

## WHAT IS NEW FOR THE LITTLE FOLKS



**W**HILE grown folks may make last year's clothes do or may make them over to bring them up to date, children have to have new spring frocks, coats and hats—that is, unless they have older sisters who can hand something down; but for the most part all little girls, and boys as well, blossom out in new attire at this time of the year. Fortunately it does not cost much to make the little ones look well, especially if one has taste and skill in making things, for, after all, with all the talk about the increased cost of living the prices of dress materials have not advanced greatly, and many remnants suitable for children's garments are to be had at very reasonable prices.

There are not so many changes in the styles of children's clothes from one year to another as there are in those of their elders, but there are always little details of design, cut or finish that show the mark of an up to date coat or frock. Frequently there is some feature borrowed from that of the grown folk, but more often the changes belong to the children's clothes only.

The first thing to be considered for the spring wardrobe is the coat, or at least it is of little use to have spring dresses while the weather continues so cool as to demand a coat for outdoor wear, until these outer garments are provided for. Coats for juveniles are as varied as they are attractive. The rather stiff, flaring coats of winter have given way in large part to those of straighter lines and more elaborate style. There is also the greatest possible latitude in fabrics and colors.

Blue is always a favored color for children, and this year it seems more than ever in evidence, not so much the navy of other years but the blue of the heavens, as the French call it, cadet blue and kindred shades. A charming little coat for a five-year-old is of soft blue broadcloth, with a braided design in a little darker shade on collar, cuffs and pockets. Braiding by the way, which is so popular for women's garments, too. This little coat was made with a narrow yoke, the skirt being attached by a shallow inverted pleat on each side in the front and a slightly deeper one in the centre of the back.

Another attractive coat is of sand color, with collar, cuffs and belt of hunter's green. This coat would look equally well with trimmings of bright blue instead of green.

Cheviots and various mixed cloths are used for the coats where warmth is required and for ordinary usage. Some checks are seen, not so many of the distinct black and white, but such combinations as green and brown. Usually they are combined with plain cloth in one of the colors of the checks for the collars, cuffs and pockets. There are some brass buttons on coats to give the military touch, but pearl and various kinds of fancy colored buttons are more generally used.

Every coat has a pocket, large or small, square, oblong or triangular. Sometimes they are stitched on and sometimes they are suspended by straplike pieces. Frequently they are of contrasting color to the coat, matching the collar and cuffs and making an attractive kind of decoration. Collars are for the most part small, but deep revers are seen on some of the new models. Many of the sleeves are rather full and are gathered in to a fancy cuff at the wrist.

Heavy weight silk or satin coats are seen in all colors. A lovely rose colored one had three rows of shirring at the waist line and three narrow tucks about half an inch apart, two inches from the bottom. Smocking is much used on these coats, in side groups at the waist line, where the skirt is shirred on to the yoke and on the sleeves. It is used in varying designs and often in contrasting colors to the coat material.

Lace and embroidery are little used on the spring coats except for the collar and



cuffs, which are usually of embroidered batiste.

A little coat that follows a fashion of grown-folk is that of the sleeveless coat. This would look well over a white or other light frock. It is of black satin with a deep rolling collar of tan silk. Of course this cannot be worn until the weather has moderated sufficiently to leave the arms uncovered. It might be worn, however, under a heavier coat which is to be taken off in the house when some additional warmth is needed.

Related to coats is the sweater, and children share in the fondness of their elders for these useful garments. Mothers and big sisters can make these in a much shorter time than they can the soldiers' sweaters. They extend a few inches below the waist and are slightly fitted at the hem. The neck is V-shaped to permit of its slipping on easily over the head. The sleeves, which are of one piece with the body of the sweater, stop just short of the elbow. These are being knitted of gray wool by college girls for French children. They would be very attractive in light or bright colors for American children.

With coats go hats, both on the child and in an article on fashions for children. Most of the new spring hats for little girls have a decided droop, coming well over the face, although some of them turn up rakishly on one side. Small hats are the rule, and many have ribbon streamers or tie at one side of the chin,

All sorts of soft, fancy braids are used, the crown frequently being of contrasting material, silk for example, bordered with a wreath of tiny flowers. The brim may be faced with silk to match, showing along the edge. A charming little hat had the crown of small pink roses and the dark blue brim faced with rose colored silk.

Dresses, like coats, are of many colors. Many of the blue ones have a touch of red, either in the smocking or in the collar and on the sleeves. Aside from the favorite blues, violets and lavenders are much used. There is a trend tendency to short waists. Some wash dresses have the skirts fastened to the waist with large buttons. Sometimes the blouse is white and the skirt plain colored, or of plaid gl. sham, collar and cuffs matching the skirt.

Pockets are small, medium sized at large. Sometimes they are set in to the skirt, the opening being bound with material matching the other trimming of the dress. Generally, however, they are on the outside and a very conspicuous feature.

Even playtime and bed garments have pockets. Dainty rompers of crepe de Chine in white, pink or blue have pockets set on diagonally. Another one piece garment for nursery wear is made of medium weight cotton material, just at the neck and with short sleeves, the top being finished with a ruffie at the

At the upper left is a quaint design for a "dress-up" coat for a little girl. The color was old blue, with a white linen collar embroidered in eyelet. A waist line on a child is usually a matter to be handled with caution, but the smocking on this little coat gives only a suggestion of one, and at the same time affords a change from the usual straight from the shoulder model. The smocking is arranged in points, and is also used on the sleeves in a successful way. The little hat is of a darker blue straw, with a crown of the material.

The large picture in the centre illustrates a very simple and attractive coat, suitable for all occasions. Very wide are the lapels or shawl collar of white khaki-kool, and the cuffs are of the same material, which contrasts with the blue used for the coat.

The closing is very much to one side and is emphasized by the large buttons which are used to button the coat from the belt to the hem.

The coat at the upper right is one of the most attractive designs for afternoon wear which a little girl could possess. It is of white khaki-kool and the trimming is in eyelet and hand embroidery, combining light blue and white. The wide belt holds the fulness of the coat, is very slightly at the waist.

The embroidery is used on the collar, cuffs and belt.

Below, at the right, is a little girl's frock in rose colored khaki-kool, having pleats from the neck line to the hem. A belt starts from under the sides of these pleats and crosses the back. The collar is of white, and is merely cut straight around the neck. The wide cuffs also are of white.

At the bottom is a desirable hat for shading the eyes of white straw and figured silk.