

The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

School Time and the Children

School time is here and with it have come the children. They have come back, most of them, from long, happy months spent in the country, and their cheeks are rosy and their little bodies sturdy with health. They are sorry that they must go into school again, after the days and weeks of freedom from lessons and sums, and the books will be very, very heavy, and not even the lunch box a consolation for some time to come.

In the girls and little boys who have played so happily through the summer days, kind thoughts and words have watched and waited for you and the roses in your cheeks. Loving hearts have smiled and said, "Lesson time now." How you had to turn from the play and how big and utterly uncomprehending the old geography and history seemed! Right here in the town are at least half a hundred little bodies that have endured the heat and toll of the summer without even a peep into the country.

In other sections of the country, however, and miles from the city, children that must earn their pittance at whatever work and the miserable little bodies that drag about the world are so worn and worn and the hearts and souls are so dulled and dwarfed. There, the number is greatly diminished, because except under certain conditions stipulated by law, a child cannot be worked as a story hand under a certain age, but doesn't four or five years seem very young to you? In the towns where you go to see the "big show," with all the laws and rules and every thing else that has been done in this city of ours, there are still children working for a living. Why are they doing it? That is because of parents, crippled or otherwise, that must be taken care of and the money must be brought in somehow.

Little hands that cannot rest, small bodies whose strength is gone, what of the mind that has been planted, what of the soul that has been planted and is just as you do?

You sit in your sheltered home with happiness on your right hand and love and protection all about you. What is your part—what is your responsibility? It must be somebody's place in the great big world to hear the cry of the little children and the growing girls and boys. They are growing up in illiteracy, what time have they for school who must pace beside the loom? If only we might build more playgrounds for the cramped little souls and less of the dark prisons to hold them in after school when the darkness and shadow of childhood has deepened into sin and crime.

When fault is it—why is there no help? You ask. You don't want to know about the factory children away, and you don't want to know about them here. Why haven't you found out? The knowledge will never come to you at home, you must seek it.

Margaret Wildermer, writing in a recent *McClure's* says:

"I have shut my little sister in from life and love."

"For a ribbon, for a ribbon, for a weath' across my hair!"

"I have made her restless feet still in the night."

"I looked from windows of summer and from wild spring air."

"I who used to be a shadow-lands, free from sun to sun."

"Free to sing and pull the buds and watch the far wings fly."

"I have found my sister till her playing time is done—"

"Oh, my little sister, was it I?—was it I?"

When you kiss your little girl good-night, and have her go to school this week, won't you give a thought to the little children that have toiled with you, reading all through the summer and must drag on through the winter and the next summer and the winter after that? If they fall in line as from the money for the time lost is deducted from the pittance that they earn. When you have looked into a pinched little face that has already been a wage-earner many years, will you not say to your heart,

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The Newest Thing in Clothes.

The dressmaking clans are gathering, and by this time openings will be in full swing. Already some of the less sensitive importers are giving to the select glimpses of much that will figure in these openings, and as for the general buyers, the town has swarmed with them for weeks past.

The lever of fashions, or rather of the things that go to make up fashions, who misses the first skirmishes on the season's firing line loses a good deal of enjoyment. After the dulness of midsummer, when the smartest frocks, no matter how bewitching, are like a tale that has been told, when real novelties are as rare as the dodo in the shops, and when only the occasional advance showings in the wholesale establishments and the rumors anent modes to come are of interest to the students of fashion changes, there is something stimulating about the stir that runs through the part of the world concerned with woman's dress when August slips into September.

Through late August there has been a murmur in the air like the tuning up of instruments before an orchestra finds speech, but with September vague sounds grow into music, vague rumors crystallize into definite modes. Some of the modes may not suggest melody. One must not strain a metaphor too far. And some not altogether melodious are of the rag-time variety, but on the whole, the season promises well, and there will undoubtedly be a large percentage of wearable frocks shown at the openings along with the spectacular models that are a concession to the taste for conspicuous effects. Prudent buyers will obtain all too large classes of women.

The most signal triumphs and the hopless failures in the new models, if one is to trust to the early showing, will be associated with drapery. It is always a test, this drapery, a touchstone by which the artist may unfailingly be differentiated from the bungler, and whenever, as now, drapery becomes increasingly important, a distinguishing feature of the new fashion, there is trouble ahead for those who make frocks and for those who wear them.

Draperies are less bizarre, less trying, to the figure than they were in the spring when bouffant panniers were launched, but they are no less difficult of achievement. The paniers of the spring was so extreme that one hardly expected it to be becoming, but the drapery of the autumn essays to be graceful, becoming as well as chic. It swatches the figure in lowing yet clinging folds. It leaves a comparatively straight silhouette, but breaks into odd fullnesses within that outline.

French Frocks of Silver Brocade.

Some of the new models are little draped if at all. There are one-piece frocks that at first sight seem distinctly familiar, but when one examines them one usually finds subtle differences between them, and the straight, scant, one-piece trotting frocks of last season. The outline may have changed little, but platts have crept into the skirt, or little rippling folds appear somewhere in the skirt length, or perhaps it is merely a slightly greater breadth in the long straight falling skirt that works the differences. Twixt the new suit and the old one.

Some canny women who last spring read the handwriting on the wall correctly will come back to town wearing spring suits of frocks quite in the autumn pictures. Not the radical panniers. They have passed, as they were bound to pass, without having reached the majority, but having accomplished their purpose and blazed the way for less aggressive drapery and fullness. Piquant paniers models, models showing the short bouffant paniers are still shown by certain makers, but rather as period frocks than in an effort to make them dominate present-day fashions.

On the other hand, everywhere one sees echoes of the paniers, attenuated, conical, draperies that one can hardly call panniers, yet they hold a hint of paniers origin or inspiration.

These draperies fall long and limp, are drawn away but slightly from the front or are caught up but a trifle here or there.

Still there is the tendency to a foot line, narrower than the line above it, though in reality the new skirt may have added foot width, straight falling, flatly pressed pleats or limp folds. No flare, save in extreme period models, but a comfortable width for motion and opportunity for the use of more material, and above this clinging foot fullnesses deftly draped folds.

Or perhaps the whole skirt is platted, or has a platted section, or is trimmed in scant flounces, or has a flounced, platted or clinging plaited front with some sort of flowing train or platts falling from the shoulder to provide the drapery.

In evening frocks there are many charming variations upon this idea of the flowing drapery from shoulders or high girdle top, and delightful effects are secured by using chiffon, gauze or fine lace in what may be called modified without fashion, soft, wide platts or, breathing falling, free from the shoulders or from the shoulder blades and either merging into train drapery or partly veiling a draped or flounced skirt.

Some of the handiwork of the new evening gowns, too, have draped sides and backs, with petticoat effects in front. In such models, the bodice, which in front is likely to show a continuation of the petticoat material, and the draped overskirt are often of the superb brocades of champagne or moire or rich one-tone silks, while the petticoat is of shiner stuff. One beautiful French frock, for example, has its delicate bodice and softly draped overskirt and train of rich white and silver brocade, astonishingly supple in spite of its interwoven silver.

The drapery falls away in front to show the petticoat of white silk grosgrain, accented platted and falling over a very clinging foundation of white satin so narrow that it has to be rounded up in front to ankle height, the overskirt falling to the ankles, and permitting only a vague glimpse of the wearer's silk-clad ankles. A band of silver galon runs down the middle front of this satin foundation, and gleams faintly through the platted ed tulle.

Suggestions Which Will Prove Valuable to Homemakers

Have you tried lead chocolate instead of lead tea for the daily lunch?

Lead chocolate should be made very rich. Prepare it early in the day and put in the refrigerator. Before serving add a tablespoonful of sherry, a few drops of vanilla and beat hard for five minutes. Serve in tall glasses with whipped cream on top. If not cold enough, use shaved ice.

Successful candied sweet potatoes come from slow cooking. Use the small potatoes whole, bigger one may be cut in half lengthwise or in rounds. Scrub well and pare with a sharp knife.

Put the potatoes in a baking dish and cover with a pint of water to every six potatoes, a half pound of granulated sugar, four tablespoonfuls of butter and a teaspoonful of cinnamon. Keep cover on baking dish until potatoes are hot, then uncover and brown. Both candied and browned sweet potatoes are delicious when served with burning brandy poured around them, or a wineglassful of sherry wine be added to the sugared liquid.

Creamed new potatoes left from dinner should have the dressing washed from them, then fried the next day for lunch, with shredded green peppers.

Kitchen Suggestions.

It is worth while to let a pint of milk sour from one day to another for

the breakfast griddle cakes, because cakes made from sour milk and soda are so much superior in lightness and texture to those made of sweet milk and baking powder.

To use sour milk for griddle cakes, never add baking powder, but instead an even teaspoonful of baking soda to each cup of milk.

Whole wheat or brown bread cut in to very thin slices and spread with unsalted butter is tasty if immersed in sour milk. The lactic acid destroys the germs of putrefaction.

An Excellent Dinner

Broiled Fillet of Beef—Slices cut from the tenderloin are technically known as filets. Wipe the desired number place on a well-dressed broiler and broil four or five minutes over a clear fire. Have some fresh butter, in the proportion of one tablespoonful of chopped parsley to three tablespoonfuls of butter. Arrange the filets on the serving platter, and upon each one, just before sending to the table, place a lump of parsley butter. Garnish with watercress.

Potato Hash.—Mash potatoes, salt and pepper to taste. If desired, add a little parsley, or even chopped onions if liked. Roll the potatoes into small balls, cover them with an egg and bread crumbs, fry in hot lard for about two minutes, drain and serve hot.

Pepper Salad.—Shred green pepper very fine and add one sliced sweet red pepper. Serve on lettuce with a French dressing.

Branded Peas.—This requires four pounds of peas to four pounds of sugar and one pint of brandy. Cook the sugar with one quart of water and simmer two minutes after it comes to a boil. Put the fruit in this and boil for five minutes, remove the peas and put in heated jars. Let the syrup boil until it thickens, and then add the brandy, removing from the fire at once. Pour the syrup over the fruit and seal. If the jars are allowed to lie in brandy overnight after being cooked, they will keep much better.

Practical Hats---School Blouses

The hat for a school girl should be a simple one, which can be quickly adjusted without the aid of the mirror, if necessary. For this reason the plain little hats of plush and Austrian velvet have the first call. They come in a large variety of shapes, so that each face may be becomingly framed. One of the most universally becoming is that with the rounded crown and narrow, rolling brim. This need only be trimmed with a band of ribbon encircling the crown and a flat pump bow across the front.

Some of the jauntiest ones have no trimming other than the band of grosgrain ribbon around the crown. They are as delightfully soft and flexible that the wearer can bend or twist them as she wishes, and the young school girl has generally very decided ideas what she considers smart and becoming.

The ever popular sailor is shown in various materials, velours and hatter's plush being two of the newest types. A smart sailor of black hatter plush was trimmed around the crown with a band of white suede, ornamented at each side with a white soutache braid ornament. Braided bands are used extensively on hats for the young girl, sharing the popularity of ribbon.

Many of the soft French felt hats in white and colors have their crowns swathed in folds of silk or ribbon with jaunty bows of various descriptions at the side, generally well toward the

back. A charming one in an egyptian white felt was trimmed in this way with purple ribbon, showing a white, plaited edge. Two loops of the ribbon were drawn through a buckle of the ribbon at the side, with the two ends allowed to fall on to the hair.

Another new method of trimming is the dog's ear of ribbon or satin. One chic hat of brown plush, with a round crown and brim rolling upward, all around, was trimmed on the left side by a dog's ear of canary-colored satin.

Houses to Match.

To complete the suit or skirt and jacket a good-looking, neat blouse is required. For the schoolroom this waist should be as simple as possible. Many girls wear the white blouses they have worn all the summer, but white soils quickly and is, therefore, not as trim and neat as the darker waist.

The prettiest waists are those in silk, matching the skirt in color. Satin, charmeuse, taffeta, bengaline or one of the new ribbed silks or a crepe weave may be chosen. Crepe de chine has an excellent reputation for wearing well and generally makes good these blouses are fashioned on the lines of the simplest shirts, with handkerchief pocket, front lap for the buttons and long regulation shirt sleeves with soft turnover cuffs.

To wear with them are stiff, white collars or ribbon collars with linen or pique turnovers.

L'Art de la Mode.