



THE FASHIONABLE NIGHTDRESS

## SOME DAINTY LINGERIE

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FROM that day a long time ago when the finest leaves and the daintiest thorn, the ones for material, the other for a needle, were used to make the very first garments, refined women all through the centuries have loved dainty underwear. She who is past-mistress in the art of needlework can just now possess this at a very slight expenditure of money. The work of the sewing machine is only noted upon the long seams, to make firm the bands or to place strong stitches wherever strength, rather than beauty, is necessary. Frills are often hemstitched, but sometimes simply hemmed in the old-fashioned way—that way being to place hundreds of tiny stitches as close to each other as possible, and to use for this purpose very fine thread.

### MATERIAL AND TRIMMING

THE materials best liked are nainsook, victoria lawn, cambric, dimity, piqué and batiste. The last is seen in pale pink, pale blue and a very faint mauve, but when a color is chosen I can only advise its use for nightdresses, and then it must be laundered in the most careful manner, or else what is a faint color will soon become a faded one.

Valenciennes lace in the cream shades is used for trimming, and a great deal of fine torchon is also noted. Embroidery combined with lace is very effective, but personal experience has proved that, as a trimming alone, it does not wear as well as lace, and is not as dainty.

The Empire chemise, fitted to the figure, is fancied by ladies who wear corset-covers, inasmuch as it takes the place of the bodice and may be worn over or under the stays, while the full, long skirt portion answers for a short skirt. These chemises are as carefully fitted as possible, for if they ruffle up or get out of place they will cause the bodice proper to look ill-fitting, and wrinkles that are very objectionable will appear. No sleeves are in them, the armholes being trimmed and drawn up high on the shoulders with ribbons. A very pretty one is made of lawn with the neck cut round, and finished with a beading and a frill of Valenciennes lace. Through the beading is drawn white satin ribbon, which is tied just in front. The armholes have similar beading around them and are finished with frills of lace, but both the back and front of the chemise have a loose, bib-like section formed of points of fine embroidery, each outlined with a frill of lace. The stays are worn over this chemise, and the bibs lap over the stays and reach quite to the waist-line, and so do the duty of a corset-cover and protector. At the waist-line of the chemise is a broad beading, through which an inch-wide ribbon is drawn so that the fullness can be properly arranged. The skirt finish is a hemstitching and several fine tucks with the threads drawn in the same way.

On almost all dainty underwear narrow or wide beading appears, permitting the use of fanciful ribbons that may, of course, be taken out when the garment pays its visit to the laundry. And, by-the-by, the daintiest of women have their lingerie so made that it can visit the laundry, for no matter how well dry-cleaning may make it look, one's underwear is never perfectly pure unless it has had the threefold blessing of soap, water and sunshine.

A suit made for a bride shows a petticoat of white silk with rosebuds printed upon it; the trimming consists of three ruffles of the silk having their edges pinked, while the strings are of white wash ribbon about an inch wide. The stays are covered with silk matching the skirt, and the silk lacing is of white, the edge finish being a narrow frill of white Valenciennes,

while white ribbon is drawn through the beading just below. Coutil imitating the Dresden silks is shown in well-made stays, and will, of course, outwear the silk that it imitates, and which, in prettiness, it quite equals.

On the fashionable nightdress the Watteau plait is conspicuous, and is to be commended, inasmuch as greater width is gained by it, and the shapeliness of the robe is preserved. Nainsook or cambric is oftenest selected for pretty nightgowns, although for those who prefer or need a heavier gown, dimity is recommended.

### THE CAMBRIC NIGHTDRESS

THE nightdress pictured is of fine cambric cut square in the neck in front; the throat is seen, and below is a strip of open embroidery alternating with a row of lace insertion just the width across, while a very deep frill of lace forms the collar and comes down at each side in rever fashion. The sleeves are large, and each being very full, are drawn into a band of beading, which has as a finish a wide frill of lace that falls far over the wrist. Pale blue ribbon is drawn through the beading and tied on each sleeve in a jaunty bow well up on the



A PRETTY MATINÉE

outer side. The back of the gown is in a double box-plait from the neck; it is held almost to the waist-line and then it is allowed to flare.

Another nightdress which is developed in fine nainsook has rows of insertion and embroidery forming the entire front from the neck down to the waist-line, where a row of wide beading, with ribbon run through it, forms a belt so that a blouse effect is produced. The full skirt is gathered on to a stronger belt under the fancy one, while the back is in a Watteau plait and is not confined at the waist. The high collar is of beading with a frill of narrow lace as its finish, and a ribbon, matching the belt, drawn through it, and looped in a pretty bow just in front. The sleeves are full puffs that reach to the elbows, and are then drawn into cuffs of alternate rows of lace and embroidery, with a deep frill of lace as the finish for each.

If you wish to have your nightdresses marked in the most approved manner take a pencil and write your initials as you are in the habit of doing, either on the sleeve, the left preferably, or on a smooth place on the bodice, and then embroider them in white and so daintily that there will be no wrong side to the work.

### THE DAINTY PETTICOAT

OF course, it depends on the gown under which it will be worn. For your summer dresses, those of lawn or any fine cotton, use for petticoats coarse Swiss; for the heavier costumes select either lawn or else that which is considered the latest, piqué. This will hold so much starch that it will force a skirt to stand out. The umbrella shape is the one invariably worn with the present style of dress skirt. A petticoat of coarse Swiss muslin is decorated by a deep hem and three ruffles; each frill is edged with rather coarse écu lace, while a band of beading is the finish at the top of the ruffles, and through it is drawn pale mauve satin ribbon.

Another skirt, intended to be worn with a cloth gown, is of corded piqué cut in the received shape, and with a deep flounce of very open embroidery reaching from the knee to the edge of the skirt.

### FASHIONABLE ALPACA PETTICOATS

ALPACA in white, cream, gray, silver-blue, Nile green and, of course, black is liked for general wear and is developed in many pretty ways. The moreen or watered alpaca is also fancied in these colors, but for long service the plain alpaca is more desirable. Three-inch-wide ribbons scantily gathered are put on as ruffles, and sometimes a single ruffle of the alpaca bordered at the top and bottom with narrow satin ribbon is fancied. When the three-inch ribbon is used three small ruffles form the decoration. On a petticoat of pale green the ruffles are a light golden-brown satin; the bottom one has a wire braid under the lower edge that starts from each side of the front, but does not cross it. Another alpaca petticoat is a black one with a deep single ruffle of the material, finished at the top and bottom with half-inch satin ribbon, also black, which is sewed on by hand. Casings and silk strings are the finish at the waist. So many women now wear their stays after the French fashion, just outside the skirt, in reality being the last garment assumed, that skirts with casings and strings are in greater favor than those mounted on yokes, for by wearing the stays over the petticoat the fullness is pressed down. If, however, one should be very stout, the yoke is commended, but good-sized hooks and rings should fasten it at the back.

Silk skirts are in almost every instance made of the light changeable taffeta, and many contrasts in color are shown.

### OTHER DAINTY PIECES

LIGHT-WEIGHT flannels in pale colors are fancied rather more than the all-white, although many beautiful flannel skirts are seen in the all-white flannel. A pink one that is particularly pretty has the edge below two fine tucks cut in square turrets, and these are bound with narrow pink satin ribbon. A ruffle of écu lace four inches deep is under them, which the space between permits to be plainly seen. The belt is of pink satin ribbon, and similar ribbons draw it together and are tied in long loops and ends.

A simpler petticoat is made of outing-cloth in stripes of blue and pink. There is near the edge a group of three fine tucks, and the edge itself is cut in Vandykes and scalloped with fine blue zephyr, while from underneath falls a band of knitted lace in the pink and blue colors.

Drawers are, if anything, shorter and broader.

### THE PRETTY MATINÉES

DAINTY little matinées, to be worn when one is obliged to remain in bed, are developed in flannel, cashmere or delaine. The effect must always be soft and loose, and although the jacket should have an elaborate air, expensive materials need not be used. The one shown in the picture is made of pale blue cashmere, with a Watteau back, and a loose front that falls away to show a blouse front of figured delaine, the ground being white with small blue flowers upon it. This is drawn in full at the waist and falls a few inches below it in ruffle fashion. A stock of blue satin ribbon is the neck finish, and below it on the blue jacket is a deep, flaring collar decorated with rows of narrow gilt braid. Ribbon ends draw the jacket fronts together carelessly over the blouse front. Full sleeves are gathered in at the wrists and have as a finish frills of écu lace.

Tiny bags of silk filled with orris powder thrown here and there among your underwear will further enhance its daintiness.

### A FEW LAST WORDS

THE wise woman is that one who, every year, adds to her stock of underwear by one, two or three pretty pieces, and so she does not feel the amount of money which she spends on her lingerie. She must remember this year that the collar on her nightdress cannot possibly be too flaring or too large.

She must also remember that with her Swiss petticoat her lawn or organdy skirt will require no lining.

Few buttons are seen on the underwear of to-day, ribbon ties closing most everything, and the amateur must never make the mistake of putting a button on a skirt belt. If she does it will announce itself through the thickest of bodices.