

SPRING FASHIONS FOR CHILDREN.

THE small girl of 5 promises to be a much-dressed young person this spring. She may be just a kindergarten young lady, with big, wondering eyes and a decided fondness for doll babies, but if she happens to have a fashionable mamma her wardrobe is quite as extensive and is given quite as much thought as her debutante sister's.

Of course she has half a dozen or so of sensible school frocks, fairly plain white aprons and an every day coat. But her wardrobe also contains a real Persian-made hat, a bicycle suit made to order by a tailor, silk petticoats with frills in plenty and party gowns fit for a real live princess.

The spring and summer frocks for children are in town a bit earlier than usual this year. The shops are not only displaying the newest fashions in light weight cheviot school dresses, but organza gowns for mid-summer days and shirt waists in a great variety for the baby summer girl.

The mother who is anxious her small daughter shall be dressed in the latest fashion will do well to make a tour of the shops just now, for though it may not be possible for her to purchase the dainty frocks which are now on sale she may get much inspiration and many useful hints from them which shall be of practical aid to her in making her own little girl's spring wardrobe.

The prettiest of the new school dresses come in bright plaids. Some are in cheviot and others are made of poplin. The frocks are all in order with fairly full skirts, but sleeves are much smaller than last year. The plaid dresses are made up simply and require but little trimming. Many of them are worn with a broad black velvet waistband, and the big collar or pointed bertha is frequently trimmed with narrow rows of black velvet ribbon. Plain cloth dresses are trimmed lavishly with braid. Little gowns of dark blue or deep brown show collar, cuffs and waistband of white cloth striped with narrow gold or silver braid. For very small girls the guimpe dress is still the favorite. The daintiest guimpes have the yokes made of fine tucks, and also groups of these tiny tucks forming the cuffs.

For the kindergarten young lady who also attends dancing school, there are new party frocks which would make her jump up and down with joy, they are so like her big sister's.

A particularly dainty little frock designed purposely for dancing-school wear is made of light blue faille, and trimmed with blue satin ribbons and the fluffiest of accordion-pleated chiffon frills. The chiffon frills are each edged with narrow lace, and they outline the low-cut neck. The waist shows just a suggestion of a blouse back and front, and the sleeves are small, short puffs. The dress may be worn with a guimpe or not, according to the discretion of the small girl's mamma. Party dresses of muslin and lace insertion are also very fashionable. They are worn over a slip of some delicate silk, and frequently a sash matching the silk in color is worn with them.

Though the little imported French gingham gowns are not designed for party wear, yet they are pretty enough to grace the most fashionable dancing-school event. The gingham is exquisitely dainty in their designs and color combination, and are made up trimmed with much open-work embroidery.

One little gingham gown which costs ready made almost as much as a real party frock is made of a delicate green and white plaid gingham, scattered with raised tiny green and white spots. It has a full skirt, which hangs from a waistband of embroidery. The slightly full



and a fly front. It is a tailor-made jacket, but instead of showing the conventional strapped seams, the seams are corded, and both the upper part of the sleeves and the yoke of the coat show rows of the same fine cording which has much the effect of groups of tiny tucks.

Russian blouse coats for girls from 6 to 10 will also be worn for early spring days. The made entirely of rows of insertion, both in the back and front, and are trimmed with either black braid or black velvet ribbon.

When the hats and bonnets were designed this year for the small girl of fashion simplicity was apparently forgotten. The most entirely of rows of insertion elaborate as those worn by society young women.

The fancy bonnets are dreams of loveliness. The daintiest, and incidentally the most expensive, are made of white silk batiste embroidered in some faint color. The effect of rows of insertion in these bonnets greatly resembles an old-fashioned sun-bonnet in shape. It is made of white silk batiste, embroidered in scroll designs in pale blue silk.

The bonnet is trimmed with bows of delicate blue ribbon, and wide ribbon strings tie in front beneath the baby chin. The inside ruche, which fits closely to the head, is caught here and there with sprays of artificial forget-me-nots. Another new idea is the fancy bonnet of white lawn showing the body of the bonnet made entirely of rows of insertion alternating with embroidery beading run with narrow ribbons.

The prettiest of the new hats show a combination of coarse but silky straw and silk mill ruffles. The crown is generally framed of ribbon, and then again four tiny ruffles make the brim. These little hats are very becoming. Sometimes they are trimmed with just a simple bow of ribbon, and then again the crown is encircled with flowers.

For everyday wear the cloth hats, both in the Alpine and the Tam o' Shanter shapes, which are made with stitched brims, are not only practical for young schoolgirls but most fashionable as well. They either have a full satin rosette as their trimming or a high quill or two caught at the side.

To complete the fashionable small girl's wardrobe she must surely have a bathrobe made of either elderdown or Turkish toweling, a mackintosh cut in the latest design, besides her bicycle suit.

The small boy these days has quite as elaborate a wardrobe as his young sister. His waists, with their big sailor collars, rival her shirt waists in beauty and daintiness. When she wears her silk dancing gown he appears in a velvet suit. He has vests trimmed with gold braid and shields to wear with his sailor suits, on which great big anchors are embroidered. He has a baseball suit, a spring overcoat and hats, gloves, and neckties for every occasion, even if it happens to be only a few months ago that he reached the dignity of trousers.

There will not be a total eclipse of the sun visible in Great Britain for about 500 years.

waist has a rever on the right side, which is edged with a frill of embroidery. The sleeve is unusually pretty. At the shoulder there is a small puff, over this fall two ruffles of embroidery, the upper one also forming part of the collar. At the wrist there is a band of insertion and another embroidery frill which falls well over the little hand. This gown may also be bought in white and yellow plaid

gingham and in the imported gingham showing the fine Roman stripes. White pique dresses will be worn more than ever this spring and summer by fashionable small girls. The prettiest are all made with full skirts, baby waists and big circular collars, which are trimmed with insertion and ruffles of white embroidery. The newest sleeves show a frill at the shoulder, which appears to be tied

in the middle with satin ribbon, the ribbon being fastened at the top in a bow. Pique gowns made in this fashion are always worn with a guimpe. The separate pique skirts with reefer coats to match will be worn very much throughout the summer with shirt waists. One of the most fashionable of the spring jackets for a small girl is made of tan-color covert cloth with small sleeves

RAISING WEAK BABIES IN GLASS INCUBATORS

THE time is not far distant when the people of San Francisco will point with pride to feeble infants gaining vitality while living in glass houses. The French system of prolonging feeble infant life has reached New York. From New York to San Francisco is not far, and if New York babies prove that the incubator system is adapted to their needs the infants of San Francisco will not have long to wait to share similar benefits.

Local interest in infant culture was actively awakened in 1895, when Mrs. de Marville, nee Caduc, dying here, left a baby a few hours old. The baby was so weak that there was little hope that it would survive. Dr. de Marville devised an incubator that worked well. It consisted of a metallic pan set in a box and provided with heat by the flowing of warm water through tubes which lined the box. The box was set in a trunk, the lid of which was partly open. The temperature of the room in which the trunk stood was kept uniform and high. The baby thrived well, soon took food and now is strong and active.

The subject of preserving infant life long ago engaged the attention of men of science in France, where the population is diminishing, and the ablest minds in the country are occupied with the solution of scientific problems. Forty years ago Professor Denuce of Bordeaux constructed an incubator which achieved satisfactory results. This was improved in 1880 by Professor Ternier; in his machine the air was heated by blocks of granite. This incubator was presented to the Maternity Hospital at Paris, and has been pronounced a success.

But seven successive exhibitions held at Lyons, Amsterdam, Bordeaux, Brussels, Geneva, Berlin, Innsbruck and Nashville, have awarded the first prize for the most perfect incubator to the one which was invented in 1891 by Dr. Alexander Lion of Nice, and it is now being adopted in all maternity hospitals. A building has just been erected in West Eighteenth street, New York City, for its use, and the institution has become one of the shows of the metropolitan city.

When a baby arrives at the Lion Institute in New York it is carefully examined by the physician in charge, who deals with the little mites—some of them weighing as little as two pounds—as if they were precious jewels. He first determines whether the infant is free from contagion. In some of the European institutes children tainted with inherited disease or prevailing epidemic are not admitted. If no malady betrays itself the child's name, age, length, weight, temperature and general condition are entered into the record book, and it is handed over to the chief nurse.

She notes whether it belongs to the class of simply feeble or prematurely born infants, and assigns it to an incubator, which is in charge of an assistant nurse. Its clothing is removed, it is wrapped in a downy white garment which affords free play for the limbs, and it is laid on a pillow in its hammock, in the glass case.

Each incubator is in charge of a trained nurse, garbed like a sister in gray. Adjoining the hall where the incubators stand is a room, fronting the

main entrance, which is known as the nursery. Here, all day long, a train of nurses feed the babies with food specially assigned to each by the institute physicians; some of them suffer from mouth trouble which requires them to be fed through the nose. But one seldom hears the complaint so often made in private nurseries that the food "does not agree with baby." Back of the nursery stands the nurses' dormitory. They keep watch and watch, so that the number on duty all through night and day is about the same. So perfect is the system that the death rate among the infants is not now greater than that among the people at large—low as that is in New York.

Hospitals like the Lion Institute in New York are, of course, not self-supporting, nor could they be here. A pittance is granted in New York by the municipal government, which is supplemented by an annuity generously bestowed by the rich. Parents who can afford to pay for the salvation of the

last municipal year were: Total deaths, 5966; under one year of age, 997. Of these infants 263 are reported to have died of atrophy and inanition; that is to say, they died because the feeble vital spark was not nursed into vigorous life by proper care in earliest infancy. It is not unfair to assume that a considerable proportion might have been saved by the incubator, besides a percentage of the 734 other infants whose death is ascribed to other causes.

In London the new improvement has created a new industry. Portable incubators are made of glass and metal, which can be washed, disinfected and carried in a vehicle to any point where they are required. From the depot where they are kept in stock an incubator may be dispatched to a house where a feeble or premature child has just been born, and can be handled by any intelligent trained nurse. They will only be needed for a few days; at the end of two or three weeks the infant will have acquired vitality enough to resist a breath of fresh air, and the incubator can be returned to the depot.

PESTS TO KILL PESTS.

Some remarkable bugs are being hatched and reared at present by experts of the Government Bureau of Entomology at Washington. This kind of scientific work has a very useful purpose in view, notwithstanding the fact that the species selected for breeding are the most pestiferous that can be found.

On the shelves and on the floor are glass jars and boxes, with glass sides, containing a great variety of plants, fruits, dried-up vegetables and pieces of branches or roots. The purpose for which injurious insects are bred in this hatchery is twofold. In the first place it is desired to study their history, because knowledge on this subject yields pointers as to the best methods of attacking them. Particularly it is desirable to discover what parasites prey upon them. The fact is that every species has its parasitic enemies, and one of the most effective methods for attacking a pestiferous bug is to identify and encourage the multiplication of its insect foes.

One of the most remarkable insects bred in the insectary is the "shothole beetle." It is so called because of its queer little tunnels, resembling holes made by small shot, which it bores in wood. The "sawdust" produced by boring is chewed to a pulp by the female beetle and is put by her into a chamber. Eventually it is let loose experimentally on an infested tree or other plant. Fierce beetles, which are to the insect world what beasts of prey are to the mammal kingdom, are propagated and placed where they will have a chance to tackle their victims. Fungus and bacterial diseases are communicated to healthy bugs, in order that they may be let loose and disseminate artificial maladies among their kind.

The Bureau of Entomology is breeding parasites of the cotton-boll weevil—the insect that is doing so much damage to cotton in the southwest. Other bugs under propagation are the borer that invades oak tree roots, the scale insect of the peach, the cottony maple scale and the creosote scale. This latter is found on the creosote shrub all through the southwest. The shrub itself is not of importance, but the substance of the scale formed by the insect makes an excellent commercial quality of shellac. The Japanese shellac is obtained from a similar bug.



A TURKISH BATH ROBE.



FROM A REAL PARIS MODEL.



A SUNBONNET SHAPE.

ADVENTURES OF A WOMAN UNDERTAKER

WE were talking about everyday topics when my friend happened to say she was in the undertaking business.

"Why, how in the world did you get into that?" I asked.

"Of course it did at first, but I made up my mind to grin and bear it, and I succeeded."

Mrs. Parks is one of those large, good natured women who seem to have nerve and ambition to attempt almost anything. She has served a regular training course in the strange profession.

"And how did you conclude to become an undertaker?" I asked.

"Just by the merest chance," she replied. "I called upon a friend who was just getting ready to go to the Golden Gate Undertaking Parlors to view the body of her sister-in-law. I volunteered to go with her and dress the hair of the deceased. The offer was kindly accepted. As the body was not quite ready, the manager requested us to wait for about fifteen minutes. Before many minutes passed he came in and asked how the lady had worn her hair. I told him I had come for the purpose of dressing it. 'Oh, have you?' Then please step this way," he said.

"The manager assisted me, and as I was leaving the establishment he complimented me on the way I had handled the hair and advised me to learn the business."

"But from whom?" I asked.

"Oh, I'll teach you. Come in some time."

"All right," I replied.

"I thought, however, he was only

joking, but as I was in earnest, I called again. He seemed surprised to see me.

"Did you really mean it? I thought you were only joking. Have you truly decided to learn?"

"Why, of course," I answered. "If you'll teach me."

After Mrs. Parks learned how to lay out a body for burial, she entered a course of embalming, which met here last November. Prominent undertakers and doctors of the United States are at the head of this school, and come here about once in every six or seven years.

Out of a class of thirty-two graduates, three were women, namely, Mrs. Parks of San Francisco, Miss Wood of Oakland and Mrs. Ream of Sacramento.

"Did you ever attend an autopsy?" I asked her.

"Oh, yes; and the first one I attended the doctors watched me for fear I would change color. But I had resolved to be firm, and I kept up to the end, although several times I felt very uneasy. At the conclusion, one of the doctors congratulated me, and said he had fainted himself the first one he attended."

Mrs. Parks complained that the majority of undertakers are afraid to initiate a woman into the business. As one undertaker said to her: "Why should we give you money that we can earn ourselves? As long as the public does not know that a lady can be employed, why should we make them any the wiser?"

In some weeks as many as 15,000,000 fowls reach London from poultry farms in France, Italy, Austria and Russia, the greater portion of which might easily be bred in the United Kingdom, and at a profit.

MOST VALUABLE PLAT OF GROUND ON EARTH

THE most valuable plat of ground in the world, at least the one that has commanded the highest price, is located at the corner of Broad and Wall streets, New York City, in the heart of the great financial district. Several years ago Mr. Wilkes established a record for high priced realty by paying \$168,000 for 508 square feet of ground on this site, or \$330.70 per square foot.

The immensity of this rate of valuation can best be appreciated by measuring off a square foot of space and then comparing its dimensions with those of \$330 in money. Such a comparison will show that if Mr. Wilkes had paid for his property in \$1 bills he would have been able to cover his entire lot with eighty-two layers of greenbacks, or he could have paved it with four tiers of silver dollars placed edge to edge as closely as they would lie. Doubtless if the worthy Dutch burglar of New Amsterdam could return to earth they would be astounded to learn the value of the land on which they pastured their cows 200 years ago.

Though no other piece of ground has commanded an equal price per foot, there are several other plats in New York City which are quite equal to the Wilkes property in value. For example, a considerable larger lot on the northwest corner of Nassau and Pine streets, one block above the Wilkes property, was sold last year for \$250 per square foot, and the opposite corner of the same streets, including 6043 feet, was bought by the Hanover National Bank for \$1,350,000. The lot on the corner of Broadway and Maidenlane, and the site of the Commercial Cable Company's building in Broad street, are also properties that could be covered

fifty feet deep with dollar bills out of their purchase price.

Probably the largest amount ever paid for the site of a single building was that given by the Broadway Realty Company for the lot on which the Bowling Green building has been erected. This sky-scraper, which is the tallest in the city, extends from Broadway through to Greenwich street, and covers 29,152 feet of ground, for which \$3,000,000 was paid. This is \$102.90 per foot, and, though the price per foot is less than has been paid for several other plots, the total represents an enormous sum to pay merely for the ground on which to erect one building.

One peculiar effect in real estate values that has followed the sky-scraper era is the extraordinary price which has been put upon sites that are suitable for very high buildings, spots with open surroundings, on which other lofty structures are not likely to be built, are, of course, the most desirable for this purpose, and such places are few in the city of New York. The result is that many buildings which are already very profitable are being torn down to make room for the erection of sky-scrapers.

It is now said that the famous old Astor House, which is still a paying and prosperous hotel, will soon be torn down and replaced by a twenty-five-story office building. This site faces the churchyard of old St. Paul's on one side and the open space of the Federal building on another, so that it is an exceptionally advantageous location for a tall building.

Of course, there are many big real estate transactions in which the actual prices paid do not appear, but it is not likely that there have been any in which the figures have surpassed those quoted above.