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**WHAT SHALL WE WEAR?**

STYLES IN DRESS APPROVED BY  
THE FASHIONABLE WORLD.

Suggestions for the Layette—Convenient  
Night Gowns and Simple Day Robes for  
Infants—Elaborate Dresses No Longer  
Tolerated by Sensible Mothers.

Elaborate dresses for infants are happily a thing of the past. Generally speaking, baby dresses are exceedingly simple, except, of course, the christening robe, which is usually a more or less elaborate affair. The dresses, as a rule, are made with yoke and cuffs of embroidery, drawn work, tucks or brier stitching. The skirt of many of these dresses is gathered into the yoke and finished at the bottom with a broad hem, above which appears sometimes a cluster of tucks alternating with rows of brier stitching, and sometimes with rows of insertion.



INFANT'S NIGHT GOWN. DAY DRESS  
Many mothers keep infants the first few weeks in unstarched garments, in a word, in night gowns of simple construction, but of fine quality and tastefully trimmed.

In the accompanying cut are shown a night gown and a day robe included in a Layette that came recently from London. These garments, as will be seen, are quite simple and promise comfort to both the baby and its attendant. The night gown, which will serve the first three months for a day gown as well, is made with a square yoke back and front, and the bodice and waistband are gathered. The high robe designed for day wear on extra occasions is of cambrie and the trimmings consist of rich embroidery. The embroidered yoke matches the skirt. The long sleeves terminate with cuffs.

During the first three months wadded wrappers, made of cheese cloth, will be found very convenient in cold weather to take the place of the light flannel wrappers that serve on mild days. Wadded comforter quilts of cheese cloth make an excellent substitute for the more expensive blankets and lap robes. They are warm, soft and light, and then, too, these cheese cloth quilts have the merit of being inexpensive. Another convenience worthy of a place in all Layettes is a square lap robe made of Turkish toweling to use during the infant's bath.

**Dress and Fashion.**

A fashionable bootmaker has successfully launched his yachting shoes for ladies, which are to be seen in maroon leather, with white heels, sewing and white ribbon lacing up the instep; in navy blue with white, and in white kid, with scarlet ribbon, heels and sewing.

Gray note paper is fashionable, and a novel box for it (brought out recently for New Year's gifts) is in the form of an old rusty iron trunk, of small size, with nails and padlock, all complete.

For evening shoes there is a most dainty looking new ornamentation, composed of four little loops, like a mouse's ears, made in the same silk as the shoe, lined with a contrasting color, standing up on the instep, but clustered together and secured by a loop and some headwork below on the toe. The silk hose are sold with the shoes in the exact shade.

Washing silks, also called silk chevrons, are among spring importations, and are to be used not only for blouses, but for entire dresses.

Surah silks must be of heavy quality to be effective when made in directoire fashion with straight skirts.

Coiffures are as varied as dresses. The high coiffure with hair drawn up from the neck is still worn, and the low coiffure as well, with the hair knotted and falling on the neck, with sometimes several long curls added.

Very young girls sometimes wear their hair all thrown back and hanging in long curls behind, but this is only for girls under 15 years of age.

**Bodices for Evening Dresses.**

Extremely low bodices for evening dresses have given way to the newer half low waists, some of which are cut round in the neck, or pointed, or oval, as the taste of the wearer may dictate. In some of these bodices the broad sash is worn to gain the short empire waist, so much affected, but many ladies continue to patronize the long pointed bodice, which shows a fine figure to greater advantage than does the round waist.



**BODICES FOR EVENING WEAR.**

In the annexed cut are shown three French models of bodices, for the opera, concert, etc., and representing different styles. The first figure shows a graceful bodice of pink moire, adorned with puffings and embroideries outlined with gold thread. The bodice shown in the second figure is made with the full drapery in front, and so becoming to very slight figures. Around the neck and down the left side is a border of faille covered with gold and jet beads. The third bodice is of apricot pink cloth, overlaid with designs in chartreuse green. The waistcoat front is of corded silk. The upright collar is of two materials, as are the revers. The pointed bodice just described is much liked by women with well developed figures, as it makes the waist appear smaller than do the empire waists. Draping the fronts of dress waists straight across from one under arm seam to the other, hiding the darts that fit the lining, is a prevalent fashion for high and low corsages alike, and gives the favorite empire effect.

**ALL AROUND THE HOUSE.**

An Artistic Decorative Material That Lends Itself to Many Purposes.

Chinese storm coats are among the latest novelties used for home decoration. These coats are worn by the Chinese laborer to protect him from the weather, and most effectually they do it. They are made of coarse straw matting, eighteen or twenty inches deep, edged with a short fringe; each upward row overlaps the one below it, so that the rain falls off it as water does off a duck's back. The coats are taken to pieces and the single strips are used for decorating spaces over windows, mantels, and sometimes they are used for friezes.

Decorator and Furnisher, which suggests this use of Chinese storm coats, says that when these are not to be had the straw matting which comes around tea chests may be used instead. The grocer is usually glad enough to give it away.

First it must be thoroughly washed in strong salt and water, then placed flat under a heavy weight to dry; great care must be taken to make it perfectly smooth, flat and straight, for it is impossible to remove any crookedness or unevenness, except by dampening and pressing. A very sharp knife and ruler are necessary for the cutting; scissors will not do.

A piece of card or bristol board must always be used for the foundation; this must be cut with care, and the exact size. When the matting is well cut, leaving no ragged ends of straw, the hardest part of the work is done. There is a coarse straw gimp which may be used for a finish to cover the edges, if desired. For window decorations or friezes, the gimp is not at all necessary if the matting is well cut, as when once it is placed on the wall there is little wear and tear to fray it.

For a frieze, two Cus-cus fans, placed centers together, may be used as a center piece midway between the corners, or they may be used as corner pieces, leaving the centers plain. One mantle seen had two of these fans placed together over the middle of the matting, as well as one at each end. Individual taste must determine the brush decoration according to the room and its occupancy. The matting is especially suitable for music and billiard rooms, for sleeping in the city, or it may be used with good effect throughout a summer cottage.

Tea chest matting serves as an admirable background for photographs and other small pictures. Among pretty things of this kind seen was one about twelve inches square made of cardboard and matting, cut the same size and pasted together. Three small photographs of Chinese children, souvenirs of a California trip, were pasted on irregularly; in one corner glowed a bow of gorgeous yellow ribbons. Chinese characters, which to the initiated read, "Peace be with you," were scrawlingly painted between two of the photographs.

The beauty of a cabinet photograph is enhanced by placing it on a background of the matting an inch and a half larger all around than itself. A bow of ribbon may be added if desired.

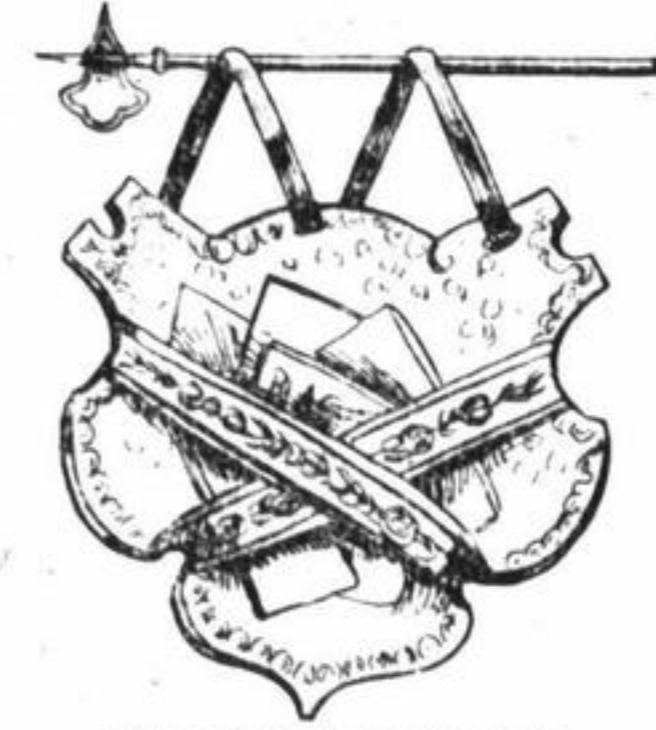
Picture frames of plain thin wood may be covered with the matting and handsomely decorated with colors if desired.

A mirror framed with a matting frame was decorated with a running vine of many colored morning glories.

Letter cases, paper holders, and a variety of pretty and useful articles may be made from the same material, if the worker has a little ingenuity.

**Medieval Paper Pocket.**

The wall pocket is one of the most useful of articles that also lay claim to a decorative effect, and it is therefore always more or less in fashion. The forms it takes on are almost numberless, the desire of course being for something novel as well as pretty. Among recent fancies is the one shown in the cut.



**MEDIEVAL WALL POCKET.**

This pocket in medieval style is of fancy material, crossed with broadened or painted velvet ribbon; it is hung to the wall with two ribbon loops passed through a gilt sword or halberd.

**Baked Turkey.**

Parboil a little, then make a batter dressing for it and stuff baste and bake. If you fancy a variety of flavors combined you can add about twenty-five oysters to the dressing, fry and stuff the turkey with it. Baste and turn the turkey very often till it is nicely browned, then take it up and add to the grease that has dripped from the turkey into the pan enough of the liquor in which it was boiled to make a nice gravy. Stir while it is cooking down, add the liver and gizzard and pour into your sauce boat or tureen.

**Delicious Layer Cake.**

One cupful of powdered sugar, one tablespoonful of butter, three eggs, whites beaten separately, half a large cupful of milk, one cupful and a half of flour, one heaping teaspoonful of baking powder; flavor with vanilla. Cream, butter and sugar thoroughly, add yolks, next whites beaten to a stiff froth, then gradually flour and milk, baking powder last. This makes three layers and is very nice when put together with a corn starch cream, with a soft icing on top.

**A Delicate Dessert.**

Scald one quart new milk in double boiler. Meantime beat until stiff the whites of four eggs, and add to them three tablespoonfuls sugar and one teaspoonful vanilla or other flavoring. Pour the hot milk slowly upon this mixture, beating all the time. Then pour into buttered teacups, set these in a dripping pan of boiling water and bake in the oven half an hour or until firm. The heat should be only moderate. Pack on ice and turn out on sauce plates to serve.

**Peanut Candy.**

Five cups of sugar, six tablespoonfuls of water, four tablespoonfuls of vinegar, one tablespoonful of butter. Boil (without stirring) till it criss in cold water. Line buttered pans with peanuts and pour the candy over them. When nearly cold, mark off into squares.

**Onion Pie.**

Mince finely three onions, with which fill a pie plate lined with pastry. Pour over it four tablespoonfuls of sweet cream, sweetened, and a trifle of any kind of spice desired. Cover with upper crust and bake slowly.

**Rose Cakes.**

One cup of butter, two cups of sugar, five eggs, leaving out half the whites, one gill of rosewater, a little flour. Roll in sugar.

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