

A PAGE FOR MISSES

SIMPLE CLOTH FROCKS for the SPRING SEASON

THIS is quite the most delightful time of the whole year in which to shop, when every store window displays fascinating new gowns and hats of colors which show that the spring is very nearly here once more, and hint also of the balmy days of summer so soon to follow. Even the school girl, immersed as she is in her studies, that her second term, may show better results than the first part of the year—even she cannot resist the promise of springtime and must spend some time in the stores selecting the gowns which the first warm days will call for.

The timeworn habit of setting Easter Sunday as the day for the inauguration of spring, or spring garments, has at last given way before the dictates of common sense, and to-day straw hats and light weight costumes are donned at whatever time in March or early April the weather renders such garments more comfortable, regardless of whether or not Easter time is already past or is not to arrive for some weeks to come. Assuredly old winter gowns which have done good and faithful service for many months are bound to look shabby and unattractive as soon as the spring days of bright sunshine and balmy breezes have appeared, so that the girl who desires to look smartly and appropriately gowned at all times will take care to order her new frocks full early in the season, so that she will be ready and eager for the spring, no matter how early it may make its appearance.

AFTER all, the spring season in this climate is so very short anyway that unless light weight costumes are donned by the middle of March they will be given scarcely any wear at all, so quickly does unpleasantly hot weather follow upon the days of frost and snow.

In so erratic a climate as this, when days of enervating heat are frequently followed in the space of a few hours by freezing temperature, a smart cloth coat and skirt costume must be provided for every separate season. For summer there must be a white suit of serge or homespun, for autumn a dark colored serge or cheviot, for winter a thoroughly interlined heavy serge or broadcloth, and for spring a light weight tweed, serge or cheviot of a light, becoming shade. Later on mohair, nun's veiling or pongee may be worn, but early in the year, to put on as soon as the heavy winter suit is laid aside, a coat and skirt costume in light weight cloth is absolutely essential.

More light colors will be worn this spring than was the case during the winter, but for the school room dark blue seems to be the favorite shade. For afternoons light gray or gray of medium shade relieved by collars and cuffs of white pique or duck on the jacket is decidedly smart. There are also many shades of deep pink and queer Japanese shades of blue which will be much worn this spring by young girls.

EVERY street suit should have its hat to correspond, or at any rate a Tuscan or possibly black hat trimmed in some way to carry out the design of the dress. Yellow and Tuscan straw hats are always useful, since, trimmed with black velvet and wings or with varied colored flowers, they can frequently be made to do service with more than the one costume. Plaited skirts are quite out, but among the new



spring models many skirts show a certain amount of fullness and platings let in below the knee. Plain skirts with the high waist line will also be worn throughout the summer, but for a slender, girlish figure the small amount of fullness now allowed is apt to prove the more becoming, and especially is this the case with the skirts of walking length.

All jackets continue long, but for a young girl the coat should not reach below the knee, and may be several inches shorter if the length is unbecoming. Box front, half fitted back, long tight sleeves and perhaps fancy revers and cuffs make up the smart jacket for school wear. For afternoon the more delicate colored coat and skirt may be ornamented with a simple arrangement of braiding or strapping, but as a rule the more severe models are the best, as they are the more appropriate, the light color and the size and trimmings of the hat keeping the costume quite distinct from that intended for general wear.

The white separate waists are still very much alive, most extraordinarily so considering how long they have been popular and how unprecedented their popularity has been. They are certainly not fashionable any longer, however, although too convenient to be put away entirely.

TOok always well dressed in school a girl should have a waist the color of her skirt—in winter, of heavy silk cloth or French flannel; in hot weather of China or habutai silk. White net ruching at the throat and wrists, or white linen or embroidered collar and cuffs, relieve this bodice, which should

be made absolutely severe, with long leg-o-mutton sleeves.

At boarding school a girl requires a dress throughout, in spring as well as in winter, to wear during study hours. This gown must be fashioned with utmost simplicity, and be made so as to fasten quickly and easily in case an extra five minutes' nap after the rising bell makes any time for prinking out of the room. Instead of the separate collar and cuffs this dress may be finished with a transparent collar and tiny yoke of net, the color of the gown itself. The lightest weight serge procurable, cashmere, Henrietta cloth or a fairly heavy tussore cloth are good for this style of dress. At present a long,

rough cloth ulster, which every girl in boarding school possesses, can be worn over this gown for out of doors, but later on no extra wrap will be required.

Belts are rapidly returning to the normal waist line, many of the newest French models showing the soft ribbon girdles about the waist and at the place where the waist ought to be. Empire lines have not yet disappeared, however, although in the short dresses a high belt is never placed exaggeratedly high up on the bodice. With a severely plain skirt a ribbon belt, tied a little to one side in the back, and falling down to within eight or ten inches of the hem, gives a pretty finish to the dress.

All wash shirt waists, and in a great majority of the dresses made up in thin materials, the sleeves, instead of being tight from shoulder seam to wrist-band, have a slight fullness at the top, graduated down to just below the elbow, so that there is not the same strain on the texture as in the long, tight-fitting sleeves.

In cashmere and Henrietta cloth there are extreme-

ly pretty striped and figured designs to be had in the new spring colorings, and these materials are excellent weight for school dresses for this time of year.

Rice Packages for Weddings

As everyone knows, rice plays an important part at wedding festivities, and the smart thing now is to do small portions of it up in fascinating little packages that are cleverly contrived to suggest bride roses. This is achieved by using squares of the most delicate crinkly paper of pure white, into which a handful of rice is put and securely tied with white ribbon, finished lavishly with innumerable loops. The four points of the square which flare out above the tied circle of ribbon are delicately pinched and shaped to look like the petals of a rose. When dozens of these are prepared and piled up on a silver tray, on which they are passed to the guests, they make a most lovely effect. They are not given out, of course, until just before the bride's departure, and on her appearance she is not to be pelted with them, confetti fashion, for they are too large for that, so the rice is removed by cracking the side of the crinkly paper.

Practical and Useful Hints.

TREES of satin and ribbon are among the novelties of the winter, and any girl with clever fingers can make them. "Treeing" one's shoes and boots to keep them in shape is an English custom which all well groomed women and girls have adopted. The usual tree is of wood, and one should have as many trees as boots or shoes so that every pair may be treed immediately it leaves the feet of the wearer. There are smaller and lighter trees which have hitherto done service for slippers, but now they give way to the dainty satin substitute.

These satin affairs are composed of a firm pad shaped to fit the toe of the slipper, and at the end of the pad is sewed a long ribbon covered whalebone an inch wide, which arches up in a curve from where it starts to where it sticks down inside the heel at the other end of the slipper. Stuff the pad for the toe with cotton wadding, making it very firm, and before you sew in the whalebone cover it with shirred ribbon wider than the bone, so that there will be a pretty finish at each edge. At the centre of the bone, which should be longer than the slipper in order to stand up properly about three inches from the middle of the sole, tie a full knot of narrow ribbon to enhance the decorative effect.

THERE are "wrinkles" in regard to almost everything pertaining to feminine matters, and the "latest" is always of interest to the up to date girl. In the matter of leashes, now, there is a new departure, and the girl who takes her dog out on one of these leather straps must hold it in just a certain way or she will not be doing the correct thing. The "wrinkle" is to carry the leash, one end of which is attached to the dog, in your right hand, clasping it precisely in the middle of the strap and letting the upper half dangle. The arm must swing in such a fashion that the dog is kept "to heel," as our English cousins say, and this is done by keeping the arm at a firm angle close to the body.

THE latest wrinkles in parasols are charming affairs covered with raffia woven into a stunning texture after a fashion known only to the West Indians, the material somewhat resembling the Japanese grass cloth. Raffia in the fibrous strands in which it is used in this country for Indian basket weaving and sewing is taken from the inner part of the huge palm leaves of the tropics and is wonderfully strong and enduring in quality as well as most attractive when worked up, either in its natural shade or converted into lovely colors by means of vegetable dyes. The parasols are of the natural color, which will smartly harmonize with linen gowns. They are deeply fringed in a way that is a triumph of skillful hand work, for the fringe is not a separate matter sewed

on, but is formed from the strands of the texture cut long to be used for a finish when the weaving part is done. The fringe is intricately and artistically knotted, and the raffia split very fine to make it beautifully full and fluffy.

THERE is a prejudice these days against drinking out of glasses used promiscuously, and so the fashion has started of carrying about one's own little drinking glass. Travellers have long done this, but it is only just now that they have come into use about town. The smart thing is to keep one in your shopping bag and to transfer it on matinee days to your theatre bag, so that when you are consumed with thirst you have only to take it out and get it filled to your freely without fear of contamination. Fascinating little cups come for this purpose either in glass, with pretty leather cases, or in silver, of the telescope variety, which shut up and slip into a simple small case or an elaborate one, the choice being a matter of how much the purchaser wishes to spend.

If you wish to delight the heart of a newly engaged girl and insure her the best of luck send your congratulatory flowers to her in a white heather loving cup. These cups are Scotch, where on the moors the lovely heather grows, and every Scotch lassie knows well the old tradition that a bit of heather is sure to bring her luck.

The foundation of this interesting cup is of birch bark, quite hidden by delicate festoons of the feathery heather, also closely entwined about the large handle projecting on one side in graceful lines. An inner receptacle of metal holds water for flowers, which, to most artistically set off the cup, should be pink roses or carnations, as that color is so lovely in combination with the gray tinge of the heather.

The lucky possessor of one of these lucky cups can convert it at any time into a loving cup by using a glass receptacle inside, instead of the metal one, and as the heather, which has been dried to use in this form, will keep forever the girl can bring it out on all sorts of festive occasions and, using it for a drinking cup, share its potent charm with her friends.

GIrls who wish to dance gracefully should wear the new stockings which have the separate opening for the big toe. This invention gives the pedal extremities a freedom and elasticity unattainable with the binding propensities of the ordinary stocking and makes all the difference in the world in the poise of the foot, in the comfort of the wearer and in her grace of motion, because it enables her to properly bring into play important muscles which when the toes are too closely confined became numb from disuse.

PRACTICAL TALKS BY THE APRIL GRANDMOTHER

"If you will only comb your hair more deliberately I will cheerfully delay breakfast," said the April Grandmother, as she watched her youngest descendant performing her morning toilet. "Better a cold chop than the haunting fear of ultimately having to introduce a bald headed debutante to society. Fearing out long strands of hair is not the proper way to battle with tangles. The better method is to lift each lock separately and gently work a coarse toothed comb through it. If this treatment is patiently continued you will find it easy to run your fingers through the entire mass from scalp to tips without dislodging a single hair from its roots.

"Of course this will take considerable time, because your hair, like that of most young girls, is exceedingly thick, but it will not long remain luxuriant if you persist in violently brushing it with a stiff, coarse bristled brush—a toilet implement, by the way, which is most unsanitary unless regularly cleansed with a mixture of soap and ammonia in boiling water.

"It is well to bear in mind that a brush is not for the scalp but for the hair, which will become dry, strong and glossy if gently brushed once or twice a day. Clipping the ends of the hair every fortnight will also strengthen it, but will interfere with its growth.

"Heavy hairpins are injurious to the hair, as they not only drag at its roots but heat the scalp. In arranging the coiffure it is far better to employ a number of pins that are small and light than a half dozen that are large and weighty.

"The hair should not be arranged in the same manner for many successive weeks or remain confined for an entire day. Several times between morning and evening it should be thoroughly ventilated by removing all of the pins, shaking out the individual locks and running the fingers through them.

"Sometimes the hair of a quite young girl will show indications of fading, usually due to a lack of blood circulation in the scalp. A good way to keep the scalp healthy is to massage it every night with witch hazel, applied with the finger tips and rubbed briskly until the hair is perfectly dry. This will induce circulation, cleanse the scalp and, in addition to making the hair grow long and thick, will keep it fluffy.

"Washing the hair with soda will make it stand out prettily, but it will quickly cause the roots to decay and will bleach the locks to a certain extent—and bleached hair invariably lends the countenance an unnatural appearance and sometimes makes it look mature.

"Girls of delicate constitution are apt to have exceedingly thin hair, which should be fed and

strengthened with some tonic known to be absolutely reliable. Whether the hair is heavy or thin, its line should be kept intact, as bare spots about the temples and behind the ears detract immeasurably from the youthfulness and attractiveness of a woman's face.

"The head should be regularly but not too frequently shampooed with castile soap and water, but fine, dry hair should be less frequently washed than that which is oily and coarse. Any preparation containing alcohol or acid should be avoided, as they not only tend to dry and split the hairs, but make them turn gray—unless they fall out. When for one reason or another it is inconvenient to have the hair regularly shampooed the scalp may be cleansed with corn meal, which is readily shaken out.

"A handful of lavender flowers mixed with a little powdered orris root and the corn meal shampoo will perfume the hair delicately and will be infinitely better for the health of the hair than the practice of sleeping with the locks wound about a sachet roll or covered with a scented cap."

Novelties for the Tea Table

A GIRL who has her own tea table can make it much more attractive by often having little novelties. All girls like to try something new, and the new things become by and by regular favorites. One of these novelties is to put about half a spoonful of orange marmalade in a cup of tea. It gives a delicious flavor and is a change from the usual slice of lemon.

Many persons have served marmalade sandwiches with tea, but it is newer to use the marmalade in the tea and some other kind of sandwiches. Those made with a nut paste would be good, or pâté de foie gras. Swedish wafers buttered and heated would also be delicious.

Some girls do not care for tea and are very fond of chocolate, so it is a good plan to serve chocolate, too, for one's friends. It can either be done by having the chocolate sent up from the kitchen all made or by using an instantaneous chocolate for unexpected company. The latter is made by pouring boiling water over it just like tea, except that it must be stirred until dissolved.

And with the chocolate another novelty can be used. A marshmallow dropped into hot chocolate gives an unusual and unique flavor which is much enjoyed by many persons. A very charming addition to a girl's tea table would be two little glass jars which she could keep supplied with the marshmallows and marmalade.

Attractive Toilet Table Sets

FANCY lawns showing delicately colored patterns upon white are made up into attractive looking as well as practical dressing table sets, comprising a square or oblong cover and two or more dollies. They are mounted over saten of a shade matching the tracings on the lawn and finished with a feather stitched hem or with a washable ribbon border. Sheer white lawn sets have wide borders headed with hemstitching or with narrow insertions of Valenciennes or muslin embroidery, while those of all-over muslin embroidery have frill trimmed edges of Valenciennes or Cluny. An exceedingly dainty effect is gained by placing strips of embroidery and lace entre-deux and finishing the edges with double frills of sheer muslin edged with lace.

Dotted and figured Swiss is made up with ruffle frilled edges of the same material finished with a rolled hem, with narrow lace or with baby ribbon. Some of them are bordered with a wide hem headed with ribbon run heading. All of these very thin dressing table sets are given additional body and character by the use of colored linings of heavy lawn.

Butcher's linen sets sometimes have scalloped edges and their owner's monogram in the centre or in one corner with white or colored embroidery silk. Or they have solid embroidery centres and scalloped edges in plain buttonhole.

Newest of all in the realm of dressing table sets are those of exceedingly coarse net appliqued with cretonne sprays and veiled with fine net, through which the colors of the flowers show distinctly.

Printed foulards and fancy silks of light tints and in floral effects make exceedingly pretty dressing table sets, and as they are not launderable they may have borders of wide satin ribbon, plain or embroidered, or a frilling of fine lace. Frequently a set of small dollies in silk and lace are used in connection with a very long bureau towel of hand embroidered linen, bearing a large initial on one end.

Craze for New Muff Purse

THERE is quite a craze among girls for the muff purse, which is one of the season's caprices. This novelty is a dainty little leather affair fastened onto a strap of similar leather which is long enough to go around the neck and through the muff. Attached in this way to the strap the purse can be tucked in the muff with a delightful sense of security, and, relieved of the necessity of holding it, the hands are left most agreeably free.