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What to Wear and when to wear it

WHITEWEAR. From a time beyond our ken, retail merchants have held sales of Whitewear in January, and the past month has been no exception to the rule. A great many of the women on farms very wisely confine themselves to woven or flannelette underwear for general use, as chemise, drawers and nightgowns, and the remaining articles, such as petticoats and corset covers are made at home. Whitewear sales mean little or nothing to them. January and February are quiet months, however, and a good time in which to get summer garments ready, so that a talk on Whitewear is not out of place. During the sales I took a run through some of the largest houses to see if there was anything new in design or in trimmings that might be of use to readers of this column, and must confess there are few novelties to report in either design or decoration. Umbrella drawers seem as popular as ever, petticoats are four and a half to six yards wide, corset covers are sleeveless and nightdresses are low in the neck and many of them finished without collars. Combination garments are not as much in evidence as they were even a year ago, and ladies pyjamas have not, so far, proved popular in Winnipeg.

There is a great deal of lace ruffling on the petticoats, but these are most unsuitable for country wear, and, to my way of thinking, unless you can afford very good lace, they are vulgar. However, the next most popular decoration is one that is suitable to wear in either town or country, and any girl can make it herself. This is hemstitching on both ruffles and tucks. If you want to be very swaggy, you have your ruffles of sheer linen lawn and have two or three tucks on each ruffle. It takes a good deal of time, but I would recommend any girl who is making petticoats for her wedding outfit to try and do them this way. They last for many years, laundry easily, always look elegant, and hold the starch much longer than any decoration of lace or embroidery.

There is a perfect rage for handmade underwear at the present time, and I am glad of it as it is reviving an interest in neat hand sewing that nothing else could do. The fulness in chemise and night dresses that formerly was disposed in gathers is now all taken up by the tiniest hand run tucks and the effect is excellent as the garment lies much flatter to the figure than it can be made to do with gathers.

Another popular decoration is Irish crochet. This is as much in demand for underwear as it is for dresses, and that is saying a great deal.

Crochet insertion and edgings are

both used, and as they are almost indestructible, it pays to give the time to making them.

For garments for midsummer, nainsook is more in favor than longcloth or any of the heavier makes of cotton, and it is much easier to keep a good color.

If there is time to make them, I would recommend any girl or woman having three or four nice whitewear undershirts. If she has that number she will be able to do them up when it is cool, and have a sufficient supply to carry her through such hot months as July and August without having to stew over an ironing board. While skirts done up fairly stiff and with a little glue added to the starch will keep clean for a long time and retain their stiffness.

BLOUSES. The ever present shirt-waist is with us still, and the styles for the coming spring are pretty well decided upon, although there will no doubt be some later developments in sleeves and some minor changes. In wash goods it looks as if sheer linens would lead all others. There is a thin linen sheeting that can be bought for this purpose, and certainly the white linen waists justify their first cost, as they do not have to be starched, are very easily ironed and wear indefinitely. Everything at present points to a white season so far as shirtwaists are concerned.

SHIRTWAIST SUITS

These will be quite as popular as last year and will be made in all kinds of materials, though I do not think silk will be quite as much in evidence as last year. Lustres or brilliancines will be much used, and for spring and cooler days, the panama cloths which are very firm and wiry, will stand an immense amount of hard wear without scuffing or looking shabby. The panamas will be found exceptionally satisfactory for school frocks for growing girls. They come in browns, fawns, navies, greens, blacks and reds, but are perhaps best in navy, green or fawn.

The shirtwaist suit does not lend itself to much change and in most cases, the skirts will be pleated either box or side pleats. A sort of yoke effect down below the hips and panels of box pleats on all sides is a new idea.

The waists are very plain, but there is one great recommendation to the shirtwaist suits and that is the fact that with a fancy stock or lace collar and the high fancy cuffs they can be

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