

SPRING FASHIONS for STREET FROCKS

A Page for Misses

THE first balmy, sunshine filled days of early spring may turn the thoughts of the country girl to spring flowers and new life, as evinced in the slowly opening buds on the trees and shrubs all about her, but for the city bred girl spring-time must be measured in thoughts of new gowns and the attractive contrast of flower and ribbon instead of fur and velvet docket hats.

In this climate spring invariably arrives unawares, for after a preliminary spell of warm days late in February a brief return to wintry cold is almost sure to follow, so chill and unpleasant that all thoughts of anything save fur lined garments are put away. This is an unkind trick to play upon poor woman, for the equally sudden return of reasonable heat always finds her unprepared. Wise indeed is the girl who occupies the first Lenten weeks in preparing the spring outfits for school and afternoon wear.

It is obligatory that the school girl has her spring trousseau ready for the first demands, for, saving the brief holiday week, she has little time for fittings. Yet she wears her gowns more regularly and constantly during her school days than at any other time in her life. If the "best" winter coat and skirt costume is to be turned over to everyday wear for the spring, now is the time to have the interlining taken off, new silk collar and cuffs added, the whole suit pressed and cleaned and the thin foulard or crepe de chine waist made for it in place of the heavy cloth worn during the winter. If there is to be a new coat and skirt costume for school wear, the sooner it is begun the better.

There has been a tendency during the last few years to do away with the time honored custom of putting off until Easter Day the donning of the spring outfit. Straw hats are nowadays pretty generally worn by the last week in March, and the new gowns appear just as soon as the weather will permit. The almost unprecedented early date of Easter this year will not, therefore, cause any conspicuous difference in the time of appearance of new spring clothes.

ALWAYS the first consideration of a season's outfit is the street costume, and a smart coat and skirt of medium weight serge or broadcloth is the most necessary part of the spring trousseau for all ages. Coats and skirts of the same material are now made up for even very little girls, who have the skirt finished with suspender straps or guimpe effect and coat fashioned on loose jacket or reefer lines, but long enough almost to cover the entire skirt and possible to wear occasionally as a separate cloak.

Even for the youngest girls it is worth while to provide a fairly expensive tailor costume, for an absolutely plain coat and skirt do not go out of fashion, and they receive such hard and constant wear that a good quality of material is necessary.



No texture is so good at this time of year as a medium weight serge, unless it be, perhaps, a fine quality of light chevot. It is a mistake for the spring suit to be too light, for the average April and May weather is either quite raw, demanding warmth in the street dress, or else so hot that any cloth is uncomfortable. As this costume will be the travelling suit for the summer as well as the gown which receives hardest usage during the first part of the autumn, it must certainly not be of too thin a texture. There is a return this year to the plain weaves of

serge, although all the fancy stripes and ribbed effects are still in evidence. For the girl to whom blue is becoming there is no suit so satisfactory as a smart, simply made coat and skirt of dark blue serge. Relieved by touches of light blue or white on the revers and cuffs and in the hat the color can be made appropriate for almost any afternoon use, and then when it is desired to put it into hard wear later on the hips with the fancy belt designating the natural line of the waist. Embroidered collar, revers and cuffs and perhaps fancy buttons all help to make of a Russian blouse an elaborate style of dress suitable for afternoon wear.

Skirts are quite different this year from last in that they are decidedly full, and to describe the different varieties of plaited and gored models would require many columns. For young girls the deep yoke with plaited flounce added just at the knees is still a favorite design, and while there are plain, circular and also flaring, many-gored skirts to be seen, plaited skirts are more becoming and are therefore more in favor. Separate stitched belts of the material have made

their appearance again, but the skirt fitted about the waist to a band of stiff boned belting and finished off without a belt is still smart. The belting is quite narrow, though, being seldom seen more than one and a half or two inches wide, instead of the three and four inch belting formerly made use of. Dark linings the color of the cloth or a few tones lighter, but of the same shade, are used altogether in all jackets, while if there is not a drop skirt attached to the skirt itself then the silk petticoat must be of the right shade for the serge or cloth.

Many spring costumes for young girls show a simple gown of serge made in one piece, with waist lined only with china silk, having a jacket of the same serge to complete the dress. If the very softest and lightest weight serge is employed this gown is not too warm for early spring, but the jacket should have a heavy satin lining to make up for the extremely thin grade of the serge. It would perhaps be more sensible for this gown to be made with bodice and skirt separate, so that when desired a thin white blouse could take the place of the cloth waist. Collar and tiny yoke should be of transparent net or lace, and white cuffs will also make the simple

gown more attractive. Throughout the spring a gown of dark blue serge made absolutely plain, with blouse waist and plaited skirt relieved only by lace or lawn collar and cuffs, can be used for street wear with or without a jacket of the same material. A dress of this description is also most useful for the schoolroom. Among the latest Parisian costumes are the seamless waists and coats, but just what degree of popularity will be accorded this fashion in young girls' frocks remains to be seen. When sleeve and shoulder show no line of demarcation from the chest is apt to look contracted, or at any rate too narrow to be attractive, and it calls for a very trim little figure indeed to look really neat and well turned out in this style of dress. For quite little girls, however, all loose, rounded lines are desirable.

FOR afternoon the different voiles are smartest of all materials for young girls, but as these require a silk foundation less expensive and about equally

Seed Pearl Jewelry Again in Vogue

ONCE again there has returned to fashion the tiny seed pearl jewelry in its quaint settings, much as grandmother used to wear when she was a young girl just leaving her " teens." ANY girl who may chance to possess such a collection as a set of necklace, brooch, earring and earrings of these small clustered pearls is indeed to be envied. Today a young girl would not wear the whole set at once, and she would probably eschew the earrings altogether, but the necklace and the brooch she can wear with her party frocks, and apart from the pleasant consciousness of being the possessor of the pretty piece of jewelry she can enjoy the double delight that they are the very pearls which her own grandmother wore while she was having all the good times of her girlhood.

Should the necklace be too elaborate of design it must, of course, be kept until a girl is really out, but while many of these old pearl necklaces were very beautiful and correspondingly costly, there were also many quite simple enough of design to be suitable for sweet sixteen.

Unfortunately, however, not every girl has inherited grandmother's pearls. She may be the youngest daughter, or the jewelry may all have gone to another branch of the family. In this case the girl who has saved up her Christmas gifts and all her birthday presents for some time past that she might eventually purchase some one thing that shall be really worth while cannot do better than to buy some such necklace of antique design.

The wide, flat setting in which the strands of little pearls were made up is especially becoming to a throat that is perhaps too thin as yet to be pretty with a collarless gown unless it has the small adornment of the necklace.

Modern imitations of the antique settings are to be found in many of the jewelry stores of the present day, but it is in the establishments where genuine antique jewelry is sold that the best of these old necklaces are to be found. Among the prettiest of the old designs is one showing a single medallion in the centre held by a band of five rows of the tiny pearls. When the medallions are comparatively small, seven or eight are often seen in the one necklace, the largest pieces connected by bands formed by three or four ropes of the seed pearls. The girl who owns an old necklace that really has out of repair to wear in its

present condition and is of too large a design to look well at the present day may have the pearls reset in four or five or perhaps ten ropes, according to the size of the pearls, all strung so as to lie quite flat on the neck, fastened in back with a single one of the old medallions for clasps.

From the old earrings in grandmother's set can be made a most attractive pearl drop, while the brooch, if too large to wear as a breastpin, may be attached to a fine gold chain and worn as a medallion. Although much of the jewelry worn fifty or even twenty-five years ago looks heavy and coarse beside the delicate settings in vogue to-day, there are many pieces, like the pearl necklaces and the thin, wide gold bracelets which are so perfect of their kind that they hold their own through any change of fashion or passage of time.

SHIRT WAIST FABRICS.

SHIRTING patterns in wool fabrics, fashionable for girls' tailored waists, are of various degrees of weight necessary for America's fickle climate. For use in extremely cold weather school girls are ordering made—or are making for themselves—waists of unshrinkable French flannel in Roman stripes, in light colored hair lines upon a dark ground and in dark red, blue, brown or green striping tan, gray or white.

Gymnasium shirts, usually made after the middie model, are of all wool indigo blue or hunter's green serge, flannel or broadcloth.

For moderately cold weather are waists of challis in disc and stripe patterns or of nun's veiling in checks, dots or half inch stripes of brown, mauve, pastel or taupe on white or black groundings.

Soutache braid trimmings are combined with the tiny platings of messaline, changeable silk and foulard tailored waists used for travelling. And for the same purpose are waists of Scotch plaid, loqueline, of checked taffeta and of moire.

Lauderable morning shirts are of striped percale, fine galatea, heavy linen or duck, and in lingerie materials are tailored waists of hand-embroidered Irish linen accompanied by shoulder bands, collar and cuffs cross-stitched with red, dark blue or white. Very attractive looking waists may be made of handkerchief, linen and a little colored batiste to furnish line relief, or mercerized poplin worked with solid embroidery and of English eyelet combined with horizontal ruckings.

PRACTICAL TALKS BY THE APRIL GRANDMOTHER

"BEWARE of getting too fat," cautioned the April Grandmother, looking with critical eyes at the plump proportions of her second granddaughter. "To be exceedingly round at an age when most girls are absolutely angular portends a shapeless figure before the thirtieth anniversary of the birthday has been celebrated."

"While a too generous diet undoubtedly helps to increase the weight of any young girl who is constitutionally inclined to corpulence, the main causes for obesity," the April Grandmother halted abruptly in deference to the expression of horror on her young descendant's face—"for excessive plumpness is the childish habit of eating between meals. A girl of sixteen is still a child in many respects. She has

not cut her wisdom teeth or lost her "sweet tooth," and therefore her hapdash luncheons are apt to consist of confectionery or hot chocolate and little cakes composed chiefly of sugar—a food product which above all others will most speedily fatten a pair of round cheeks and make coarse a set of delicate features which previously were pretty."

"Insufficient exercise is another cause of flesh accumulation," continued the April Grandmother. "Nearly all young girls are so active that they do considerable walking in the course of a day, but while those of the slender type trip along as though they were trying to catch a train the fat ones move like snails and stop frequently to rest instead of adopting a rapid and uninterrupted gait. Unlike those of rather delicate physique, plump girls should occasionally allow themselves to get overwearyed with walking unless they do not care how soon the waist becomes thick and short, the hips broad and the shoulders sturdy."

"Plump girls sometimes not only become absolutely fat, but lose a great deal of enjoyment simply because their feet are in a chronically aching condition. They cannot comfortably take long walks and they dance so awkwardly that they receive few opportunities to indulge in the graceful exercise. A great many of them might be belles as well as beauties if they would cast aside vanity and wear broad and high topped shoes, for the feet of a plump girl require plenty of space and her ankles need to be well supported."

"The tight corset is nearly always a

share to the plump girl, who is apt to imagine that pinching will reduce the size of the waist. On the contrary, lacing helps tissue to form, for the muscles of the waist must have a chance to exercise freely if they are to become thinner. It is much safer to gradually acquire a reed-like figure by allowing those two large muscles to work off their surplus flesh than to do it via corset constriction, which is likely to push the liver from its normal position, and thus play havoc with the general health."

"The line between the conditions of pretty plumpness and superfluous flesh is so faint," concluded the April Grandmother, "that no schoolgirl of generous outlines should lose sight of it for a single day."

ENAMEL BUCKLES.

CHARMING belt buckles are in enamel, with silver rims or bands. The blue ones, in different shades, from pale blue to the very dark navy, are particularly charming. Medium shades of blue, with silver rims, are the most useful, as they can be used for the most purposes than either the darker or lighter shades. There are also beautiful green enameled buckles, with the silver rims or pink ones. The blue and green ones seem, however, the most popular. They are oval or rectangular and quite simple in design. There is a broad band of enamel and an outer rim of silver. Some of the buckles are made entirely of the enamel with narrow bands of silver crossing it at intervals.

Coat Sets and Neck Accessories

SMART coat sets for early spring are of heavily corded white plaite. Made in the narrow style, both collar and cuffs have pointed ends embroidered with butterflies or with small colored flowers.

Sets in heavy linen of extra fine grade have either the pointed or rounded corners, elaborately hand embroidered in black and a color, or with a polka dot and floral design in all white. The very wide collars and cuffs of heavy linen which are worn only by quite young girls show a great deal of drawn work.

More elaborate coat sets are of heavy linen edged with imitation Irish lace, of Irish linen bordered with Venise and of voile appliqued with eyelet work and hand embroidery. They are modelled after both the pointed and round types, and in some instances the trimming is so wide that scarcely half an inch of the sheer material is in evidence.

Daintiest of all the coat sets are those showing narrow effects in fine lawn, with bands of lace and frilled edges; of linen lightly embroidered in spiderwork, or of nainsook hand embroidered in a vine design.

Separate collars for shirt waists are edged with eyelet embroidery, with drawn-work or tailor stitch bordered and embroidered in star, polka dot and Greek key design.

A late collar novelty is a stock shaped affair of black satin, with turnover points of white linen.

Jackets in narrow flat effect are of fine linen and hand embroidery, sometimes relieved with a touch of amethyst, apricot, brown, taupe or old rose. Those in triple cascade style are trimmed with genuine Valenciennes or have Brussels medallion insets; the finely cross tucked are bordered with hand embroidery above a scalloped edge and the eyelet hand embroidered are trimmed with Valenciennes lace and satin ribbon bows.

Jackets of finely plaited lawn are edged with Cluny and arranged in double tab effect, shirred upon a central stripe of hand crocheted insertion and edged with matching lace or cut in three tabs, each finished with a frill of combined Irish and net.

effective frocks are made up in tussor, rajah, pongee and the many different fabrics of that grade. There is a great wealth of color to choose from in the voiles, the brightest tones of cerise, pink and yellow and the soft shades of apple green and the dark blues being all in favor. Although occasionally a dark colored voile gown will turn out extremely well over a lining of pale shade or white, as a rule the dress will be more effective if made up on the same shade or over a changeable silk lining that will emphasize the bright shade of the voile itself.

There is unquestionably to be a return this summer to the elbow and three-quarter length sleeves, for practically all elaborate spring gowns show an abbreviated sleeve length, but the style of afternoon gown suitable for a young girl will be quite appropriate with full length sleeves should they be preferred. The Dutch neck gown is still also under discussion, many extremely pretty simple gowns being finished at the neck with a soft wide frill of plaited lace and no collar, the three-quarter sleeve having a turned back cuff effect formed of the same three inch frill caught up against the material. This frill finishes off a transparent yoke of lace or tucked chiffon or net.

Variations of the fashionable left sided frill are numerous. For use with severely tailored coats the narrowest frills are of fine hand embroidered linen in single cascade form, of accordion plaited lawn, hooded and hand embroidered bordered and of cream voile, with a hem stitched colored edge.

Lace side frills for waists are of wide Lierre, of lawn edged with Valenciennes, Venise or Cluny or of fine linen bordered with Irish and attached to a quadruple cascade of Venise medallions.

Neck bows of hand embroidered white linen, edged with Cluny, are in butterfly shape, of maline veiling a colored satin ribbon knotted in pump style and of tulle gathered into fluffy clouds. Maline of white, black or any fashionable street tint is accordion plaited, formed into two loops and plainly banded through the centre or trimmed with silk soutache arranged in knots and bows.

THIRTEEN THEIR LUCK.

AT a fashionable boarding school near New York the girls have adopted thirteen for a lucky number. The most popular and most sought for bedroom is No. 13, and the tradition is that all the girls who have occupied it in the last ten years have distinguished themselves in one way or another. One has achieved a reputation as a poet; another has married a British earl; another met her matrimonial fate most romantically during a fascinating trip around the world, while another saw her father come into high political honors while she was the occupant of No. 13. The girls sit in groups of thirteen at tables in the dining room, and at the last examination of the year the girl who numbers thirteen in the series of the lot, as the school tradition is that she must, will be the most successful.