

DAINTY UNDERWEAR IN VOGUE

By Isabel A. Mallon



JUST what sort of underwear to assume is one question that troubles the average woman very much. She doesn't want to wear so much that it will be bulky, and she doesn't want to wear too little for fear she will catch cold. She tries first one and then another shaped garment; and the wise woman is she who, having at last hit upon that which is most comfortable, makes it most dainty and assumes it for good. Very little linen is used nowadays for one's lingerie, the preference being given to cambric, victoria lawn, nainsook or percale. The last is noted with tiny dots, or wee flowers in pink, blue or lavender upon the white ground. Then when the garment is finished the edges have a triple scallop, or a sharp point embroidered in cotton of the same color as the figure. This material, with its simple finish, is liked for sack-shaped chemises, for night-dresses and for drawers; it is seldom, if ever, used for skirts.

SOME PRETTY NIGHT-DRESSES

THE fancy for silk night-dresses still exists, but as there always have been women who would wear nothing but the clear white lawn or nainsook, and as these women are many, the makers of underwear are specially catering to them. Very much more fine work, that is, handwork, can be put upon a nainsook gown than upon a silk one, and the needle-woman can make more fine tucks, fancy stitches, gatherings, hemstitching and drawing of threads than ever would seem possible. A pretty design for a night-gown is that shown in Illustration No. 2, which is of the ordinary sack-shape, having a slight train in the back and a broad hemstitching in front; the material is gathered in just across the bust, and very carefully gathered; across this is a narrow band of insertion, and above it a full frill of lace with narrow ribbon run through the top of it, so that it may be drawn to fit. A full frill of lace is around the neck at the back and comes down each side, giving the appearance of a square-necked bodice to the night-dress. Ribbons are fastened at the side seams, and are drawn forward and tied in a loose way just in front. The sleeves are full and high on the shoulders and are drawn in



ONE OF THE PRETTIEST NIGHT-DRESSES (Illus. No. 2)

at the wrists, where they have lace frills as their decoration. In silk, flannel, cashmere, cambric or muslin such a night-dress would be pretty and very easily made, the elaborate effect being produced entirely by the lace and ribbons. For people who do not care for thin gowns, those of figured percale, with a broad sailor collar and full sleeves drawn into deep cuffs, with the usual embroidered finish, are commended.

THE PREFERRED UNDERVEST

THE silk or lisle thread woven in many colors and in various ways into vests are worn almost exclusively in place of the chemise. They are, of course, warmer, and as they extend well over the hips really protect one more than a chemise, the skirt of which flares away. They are shown with an open-work finish about the neck; in some instances it is very elaborate; sometimes they are square-necked, sometimes they are V-shaped, but always do they have the close-fitting strap over the shoulder and the silk strings to draw them in to make them fit and to keep one warm. In the delicate shades I can recommend the pale pink, which when it does fade, fades so entirely that it becomes a creamy tint that is decidedly pretty, a something that cannot be said about the shrimp. The blues are not to be depended upon, though, curious enough, the lavender washes extremely well.

A DAINY ROBE DE NUIT

THE fastening of night-dresses at the side is at once novel and pretty. One is shown in Illustration No. 1. It is made of white nainsook very fine and soft. The back is slightly full, and gathered in at the neck to the ordinary band. The front, which is cut off straight just below the throat, is arranged in a series of fine tucks that flare below the waist line, giving the necessary fullness. A ruffle of fine torchon lace is about the neck and comes down each side, while a full frill of it makes a decoration across the front. The buttons are set on the side of the front, while the button-holes, hidden under the lace, are easily reached, and yet when it is all fastened no buttons are visible. The sleeves are full, and have for wrist finish pretty cuffs made of torchon lace and insertion. Four rosettes of pink ribbon are to be worn with this gown, one being on each side of the tucked portion and one on each sleeve. If desired, a pink ribbon sash may hold it in at the waist, but as the tucking extends so far down this is really not necessary. Such a night-dress could be developed in any of the wash materials, but I could not advise it in either flannel or cashmere, as the result would be a clumsy and rather bulky piece of work. People who have to wear wool gowns find the simple sack design with a decorated collar and cuffs the most desirable.



A DAINY ROBE DE NUIT (Illus. No. 1)

THE PETTICOATS MOST IN VOGUE

THE somewhat short, rather scant petticoat with its fullness drawn back by a string midway of its depth, continues in vogue. They are developed in changeable silk, plain silk and in light-weight cloth. The usual trimming is three narrow, scant, pinked frounces; the silk skirt elaborately trimmed with lace not having the vogue given to it that belonged to it some time ago. Very many ladies living in warm rooms and wrapping up warmly when they go out, wear but one skirt during the winter and have that of very thin flannel. This quality is sold in pale gray, lavender, Nile-green, rose and shrimp pink, bright scarlet, pale blue, clear yellow and a very light mode that is almost a cream. Both ribbon and lace are put on these skirts, black or white lace being used, as is deemed most harmonious. A typical skirt of this kind is pictured in Illustration No. 3. It has the front width slightly gored, and just enough fullness is allowed at the back to make it set gracefully. On the edge is a band of pink silk ribbon; below it a row of white valenciennes insertion, then there is another row of the pink ribbon and then a full frill of white lace. The ribbon and insertion should be an inch and a half wide, while the lace frill should be three inches. The band to which the skirt is sewed is of the ribbon folded, and long narrow pink ribbon strings tie in the back. In black such a skirt could be trimmed with black lace, and scarlet, pale blue or pale yellow ribbon. Lavender could be decorated with either white, black or its own color; red could be trimmed with black, and pale yellow with either black or white.

boned" with silk. As far as possible, garments are cut without seams, but in most instances seams are necessary to make them form the fit required, the fit that is of importance, for "lumpy" underwear will cause your outside bodice and skirt to "set" improperly.

ABOUT ONE'S BELTS

FOR the woman who is inclined to bestout, or the one who wishes to keep her figure looking as slender as possible, it is best to have the various pieces of underwear so arranged that they will all button upon one yoke, and this yoke should be under the corsets. In assuming your corsets just remember that if they are to be comfortable and keep the outline of your shape, and not that which the dressmaker would wish you to have, let them be the last thing you assume before putting on your dress, and do be a little careful in choosing your corsets. Get one that is not too large, or not too small, but to fit you, and then you will not have either a red nose from tight lacing, or your hands frozen from the same cause, nor will you be uncomfortable because it is so loose upon you. Nobody wants people to lace: that is, nobody with any sense, but it has been proven beyond a doubt that a sensible, properly-made corset is at once desirable and healthful.

ABOUT DRESSING SACKS

THE long, rather cumbersome dressing-gown went out with the dowdy wrapper, and in its place is the graceful dressing-sack. This is sufficiently long to reach nearly to the knees, and is oftenest mounted on a yoke in regular Watteau fashion. Silk, cashmere, or flannel are the materials used for dressing-sacks, while ribbons, of course, play their part in being decorative. The flannel ones are warm and easily cleaned, and as all the dainty colors may be gotten, a great variety of individual taste may be exercised.



A TYPICAL SKIRT (Illus. No. 3)

A FLANNEL JACKET

A VERY becoming jacket is made of rose-colored, light-weight flannel. It has a yoke of moss-green velvet from which the full widths of flannel fall, being arranged in double box plaits. They reach almost to the knees, and have an inch-wide ribbon as the finish. A rolling collar of velvet is the neck finish, and long ribbons here looped together confine the jacket at the throat. The sleeves are high and full and gathered into cuffs of velvet. A mistake too often made in a dressing sack is that of having the sleeves close-fitting; as one wears the sack when arranging one's hair, or sometimes placing the bonnet just in position, the arms want to have a free swing, untrammelled by tight sleeves. For this reason very many ladies prefer the old-fashioned "angel" sleeve, which closes just a little below the shoulder, and falls entirely away from the arm.

THE FEW LAST WORDS

AFTER one has devoted time and patience to making pretty belongings, after one has chosen ribbons and laces and arranged everything as lovely as possible, then you must remember that a dainty nest is wanted for these belongings. Now, for this get some very inexpensive silk as thin as possible. Make it into sachets large enough to fit your bureau drawers and fill them with whatever may be your favorite perfume. Lavender, violet, or orris powder are all desirable odors to permeate linen, for they are not heavy, but suggest the odor of the country, and make one think of fresh water and linen dabbled in cool brooks. Do not let anybody induce you to use either patchouli or musk among your lingerie, as both are unrefined, and you never wish to suggest that they are near you or your belongings.