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Autumn Days---Children's Clothes

Merle Ramer
Iowa State College

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Handloom Craft

R. THIRZA HULL

CHILLY breezes of September evenings call for a scarf heavier than one of painted chiffon. We hate to lay aside these airy reminders of summer nights with their moon shine and star light, but it is not so hard if we take them in their places hand loomed scarfs. Made of finest wool yarn, they give both warmth and comfort, yet are not heavy enough to feel oppressive. Woven by hand as they are, they bring a good price in exclusive shops. They were purchased on a loom at a reasonable price, they come within the reach of all.

The loom is merely a commercialized form of the old primitive hand loom, such as is used by the Indian rug weavers of today. The loom is made of wood, usually pine, and is of a size that can be used conveniently by holding one end on your lap and propping the other on a nearby chair.

The weaving itself is very simple because the mechanism of the loom is so simple. A middle frame, like a comb, holds the warp threads and raises and lowers them as a shuttle holding the woof thread is passed back and forth. The product grows amazingly, depending of course on the yarn used. A scarf made of medium weight yarn can be completed in two or three hours. And the patterns and colors! Your eye for color can run riot here and weave havoc or produce a beautiful scarf with a pleasing and harmonious color scheme. Checks, stripes or gay Scotch plaid borders may be woven into your scarfs with a skillful shuttle. Borders are easily put in by introducing different colored warp threads when they are set up on the loom and are woven in without changing the color on the shuttle. Checks and plaid designs necessitate several shuttles, each carrying a different color, but the resulting scarf is so much more attractive that the work of changing shuttles is only a pleasure. It is good to think that you are creating something with your own fingers according to your own plan.

Of finest Saxony in a pale pink and bordered with white was woven a soft blanket for baby's bed. Heavier yarn will make an attractive throw for a lounge robe. Angora yarn when hand loomed disguises the weave and makes a blanket that looks like a fluff of swan down.

A regulation loom is either eighteen or twenty-four inches wide. I know a woman who has a loom that is thirty-six inches wide and on which she makes everything from bandanas to dresses.

The living room in her lovely new home of English architecture has at its windows handmade curtains of a soft beige bordered and striped in orange and blue to match the blue velvet rug and the orange lamp shades. These curtains are woven of medium weight yarn can be completed in two or three hours.

The unusual and distinctive dress is one of the best places to set interest. Little pieces of yarn can be used to good advantage in working out interesting details. Unusual colors of yarn can be worked together in embroidered motifs. There are realms of different designs which can be carried out in embroidery. These ideas are found every place if we only look for them and try to work them out. Conventional designs are generally more attractive than any other kind. Bias tape can be purchased in a variety of colors. It can be used in combination with tie-race, narrow braids or in combination with other colors. Fagoting between rows of tape lends itself to decorative work as easily as crocheting and is very effective on checked material. Care should be taken not to overdo the pattern. Buttons and loops in the same color as borders usually work out well on simple dresses of crepe. Crocheted buttons are valuable because they launder well and are very attractive. A few stitches of yarn at the top of the button may be used in carrying out a given color scheme in a garment. These are only suggestions not to overdo a child's costume. It should be simple, suitable and attractive. A child's material is to become a snobbish and effected. The child who is oddly or peculiarly dressed may be sensitive about clothing. The child should be never to be sensibly dressed to retain his self respect.

The child is naturally active and should not be hampered by clothing. The materials should be inexpensive so that a few rips or tears do not mean a large sacrifice of money. The garments should be of materials which are easily laundered and look well afterward. The crepes, wash gingham, prints and inexpensive materials are among the best for general wear. Some children do not look well in these materials, especially if they are quite frail. The mother then has to resort to the finer tissue gingham, dainty voiles and dimities. Every child is an individual problem for the mother to solve. As the school bell sounds this fall we hope to see the small child clad in more distinctive clothes than ever before.

The Home Economics Vocational Education department has three former Iowa State College graduates as members of its staff. They are: Miss Pauline Drollinger '16, Miss Elsie Wilson '17 and Miss Winifred McHose '15.

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By MERLE RAMER