## The Western Home Monthly

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# Woman and the Home

#### Dressing

There are many mothers who can dress themselves, but who cannot dress their children. Many mothers have the false idea that it doesn't matter a bit how the children look as long as they are strong and healthy. Certainly health should come first, but clothes have a tremendous effect on the health of the normal happy child. Every child is born with a longing to make the best of itself in every way.

In some children this instinct is stronger than in others, but everyone has got it originally, so that we handicap our children terribly when we put them into clothes that don't suit them.

#### Pride in Appearance

We know ourselves how important dress is in every walk of life, how "pride in appearance" helps to keep people respectable longer than anything else, and yet we don't think it worth while to cultivate this "pride in appearance" in our children, for some old-fashioned and absurd reason that it is "pandering to their vanity."

#### Self-Respect

want to "look nice," it is self-respect. We should do well to help this self-respect and

ment, she held her own little frock towards

Poor child, I didn't know what to say. It was the ugliest frock for a child I had ever seen, a dirty mustard yellow that made her golden curls dull and lustreless.

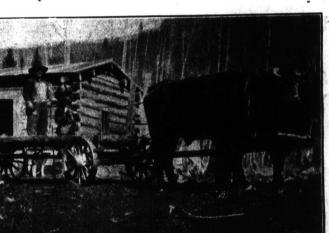
That child's face haunted me the whole evening; it was the most miserable little human countenance I had ever seen.

#### The Effect on Children

Even the bright child will be brighter if she is dressed or dresses well. There is no doubt that the girl who is "clever at school" is rather apt to neglect her personal appearance, and the inclination to think little of the "pretty side" of life stays with her through college days.

It is such a shame that the "social" side of them, that is the "dress" side, should be so totally neglected, when its cultivation, in conjunction with their undoubted talents, would make them such irresistible women. From every point of view slovenly dressing has a deteriorating effect on our children, whether we indulge in slovenly dressing or they do.

A little boy was fishing; and, drawing in It is not vanity that makes the child his line, found that the bait had been taken off without result, whereupon he burst into tears and said: "It's cheating!"



An amusing feature of an Englishman's homestead. Far from civilization but true to tradition, he brought the big zinc bath tub along with him. When not in use it was left outside, owing to the smallness of the quarters

not retard it. We do not want to turn our children into fashion-plates, as the French mother does, nor dress them in the hideously healthy "reform clothes," as the German mother does. But we want to

from England That beautiful do a little of both.

We want to realise, as the Frenchwoman does, that our children's dress is a most important "affair of life"; to realise, as the frenchwoman does, that our children are entitled to being tastefully clothed, while, at the same time, we borrow a little of the commonsense that characterises the German mother, and which makes her dress her children in clothes that give the children the minimum of discomfort.

A kind of uniform—say sailor suits is often very effective for the dressing of a mixed family of boys and girls, but only if the children are very much alike.

Certainly in the dressing of both boys and girls, simple clothes, with the "right cut," are infinitely more effective than any amount of over-elaboration.

## Slovenly Dressing

The shy child will become much more shy if it is badly dressed. The shy child is generally a sensitive child, too, and what it means to a sensitive child to wear ugly clothes only those who have experienced it in childhood can possibly tell. I remember going to a party one day, a children's party, and helping with the

festivities. There were not enough chairs, and I went to fetch one from an ante-room. In a corner of it, with her face buried in her hands, was a little girl sobbing as if her

"Why, Doris, my dear," I said, "whatever is the matter?" "I ca-can't tell you." she replied. But, after a lot of persuasion, I got at the truth. "All the girls have such pretty frocks" she told me, "and look"—with a dramatic little moveheart would break.

#### The Stream

'Tis hidden deep beneath the boughs That droop from banks so brown and

Yet strewn with last year's beechen leaves That rustle when the winds go by.

Its voice is soft and seems to soothe The fret and hustle of the day, It seems somehow dull care slips by And with its eddies drifts away.

oft when the tall trees whispering Drop down a yellow leaf to float It seems sometimes a golden thought. And then again a fairy boat.

'Tis just the spot to rest a while, To idle hours and dream, aye dream, And let the cares of the to-day Drift with the eddies down the stream.

#### She Followed Directions

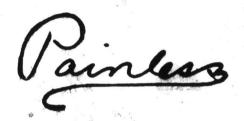
After a month's work in intensely warm weather a gardener in the suburbs became ill, and the anxious little wife sent for a doctor, who wrote a prescription after examining the patient. The doctor, upon departing, said: "Just let your husband take that and you'll find he will be all right in a short time

Next day the doctor called again, and the wife opened the door, her face beaming with smiles. "Sure, that was a wonderful wee bit of paper you left yesterday," she exclaimed. "William is better to-day."
"I'm glad to hear that," said the much-

pleased medical man. Not but what I hadn't a big job to get him to swallow it," she continued, "but, sure, I just wrapped up the wee bit of paper quite small and put it in a spoonful jam, and William swallowed it un-

beknownst. By night he was entirely

better."



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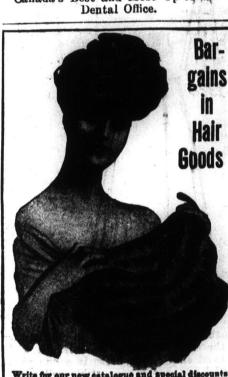
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