CHAPTER V

GIRLS’ CLOTHING

THE SAILOR SUIT

For little girls from four to ten years old a sailor suit is almost indispensable. The skirt is made by joining the widths together by machine. If the material is forty-two or forty-six inches wide, two or two and one half widths the length desired, or from four to five widths of narrow goods, will be necessary. A wide hem about three or four inches is next made; then the placket, which is made by turning a half-inch hem and tapering it to a point at the end of slit made for placket, which should be about ten inches deep. This hem is on the left or underside. On the right or upper side of placket a hem about one inch wide is made and lapped over the under side, hiding the hem. If finished by stitching put in two rows across the end of hem, thus holding the placket together firmly. The skirt is
now ready to plait or gather into the waist measure, which should be taken tight. For the waist or blouse I would get a good pattern. (See page on patterns.) This may be used as a guide for other dresses. The main point in making dresses for children of this age is to get well-fitting shoulders and sleeves. The body may be made in box or side plaits, or made in any fashion which your fancy dictates. This same pattern may be used as a guide in making smock dresses and the blouse portion of the Buster Brown suit.

THE GUIMPE DRESS

The guimpe dress is a very sensible dress for a girl of about ten years. It gives the girl just about the style necessary and is not too old for her. A girl of that age would hardly wear a shirt waist, still a change is necessary. Some of these guimpe dresses have a sort of cape sleeve which is quite attractive. For a girl from twelve to sixteen years, I would have some sort of a loose dress such as a shirt-waist suit, which while it begins to have a more grown-up look does not need to interfere with her freedom. In order that the weight of the skirt may not come on the hips, it is a good plan to put a piece of material a little
above the waist line on the shirt waist, into which three buttonholes have been made. Have flat buttons on the skirt to correspond to the buttonholes on the waist tab.

THE SUSPENDER DRESS

The suspender dress, and the many styles having that for the foundation, are quite attractive for girls of this age (from four to ten). The skirt gives much room for variety; it may be made in straight widths, joined, hemmed, and gathered into a belt. Straps of the material, of sufficient length to reach from the front to the back, are then made and attached to the skirt. The straps are very pretty when pointed at the ends and trimmed with small buttons. If the material is of the washable kind, embroidery or lace insertions may be put in the straps. If of woolen or silk, braids, velvets, or silk ribbons suggest themselves. A very attractive dress for a little girl may be made by making two straps one and one half inches wide and joining them two inches apart, with little half-inch straps of the material stitched on the edges. These little straps may be placed in groups of three, one half inch apart. The space between each group should be about
three inches. These latticed straps form the suspenders. Ribbon and small buttons may be used on such a design, the ribbon in place of the narrow straps, and the buttons to finish the ends of the narrow straps.

THE "PETER PAN" DRESS

A dress known as the "Peter Pan" is very jaunty and attractive for girls of this age. It is very much on the shirt-waist order. The skirt may be made straight widths gathered or plaited at the waist band, or made in gores. The waist is more attractive, however; its jaunty turned-down collar, flowing tie, and cute little pocket set on the left front have launched it on the wave of popularity. The sleeve is made elbow length, with a turned-back cuff to match the collar. For country wear, natural-color linens and the less expensive denims of blue with a tie of red are very attractive and serviceable. White piqué suits made in the Peter Pan style are quite appropriate. For colder weather the style known as the "Peter Thompson" has had its run for a few years, and it seems that the Peter Pan is to prove just as popular.
LIGHT DRESSES

Very pretty thin dresses for girls of ten to fourteen years are made of white chiffon organdy or fine Persian lawn. A very attractive little dress of this material was made of two-inch puffs of the white organdy alternating with rows of insertion two inches wide running around throughout the skirt and waist. The waist was made to reach over the hips and was joined to the skirt by a band of insertion; the skirt was made like a ruffle, puffs and insertions growing less toward the waist. The bottom of the skirt was finished with a ruffle of lace two inches wide put on quite full. The width around the bottom of the skirt, without the lace ruffle, was two and one half yards. The sleeves were elbow length, made of the puffs and insertions and finished with a ruffle of the lace. The neck was cut "Dutch," that is, square at the throat. A bertha was made of one row of insertion, one row of puffing, and a ruffle of lace, pointed at the front, brought over the shoulders and across the back at the shoulder blades. A pink slip was worn under this dress, and pink ribbon bows were placed on the sleeves and at the point of the bertha.