With June Comes the BATHING SUIT Question

A Pink Satin Suit for Sand Promenading

The Real Swimmers Adore the New Swimming Jersey

The Bathing Sweater must be Roomy and Easy to Put On

Do women really wear such costumes as one sees pictured in newspapers and magazine fashion articles? is the question asked by far inland readers who never have an opportunity to visit the seashore and see for themselves what is done—and worn—by those who enjoy a frolic in the waves.

The inland woman who is getting ready for a trip to the seaboard this summer and wants to make her own bathing suit will be on the safe side if she selects a dark blue or black mohair of supple, lustrous quality, a blue or black peau de cygne of substantial weave or a checked mohair or taffeta silk for her suit. Such a suit is sure to be in good taste and if daintily made and well fitted, and accompanied by smart accessories in the way of silk stockings and cap it will be smart and distinctive.

The highest class bathing suits are rather plain. The material is rich and there may be a trimming of hand embroidered dots or simple conventional figures, or a little braid of good quality and of a color matching the suit; but strong color contrasts will be avoided. The public bath houses invariably provide bathing suits trimmed in some striking manner in order that the garments may be readily identified and that there may be less temptation towards carrying them off and leaving old suits in their places—a clever trick which has been successfully worked more than once, since all bathing suits of inconspicuous style look much alike when wet. Therefore, the really smart suit is as unlike a public bath house suit as handsome material and a minimum of glaring trimming can make it.

It is quite true that extreme styles in bathing suits are sometimes seen—even off the vaudeville stage, where it would seem they rightly belong. The woman who swims well and goes in for real enjoyment of her bath scorns a frivolous bathing suit and would as soon think of posing in such a suit on the sand as a man would. But there are women who cannot swim and whose sea bath consists of wading into the water and out and then spending the morning on the beach taking the "sun bath," which, indeed, it is claimed is even more beneficial than the ocean dip, and it is these "sand bathers" who favor fancy suits.

These fancy bathing suits are worn sometimes at beaches adjoining summer colonies, where crowds are absent and where rules and regulations are few. At Asbury park and some other large resorts white bathing suits are not permitted on the beach unless covered with a long wrap which is donned imediately the fair bather emerges from the water. At Narragansett and Atlantic City wondrous effects in the way of bathing costumes may be seen and here elaborate satin suits in delicate color, matched by parasols, caps, reticules and other accessories, are daily on parade. A pink satin bathing costume which, though undeniably frivolous and unseaworthy—as nautical folk say of sailing craft — is still within the confines of good taste, is pictured. Paint pink satin was used for this graceful little suit and the trimming is of Venise insertion, arranged in simple lines, yet very prettily, on bodice and skirt. There is a knotted girle of the satin around the waist. Satin bloomers matching the skirt are worn underneath for obviously pink tights would be too spectacular even for a beach where such costumes are the custom.

The old-fashioned, full bloomers have been discarded by most women, who prefer knitted bathing tights of silk or cotton which take up less room and are much lighter in the water—an important consideration with the swimmer. One or two mishaps that might have been tragic have also occurred when full bloomers, drying in the hot sun, have filled with air on a sudden, second dive into the water, turning the swimmer upside down and leaving her helpless and unable to regain her balance without assistance. The inexpensive cotton bathing tights are usually too long and fit clumsily when wet. An inch may be cut off at the top and another inch at the end of each leg, narrow black elastic being run through a casing at the waist and knee. The knitted garment may then be drawn on and off easily and quickly with no struggling with strings that will get into knots when wet.

One-Piece Bathing Dress of Checked Silk

The Bathing Wrap, Worn from Bath-House to Beach

Has the skirtless bathing suit come to stay? This summer will prove it, but, though almost all women commend the merits of this admirable swimming costume, few have the courage to wear it. There are two kinds of "harem" bathing suits; one with a divided skirt which looks at first glance like a circular skirt to the knee and over which is worn a knitted jersey which comes to the hips. The other skirt is in more decided "harem" style, for there are full bloomers, or knickers, which are held in by an elastic and bag over at the knee. At front and back full panels of the material which conceal the division of the full trousers. This skirt is really very graceful and quite modest in style, for the broad panels are weighted at the bottom and keep their place over the bloomers as the wearer moves. In the water this skirt is delightfully comfortable and does not retard the movements of the swimmer as an ordinary skirt sometimes does by looping over the arm in a side stroke. The advantage of both these "harem" bathing skirts is that the bathing suit, thus built, has two, rather than three parts, and there is just so much less to wring out and pack in a small bathing satchel.

At the French beaches bloomer bathing suits with funny little abbreviated skirts coming just below the hip and revealing several inches of bloomer are quite the usual sight and nobody considers them the least bit freakish; though a woman who appeared in such a get-up on one of our American beaches would create a sensation. The new "harem" suits, with their graceful cut and natty style are far more attractive than these hideous French bloomer suits and some folk prophesy that their establishment in popular favor is only a matter of time.

Men, who wear knitted wool bathing suits, have always contended that such garments are far safer for a plunge into cold water than the thin silk and mohair suits worn by women—though, to be sure, it seems to be the men who do the shivering and not the women after a sea bath. Now, however, there are knitted wool bathing suits for women, also, and these knitted suits are charming, provided the figure is slender enough to wear them. It must be remembered that the clinging knitted jersey emphasizes every curve and only the slim woman with a rather boyish form should wear it. The emphasizing of generous feminine curves by a clinging, skin-tight jersey is apt to be a little too frank to please good taste; but there is no denying that the jersey is ideal for swimming. And one of these knitted suits is pictured, the jersey and short trunks being of tobacco brown worsted with cream white stripes, while the skirt is made of brown mohair hair-lined with white and trimmed with a band of Persian silk in cream, brown and orange.

Knitted sweaters are an important part of the bathing outfit, if any time is to be spent on the beach after the bath. No matter how warm the day, if the sun goes under a cloud for a minute, the air feels chilly to the wearer of a wet bathing suit and the warm, cosy sweater feels delightfully comfortable. A sweater for wear over the bathing suit should be rather loose, and should have the high "turtle" color which protects the throat and chest. If such a sweater be of good quality it will not readily absorb the water, and even after being pulled on over the wet suit will be dry enough by the time one has dressed to go home, to wear in the car if desired.

The scarf has crept even into the realm of the bathing suit, and there are long scarfs of gay silk, matching pretty bathing caps, to draw over arms and shoulders while sitting on the sand in the sun—as a protection against the insidious freckles. A slender girl who has a fair white skin which freckles easily has just had made a smart little black taffeta silk bathing suit trimmed with red and black plaid silk and there is a long scarf of the silk which is twisted around the waist and knotted at one side like a sash. After the swim the sash is untied and thrown over the shoulders, protecting the arms and throat from the too ardent kisses of the sun. Scarves, parasols, reticules and other paraphernalia of the sort must be carefully guarded on a public beach, while their owner is in the water, and it is not always possible to manage this; therefore if one is really to enjoy one's swim it is better to dispense with superfluities and like the woodsman to "travel light" and wear only what may be taken into the waves with one.

The French bather, in her abbreviated bloomer bathing dress comes down to the edge of the water covered by a long, graceful wrap which she throws to an attendant when she steps into the water. When she emerges after her bath, the big wrap is ready to cover her up again. These bathing wraps seem rather an affectation on American beaches where it is quite the custom to walk and sit about, clad in a bathing dress; but at the fashionable resorts, the bathing wrap is much the thing, and of course it matches in color and material the pretty bathing dress worn under it. If one pleases, the wrap may be also used as a rug during the sunning on the sand. Spread out before one sits down, it keeps the wet suit free from sand and prevents the messy, heavy condition that is so unpleasant. The bathing wrap pictured is of soft rubberized blue silk with a border of blue and white striped silk. It is lined with scarlet taffeta, and makes a pretty bit of color on the beach.

The silk cap shown in the picture of this bathing wrap, is one of the favorite models just now. The dotted silk is drawn in folds over the rubber swimming cap and at either side are bebe rosettes of the silk. This cap is usually more becoming than the kerchief tied in a bow on top, for the rosettes give width to the head over the ears and prevent the trying lines produced by pushing the hair back under a tightly knotted kerchief.

One must choose between a becom-

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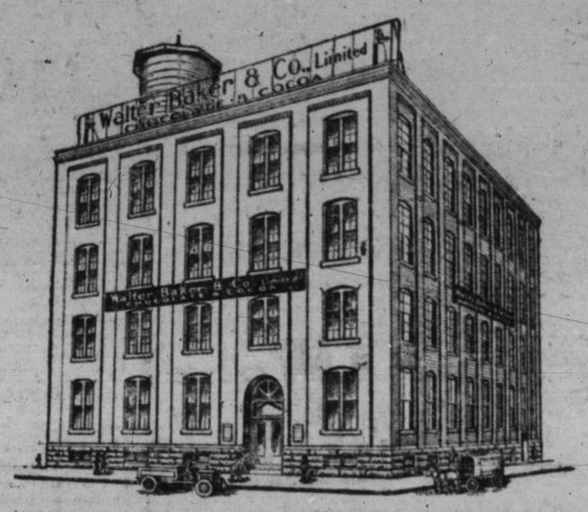

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