CHAPTER VI

BOYS' CLOTHING

HOW to clothe boys of fourteen years and under is a problem which necessitates much care and thought to work out successfully. To begin with, the foundation must be a good one. The underwear should be of good, firm quality, and a boy should have a sufficient number to warrant him changing them often, as carelessness in this respect will grow on him and soon become a habit which will be very hard to overcome. A boy's stockings should be looked after constantly; they should be of a good quality and need not be very expensive. The ribbed sort seem to wear very well. The garters should also be carefully selected. If the necessity of looking well be impressed on a boy he will strive to keep up with his ideals, and beside the consideration of his health the fact that he can bear inspection as to his clothing will do much to help him respect himself.
"READY TO WEAR" CLOTHES—BOYS' SUITS

"Ready to wear" clothes may be had at any outfitter's, and it must appeal to any woman that she can get the best results as to fit and style when a coat, suit, or overcoat for a boy from ten to fourteen is being considered. Very few women can make a tailored coat, particularly a man's or boy's. Home-made garments always look it, as they lack the finish a tailor gives—particularly the pressing. But when a blouse suit is wanted, the home sewer can make it just as well as, if not better than, the ready-made garments. The trousers are usually knickerbockers which bag over the knees or are caught in with a band at the knee, fastened by a buckle. The blouse is made quite loose and falls over the belt quite a little. A good pattern may be had from any of the pattern concerns or department stores.

CORDUROY SUITS

Corduroy is a most serviceable fabric for boys' winter suits. A brown corduroy in which the welt is about one half an inch wide makes a handsome, serviceable suit. If a white turned-down linen collar and a pretty tie, say a red one,
is worn with it, this suit will certainly be very attractive and in good taste. A Norfolk jacket of corduroy is also a very good style. A jacket of this style is made to reach over the hips; it has one broad box plait extending over each shoulder and is usually double breasted. Knickerbockers are also worn with this style of jacket. A broad belt of corduroy or leather is slipped under the plaits below the waist line and fastened in front with a buckle. For hard country wear there is nothing better than corduroy trousers for boys of this age, and they may be bought at almost any department store or clothier's; they are not very beautiful in their usual drab color, but their service makes up for their lack of beauty.

It is a very good practice to watch the sales at the end of the season when all suits are marked down. Very good suits may be had for one half the original price asked. Poor materials, however, should be shunned as it is particularly throwing money away to buy an inferior quality in a boy's suit.

Every boy should possess a sweater; for hard wear at play and games there is nothing to take its place.
BLOUSE SUITS

For blouse suits of lighter-weight materials, serge, cheviots, or tweeds are very appropriate. The percale, linen, madras, and cambric blouses which a boy wears before he aspires to a bosom shirt should be made at home if possible; they are very simple and will wear much longer. A very good idea in the matter of keeping buttons on a blouse is to make two sets of corresponding buttonholes in the fronts of the blouse, one set on the buttonhole side and one set on the button side of the fronts. Buttons the size necessary to fit the buttonholes are sewn onto a tape the same distance apart as the buttonholes. This button strip may be removed for the laundering and may be used for a number of waists. The same idea might be applied to the waist band.

CLOTHING FOR NIGHT WEAR

The nightshirt and night drawers are now simply a memory for boys of this age; only the very small boys wear night drawers, and these often extend to the feet, where they are shaped to the foot; of course summer night clothes are of light-weight material. The larger boys wear pa-
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jamas made in two pieces; the drawers are very straight affairs, reaching to the ankles and drawn in at the waist by a ribbon placed in a wide hem at the top. The shirt is made with a straight width for the back, another for each side of the front. The fronts lap over each other, making a double-breasted effect. The fastenings are frogs of washable cord. The whole suit bears a close resemblance to the Chinese costume. For summer these pajamas are made of silk, madras, and gingham of light colors; for winter flannel or outing flannel will prove most satisfactory.

OUTDOOR DRESS AND ACCESSORIES

Every boy should have a cap for everyday wear; a hat seems to restrict him. Long overcoats seem very comfortable, but very few boys appreciate the fact. When an opportunity presents itself for any sport the coat is taken off, for by its weight and length it encumbers him. Much severe illness might be avoided if a short coat of sufficient warmth were provided for him.

In selecting shoes for a boy it is not necessary to get them as heavy as most people suppose. If a reliable "make" is gotten they will wear longer and can be mended. If possible get a hand-
sewn shoe, even if the price be larger. The shoe will wear longer and always keep its shape. The buying of cheap shoes is one of the most extravagant practices of numbers of people.

Neckties and scarfs of neat and becoming colors should be in every boy's wardrobe; they help in a great measure toward his personal appearance.