

THE ST. JOHN STAR



## THE DRESSING OF THE MINIATURE MAN

THE problem of dressing her small son is one that perplexes the average mother. As soon as the little slip of Gretchen dresses that are worn by both sexes indiscriminately up to the age of 18 months are outgrown, the style of dressing for boys and girls is sharply differentiated. Strange to say, though almost every woman knows by a sort of instinct what suits her small daughter in the way of dresses, she is not equally happy in choosing clothes for her young son.

The pity of this is greatest, since nothing is more common than a really well-dressed little boy from 3 to 6 years of age; the modern ways of making his clothes are so graceful, simple, yet so absolutely boyish. Fortunately the golden-tinged, lace-collared Lord Pauncefote type is a thing of the past. Starry young America always did feel himself demeaned when "dyked out" in velvets, lace and other "girl togethery." Many an unpleasant pang, indeed, many a fight to prove one's self not a "sissy" even if mother does dress him like one—is saved the small boy by the present sensible decrease of fashion for his clothes.

When the baby dresses are taken off a boy is very apt to don trousers at once. True, they are pretty effectively disguised by the long Russian blouse reaching almost to the knees, but knickerbockers there are to give the young wearer his first blessed foretaste of manhood. This Russian suit in some of its manifold forms is undoubtedly the favorite style for the first distinctively "boy clothes," whether in woolen or cotton materials. Sometimes the blouses, all of which are belted, are made with long and straight lines from the throat with two box pleats in front and three in the back and a shallow turnover collar; or they are absolutely plain double-breasted affairs with two rows of buttons and a stiff round collar. More often the long-skirted blouse has a deep sailor collar and shield, or its front is cut diagonally from the shoulder to the hem, lapping over the under side to form a V-shaped shield. This last is a very stylish model, whether made with absolutely no trimming save several rows of stitching, or with a broad, rounded sailor collar with the outer side coming to the end of the blouse, and the edge trimmed with rows of colored braid.

An attractive variation of the Russian blouse has one broad box pleat in the back, from under which the belt comes. The front is quite full, with one broad box pleat in the center and two on each side; the first stitched several inches below the belt line, the outer ending at the chest. The collar is a high stitched band.

### Waistcoats for Tailored Suits

THE strictly tailor-made waistcoat is quite in evidence again. Last summer, where fancy boleros and Etons were seen even on shopping tours and at market, the plain short-tailed coat, either tight or semi-fitting, and the popular outway effect have taken their place to a surprising extent, both for cloth and linen suits.

This vogue of the tailor suit has given rise to a number of interesting accessories to which the well-dressed woman should give heed.

First, there is the waistcoat, which gives such a thoroughly up-to-date air to the perfectly plain suit. This waistcoat properly worn should show not too obtrusively. Often where the coat is closed there is displayed just a tiny edge of a lighter color, which gives but the slightest hint of its real gorgeousness.

One panna velvet waistcoat worn recently with a warm brown suit had large checks in cream color and brown in a checker-board effect, strongly suggesting the race course. It would have been in very bad taste if conspicuously worn, but the glimpse of it through the open jacket was charming.

This waistcoat fitted like a glove, which is, indeed, a prime requirement for any waistcoat. Therefore the back, which was of white satin, was substantially boned. Clumsiness was guarded against with equal care. Little unlined revers of the panna had velvet ribbon sewed flat on the edge and the whole tacked in place on the waistcoat. A double row of big thin buttons of dark metal added to the stunning effect.

For summer wear, many interesting waistcoats are seen in regular vesting materials such as are worn by men. These are usually in white, often of heavy pique, sometimes of figured effects. They are made both single and double breasted, and can be easily laundered. The tan and chambray-colored waistcoats are also seen, being particularly liked to give a touch of color to a blue or brown cloth or linen suit.

One hears much of the combination suits in which the skirt is plain

the short-bloused Russian suit are rarely worn before 4 years is reached, though occasionally a younger child is seen in a white sailor suit, with the long trousers that are so indescribably cunning on well-built little boys.

The youngest boys are dressed in cotton or linen materials, rarely wearing wool before they are 5 years of age, even in winter. The favorite studs for these first suits are linen in a coarse weave, trimmed with linen or braids of a contrasting color. Pique is also much worn, while striped palates form enduring, if somewhat warm, suits for knockabout wear.

Mothers who like to dress their small sons in wool for its greater warmth on cool summer days choose white serge or else white flannel with a tiny colored stripe through it. These serge and flannel suits are much worn by the small French boy for best; but for young

Americans with their affinity for dirt, the style seems hardly practicable. Far better regulate the warmth by heavier underclothing. A charming little suit of this kind was made after the model worn by the small boy with the hoop. It was in white flannel with a pale blue hair line through it, and was trimmed with big pearl buttons and collars and cuffs of pale blue corded silk, hand embroidered in white silk.

Far more sensible, however, for the average stirring youngster would be this same model carried out in white linen with the collar and cuffs embroidered in white, and worn with a scarlet or blue tie. This style is equally good for a girl, with the bloomers omitted.

The other model is a suit for a boy from 4 to 6 years old, made in the sailor type with a stitched shaped yoke and three box pleats down the front and back. Devel-



oped in white linen with scarlet washable braid in two widths on collar, cuffs and tie, this is most useful and cool, especially as the neck is collarless. The belt may either be of red patent leather or of the linen edged with the scarlet braid. Made in the natural colored linen, with dark blue trimmings, it would be extremely stylish.

With these suits small boys wear big, coarse straw hats, trimmed with a band and ends of ribbon to match the color used on the blouse.

For a coat the little man should own a dark blue serge or tan chevrot made on strictly tailored lines. It is most stylish if cut single-breasted, buttoning under a fly, and reaching a few inches above the knees. There is usually no trimming but stitching, but, if desired, a velvet collar, pockets and buttons can be used.

### New Fashions for Children

NO FASHION that the season has produced is more fascinating than the basin hat when adapted to a baby face. All the little girls are walking in their mamma's footsteps in this one mode at least.

They wear the picturesque shape in almost as exaggerated a size, with the exception that the brim is the same all around. The trimming is usually two big choux of ribbon put on either side of the round crown. Often, however, the Lamballe crown is worn by them, with a quaint knot of bright-colored ribbon tucked in among its folds at the left side of the front.

New coats for girls are made with capes that fall quite closely over the shoulder, rippling in folds below. This is the nearest approach to the Japanese fashion that is becoming to them. One or two models have been shown that gave a short kimono sleeve with an undersleeve of silk or some thinner material. The fashion is not appropriate for children in its present form; they cannot wear elbow-sleeved coats, and the undersleeve is bunched.

A practical and extremely pretty idea is in vogue for children, who are always dressed in white stockings. Their little boots have uppers of white buckskin, fastened with pearl buttons and then tiny vamps of black patent leather, or sometimes russet. This is much less troublesome than the entire white boot, and yet it does not give the queer cut-off look of dark boots with white stockings. At a little distance the effect is that of the old-fashioned combination of dark slippers with the little white legs.

Crossed barred linen is again in vogue for children's clothes; underclothes as well as dresses.

French boys of 10 or 11 can seldom be quoted as putters-in the American mother's idea. Occasionally, however, you see one got up in English fashion who is much more than possible. One English outfit recently seen was in wood brown chevrot, a plaid, in two shades of brown; the jacket was made in Norfolk shape, and there was a cap of the suit material. A big white Eton collar and russet shoes and stockings completed the costume. Covert cloth is also good looking, used instead of the chevrot, but, of course, it is much less practical.

## NOTES OF THE FASHIONS FROM PARIS --- THE NEW SPRING MATERIALS

PARIS, '07.  
SPRING suitings lean very much to extremely light color effects. These are especially desirable in the rough English cloths. The handsomest tweeds, rough and loose in weave, invariably show a larger amount of white than color. A corker stripe in black, with a wide white stripe between, is, perhaps, the favorite of all. Old blue is also used in this way or in big checks, and a pale reseda green, but that is somewhat less fashionable.

The new rough suitings are always strictly tailor-made, but are given a very stunning touch with black satin collar and cuffs.

Certain soft finish taffetas are so indeterminate in their stripings that one might almost call them mixtures

and the jacket mixed. They are new and stylish, and very becoming when a contrast is avoided in the cloths; but they are a little extreme and hardly practical except for a make-over, for it is most decidedly a passing fancy.

Much "tussor," or pongee silk, is seen for dressy suits, as well as gowns. Only the handsomest variety is used, and it certainly makes up most satisfactorily. It both drapes and tailors equally well, and many of the shades are remarkable for their softness of tone. A favorite trimming for them is raw-edged strips of bias broadcloth, matching the silk exactly.

Foulards are in again with a vengeance! Their patterns are tiny and quaint in their way, as are the taffetas in theirs. Like the taffetas, plain foulard, exactly matching the

ground color, forms the main part of the trimming, folds, girde, fichu, and sometimes the long sash ends that finish it. As usual, the dark blue foulard is the reigning favorite.

Gowns of these silks are trimmed with bias bands of satin or plain taffeta arranged in straight, horizontal rows around the skirt, and outlining the bolero. Of course, the girde is also of this plain silk. Some few houses show an elaborate lattice-work border of folds, but even its quaintness will hardly popularize this extremely inartistic form of trimming.

White is the favorite lining for voile this spring. It renders doubly ethereal the pale grays, modes, ecrus, lavenders and old pinks that are seen in the handsomest models. Of course, lace of every kind is used in profusion on gowns of this order, often accompanied by a

touch of velvet and offset with handsome jeweled buttons. Voiles are the materials chosen for the season's most pretentious frocks—the very elaborate afternoon gown and often those for less formal evening wear. These new voiles, dotted and striped with satin and velvet, are extremely rich in tone.

A new and attractive automobile scarf is of shot silk, bordered at each end with three stripes of contrasting color.

Tiny parasols will be all the rage. These funny little things are trimmed precisely as they used to be in the days of crinoline, with many pinked frills. The crystal knob or very plain gold handles are consid-

ered the best. Such parasols are naturally only used for driving or automobile. Muslin and gauze inch ruffles will be also much used.

Transparent fabrics are having greater vogue than ever. Silk voile in white with the new shade of blue stripe throughout is particularly good.

Chamois gloves, though not new, are fashionable, especially for morning. They come in all sorts of old shades, such as canary, yellow, light green and pink.

For the woman who clings to crocheted bedroom slippers, the prettiest are of royal purple, edged with white and black, in imitation of ermine.

E. D.