

The Toilet and the Baby



ANY women take advantage of the comparatively slack time in March to make up lingerie garments and put their underwear in order for the coming spring and summer. If one is fond of needle-work she can have uncommonly pretty undergarments at small cost, but if there is not time or inclination for hand-embroidery and hand-sewing, quite dainty effects can be obtained with some of the fine quality of embroidery bought by the yard, and careful machine stitching. It makes such a difference whether the seams are run straight and even, or carelessly.

Nainsook and longcloth are the cotton materials most used for underwear, and it pays to get a good quality, of smooth even weave, not necessarily heavy. If one is going to the trouble of putting hand-embroidery on the garments, it is worth while to make them of linen, both because the embroidery shows up better and for its superior wearing qualities. The handkerchief linen, used for the purpose, is not cheap, but the only outlay is for the material when the ornamentation is hand-work. One of the objections to much of the ready-made lingerie is that quality is sacrificed to quantity of trimming. This is not, or should not be, the case in home-made lingerie. In the choice of trimming, laundry wear and tear should be taken into account in the beginning, lest there be disappointments afterwards. Embroidery is more durable than lace, but if the laundry work is to be done at home and with reasonable care, daintier effects can often be obtained with lace insertion and edging than with embroidery at the same price. A satisfactory embroidery that gives almost the appearance of hand-work comes in plain button-holed scallops with or without a solid dot in each scallop. Some of the bolder eyelet designs are effective, but tiresome unless done on fine material. Tucking seems to have lost popularity, and not much of it is seen except the finest pin-tucking by hand. Machine-run tucks are not pretty.

Almost as much care is needed now in the fitting of underwear as in that of

room to spare for superfluous folds or gathers underneath. Combination garments are favored because they do away with overlapping at the waist. Some of these combinations are on princess lines, others have the corset cover joined to the drawers at the waist line. The corset-cover is smooth fitting at the back, and the front fullness is gathered into a shallow yoke of embroidery or drawn up with ribbons; the drawers are circular, or have a fitted yoke with the lower portion joined in gathers or plaits,—the essential thing is to have the garments fit smoothly over the hips. Princess slips are cut on much the same lines as a princess frock. All petticoats must be as unobtrusive as possible. The idea of a petticoat with fullness gathered into a band or drawn up on a string is positively startling at the present time. The lower part is still finished with a flounce, but it is a very scant flounce, differing little from a mere prolongation of the skirt. It flares not at all, and the trimming added to it is put on or set in flat,—gone are the ruffles and frills that used to delight the feminine heart and probably will again.

New models for night-dresses are charming. Line and finish are considered before elaboration, some of the most attractive being quite simple. The kimono sleeve has a rival in the set-in bell-shaped sleeve, and both are of a somewhat exaggerated shortness, hazardous to any but the woman with beautiful arms,—the exception it must be owned. The slip-over style continues popular, cut out not too deeply in round, square, or V shape. One simple, dainty model is rounded out at the neck and has the fullness held in tiny pin-tucks set on to a shallow yoke, embroidered in a small design of florets, vines, and bow-knot. The edge is scalloped and button-holed, and the yoke is fitted so that no drawstring is necessary, but the scalloped edge lies flat. The loose sleeves, reaching about to the elbow, are also scalloped on the edge and have an embroidered bow-knot and flower spray on the outside. Some of the most elaborate of the lingerie gowns are made in the empire style, with medallions and insertions of real lace and bows of satin ribbon.

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In the Child's Place

The small boy who said that he didn't think his father ever was a boy himself or he couldn't have forgotten so completely all about it had grounds for his conclusion. Grown-up people certainly do forget what it was like to be a child, and to most it does not even occur to try to take the child's point of view in their dealings with him. If we stopped to "put ourselves in his place" we might be more effective in training the child, and even be saved from doing injustice unconsciously now and then. "How would you like it yourself?" is a question one might put to oneself with advantage, to oneself and to the child.

For example, how would you like to be constantly admonished. "Don't" do this, and "Don't" do that? Would you not feel cramped and irritated although you might recognize the greater wisdom and the solicitude of the person who said "Don't". There must arise occasions when it will be necessary to divert the child from his preferred course, but if there seems to be need for a constant repetition of "Don't" there is something wrong somewhere. Children in common with ourselves, like "Do" better than "Don't." Opening up proper channels for the outlet of their abounding energies is the surest way of keeping them from those other channels guarded by "Don't."

Again, how would you like to be told right out in the presence of all and sundry that you were awkward and ungraceful, that you handled your knife and fork like implements of warfare, or that your nails were a sight to behold. And yet grown-up people think nothing of saying just such uncomplimentary things to children before strangers or under other circumstances that make it inflict a peculiar smart on a child of any sensitiveness whatever. As for bringing the offence home forcibly to the little culprit in the hope of working a reform which is the idea at the back of our frank remarks, the lesson is nullified by resentment, and perhaps by the feeling of being already in disgrace. In questions of manners at table or elsewhere, personal appearance, and other concerns so intimate, it is the child's right to be spoken to courteously in private, and given every chance to improve before being publicly exposed.

What we should like in the child's place cannot always be permitted to govern our decisions for the child any more than what we should like in our own place can always govern our decisions for ourselves. But many times our attitude towards the child might be kinder and more considerate, without any loss to training and discipline, if we were to cultivate the habit of occasionally putting ourselves in his place.

KING'S BABY BOOTS



Royal Exhibits in New London Museum

institution is reserved for objects associated with London, and already more than 40,000 objects have been received. One large case is entirely filled with objects lent by the Queen. This includes the belongings of various royal and famous personages, and visitors will look with interested eyes on the shoes worn by the late King Edward and others worn by the Prince of Wales when they were babies. Our photo shows the shoes worn by King Edward.

In the early spring the new London Museum will be opened in Kensington Gardens. The new

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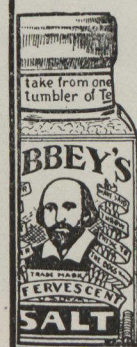


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