

Fashion Notes.

Handwork will continue to be profusely used on children's garments.

The vogue of checks is promised for the coming spring and summer, in gingham and chambrays, in every size, from the very tiniest to the large check.

A very economical and convenient fashion for a little girl's dress is the combining of two kinds of material. Remnants and trimmings can often be used up, and a very pretty little dress designed. One recently noticed was made of red serge and plaid. Two wide tucks at each side of the front gave a pretty appearance. At the waist line, it was gathered in and allowed to blouse a little. The back was made similar to the front, and drawn down softly to prevent the blouse effect. A round yoke was made of the plaid, and finished with a plain standing collar. At the bottom of the yoke was a bertha of plaid, one end of which extended down the front to the waist, in strap effect. The sleeve was a bishop style, with a pointed cuff of plaid. The skirt was made with four gores, and was tucked to correspond with the waist. The tucks were stitched down about half the length of the skirt, and then allowed to go free, so as to give the proper flare at the bottom. A belt concealed the attachment to the waist. The closing was in the back.

There is nothing quite so desirable as white for aprons. Wise and careful mothers regard them as real necessities, and they should be included in every little girl's wardrobe. No matter how inexpensive the material is, if made up nicely, it always looks new when freshly laundered, and every little maid certainly looks charming in white.

One that is easily laundered is made Mother-Hubbard style. The shoulder and under-arm seams give it shape, and the gathers regulate the fullness at the top. It is finished at the top with embroidery insertion about an inch and a half or two inches wide, made to lie flat. If preferred, a frill may be made about three inches wide, and put around the top of the apron, then finished with the insertion as described above. The bottom of the apron is finished with a wide hem. Hemstitching forms a pretty decoration on this apron.

The tiny man's first step from dresses is the pretty Russian suit. The blouse is long and loose, and may be finished with sailor collar, or a straight band for the low linen collar. A pocket is inserted at the left side, and the blouse closes in front. A broad box-plait is formed at the top of the sleeve, and at the bottom is gathered into a little cuff. A belt is put around the waist loosely, held in place by keepers at the under-arm seams.

Leg bands, or if preferred, elastic, may confine the fullness at the lower edge of the knickerbockers. This little suit, if trimmed with buttons or braid, is very pretty for a boy from two to seven years of age. Corduroy, serge, linen or duck are used in making little suits of this description.

A little gold braid and gold buttons gives to the tiny youth's suit the military air that is so conspicuous a feature in their styles as well as for their seniors.

AUNT LIN.



The following contribution is acknowledged with many thanks. We hope "Birtle Contributor" will come again.

AMONG THE FLOWERS.

Who does not love to see flowers bloom! I think we cannot afford to miss any enjoyment which nature, with our own labor, so cheaply affords. What more beautiful than flowers, in the home and outside? If we were to interest our children, while quite young, in the care and growth of plants and flowers, I do not think we would have so many flowerless homes and dreary surroundings. Take the children with you among the flowers; let them see you cultivate and prepare the soil; help you transplant the little plants from boxes or hotbed; in season, plant sweet peas; train a vine; prune the hedge or shade trees. In after years, the homes those children will build will not be mere habitations, but places of beauty. I know by experience. Often my youngest son would ask me to come to see a new flower just bursting open—not one would escape his notice. I helped him make a small hotbed, and showed him how to sow the seed of a fifty-cent collection of mixed annuals. We transplanted these to a place by themselves. On the last of August, we picked over one hundred different shades of flowers, and stuck them in pans of sand, which were then sent to a sick friend whom my boy wished to see his flowers. He was only nine years old then; to-day he is a man, with the same flower-loving spirit.

We all learn by the experience of others. I am greatly interested in your flower department. I have been quite successful in growing small fruits, rhubarb, asparagus, perennials and annual flowering plants, also hedge and shade trees. I wish I could induce every farmer's wife in Manitoba to make an effort to plant some annual flower seed this March or April, in shallow, narrow

boxes in the house. Last of May, prepare a bed, or rows, if you prefer, and transplant carefully. I can safely say you will have more real pleasure every day in watching and caring for those plants, be they the tiniest and most common varieties. How they will transform your surroundings! Flowers have a sweet influence. One could not look on a beautiful flower and think evil. I hope you will have a good many contributors to your department.

BIRTLE CONTRIBUTOR.

"SLIPPING" CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

If you wish to have the finest chrysanthemums next fall, you should set out a few cuttings this month. This is best done as follows: Bring up your plants from the cellar, where, it is presumed, they have been resting ever since their flowering season came to an end. If the old stems have not already been cut off, cut them off now, and put the plants in a warm, sunny window. Give a regular supply of moisture, and soon many new shoots will come up. When these are three or four inches long "slip" them. Procure enough nice clean sand to fill a small, shallow box. (This sand, by the way, should have been stowed away in the cellar last fall.) There should be no soil mixed with it, as its presence often causes the growth of a fungus fatal to cuttings. Now, with a sharp knife, cut off some of your sprouts at the base. Trim off the lower leaves, and put the cuttings in the sand. Set the box in a shady place for three or four days, then remove to a bright window, remembering to keep the sand moist. Warm water is always best for watering. When the cuttings have taken root, which should be in two or three weeks, put them in very tiny pots, shifting them to larger ones as soon as the pots are filled with roots. When nice plants have been formed, transplant them again into the garden,

where they should be left, with frequent watering, however, until it is time to take them in in the fall.

The following notes may prove interesting to flower lovers:

A new pæony was bought by C. W. Ward, of New York, last fall for \$1,000. The flowers produced by this species are eight inches across.

The sale of cut roses in the U. S. last year amounted to \$6,000,000; that of carnations, \$4,000,000; violets, \$750,000, and chrysanthemums, \$700,000.

Kindly address contributions for this department to

FLORA FERNLEAF,
"Farmer's Advocate" office, London, Ont.

The Popular Girl.

You have, of course, met girls who, without your knowing anything definite against them, have impressed you as persons to be avoided, but have you also met the girl whom you, as well as everybody else, instinctively likes?

She is the girl who appreciates the fact she cannot have the best of everything in the world and is quite cheerful when her neighbor gets it.

She is the girl who never says thoughtless things which cause pain. She is the girl who, when you invite her out, takes care to please you by looking her best.

She is the girl who makes the world brighter to both young and old by being so cheery herself.

She is the girl of whom you instinctively know that you may ask a favor, and that she will grant it, feeling she has received one from you. In fact, she is the happy, unselfish, sympathetic girl, who sees good in every one, and is quite willing to play "second fiddle" whenever by so doing she can add to her neighbors' happiness.

Self-Esteem.

Although conceited women are objectionable, conceited men insufferable, and conceited children unforgivable, still a certain amount of self-esteem should be considered an important part of every education. The world may protest against hearing of wonderful feats accomplished when the speaker calmly attributes

all the credit to herself, but at the same time it is true that the recital often awakens a certain amount of curiosity and a desire to know more of an individual with such a wonderful bump of self-respect. On the other hand, the person who depreciates herself and declares that she can do nothing of any consequence, and is really so badly informed, will only too often be horrified to find an audience that agrees with her. The most successful will be they who have learned to find the happy medium between these two extremes, as they will thus command attention without inviting criticism.

"What I most value, next to eternity, is time."



Two Strings to Her Bow.