

LONDON AND PARIS FASHIONS.

WINTER COSTUMES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE.

(SEE FASHION PLATE PAGE 503.)

It is quite comforting to think that however foolish some of our modern fashions are, in ideas for children's garments we have wonderfully improved. I shudder when I view my grandmother's portrait in short sleeves and low dress—not an evening costume, you know, but just an everyday form of cold-catching raiment. Ugh! Now-a-days, though we do snop children up in school-rooms so as to be able to boast of the liberal education we are bestowing on their minds, we can allow them to run out and play in the clear cold open air without fear of its injuring them. The little brains that have become heated in a warm school-room have an opportunity to freshen up in the cool air, and the little bodies, because of the healthy play, grow better and stronger, and all because they are sensibly, as well as prettily, clothed. The picturesque element strongly obtains in cloaks and hats, and though the frocks are picture ones also, still it cannot be claimed that there is any special change in their styles; wise mothers, having discovered a comfortable and pretty design, are clinging to it.

In the illustration some very pretty styles are shown. The first is a charming little suit of white washing corduroy, suitable for boys from three to six years old. Long loose coat, and full shirt of pale blue surah, with large collar and little frills of cream silk. The silk shirt would look equally well in flannel, and would certainly be far more serviceable for ordinary wear; but for a special occasion the blue would be perfect, and would match any child's complexion. Generally at this age colour need hardly be taken into account, unless, indeed, the hair is of a pronounced Auburn tint, when it would be advisable to avoid any shade of red.

A thoroughly useful style of garment is that called No. 2. It is a boy's Lancer suit in fawn homespun. Breeches confined at the knee with three buttons. Double breasted jacket, with broad belt.

A child's coat, cosy and comfortable for cold weather, is No. 3. The model is in fawn velvet, double breasted, beaver collar and cuffs. Three-cornered hat in felt to match the coat, and edged with beaver, and trimmed on one side with pompons and brush. The little exposed legs are well protected by drab gaiters, which are very fashionable indeed just now, and are exceedingly sensible, for stockings worn indoors in a warm room are not sufficient covering when the rest of the little body is enveloped in a warm coat and hat.

The girl who is holding the child's hand (No. 4) is dressed in a coat of heavy cloth, made with the stylish double cape. The large buttons are of oxidised metal, and the collar and cuffs of Persian lamb. The very becoming hat is of beaver, to match, trimmed with a ruche of narrow velvet ribbon, bows of wide satin ribbon, and osprey. I must put in a word against the shoes in the sketch. They are a mistake, and should have been neat lace-up Balmorals, or pretty leather button boots.

Very quaint and fashionable is the fifth figure. The dress is in Souris velveteen, made with full bodice and plain skirt. Chemisette and sleeves in pale pink Surah, with drawings and fancy ribbon.

THE FABRICS FANCIED.

THE fabrics fancied are invariably wool, cashmere, camel's hair, the rough fleecy stuffs or the soft wools peculiar to plaids being selected. For school dresses, dark blues, browns, deep crimsons, and bright scarlets in cashmere are pretty, and are colours that usually wear well. The plaids are most popular in the blue and green combinations, the bright red ones so fancied by little English girls not having the same vogue here, possibly because our skies are brighter and the brilliant colouring is not so badly needed to improve the weather.

For little wrappers, intended to be worn when some nursery disorder has made of a merry maiden a little invalid, gaily striped flannels, buttoning all the way down the front, quite loose, and with a belt of the same material to hold them in shows how all the different times of life, the good and the bad, are alike catered to.

EVERYDAY DRESS

A GOWN that is to be worn every day and is suitable for either school or home, for sister who is eleven years old, and who can write real letters, is made with the skirt perfectly plain, gathered in around the waist and sewed on to the bodice which is also a plain one, the hooks that close it being invisible; the collar is a deep turned over one of blue silk that matches the cashmere used for the little dress. A broad belt of blue silk folded over to look as if it were tucked, is laced in the centre in front, and reaches to the top of the gathers far up on the bodice, giving the desired short waisted look; the sleeves are high and full, gathered in at the wrists and finished with cuffs of blue silk.

If one did not care to have a silk belt, collar and cuffs, then they could be made of the same material as the gown, or if one wished them to be a little more elaborate the coarse Russian lace could overlay the collar and cuffs and a buckle fasten the belt. In making the belt, put that stiffening between the lining and the silk that is used by tailors in making standing collars stand up, or straight cuffs straight.

FOR A WEE MAIDEN.

THE same dark cashmeres or stuffs are used for the gowns of the wee maidens as well as for the girls who are counted as large in nursery parlance. Golden-brown cashmere is particularly pretty for the small blonde people. Little gowns continue to be gathered or pleated in at the neck, and then they are permitted to fall loose at the back, and are only partially confined by a belt of ribbon or velvet in front. No frock could be more comfortable or more picturesque, and no frock could be more easily made at home. The little girdle forms the only decoration, except, indeed, broad collars and cuffs either of white embroidery or linen.

I must describe a very pretty one. The real golden-brown cashmere is used for this, and the full skirt is gathered and fastened in at the neck to a yoke that is invisible. Far up

under the arms comes a narrow-pointed girdle of dark brown velvet drawn down in front and caught just in the centre under a velvet rosette. The sleeves are full and gathered at the top and at the wrist, and a deep square collar of coarse embroidery hides the yoke and is fastened in front under a velvet ribbon bow, the loops and ends of which are so stiffly placed that one feels like calling the wearer little Miss Prim. Deep cuffs matching the collar are also worn, and form a pretty finish to the full sleeves. In blue, scarlet, any of the plaids, grey or mode, a little gown like this might be made. A small woman who is to keep the cold out this winter by means of a grey kashmer coat has a grey cashmere gown made after this fashion which she wears under it, but, of course, a light shade like this will need to have special attention, and little Miss Prim will have to be on her best behaviour when she wears it.

THE WISE APRON.

THE apron has always had for little people a prestige of its own. To put on a clean apron usually means that one is in good standing in the nursery, and that the freshening up of an afternoon is deemed desirable. The materials used for aprons nowadays are nainsook, lawn, cross-barred muslin and an unbleached linen that is supposed to be made in regulation pinafores to be worn when toys or books are being painted by young and very zealous artists. In their designs, the aprons are almost exactly like the frocks over which they are worn. A square or pointed yoke, with the skirt straight and full gathered into it, is often seen, and this may have either long, full sleeves, or simply a ruffle round the armhole, as is fancied. The broad sash to hold the fulness in is made of the same material as the apron, and has its edge finely hemmed by hand and so flattened out that it doesn't curl up after it has visited the laundry.

Aprons are very sensibly made quite plain; the dressiest have a yoke of coarse embroidery or Russian lace, but the putting of innumerable frills or the decorating them with gay ribbons is not considered good taste. When a yoke apron is not selected, then the square-cut one, tying on the shoulders—a pattern that I am sure our grandmothers wore—is chosen. For the little woman who goes to school, and who is past wearing a yoke or a body apron, one that has a square skirt and a good sized bib is selected. It has a quaint housewifely air, and, as it is usually carried folded and assumed in the school-room with much precision, it not only tends to keep the gown clean, but teaches the value of caring for one's belongings.

THE LITTLE HANDKERCHIEFS.

OF course they shed them as the roses do their leaves, and for that reason the little handkerchiefs want to be as simple as possible. Those shown in the shops are of plain white linen with a narrow hemstitched edge. Occasionally the Christian name is embroidered on them in red, pink or pale blue cotton; this is done to avoid any discussion as to whose the handkerchief is, for if only the family name is upon it, it will be quite possible for the boys to claim it as their own, and so make very wretched the tidy little maiden who takes care of her things and who grieves over their disappearance 'by those bad boys.'

To teach a child that her clothes are her own, that her handkerchiefs and her collars are hers individually, is to make a child careful. When she knows it is her very own she is apt to put the handkerchief back in her pocket and not risk throwing it on the floor, or laying it on a chair without a thought as to its future. The wise mother will, as soon as her little daughter is of sufficient age to understand, give up all, or part of a drawer in the nursery to her, and will teach her that hair ribbons, handkerchiefs, the small fan that is hers, and her numerous belongings are to be put away there by herself until they are required. This is the way to not only teach a child to care for her clothes, but to be systematic in the disposal of them. Once the habit of tidiness is formed, it will only be natural for the child to adhere thereto.

A child is never too young to be tidy, and if it only begins by hanging up its stockings at night be sure that in a very short time it will learn where the skirt belongs and where the other garments should be put. But don't make tidiness and tyranny synonymous. Never, if you can help it, make a tear come in your little girl's eyes about her clothes. Teach her their value, and teach her quietly and gently how to take care of them. She will learn, and as for you, well, no matter what happens, when she goes from you you will not have to remember that for some little fault about her frocks you made her unhappy. Just think always how things will seem to you in the future, and I do believe that you and your neighbour and I will all act differently in the present.

There is nobody quite so unhappy as the child who does not have a real childhood; who isn't saved from as many of the woes of this life as possible, and who isn't given golden days while it is young. Make them as happy as you can, for you and I will never forgive ourselves if we don't.

CHIVALROUS.

AN exciting story of the rescue from drowning of a Japanese, by an Englishman whose life the Japanese himself had set out to save, is told in a Japanese paper, the *Kobe Shimbun*. The Englishman was a resident of Tokio. Being on his way to Yokohama, and finding no ferry-boat, owing to the swollen state of the river, he determined to swim across with his clothing in a bundle tied on his head.

The daring attempt attracted a crowd of sight-seers, one of whom, observing that the stranger was apparently in difficulty, plunged in and swam to his rescue. The Japanese was a good swimmer, but the waters ran swiftly, his strength gave out, and he was carried down stream. Then arose a cry from the spectators, for they saw that the Japanese was going to sink.

By this time the Englishman had almost reached the opposite bank, but when he heard the cries of the crowd he turned about, and seeing the drowning Japanese, he again faced the current, and coming up with the drowning man, caught him with one arm, and swimming with the other hand he brought him ashore amid the cheers of the crowd.

'How chivalrous was his action!' exclaims the Japanese journalist in conclusion. 'His name we know not, but he has our highest admiration.'

THE Book of the Season: 'FRANK MELTON'S LUCK.' Price, One Shilling. All Booksellers.

SHOPS AND SHOPPING.

(BY MADAME MILLICENT.)

MY autumn frock has just come home. It is made of Harris cloth, thick and good. Of course it is braided, and the tabbed bodice is edged with cord and lined—the tabs only, be it understood—with satin. The vest is of braided antelope skin, and the reverse of the coat are of satin. The general tone is a kind of tan with braid of two shades of brown. The bonnet is of brown felt, with a golden shaded bird in front, and very tiny brown velvet strings and border. Tan gloves to harmonise.

The newest style for adorning the hair is with a band of velvet ribbon an inch wide, brought round the chignon, and tied either at the top or the side. It should have a small diamond brooch or buckle in the centre of the bow.

I have been fascinated by some lovely ribbons. They are to be worn in every imaginable fashion. One delightful way is to run two bands round the waist, finished off at one side of the front with a big butterfly bow. Another idea is to wear them over the dress as braces. But this I do not like at all; we really copy men too much as it is. They do not imitate us particularly, except in *Punch*, where two figures were represented with different coloured sleeves to their black coats. But that was in the 'long ago.' At all events, it was one or two seasons off.

Bertha has gone down to Christchurch for a trip. It was most amusing hearing her ask people what to take for the inevitable *mat-de-mer*, as she is a wretched sailor. The most practical advice she received was, 'Don't go to sea,' but as she particularly wished to see the famous city of the plains, she only pouted and recommended her inquiries. One gentleman told her to be sure and see that her head was towards the stern of the steamer when she had retired to her berth. This is really good advice. Bertha pleaded she was so bewildered on board she never knew which was the

stern and which the bow. Bromide was next proposed, and Bertha bought some of that. Lemons were recommended as an infallible preventive, and half a sack of fine pipe ones was added to the cabin luggage, which soon began to assume very formidable proportions. Evidently something must be left behind, for the steamer regulations will not allow one person to fill a whole cabin with herself and her belongings—unless she pays handsomely for the privilege. And Mr. B., fond as he is of his pretty wife, does not think her worth the passage-money of four individuals. What man, indeed, would?

That Bertha has really reached her destination is proved by the following letter:—'Dearest Millicent.—Christchurch is lovely, only that! Indeed to tell the truth, it's awfully like a pancake. You know how that sometimes bubbles up here and there? Well, the bubbles in the Christchurch pancake are the larger buildings—the Cathedral, and so on. But for goodness sake don't repeat this, for I am telling all the people here that it is absolutely delightful and restful and boot economising and breath-saving to be away from the everlasting hills and eternal scoria of Auckland! But, oh! my dear! I am stifled, suffocated, sat upon! The blow I got in Wellington I used frugally by taking little remembering whiffs of it, hair-ruffling, invigorating as it was, at intervals for three days after my arrival. But it has all gone now, and I am waiting for a nor-easter!'

'But I promised to tell you about the shops. They are really excellent. While on a shopping expedition with Amy the other day we passed Mr. A. Gundersen's, watchmaker and jeweller, 251, High-street, and in his window was a strikingly handsome brooch of his own design, and made on the premises. The centre is a very fine opal set in sunflower pattern with rays of diamonds. From this are two bars of pearls and diamonds, respectively, the upper half on one side being pearls, the lower diamonds, the other side being reversed. The whole forms a very antique and handsome ornament, and made us both long to possess it, but as we had not £40 to spend between us, we only hope some one we know will get it.'

LOCAL INDUSTRY v. IMPORTATIONS.—Comptent Judges assert that the Lezengros, Junibus and Swots manufactured by AULSBROOK & Co. are unequalled.—(ADV.)