

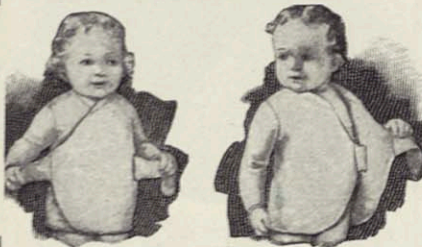
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Little Men and Little Women in Summertime

By Mrs. Ralston

ILLUSTRATIONS BY KATHARINE N. RICHARDSON



THE wisdom of buying the cheaper grade of fabrics, especially in the washable cotton goods, for children's clothes is open to argument. On the one hand there is the question of the rapidity with which children's clothes are outgrown, which sometimes makes it seem not worth while to invest very much in the material, while

on the other hand there is the advantage of buying materials of good quality as they stand the wear and tear.

For the very "littlest" people it does not seem possible to improve upon the well-known and well-tried model of the simple Mother Hubbard gown.

For the warm days of summer it is more comfortable to have the little dresses with low band collars or without any collars at all, finishing the neck in a round or square shape, with either bands of insertion or shaped appliqué bands of the material.

THE adaptability of dresses of good material to remodeling should also be taken into consideration, as when the material is good sometimes two old dresses may be made into one new one. This combination of materials is made possible by the fashions of the day in which so many different materials are combined; also because the guimpes which are being worn by children are now made deeper and show more than the guimpes of the past, which often were small affairs, only taking the place of an under yoke, and rather a shallow one at that. The new guimpes show in the front to within almost an inch or two of the waist-line. The entire sleeves and the bodice of the gown are cut in a peasant girdle fashion, which is attached across the shoulders by the merest straps.

FOR the guimpes for little girls to wear with their best dresses, all-over embroidered muslin is used, or dotted Swiss; and to the guimpes are attached the deep berthas, or shaped collars, now so much the vogue for children. These berthas, or collars, which fall over the edge of the bodice of the gown, instead of, as was formerly the fashion, being attached to the gown, are now made to edge the yokes of the guimpes. Very pretty guimpes are made entirely of alternate strips of colored and plain material, as, for instance, a strip of organdy and nainsook, or a strip of gingham and linen. The strips may be joined by narrow beading or lace insertion, fagot-stitched together, or simply lapped and stitched in ordinary seam fashion.

THE strapping of two materials together is much used in other garments for children, particularly on coats. The coats for the smaller children are cut either in a straight box pattern or in a circular bodied one set on a shallow yoke, the body of the coat itself being formed entirely of alternating strips of different materials. Of course, in garments of this kind almost any variety of combination may be used, braid and silk joined by lace insertion making a pretty one. A touch of color may be introduced in this way, or if the strapping is all white and formed of strips of organdy and lace, an underlining of pale pink or blue in lawn, gingham or silk may be used. Such coats are almost always finished with fancy cape collars reaching quite to the waist-line in the back and front.

WITH these coats of the thinner materials, and indeed, too, with the coats of light-weight cloths, thin washable hats of organdy and Swiss are worn. For the smaller children the bonnet-shaped caps are preferred, with full face ruffles of fine material, plaited and edged either with lace or a fine gauze ribbon with a picot edge. Such hats are corded, and very light in weight. For more dressy wear point d'esprit hats trimmed with sprays of small flowers, or rosettes of fine baby ribbon, are used. For play and practical purposes the washable piqué hats, which have full Tam o'Shanter crowns buttoning on to the brims, are much liked for the reason that they may be taken apart when it is necessary to launder them. Especially for the very little men these hats are to be recommended. They come in pink, blue and white for the small sum of fifty cents.

THE Norfolk coat and skirt suit has been adapted into a dress consisting of bodice and skirt for girls between the ages of eight and fifteen years. The skirts of these suits are either box-plaited or plain gored ones. The bodices are plaited in the back and front, and sometimes are made with a yoke and sometimes without. The sleeves are full and leg-of-mutton in shape; in this respect differing from the sleeves of the regulation Norfolk jackets. The bodices are semi-fitting and are worn outside of the skirt with a belt of the same material as the gown, or one of patent leather. With these bodices turn-over linen collars, Eton in shape, are worn. For usefulness these dresses are most excellent, as they are quite simple in style and easily washed and ironed. They are made in the light-weight woolen goods as well as in the wash materials, but particularly good materials for them are the linens and mercerized chevions in the darker colorings, and in the small checks and plaids. These materials can also be made up into skirt and blouse dresses of different materials, as a skirt in a solid color and a Norfolk blouse in a small check which tones in color with the skirt.

FOR better dresses for girls between these ages such materials as mull and flowered and figured Swiss are selected. For these dresses either the full shirred or gored skirt pattern is used. The shirred skirt is made in a deep yoke shape at the top, and in many instances the shirring continues quite low down, almost to the knees, being spaced in clusters. Below the knees these skirts are finished with a straight Spanish flounce of the material, put on with a shirred heading.

The bodices are made in full round baby fashion with shirred yokes and deep berthas of lace, or of the material edged with lace. The sleeves are shirred at the top in cap fashion, and below are left very full and loose and drawn into small shirred cuffs.



It is sometimes pretty in making dresses of very thin sheer materials, such as organdy and Swiss, to trim them with plain linen batiste or a colored organdy, using the trimmings where otherwise lace or insertions would be used. A collar of colored material on a gown of a plain fabric is a most effective and an extremely pretty finish.

SOME of the heavier linen gowns are made very simply, their only trimming consisting of eyelet holes on the yokes, collars and cuffs. These eyelet holes are made in a variety of sizes, arranged in groups of geometric clusters and finished with a buttonhole edge, or a spider-web stitch in the centre; or again they are simply buttonholed around the edges and placed over a thin colored lining. This mode of trimming may be used effectively, too, on the collars intended for children of all ages to wear with silk or cloth coats.

BY THE little woman and her sister, hats of rough-and-ready straw and fine chip and Leghorn will again be worn. The rough-and-ready straws come in the round, wide-brimmed, rolling sailor shape, and are very simply trimmed with bands of ribbon around the crowns, and, in some cases, a wide binding of the same ribbon at the edge of the brims. Hats of chip are trimmed more fancifully with loose wide scarfs of the soft satin taffeta ribbon, with streamers at the back which hang to the waist-line, or again they are trimmed entirely with wreaths of flowers which are placed more on the brims than on the crowns. A spray of flowers is sometimes caught in with the ribbon streamers in the back. When a wreath is used it is not necessary to put the scarf of ribbon around the crown, but to simply finish the hat in the back with small rosettes. The Leghorn hats, which, of course, are for very best and for dress occasions only, are trimmed with ruffles of plaited chiffon, which form a frilly mass around the brim that is becoming to the face of a child. One long ostrich plume completes the trimming.

FOR the younger children, to whom these large-shaped hats are not becoming, and especially in the case of boys, Leghorns in the round rolling shapes trimmed with rosettes of ribbon or white quills are selected. These hats of Leghorn are usually for "best" occasions. For commonplace, every-day purposes the plain round nainsook caps are used for the boys in the plain styles without frills of any kind, but simply tucked or hemstitched, with rosettes of baby gauze ribbon as their trimming, or rosettes made entirely of lace. For the tiny little men who are still in their coaches this shape is also used with a face ruching of muslin edged with lace.

The "Dutch" shaped muslin caps and "cap-bonnets" are well adapted to the little men. For all-around use the plain corded muslin or piqué washable hats are the best.

THE one-piece tucked gown is a pretty model for girls between the ages of six and ten, and even sometimes up to twelve, if their height is not too great. These gowns are made to wear with guimpes. The material is tucked horizontally throughout from the yoke-line to below the waist, where the tucks are left to fly loose, forming a pretty, full skirt. Instead of the tucking, narrow insertions of lace or embroidery are sometimes used. The one-piece tucked model is equally pretty made in either a thin, light-weight woolen material such as voile, or in the soft Japanese or Indian silks, and also, of course, in any of the soft cotton fabrics.

PLAIN separate shirtwaists are, as a rule, far from becoming to the unformed figure of a child, and for this reason they have never attained any degree of popularity. This summer, however, there is a compromise between the plain tucked shirtwaist, the sailor blouse, the Russian blouse, and the Norfolk jacket. This new model will be worn with the coat and skirt suits by girls from ten to twelve.

PRINTED madras is a nice material for both boys' and girls' summer clothes. It is of a nice weight and well adapted for practical purposes. The figures are mostly in standard colors and small in design. For an inexpensive material (it comes as low as twelve and a half cents a yard) it is really most satisfactory. Figured goods of this character do not require any trimming to speak of except stitching, or bands of a plain color. Laces and embroideries may be omitted and yet the dress be quite stylish.

FOR older girls white washable blond net is a material which makes up prettily for afternoon dresses. These dresses, of course, are nicer when made on a silk foundation. One of the soft summer silks answers the purpose, or if silk is not possible, for economical reasons, lawn may be substituted and the drop skirt lining be finished with a ruffle edged with narrow lace. These blond nets wash well and yet they have all the dressy characteristics of a lace dress at about a third of the cost. They are also very pretty when trimmed with Jacob's ladder, through which narrow wash ribbons are run.

GIRLS between six and fifteen still continue to wear the regulation sailor suits. For summer these suits are usually made in white duck trimmed with bands of navy blue linen duck. The sailor collars are also of the linen duck trimmed with narrow white cotton braid or with small bias folds of muslin. The corners of the collars are embroidered with stars. The sleeves are full and finished with band cuffs. A chevron is embroidered on the left sleeve, another on the small inner chemise, and another on the spencer. The right sleeve is trimmed with the one stripe. These embroideries can now be bought separately, all



ready to sew on to the collars and sleeves. Sailor blouses in white duck are frequently worn with other skirts, preferably those of dark navy blue serge, when the costume is made complete with a navy blue reefer jacket. These sailor suits are used for traveling and general wear throughout the summer. With them are worn sailor-shaped hats in coarse straw with a simple ribbon band for trimming.