



Dainty Things for the Baby to Wear

INTO his own tiny chest of drawers, or wicker hamper, drift, one by one, the daintiest bits of beauty for that all-important wee mortal—the baby—to wear. Simple everything must be, soft and free from frills, so that there is no danger of chafing the sensitive skin; but, beyond that, there is no end to the pretty ideas which can be carried out in making his clothes.

Everything, from the woolen bands or the little shirts, which are hardly more than bands, to his best bib and tucker, in the shape of coat and cap and sacque, should be made of materials that will wash. French flannels make exquisite sacques and sort, satiny broadcloths the prettiest of coats, but neither of them can stand the repeated cleaning which is necessary to keep them immaculate.

Kimonos, both long and short, have made themselves almost necessities in baby outfits. The most satisfactory, of the shorter ones, are those cut in a single piece, nightingale fashion, tiny bows of ribbon taking the place of seams both for the sleeves and under the arm. Bunches of small flowers, embroidered on each side of the front at the neck—just outside of the bands—and repeated, in a smaller way, in the lower corners and on the sleeves, make the prettiest sort of trimming. These little kimonos may be made of a single color, and are a little newer that way, although the bands are a simple, effective way of trimming.

To get away from so many things buttoning down the back, most of the new baby petticoats fasten with two flat buttons right over the shoulder. The prettiest finish for neck and armholes, and for the edge of the petticoat as well, is a button-holed scallop, left plain, or ornamented with an embroidered dot set in each scallop, with perhaps another row of them placed directly above it.

For the little dress in which he is to be christened, those styles with round yokes are usually most becoming.

Soft cashmere, or those Bedford cords which

wash as well, almost, as a cotton stuff, make satisfactory coats; and caps are best made of some thin, washable stuff, furnished with a warm, quilted lining of pink or blue. And make the big rosette at the top of inch-wide wash ribbon.

There is a pretty way of tying the baby's cap which does away with that uncomfortable bow just under his chin, and that bow almost invariably gets chewed and reduced to a limp white rag within a few minutes of its tying. The ribbons are fastened to the two corners of the cap, crossed under the little chin, brought up and tied in a washing big bow right on top. Fasten the bow in place with a tiny safety-pin, carefully hidden from sight.

Besides the simple little outfit shown, barrow coats and flannel petticoats, long wrappers and socks—even the most diminutive of bedroom slippers sewed onto soft, pliable linings and those shapeless, but cunning, moonshoes—dozens of pretty baby things are made, for use, or just for their very prettiness. Coats and caps which match, made of soft silk, rich but lustrous, and embroidered with eyelets and dots combined into a graceful design, are stunning, if you can afford to keep them for the "best" coat. They should be interlined, of course, with flannel, or lined with quilted silk.

Sacques are usually embroidered in a pale shade of color, the prettiest of all being some soft white woolen material made over the palest pink china silk lining, and embroidered with silk that matches—not the lining, but the color of the lining—as it shows through the white.

There's a new glove out with the long wrist lined—it's to go with elbow sleeves for very bitter weather.

Artificial flowers have found a place on half a dozen new things this winter. Aside from the use they are in millinery, everything—slippers and girdles, and even gowns—displays them. One fetching little gown had festooned wreaths of the tiniest of roses mounted over very full net ruffles. The effect was as pretty as it was Old World.

THE IMPORTANT PIECES IN A BABY OUTFIT

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New Suggestions for the Women

EMPIRE models in tea gowns are among the loveliest of those shown.

Girdles made of gold or silver braid—the wide, soft kind that drapes so well—make the only bright touch about some of the prettiest costumes. But be careful how you make it; those deep girdles, fitting almost like a sheath about the figure, make what should be trimmed into something unpleasantly dominant.

Japanese belts make the prettiest sort of dress-up girdles for wearing with your best blouses.

These are not those gorgeous affairs—a tangle of vivid, Oriental colors—but are exquisite, all-white ones, with wee lily pads or cherry blossoms embroidered in a half-deep way on a background of rich, heavy silk ribbon.

The belt makes a mighty attractive setting for the buckle it is worn with, and is quite as important an adjunct in its way.

A new way of getting that touch of gold and at the same time half concealing it is by the use of the flowered gold tissue—beautiful, wide ribbon of gold, with flowers scattered well over it, so sheer that the colors and the gold melt into each other in an indescribably soft, pretty way.

But the ordinary flowered girdle is anything but good, except for the very young girl, for her inevitable party frock of thin white, with ribbons. Long sash ends trim some of these girdles, perhaps embroidered heavily at the very ends of the ribbons, where they hang to the hem of the dress.

Still more ruffles conspire to make the gowns of a girl in her first season even more airy and diaphanous.

A stunning evening gown in the wardrobe of one well-known debutante of the season is a coat

and skirt costume—the coat a jaunty little affair of flowered silk, the skirt of the sheerest of mousselines, ruffled and frilled until it was the fluffiest thing imaginable.

And the color of the mousseline matched the background of the silk exactly.

Dresses of silk, soft enough to drape into apparently careless folds, but rich enough not to crease easily, make a charming setting for a slim figure.

The prettiest girdles are a strenuous protest against encroaching Empire lines. They are made with the long, deep point, which made so definite a part of styles in the days of all three of the magnificent Louis' of France.

Dog collars, set with stones, or of curiously old-looking gold seals, are worn at night about the throat; or during the day, if the waist is of white or a delicate shade of color.

Early spring and summer will see the short, or elbow, sleeve universally worn.

The circular skirt is probably the best of the late models from France; but there are charming variations of the kilt skirt which are giving it a hard race for first place.

The Empire styles threaten to descend in earnest on poor, inoffensive womankind. Even the tailors are threatening to inflict short-waisted effects, but it is doubtful whether the sensible American women will adopt the least beautiful part of a fashion that made the wife of the first Napoleon famous.

Blouse patterns show yokes made of strips of lace. There's no bother of planning the way to make it.