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Betty Gets a New Dress...

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Betty Gets a New Dress . . .

By Margaret Bruechert

"Bye, Baby Bunting,
Daddy's gone a-hunting,
Gone to get a rabbit's skin
To wrap the Baby Bunting in,"
sings mother. Really, solving baby's clothing problem is nearly as simple as this ditty playfully suggests: a little dimity and flannel to wrap the wee person in, along with some dainty pink and blue ribbon, and there you are!

Not so, however, when baby grows up into a capricious young run-about with a flair for baking mud pies and playing pirate. Mother—not to slight big sister—must use all her ingenuity in selecting clothes that combine the qualities of durability and ease in laundry with becomingness and good taste. Not only that, but as soon as a child becomes clothes conscious he or she has an irritating way of developing the most peculiar whims, all of which must be respected. If elastic around Betty's tummy makes her feel "squashed," or if unironed socks make Billy's feet "lumpy," one must supply the bloomers with buttons and button-holes, and iron the socks if one would keep the family peace. Anyway, who would wish to argue over such easily righted matters when they may be real annoyance to a child?

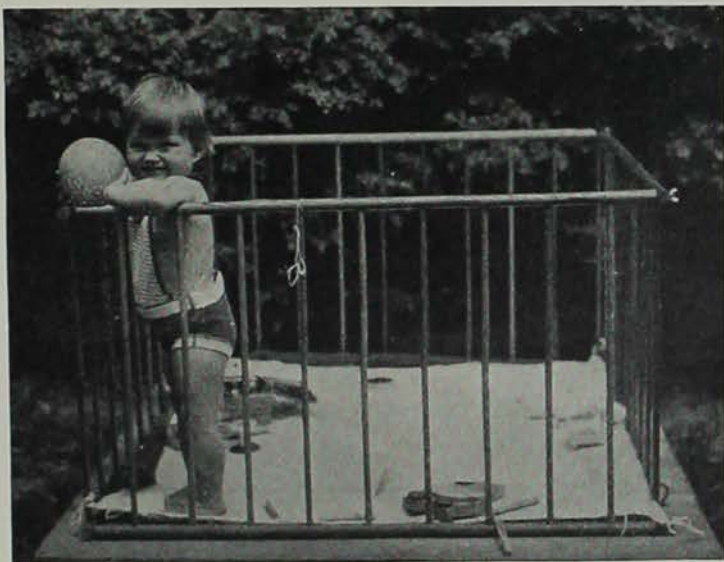
All this is not really formidable, though it may sound so. I know of

nothing more fascinating than the planning and making of children's clothes. The making in the last sentence is quite important. When home sewing is done better materials and construction may be employed, and superior garments made at savings that are very gratifying to one's pocketbook, especially in these days of depressions, moratoriums, and what not. I say this with conviction, for I've sewed quite extensively for several small relatives.

The fabrics chosen for children's garments should be quite closely woven, care being taken to avoid those materials that contain fillings such as starch, which is added to make them appear heavier than they are, and which will wash out, leaving the material flimsy. Sleazy materials lose their shape easily and do not wear well.

Small prints and checks or plain colors are most appropriate for small children. It is well, when buying print, to notice whether the design runs in line with the warp and woof; otherwise the garment will be difficult to cut and sew and afterward to iron. Dyed-in-the-yarn checks are more satisfactory than printed ones.

Colors should be fast to washing. Too often this important point is overlooked in one's rapture over a particularly lovely fabric. "Warranted" fast colors and "guaranteed" fast colors mean two different things. Warranted means a fairly fast color, while guaranteed means that the manufacturer will replace the material or refund the money if the material



Why Worry About Clothes?

fades. There is such a large assortment of guaranteed fast color fabrics to choose from that there is really no excuse for faded or streaked clothing.

COTTON shrinks from one-fourth to one inch per yard in length and about half this much in width. One must make slight allowance for this when cutting a garment.

The foregoing paragraphs apply especially to cottons, for if cotton is king anywhere, it is in the realm of children's clothing. Light-weight woolens such as challie may be used, or washable silks, among which are crepe and shantung. However, these materials should be used sparingly for they are harder to care for than cottons. What has been said about firmness of weave and fastness of color applies here.

One should never buy silk or wool that could not be washed with immunity, yet to lessen the frequency of laundering, light detachable collars and cuffs may sometimes be used. These are often lovely, and may be laundered many times to one laundering of the entire garment. With very few exceptions, wool fabrics must be sponged and shrunk before cutting.

OF COURSE, the type of fabric chosen, the kind of print and the colors must be in keeping with the occasions on which the dress or suit is to be worn, and with the personality and coloring of the child. A design or color should never dominate the child, but should rather enhance his best qualities. It is quite wonderful how, for instance, a blue binding on a creamy collar will deepen the blue in a little girl's eyes.

Children's clothes are always very simple in design. Comfort and freedom of movement are the first requisites. And isn't it a good thing for all concerned? The simpler the little girl's dress or boy's suit, the more in harmony it is with the spirit of childhood, and consequently, the more becoming it is. The fewer the frills, the easier it is to sew, to wash and iron. Often one becoming pattern will serve, with slight changes, for practically an entire wardrobe.

Little round collars—plain color on printed fabrics or printed on plain—are always refreshing. Touches of smocking, faggoting, or ruffles often add just the right touch. Bias bindings are used—perhaps more than any other trimming. Ready-to-apply bindings made of gingham, percale, silk, organdie, and lawn may be purchased, and may be put on in a jiffy with the sewing machine binder. Several rows of machine stitching in a contrasting color on collar and cuffs are often effective. Pockets are always welcomed by small people. Buttons or snappers should be generous enough in size to be easily grasped in small fists. One can always get an abundance of ideas for cutting and trimmings from shops and fashion magazines.

Since small boys' and girls' clothes are so nearly alike, companion suits—trouser suits and bloomer dresses—alike in fabric, color, and trimming may be worn by brother and sister. Playsuits and sunsuits made exactly alike are cunning.

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Betty Gets a New Dress

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I know three children, just neighbors, who simply revel in their playsuits made with little straight red and white candy-striped tops and blue panties.

Oh, could anything be more fun than sewing for youngsters? And what's more, dressing children in clothes that are examples of good taste and judgment is one of the best ways of cultivating in small persons a sense of what is good and right in clothes.

It Makes Ends Meet

(Continued from page 7)

in others, the woman has entire charge of the check. But the best plan is a compromise, with husband and wife collaborating. Too often, money is the rock upon which the matrimonial bark splits. If the two make out the budget together there is not likely to be so much controversy.

Perhaps the best plan is to note down all expenditures for a year before attempting to make out a budget. This will not mean keeping track of every ice cream soda the wife buys while on a shopping trip in town, nor every package of cigarettes the husband buys. But watch the bigger things. Then with this

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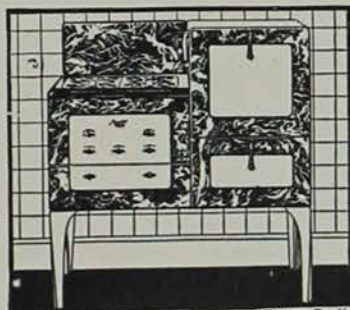
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