

WOMAN and HER WORK.

I am afraid we women really do a great many foolish things, and bring upon ourselves, to a very large extent, the ridicule we so often protest against! For instance, could any practice be more utterly without sense, more simply idiotic than the habit which seems ingrained in feminine nature of putting the key under the mat when she goes out, and then going forth serenely feeling perfectly satisfied that the house, and all its contents will be quite safe until her return?

I watched an otherwise sensible woman hiding the key of her front door securely under its time honored shield, the other

Small paniers are seen on some of the spring dresses, and the bustle is making its semi annual demand for public favor, but, so far, without success, though it is confidently predicted by those who should know, that in another year, both the bustle and panier will be generally accepted facts.

When the coat basque first appeared, brocade was the generally accepted material, but later models show a decided tendency towards making the coat of some solid dark color, and leaving all the elaboration and brilliancy to the waist coat, or full front. This is a vast improvement as the entire suit takes its dressy effect from

room for variety between these two extremes.

It is really quite an interesting problem to solve, the manner in which the thin summer materials should be made up! There is no difficulty whatever in deciding how a silk, or cloth dress is to be made; but when it comes to a dainty and expensive washing material the decision is far from easy. For instance, a woman sees one of



A TUCKED SWISS BODICE.

the delightful zephyrs crepons which are being shown now, and she is naturally pleased with the dainty puffs of pale pink, yellow or heliotrope separated by clusters of narrow stripes in black, which form the material. It looks exactly like silk and is quite as light, and besides that it has the advantage of washing when it is soiled; so she buys it, and then her troubles are only just begun. In the first place the fabric is so thin that it requires a lining, but if it is lined, it can never be washed with any satisfaction, and here the thought suddenly presents itself that though the pretty puffed material may be washed, it can certainly never be either stretched or ironed. If it is merely pulled out carefully while it is drying it will never look really fresh, but will always have a "rough dried" appearance which is most unsatisfactory; and to get it cleaned by a professional cleaner would cost almost as much as the dress itself. To the only alternative seems to be to make it up as much like a summer silk as possible and resign oneself to the annoyance of trying to keep it clean, and knowing that once it is soiled, it is practically done for. There is, however, one rule to go by which is a reliable guide for making all thin summer waists; no matter how they may be cut, and that is that they are all gathered at the belt, after that, the variety consists in the trimming. Dresses that are not to be washed are cut with gored skirts, and those which are intended to pay frequent visits to the tub are either made entirely plain, or only sloped off at the front and sides. A very easy model, and one which was recently shown in New York, had a perfectly plain skirt which was gathered to the belt and then had a second row of shirring all around, each gather being carefully laid. The waist was in simple French shape, and only gathered at the belt, which was of guipure insertion. A row of the same insertion was sewed flat down the centre of the back and a similar row went down the front from throat to belt. The neck was finished with a band of ribbon overlaid with a band of the insertion and a double bow of the ribbon finished the back, above, was a frill of lace. The sleeves were balloon puffs with a jabot of the lace down the centres.

Another pretty model was of dotted canvas cloth, and the sleeves were in bishop shape with a frill of the material edged with narrow lace at the wrists. The waist was V shaped in front and back, folds of the material being drawn across in surplus style, the belt was of wide ribbon fold, and there were two bows of ribbon on the waist one near each shoulder, a frill of lace was gathered at the neck and fell back, leaving the throat bare. The skirt was quite plain.

SUMMER SHIRTS.

Smart new Bodices of Cool Alry Fabrics. New York, April 30.—Direct descendant of the spencer body, the shirt waist has for six seasons or more made all womankind happy. Nothing so cool and neat for summer wear has been found since the spencer was laid on the grave of dead grandmothers, and it is really to this estimable old garment that we owe the later invention.

Its great granddaughter, the shirt waist, was originally intended for plain uses, but some of the later ones are taking on such fine airs that shirt waist seems a misnomer. In general outline, with the exception that bishop sleeves take the place of the old girdle, the new shirt bodies differ in no great degree from those of last season. They have the same pointed yokes at the back, and the fronts slightly gathered or laid in three narrow, pressed down plaits each side of the button hole.

The cuffs, however, are now of the same material as the waist, and the white turn-over collars are no longer sewed on. They are made detachable to admit of several



STRIPPED SILK AND DOTTED SWISS.

spring models! It probably owes its popularity to the fact that while the round waist and belt at the back are becoming to nearly everyone, it takes an almost perfect form to look really well, with a closely belted front, hence the drooping blouse which hilt conceals the waist line is a most welcome addition to a round waist. Cuffs of all kinds and shapes are very much in fashion. The Marie Antoinette cuff is almost four inches deep and flares decidedly, while the Louis XV. cuff is nearly five inches deep. Some dainty little cuffs are scarcely more than an inch wide when finished, and others reach nearly to the elbow, so there is ample

day, and wondered if she had the least idea of the absurdity of the thing, or whether she merely did it because her mother used to, and her grandmother had followed the same intelligent custom from her earliest youth. It really seemed to me that she would make a capital study for a sculptor who wanted a thoroughly original inspiration for a statue of faith.

Is there a tramp in the world so stupid that he would not look under the mat for the key before taking any more active step towards breaking into a house, when he found the inmates absent? If so, I am sure his fellow "knights of the road" would hold a court martial and turn him out of their ranks, the moment they found him out.

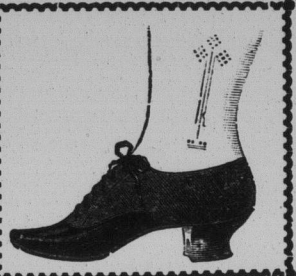
Do try and break free from the bonds of habit, in this case, my dear sisters, and find a more secure place for the family door key.

I think I spoke some time ago of the pretty effect of slashed sleeves showing a narrow underpuff of some bright contrasting material? If not, I know I intended doing so; and really they are most picturesque, and distinguished looking; worn with the deeply pointed bodices which are sometimes trimmed in a fashion which suggests the stomacher of Elizabethan days, and the full neck ruffs, they carry us back to very old times indeed, especially if their wearer can afford a jewelled girdle, of the kind the fashion writers allude to so airily, as if they could be purchased at the shop around the corner, for fifty cents. Of course the "jewels" are seldom real, and the girdles not nearly so costly as they look, but still they are sufficiently expensive to be out of reach for many of us.

While the width of tailor made, and all heavy wool skirts has perceptibly decreased, the light gauzy summer fabrics are made up with fully as wide if not wider skirts than ever; and the fully gathered epanlette, and wide flaring shoulder pieces which are joined to the broad pompadour yokes and collars so much worn, prevent the scantiness of the new sleeve puffs, from being too conspicuous, after the enormous width of shoulder to which we have become accustomed. These adjustable yokes and plastrons are nearly always made separate from the dress, and are seen in many fanciful shapes. Some have the edges cut in deep Vandye points others are cut straight across and some are round. They are made of alternate bands of lace insertion and ribbon, in all-over embroidery on grass linen, chambray, fine lawn, or batiste, and edged all around with a frill of either lace, or embroidery edging to match the all-over, and finished with high collars of the embroidery, stiffened with interlining, and sometimes with a frill of the edging falling over them.

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changes, the waist outlasting, of course, the collar in freshness, and worn with a narrow mannish bow tie.

With shirt waists strictly for morning use, those of percale, cambric and cheviot, a stylish variation of the white collar is a stiff stock and little bow tie made of the waist material. This last detail, however, is not a frequent accompaniment to a ready-made article, but is fashioned to order by the shirt makers.

A parasol to match the wash waist, whatever its material, is also in high feather.



A FIGURED SILK JACKET

and by skillful manipulation may be easily laundered.

The cuffs of all of the sleeves are less deep than formerly, and are held together by link fastenings, and a trim sort in these are round pearl buttons to imitate those in front.

The prettiest and most smart shirt waist of the season, though, is the one made of some fragile textile.

Batistes, dimities and lawns, striped, plain and figured all over, make some of the most useful of these, and a becoming point with many of them is to have the collar and cuffs in a solid color.

For the smarter affairs white Swiss, figured, dotted, plain or ribbon striped, is an effective and elegant material. Again the Swiss may be in large checks or small ones, or, perhaps, be self-striped with a dainty embroidery of dots or figures in colored silk between.

One of the novel textures used for these dressy waists is a curious linen batiste, showing big rough figures, like Turkish towelling.

The background of this is a pale mahogany-brown, in a web as thin as gingham.

The figures, huge leaves or strange flowers, are white and are raised up with all the thready loops of the familiar bath towel.

Then it goes without saying that all the plain and fancy linens and batistes of the season are seen among the new shirtwaists, and so elegant are some of these with their lace insertions and open work yokes and collars that they seem fine enough for almost any occasion.

Many of the Swiss waists have the necks finished with the usual stiff collar. But others and the colored novelty textures as well, will have ribbon stocks or else made ones of white, black or tinted satin, showing white satin piping at the edges and the proper narrow tie.

Here candeth the chapter of shirt waists! Still let it be added that there are ging-

hams left, and the daintiest coolest affairs in swivel silk, and some plain black or white satin blouses that are the very newest things from London town. Then there is a dashing new material called "sail-cloth" that will be much used for country and yachting waists.

With a proper supply of all these neat washable articles one may with three skirts alone—a black peau de soie, a brown linen homespun, and a white duck—effect many changes of costume, and go through a summer outing with peace and health.

And since both the skirts and waists may be bought ready made, it is never too late to learn and buy.

Don't Polish Cut Glass to Mac's.

Great care should be taken with articles of cut glass, whether for table service or toilet use. The greatest mistake is made in attempting too high a polish, which, as a rule, many persons consider one of the chief beauties of this ware. Constant polishing reduces the exquisite finish which makes it appear so bright when new. In order to retain this brilliancy, let the article, when quickly cleaned, be allowed to dry alone after being properly rinsed. A soft linen towel should be used but little in the care of cut glass, and it will be always bright and sparkling. There is almost no Russian cut glass brought to this country, and it differs greatly from other makes in being dull and heavy. English and American glass highly wrought, and new features are constantly in the market. American manufacturers frequently copy Russian patterns. A beautiful loving cup, richly cut, is among the newer importations of English glass.

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