CHAPTER IV

CLOTHING FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

THE BABY'S LAYETTE

The contents of a layette for baby are the source of much love and care, and often extravagance. The comfort of the little body should be the first consideration, ornament the last. Comfortable little vests can be bought at baby bazaars or department stores, and plenty of bird's-eye diaper should be provided, linen preferably; pinning blankets and plain slips of good material, such as English nainsook, are the things which one must have for comfort. Little sacks crocheted of worsted, or of flannel made in one piece, like a kimono, help to keep the little body warm. The nainsook

Fig. 26.—ONE-PIECE KIMONO

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slips should be about one yard in length, for when the child is old enough to be "shortened," this length will make one whole dress and the skirt part another.

A very nice little wrapper may be made of China silk for an infant. Take the measures required—the length (about one yard), across the back at shoulder, across the chest, and the sleeve length. Cut two lengths of silk, slit one in half for the front, place them flat on each other, and measure up from the bottom the length to the arm-
hole mark. This mark should be gotten by measuring from center the width of back. Cut one and one half inches lower on the selvage, into the mark for the armhole, an oblique line. Then cut a gore bias or slope from the bottom of silk to the mark for armhole. Slope the neck, and bind the neck and front in one continuous line with satin ribbon. Bind the sleeves also with the ribbon. This ribbon or binding should be about three inches wide.

The May Manton Pattern Company have the best guide for making baby clothes which has come to my notice. The whole set will cost about forty cents, and it gives patterns suitable for children up to two years old.

Much annoyance, and incidentally washing and ironing, may be avoided by providing the baby with some creeping dresses. These are simply long-sleeved aprons, made longer in the skirt to allow for the drawing string, which is placed in the narrow hem, to be drawn up until the apron forms a bag, into which the petticoats are slipped, and the string is tied around the waist next to the band to which the diaper is fastened. The aprons are best made of gingham.
PLAY DRESS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

The wise mother will see that her children wear bloomers of different weights, for summer and winter. The petticoat is thus reserved for dressier occasions, and the child has much more comfort and freedom. Many children wear the bloomers of the same material as the smock or apron.

Then again we must not forget the "overalls," which have proved themselves a boon to many busy mothers.

There is very little difference in the styles for making clothes for boys and girls of four or five years old. The smock dress is very popular and sensible, as is also the Buster Brown dress.

THE BUSTER BROWN SUIT

A Buster Brown dress is made in two pieces, the bloomers and coat or smock. The bloomers are made of two widths of material cut of sufficient length to fall over the knee when gathered in by the drawing string or elastic. The upper part of the bloomers is made like a pair of drawers, with plenty of length for the seat. If the material is not wide enough to give the necessary
width across the hips, little gores may be inserted, as is sometimes done in making drawers. The bloomers should be drawn in at the waist by a tape placed in a casing for that purpose. The coat or smock is made to reach from the highest point of the shoulder at the neck to the knee. It may be box-plaited or plain at the back, and box-plaited or gathered at the front. The smock opens at the side from the shoulder, and is either trimmed with a band of a contrasting color or the opening is hidden under a box plait. A turned-down collar is made, under which the tie is slipped and tied in a bow at the neck. A belt is placed at the waist line in the back and slipped lower in the front. The sleeve is made like a shirt sleeve fastened with a band at the wrist.

THE BLOUSE DRESS

A blouse dress for a girl of four or five years may be made very easily after this fashion. If a washable dress is desired, use linen, percale, gingham, cambric, etc. For the skirt of the dress cut three or four widths the length you wish plus three or four inches for the hem. If a very fine skirt is wanted, four widths of twenty-seven-inch, or three and one half of thirty-inch material will
be necessary. Join the widths with three running stitches and one backstitch; seams three eighths of an inch at least are necessary. If narrow seams are made the selvage is liable to show. When only three widths are made in the skirt, the placket will be at the joining of two widths, making the middle of a width the center front of the skirt; if four widths are used, a placket is made in the center of one width; the opening is cut from the top line down into the width nine or ten inches and is made in the usual way, an inch hem on the right side and a half-inch hem, tapering to nothing at the end of the opening, on the left side; this arrangement of the widths will place the middle of one width at the center front.

The skirt should be measured and pins placed at intervals to mark a line as a guide to turn the hem. Turn the hem up on the inside of skirt and hem with fine stitches. A fine hem on a washable dress serves as part of the trimming. Mark the center of the front width and make two rows of gathers one half an inch apart, leaving long threads at the ends. On the length of the material cut a strip four inches wide and two inches longer than the waist measure; place the center
of this strip (the waist band) to the center of the gathers. Mark half of the waist measure on the band, or one inch from the ends of the waist band, with pins; draw the gathers up until they correspond to these pins. Pin the waist band to the gathers, regulate the gathers so that more gathers will be at the back than front; it is well to stroke the gathers. Baste the band to the skirt about half an inch from the edge and sew with backstitches, beginning from the center and holding the gathers toward you. Turn the edge of the band in all around, then turn the folded edge over until it covers the backstitching; baste it in position, making sure that it does not twist. Hem the edge over the gathers, just covering the backstitching. Top sew the ends of the band. Make a buttonhole in the right side of the waist band and sew a good-sized button on the left side.

The blouse for this dress is made to fit the chest and back, and falls freely below them to admit of the blouse effect. The under seams are slightly gored from the armhole to the bottom of the waist. (A good plan would be to use the paper pattern which is suggested in another chapter, as a guide for the upper part.) The front
might be finished by a box plait on the right side, in which the buttonhole should be made, and a hem on the left side for the buttons. The bottom of the waist should have a casing for the drawing string. The collar should be a turned-over one, under which a tie of a contrasting color should be slipped and tied in a bow knot at the front. The sleeve should be bishop sleeves, which are gathered into a band at the wrist.

**A BABY DRESS**

The accepted style for a dress for a baby from infancy until it is two years old is one with a yoke and skirt attached; this may be long or short according to the age. The yoke reaches to about the armscye back and front and may be made of embroidery, the scallops forming the edge of the yoke and the skirt of the flouncing to match; or it may be made of nainsook, Persian lawn, or any other fine material, the bottom of the skirt hem-stitched, the hem measuring five inches, and the yoke tucked by hand in groups, with drawn work or feather-stitching in the spaces; a narrow edging of lace is a dainty finish for neck and sleeves. Small buttons only should be used on a baby's dress.
A COAT FOR A BABY BOY

A very attractive coat may be made for a baby boy of red cloth; it should be cut by the box-coat pattern, double breasted, the lining should be of some sort of silk or satin of a color to correspond; red would not be the best color as it might rub off; a medium shade of gray is a very safe shade. The hemming of the coat is intended to have a military effect; three sets of heavy black cord frogs should ornament the double-breasted front, and the collar and cuffs should be of astrakhan; if Persian-lamb fur can be had the coat will be much more handsome; however, a very closely curled astrakhan cloth will make a very attractive finish. The cuffs are straight bands placed flat on the plain coat sleeve, and the collar should be a turned-over one. A black velvet cap with a deep band of astrakhan is suitable, and a cockade should be made on the cap.

Leggings of black cloth or leather should accompany this little costume. This same idea might be carried out in dark blue effectively.

A DUTCH SUIT

This sort of a suit has proved very attractive and comfortable; the waist and bloomers are
joined together across the front, the back of the bloomers buttoning up on the waist with two buttons at the side and one at the center back; the last button on the waist is the one used for the center buttonhole on the bloomers to fasten to. The openings at the sides are finished with plackets. For a little chap of two or three years one width of thirty-inch material will make each leg; they are slightly gored like drawers, back and front, the fullness is evenly distributed on the waist in front and on a wide band for the back; the legs are cut long enough to turn up to the knee and fall in a bag over it; they are so full that they look exactly like a very full skirt. The waist is a plain, high-necked waist, with a little round turned-down collar separated in the front; the sleeves are full and gathered into a band at the wrist. One of pink chambray was very much admired. A coarse white straw sailor hat with a white ribbon was worn with it. White socks and tan sandals completed this common-sense outfit.