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### INGLE NOOK CHAT

#### THE SUBJECT OF CLOTHES.

The desire of humanity—feminine humanity—to don fresh garments in the Spring is the answer to the same call of Nature in response to which the trees robe themselves with leaves, and the earth puts on a new dress of grass and adorns itself with flowers. So in this respect at least, we have stayed near to Nature's heart, and will stay, I fancy, in spite of those who, like Carlyle, talk contemptuously of clothes, calling us "Rag-screens overheaped with shreds and tatters raked from the Charnel-house of Nature," and clothes, "despicable thatch" and "adventitious wrappings." Jane Welsh must surely have asked for a new gown or a spring bonnet to call forth that tirade from the Sage of Chelsea.

And since Spring is at the door I though it might be helpful to devote the space in the Ingle Nook this issue to a consideration of "wherewithal we shall be clothed" for the coming season.

The fabrics for 1906 cover a very wide range. For tailored suits, separate skirts and jackets, light weight tweeds and chevots are used, also serge, broadcloth and mohair. Linens will be much in demand; white, which was so much worn last year, holding its own; but the colored effects being also shown, principally the soft shades of blue and green, with the fruit-tints; cherry, apricot and strawberry. Mercerized cotton goods in white, chambray and gingham in colors, will all be used for shirt-waist suits instead of the linen. For fancy blouses and gowns Persian lawn, dimity, organdy, and flowered muslins will be the chief materials used, many of the garments showing elaborate needlework, and hand embroideries, among which the old-fashioned eyelet embroidery still remains popular.

#### SKIRTS.

The short skirt, which will always remain in fashion as long as women have to walk or work, is made after the circular model, for which the home dressmaker must have a good pattern or the skirt will not hang properly. If such a pattern is not obtainable the gored model had better be used—sixteen or twenty-three gores preferred where each plait is a gore.

Skirts are trimmed with wide folds, or with fancy braids. Circular flounces, shaped and put on plain, or straight flounces box-plaited are to be in vogue. The lower edge of a plaited skirt should have a facing of heavier material than the goods.

#### BLOUSES AND SHIRT WAISTS.

The blouses for afternoon and evening wear will be much more dressy than formerly. Made of dainty materials, sheer linen, organdy, fine lawn, these blouses will be much trimmed with lace—Valenciennes or Cluny, Irish or thread lace—or with embroidery worked directly upon the goods. Any one who can do the flat or eyelet embroidery will find it a very useful accomplishment by means of which to embellish this season's blouses. All these fancy blouses should fasten in the back.

The regulation shirt waist is more business like than ever, many that are shown being severely plain, though the wide tucks on the shoulder will be worn and prove more becoming to some figures than the perfectly plain style. There is very much less fullness in the front of these shirt waists, and they all fasten in the front.

The three-quarter sleeve is to be seen in every kind of garment that is blessed with sleeves, though the full length sleeve seems more appropriate for the plain shirt waists and simple tailored suits. A very good idea is to have the sleeves of one's blouses made three-quarter length and finished off daintily with a band of trimming or a narrow turned back cuff, then to have a selection of cuffs which can be attached when a full length sleeve is desired, and detached when no longer wanted.

I wanted to say something about the jackets for 1906 but the space is gone, and they will have to wait until next week when I hope to have a few cuts to show the season's distinctive styles, which may be a help to the puzzled home dressmaker. DAME DURDEN.



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