

to the cot - tage eaves ; A lit - tle wind creeps through the wood - land sigh - ing, And

dies a - mong the trees, And dies a - mong the trees.

2. The red deer seeks the bracken in the dingle,  
The flocks are couching on their beds of thyme ;  
Far off, a long wave rolls upon the shingle,  
And sings its sleepy rhyme.
3. Oh, rest in peace ; our angel-guards, unsleeping,  
Watch o'er the homes where languid sorrow lies ;

After the darkness of a night of weeping,  
The morn of joy shall rise !

4. Good night ! good night ! In quiet chambers kneeling,  
We pray for our belov'd ones out of sight ;  
There comes an answer through the cool air stealing,  
" God bless you, love, good night ! "



### HOW TO MAKE POOR CHILDREN'S CLOTHING.

I OFTEN hear people say how much they would like to help the poor during our cold winters, but having no money to spare they are unable to do anything ; though, like Sydney Smith, they never see a poor person, without wishing somebody else would give him half-a-crown. For several years I have had a like experience myself, for we live in a neighbourhood where poverty unfortunately abounds. But last winter, my spare money being as little as ever, and the poverty almost greater than usual, owing to the bitter weather, I could not rest till I had devised some plan of providing warm clothing for a few of the poorest children around us. I succeeded so well, with a very little money, that I think others similarly situated, may be glad of a few hints.

First of all I overhauled my wardrobes, cupboards, &c., and was surprised at the

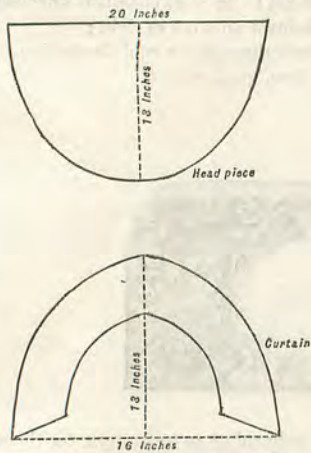
number of cast-off garments of all sorts, and at the remnants that had accumulated, which I should be really glad to be rid of. Then I went round amongst my friends, asking them to do the same, and give me everything they could spare in the shape of old clothes or pieces, no matter how ragged. During the next few days I received divers bundles of clothes of every age and description, from a tattered ball-dress to an odd stocking.

The next thing I did was to get a large bag, to be kept always at hand for rags, which prove very useful when all the clothes are made. After sorting over the things, putting dresses, &c., on one side, and underclothing on another, and carefully saving any pieces of dresses of serge I found towards the clothing for boys, I set to work at once on garments for girls and babies.

The only thing to be bought for them was a few yards of unbleached calico, which at fourpence a yard is quite good enough for the purpose. This formed the groundwork of a great proportion of the clothes I made. Amongst my heap of underclothing, I found a number of old flannel vests, those that were worth doing, of course, I mended, and gave away intact. The others were very much worn round the tops ; I cut the tops off below the arms, and what was left was just the shape of a little petticoat. I cut a slit for the placket hole, made and put on a band of the unbleached calico, fastened with a button, and behold an elegant and warm little garment for a young child. A few of the vests were too old, even for this purpose ; but still when cut up yielded some nice large pieces of

whole material: this gave me the idea of making bodies to some of the petticoats. For this purpose I took a piece of the calico, perfectly straight, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a yard long and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  deep, cut two hollows for the arm-holes, with small straps of the calico to go over the shoulders, slightly sloping the neck in front. Then I joined together enough of the pieces of vest-material to cover the calico body, except a small margin all round, laid it on the body, turned over the calico on to the vest-material, and hemmed along, fastening behind with tape-strings, as buttons and button-holes are clumsy on such a thick affair. Thus I had a warmly-lined body for the petticoats. As the children were very thankful for these bodies, even without the petticoats, I will describe how I manufactured some more.

I found a great number of old stockings, the feet were mostly beyond mending, so I cut them off; the legs I slit up and used them for lining the calico bodies in exactly the same manner as with the pieces of vest. I next found some little coloured petticoats quite good, but too thin for such cold weather. I searched among my pieces till I found a number of strips of cloth, evidently tailors' patterns, but rather longer than usual, I fancy. These I took one by one, and stitched side by side, the edges overlapping each other on to the thin petticoats; neatly done these made quite handsome garments, and were very warm indeed. Some portions of a blue merino skirt were amongst one of my bundles. Out of these I made several hoods for babies. My



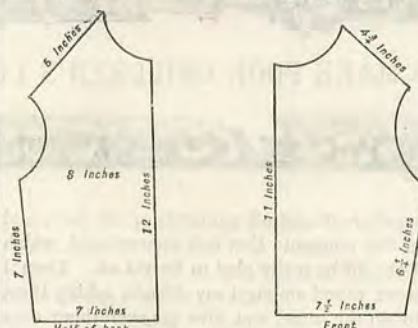
pattern was very simple, consisting of two pieces; the head-piece being like a half oval, the oval to be cut in two from side to side, and the curtain part exactly the shape of a deep, turn-down collar. The straight edge of the head-piece of course goes round the face—the rounded edge to be gathered into the curtain-piece, most of the fulness being put at the back.

I lined them with some pieces of the old vests or any thing soft I had, and finished them off round the edge with a bit of lace from the afore mentioned ball-dress. Having some bits of the merino left, I joined them together and hemmed them for neckties.

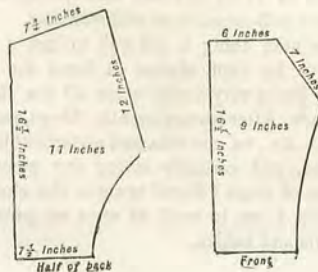
There were several of the felt top petticoats so generally worn now given to me; these were all more or less worn and frayed round the bottom. Picking out the best of

them, I cut off the worn part and bound them round the bottom with a flounce from one of my cast-off dresses, and thus got one or two warm petticoats for big girls. Those which were too short when the bad part was cut off I cut up into small capes and tippets. Every one knows the shape of these, so it need not be described, but I might mention that you can make them of quite small pieces, by joining them down the shoulders as well as down the back. I bound them round with any scraps of coloured material I could find, adding strings of a hemmed piece of the binding. Any good-sized pieces of woollen stuff which I thought not strong enough for petticoats or dresses, I cut into as nearly squares as possible, and hemmed or bound them round for shawls, which proved very acceptable. I think it is unnecessary to say that a very small piece of stuff will make a child's dress, particularly if cut in the shape known as "Princess," which takes much less than the old-fashioned way of making body and skirt separate—though, if the material is very far worn, it becomes difficult to get sufficiently large pieces for the "Princess," and the separate body is preferable, as you can vary the shape of the skirt a good deal to suit the material at your command, and the shabbiest dress, woman's size, will nearly always cut up into two or three for children. Also, any material which is thought too thin for a frock, if it be strong, can always be lined and used for under-garments in one of the ways I have described.

Now for the boys. It is much more difficult to get anything for them than for girls, but I made two nice warm suits for boys of six or seven from an old serge skirt. The easiest style to make is a tunic, gathered into a band at the waist, and knickerbockers. The tunic is made in three pieces; the back cut in one piece—or, if your material will not allow this, there can be a seam up the middle—and two front pieces. The accompanying measure-



ments, not allowing for turnings, will fit a boy of about seven. The collar can be either a straight band or turn down; if the latter, the



tunic should be open a little, and the collar made long, like a double-breasted coat. The bottom of the tunic is sewn into a band of the material. The sleeves can be either coat sleeves or made loose and gathered into a wristband. Length of sleeve, about fourteen inches. The knickerbockers must be lined with any old dress lining or unbleached calico. The latter, of course, is warmer. For younger children these suits can be made of linsey or, in fact, of warm material of any kind. Unbleached calico makes warm and comfortable shirts.

For older boys, I have sometimes made waistcoats, but these are troublesome, having so many buttonholes, which require neat finishing; so I generally content myself with making comforters and cuffs or mittens for them of Scotch yarn, which can be knitted or crocheted, according to the taste of the worker.

We will now turn our attention to the rag-bag. I first picked out any pieces of print suitable for a patchwork quilt. These can be lined with an old sheet or any other calico; but even without lining, if tastefully made, it will brighten up some otherwise dreary room, or cheer the heart of some aged sufferer.

Now last, but not least, we come to the knitted quilts; and as these are among the most acceptable of our gifts, I call particular attention to them. The first thing required is two knitting needles, which should be at least as thick as a first finger. As they are expensive to buy, I generally make them myself out of smooth walking-sticks or old umbrella sticks, sharpened a little at one end. I then pick out of the rag-bag rags of every description that are strong enough to bear the strain of knitting. These I cut into strips varying in width according to the thickness of the material. For instance, I should cut cloth into strips of about half-an-inch wide; merino, etc., one inch; thin and poor fabrics, two or more inches. Then sew the strips securely together, winding them into a ball as you go on. Cast on as many stitches as your needles will comfortably hold, and knit a strip about two yards long. Be careful to knit it *very* loosely or your quilt will be too heavy. Sew as many strips of knitting together as you think necessary, and the quilt is finished. If your rag bag should happen to contain a considerable quantity of rags of any one colour, the appearance of the quilt will be much improved by making these into a separate ball, and knitting a narrow strip of it for a border all round the quilt. I do not advise the introduction of much white rag; it spoils the effect, and soon soils. It is better to sell it, and with the proceeds buy more materials.

There are many other ways of "making over" old clothes for destitute children; but if, as I hope they may do, these few hints should induce anyone to devote a little spare time to this sort of work, they will find that fresh ideas continually suggest themselves. Should any reader of THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER find a difficulty in carrying out these instructions, or wish for further information, I shall be happy to give them all the help in my power.

DORA HOPE.