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The Toilet and the Baby



IN planning the spring and summer wardrobe, the tailored suit is the first to receive consideration. She is a wise woman who already has ner coat and skirt suit selected and made, as the earliness of the season will make the heavy garments, that have been doing duty up to the present, irksome if they must be retained after the fine weather sets in. This year an early Easter is accompanied by an equally advanced spring in most parts of the country, and new costumes have been brought out accordingly. The best tailors seem to be keeping largely to the regulation, simple lines, but there is considerable variation in details. Plaited skirts are capable of many developments; sometimes they are side-plaited all round, stitched to about knee depth; again the plaits are in groups with plain panels between; back and front may be plain and the sides closely plaited, or plaits may be let in at the gores; occasionally the entire skirt is laid in box plaits. In light serges and cloths, a tunic effect is simulated by an applied fold of the material sewed on at one edge, on a plain gored skirt, or one that has a close-fitting upper part and a plaited flounce considerably deeper at the back than the front. In that case the tunic-simulating fold follows the same line and conceals the joining of skirt and flounce. Coats are shorter than those worn during the winter, reaching about half way between waist and knee. The backs are mostly half loose, the fitting being by seams from the shoulders down, but the fronts show considerable variety. Some are fastened by one large button, some have three buttons and others are closed almost to the hem. A narrow long shawl collar finishes many of the new coats, others have long revers, and the collar in either case is often faced with moire silk. Black moire is used effectively, and the note of black may be repeated in the hat.

The selection of a blouse to wear with the coat and skirt is something of a problem. For the time being, the white lingerie

blouse is not 'the thing' for this purpose. Fashion has decreed in favor of the dress that has the effect of being all in one piece, but a waist of cloth that is sufficiently heavy for a skirt is quite too warm to wear under a coat of the same, unless on the coolest days. The difficulty is overcome by having the blouse in the same color but a different and much thinner material. Chiffon cloth is preferred to net this season, and for general serviceable wear a soft silk or crepe de Chine may be selected. Whatever the material, it must be the same tone of color as the skirt, and in the self-same shade if possible. Where a perfect match cannot be found, it is practicable to buy pure white and send it to a first-class dyer, with a sample of the colored goods.

An Infantile Habit

An Infantile Habit

Every mother knows the baby should not be allowed to suck his thumb, but sometimes one is at one's wit's ends to know how to keep him from it, if he has once formed the habit. The dangers of such thumb-sucking are real, chief among them being the giving the teeth a tendency to grow outward, ruining the shape of the mouth, and making the lips thicker and more protruding. It may also upset the child's digestion, by exciting a continual flow of saliva, which is swallowed. When the habit is just being formed, it may be nipped in the bud by gently removing the little thumb from the mouth every time it is put there.

The cause may be simply hunger, or perhaps the baby's teeth are troubling him, and a soft rubber ring which he can bite on, but not suck, will keep him from seeking help from his poor thumb. But. again, it may just be that he sucks his thumb because he has discovered that he likes to do it. Some mothers find that covering that the baby does not like, such as bitter aloes, is an effective way of giving him a distaste for his thumb as an article of diet. Others advocate making thumbless mittens of old linen for the little hands till he forgets.

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The Queen at a Horse Show

Snapshot of Her Majesty at the London Hackney Show in March. -Copyright, Halftones Ltd.