CHAPTER X

CHILDREN’S CLOTHES

CHILDREN’S CLOTHES should be made very simply. Use a good quality material and suitably childish colors. The one-piece dress is an accepted style for small boys and girls, and can be made of wool, linen or cotton materials. Directions for finishing dresses made of sheer materials will be found in Chapter IX, "Infants’ Clothes." For instructions on the making of a sailor or naval suit, see Chapter XI.

THE RUSSIAN DRESS has a side-front closing, and the buttonholes may be made through the material or in a fly applied underneath the overlapping edge. Patterns for this style of garment are to be had either with or without plaits. A good design for little folks is a perfectly plain dress confined at the waist with a belt of leather or of the dress material. An inverted plait is sometimes allowed at the under-arm seams, which gives extra fullness to the skirt. The neck and wrists, and sometimes the closing edges, are usually finished with narrow bands.

A Plaited Design is very becoming to little girls. The front and back portions of the dress are laid in plaits which are stitched only to the belt line. The closing is arranged under one of the plaits, either at the front or back. Before cutting out, place the front and back of pattern on the material, and if piecing is necessary, plan to have the joining concealed under a plait. Mark all perforations and notches plainly on the material. To make the box plait, bring the lines of perforations together, baste and stitch through them. Bring the center of the plait over the line of stitching and spread it to form a box plait. Baste the plait in position along both folds and stitch it down, if desired. A crow's-foot (Fig. 155) worked at the end of each row of stitching may be used. The method of making a crow's-foot is given in Chapter IV, "Practical and Ornamental Stitches."

The Closing, cut under a plait and finished with laps for buttons and buttonholes, is shown in Fig. 156. The slash for the opening was made under the plait a seam's width from the sewing. The laps are made double, and when attached should be a little narrower than the plait which covers them. By referring to the illustration, the method of joining the laps to the edges of the opening will be readily understood.

A Buttonhole Fly is provided in some patterns by a hem allowed under the plait. The edge is turned under once, and basted as for a hem, but not stitched. The raw edge is not turned in a seam, but is inserted in the box plait and secured with the one stitch-
ing. (Fig. 157.) If the hem is not allowed on the pattern, the edge is brought over to the line of perforations, where it is basted and stitched. The center of the plait is brought over to the line of stitching forming the box plait, and is then basted in position. To the raw edge under the plait, stitch a lengthwise strip of material cut to extend to within one-quarter of an inch of the outer edge of the plait, to form the fly for the buttonholes. Hem the free edge of the strip against the line of sewing. Instructions for the most suitable finish for each garment will be found on the pattern. The button side of the garment can be finished with a hem or an underlap. (Fig. 158.)

A Yoke can be joined to the front of a dress as shown in Fig. 159 on the following page. Cut the yoke and turn the edge under a seam's width, clipping the edge where necessary to make it lie flat. Baste the yoke over the top of the front of the dress. To the wrong side, baste a bias strip of material with its edges turned under. Place two rows of stitching across the yoke, stitching from the outside. They will catch through the bias facing that is basted underneath, and which covers the seam, making a neat finish on the inside. This finish is desirable for a summer dress, as it makes it unnecessary to line the yoke. If a lining is used, however, it is cut like the yoke pattern, and the top of the dress portion is en-

closed between the turned-under edges of the yoke and its lining.

Sleeves are made in various ways. They may be gathered at the wrist and set into a cuff or wristband, or the lower part of the sleeve may be stitched in plaits forming its own cuff. After laying the plaits according to the pattern instructions, baste them flat to the sleeve and stitch through both plait and sleeve. Stitch the seam of the sleeve at the openings, with the extensions beyond the edges of the seam. On the front edge this extension is turned under for a hem, and on the other extension a tiny hem is turned in along the upper end and the long side. This extension is meant for an underlap. Underface the wrist as shown in Fig. 161. Close the opening with buttons and buttonholes. (Fig. 162.)

A Cuff, if one is used, is made of two pieces of material cut from the cuff pattern. These two pieces are basted together, with the right sides facing each other. The stitching is made close to

Fig. 157. Hem Used as Fly Under Plait

Fig. 158. A Fly Stitched on Under Plait
the edge, and runs around the two ends and the lower edge. The cuff is then turned right side out and carefully basted so that the stitching will come in the crease. Join the upper edge of the cuff portion to the lower edge of the sleeve, with the seam toward the outside. The other cuff portion is turned under and basted over the seam. Stitching at the edges, around all four sides, finishes the cuff.

Buttons and buttonholes are also used in closing the cuff, which is made to lap the width of the extension. Fig. 160 shows the cuff basted to the sleeve in preparation for stitching. If the sleeve has a box plait extending to the top, gather the sleeve from the edges of the plait to the notches, but do not gather the sleeve across the box plait.

A French seam is the best finish for all lightweight cottons, but for heavy cotton and wool materials the armhole seams must be either bound or overcast. Directions for making French seams are given in Chapter I. Two rows of gatherings are used along all the edges that are to be gathered. The finished hem should be the exact width given in the pattern instructions. Sometimes these little dresses are trimmed with an embroidered star or other emblem such as are used on sailor suits. For appropriate designs for this purpose see the opposite page.