, do not put them back on the hat. Either buy a couple of new quills or a new bunch of flowers to take the place of the old ones.

Should the hat be trimmed with lace, this should be washed with a pure white soap or naphtha soap, rinsed many times, and wound around a large empty bottle to dry. Lace should never be ironed, particularly if it is a good quality. Ironing sets the pattern down flat and takes away much of its distinction.

Velvet can be made to look almost new again by pulling out all stray threads and steaming over the mouth of a kettle on a little tin fixture which comes for the purpose. If you cannot get this fixture, dampen the back of the velvet, turn an iron on end, and run the dampened side of the velvet over the back of the iron slowly so that the steam comes from it. This should take out most of the creases.

Feathers can be both cleaned and dyed at home. They are best cleaned by dipping in naptha and drying in the sun. The fashion for tightly curled feathers has practically gone out, and the very straight ends can be slightly curled by throwing a handful of salt on the kitchen stove, holding the feather over this, and curling with the back of a silver knife. The salt gives out a very dry heat which tends to make the feathers curl naturally.

All these things done, your trimming is fresh again, and should be put back on the hat. You will then find that you need not buy a new hat until the fall fashions have been out for some time, and you have fully decided just what you want in the way of new millinery.

MARY DEAN.

TASTY MEATLESS DISHES

Cream Crabs in Peppers: If you live near salt water where crabs are obtainable this is a most inexpensive dish. If you are not in a crab country, substitute any good white fish with a firm texture. Select large, green sweet peppers of uniform size, one for each person. Cut off enough of the stem ends to make the vegetable set firmly, but do not make an opening through which the juice can come. Cut off the tops, scrape out the seeds, and throw into ice water to soak for an hour. For six peppers make the following mixture: A coffee cupful of crab meat, flaked after the crabs have been boiled. In a porcelain or enameled saucepan melt one tablespoon of butter and cream into it one tablespoon of flour. Add slowly one cup of milk, stirring all the while. When this has come to a boil, remove the pan from the fire, add a beaten yolk of one egg, a large teaspoon of chopped parsley, a little lemon juice, salt and paprika. Add the crab meat, return to the fire and bring to boiling point. Remove immediately, wipe out the pepper cases with a soft cloth, and fill with the fish mixture; place in a brisk oven; and bake ten minutes.

Scrambled Eggs and Mushrooms: A very economical dish for the out-of-town housewife who knows where and how to gather mushrooms. For six people a quarter of a pound of mushrooms will be required. They are light in weight. Skin the tops, scrape the stems and wash in cold water; have ready some melted butter, drop in the mushrooms, whole if they are small, halved if they are large; shake vigorously until they are lightly browned, and then set on the back of the stove while you prepare your eggs. Warm a cup of rich milk in which you melt two tablespoons of butter, salt and pepper to taste. In another bowl beat six eggs, whites and yolks together. Stir in the mushrooms and the seasoned milk last. Turn the mixture into a porcelain lined or enameled frying pan, rubbed with butter. Cook over a moderate fire until the eggs are set, using a silver fork to keep the cooked portion from sticking to the bottom and sides of the pan. Serve on hot toast garnished with parsley.

If perplexed in matters of dress, beauty, or etiquette, write to Miss Dean, Miss Morton or Miss Standish, enclosing a self-addressed and stamped envelope for reply. This is a quicker method than having your question answered in the columns of the paper. Besides, you receive a personal, intimate answer. Be careful to address your return envelope accurately. Letters come back to us every day, stamped "insufficient address" or "party cannot be found."