

## Chat to . . . Boys and Girls.

Vacation time is here my young friends and how are we all going to spend it? I wonder? Some will go to the seaside I know, some to the mountains and others to quiet rustic lanes and shady groves, while those from country homes will enjoy the change of a visit to city friends. May we all meet again in our corner and compare notes as to the experiences we have gained, the new pleasures found, and the bits of useful knowledge acquired during our holidays, for I trust we will all keep our eyes and ears open to learn what we can and bring like busy summer bees some honey and wax into our corner to show that though we have taken a rest from school books and ordinary work yet we have not spent the bright days in utter idleness.

I would like to tell you my boys and girls how you may greatly add to your happiness wherever you may be, and the secret is so simple that I can give it you in a few words—gain your happiness by giving it to others—you stare with surprise my gentle Edith but believe me, it is the surest possible way of promoting your own pleasure, though it does sound contradictory to speak of gaining anything by giving it away. However, happiness is a good seed which the more you scatter, the more you will gather in return. How much brighter and better you feel when surrounded by happy people, and how one sour face, one disagreeable manner acts like a wet blanket on a little company—what we sow we may expect to reap, and there are many ways of sowing happiness which if you look sharp you will discover for yourself. Give up your comfortable seat in boat or car to some older or weaker than yourself and for their increased pleasure or comfort you will take a great deal of satisfaction, for have you not help to make their trips more enjoyable? In a hundred ways, you will find seed to sow and soil for sowing it if you have the wish to spread happiness around you. Lend a hand wherever you can, take an interest in all that interests your young host or hostess as if you possibly can do so. If there is a person of uncertain or disagreeable temper in the household take as little notice of their odd ways as you well can and if there are elderly people pay all possible respect and the little attentions so dear to those who are apt to be overlooked by the young and you have no idea how you will be missed when your visit has come to an end or how welcome you will be when another season rolls round. It is a wise rule so to act and govern yourself while in a strange place that you can with a clean conscience go there again if you wish. Don't beg of your dear girls, pack all your discretion in the bottom of your trunks when you take a summer outing, but carry it right in your satchel, so you can reach it at a moment's notice and apply its restraints occasionally when you feel yourself going too far either in physical indulgence, in an overdose of merriment or in neglect to take proper care of yourself. Don't bath too often or remain too long in the water at one time—but vigorously dress and quickly. Take a run on the sands if chilly, or lie down for a short time if tired and sleepy after your dip. Don't bath at all if you find it does not agree with you, no matter what other folks do—to some systems it is helpful to others hurtful. Don't over-walk yourself because some other girl can do so many miles "as easy as not." This is a foolishness girls are apt to be guilty of, rather than to be outdone. Boys too make that mistake sometimes. Don't get in such a gale of merriment that you forget your young ladyhood, and the breeze becomes too strong for somebody's nerves.

Many who laugh with you at the time will criticize you severely behind your back—be lively, and full of youthful fun if you feel like it, only keep your spirits well in hand, and avoid saying foolish things for which you will feel sorry and ashamed afterwards or worse than all irreverent things which will lie nearly on your conscience in more thoughtful and sober mood, or that which will hurt another's feelings.

Remember too that now the summer sun lies in wait for careless girls, ready to inflict freckles, tan and sunburn, as a sort of offset to the good health he restores. But these ills, while they cannot always be avoided, can still be greatly lessened, by wearing a sensible sun-hat, and by knowing just how to treat them when they do come. Acid is a well known enemy to freckles lemon-juice frequently applied will help to drive them away, and if the face is tanned wash it every night in buttermilk and then rinse well in clean water. There are simple remedies which will not hurt the skin and I give them to my girls, because I know that their good mothers do not like to see them return from their trip, looking like the young squaws they have called upon and bought pretty baskets from at the "Indian camps" and now our chat for this week must come to an end—good-bye, and a merry happy holiday to you all—write to me whenever you can find time—some rainy day for instance and I shall be delighted to answer and to know you have not forgotten

AUNT BELL.

## Frills of Fashion.

Summer dress, and that of the most summary description, is in full bloom now that the mercury is creeping up in the nineties and woman's chief interest in life is to deck herself out in cool gowns. Since early in the season, when just to think of a mullin gown was cause enough for a congestive chill, preparations for midsummer heat have been going on, and the result is a more bountiful supply of dainty, airy gowns than ever before.

The heat of last summer evidently created a fresh demand for filmy fabrics, which has been met in the most charming fashion by all sorts and conditions of gauzy things. Batistes, grenadines, sheer linens, silk and cotton muslins, some in dainty and more varied patterns and finer textures than anything previous seasons have offered. Lightness in both color and quality is the leading feature of dress, and certainly variety, which is woman's special prerogative in summer, never had greater opportunities either in materials or modes.

Dress that is exclusively feminine rules the day, and whether it is yachting suits or ball gowns the tendency toward dainty decoration is made evident in every possible manner. The trimming on so many gowns themselves are perhaps the most popular, and these include tucks, shirtings, appliques, of lace and various materials, stitching and embroidery of various kinds. Cloth applique on net is one of the novelties used for bolero, simulated tunic effects and deep bands on the skirt's. There must be all kinds of gowns in the summer outfit of a fashionable of a fashionable woman—something for morning, afternoon and evening, and special gowns for outdoor sports, without which life at the summer watering places would lose half of its charm. But the yachting suit is as truly feminine as any dress this season with its long skirt, flounce and festooned bands of satin edged with fine silk gimp. White seems to be the prevailing choice for this sort of dress, and cloth, serge, and flannel, plain linen and duck are the favourite materials. All kinds of gowns are effected by the fashion for long skirts, without very much regard for the purpose for which they are intended. To be sure, there are degrees of length, but the yachting skirt is long enough more than to touch the floor all around, and even the bicycle skirt has added inches.

The circular flounce in varied widths is the feature of many of the yachting skirts, but others are cut with the long flaring gored and trimmed with wide stitched bands. One elaborate model in white cloth has two bands of white satin cut in festoon scallops, and finished on the edge with three rows of fine white silk braid. Bands cut in wavy lines on the edge and finished with a fine silk gimp form another pretty skirt trimming, but the plain bands of cloth covered with many rows of stitching are more suitable than the satin for strictly yachting purposes. Many rows of stitching in colored silk make a pretty finish on the white cloth gowns, which in some instances are made with a blouse waist finished with a deep sailor collar, a white chemisette and stock of tucked silk,

and a sailor tie of white banded across the ends with blue silk.

Fancy coats of various kinds, mostly on the e-ton order, are the other forms of bodice worn with a shirt waist or fancy vest. Black linen shirts, finished with white stitching and embellished with a white lawn necktie, are the very latest thing to wear with the white cloth skirt. They cannot be becoming to the average woman, but the combination is at least a novelty in a summer dress. The little coats are made with the usual revers covered with satin and rows of gathered lace or of finely tucked taffeta. White satin, well covered with rows of black stitching, makes very effective revers for the light cloth suits, and a narrow piping of black on the edge is a nice finish. Skirts of these white cloth costumes, which are made up in a first-class manner, have a white taffeta foundation skirt, and a peplum over-dress is not unusual. This, cut in broad points or scallops and trimmed with narrow stitched bands like the underskirt, makes a very stylish skirt.

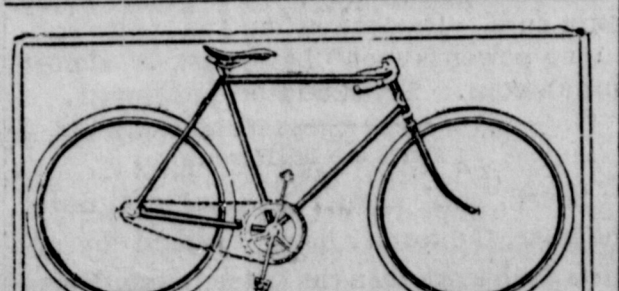
Cloth, and fine flannel with a cloth finish, in the light colours and navy blue are both made up into yachting suits. One very striking model in dark blue has three scant shaped flounces around the skirt piped on the edges with white. These are fully six inches wide, overlapping each other a little, a white piping finishing the upper flounce. The over-dress is spotted all over with small embroidered rings of white linen such as are used in the Renaissance lace work. They are also sewn on the blouse bodice, which is completed with white pipings and a white pique vest.

Yachting suits of linen and pique are very much the fashion, and checked linens in the natural flax color are worn by the English women for what they call river suits, as the stuff will not fade in the sun. Tailor-made yachting suits of white duck, finished with stitched bands of the same, are extremely elegant this season, made with the short scalloped coats so much seen in cloth, and worn with a pretty colored taffeta silk waist all fine hand run tucks and open lines of hem stitching. Another pretty blouse for [this] purpose is of white taffeta tucked all over in the finest of tucks stitched with black silk.

Pretty little vests of tucked white organdy and bands of lace insertion [are] very tempting additions to the coat and skirt costume, as they are delightfully cool, with the thin, plain backs, and can be purchased in the shops all ready for wear. A novel trimming on one duck suit is a narrow fold of white lawn, stitched on in rows with spaces between. It has the effect of piping and covers the jacket entirely, put on in bias lines, meeting in a point in the back and slanting down in front. Elongated tabs at either side of the front define the shape of many of the duck coats which only reach the waist line at the back and sides. This bears out a fancy of fashion for stole ends, which have made their appearance on some of the very latest gowns. These ends are made of lace or of material like the gown, if it is sheer and thin, and decorated with applique designs of lace. They are caught in at the waist with the belt, or not as you fancy, and make a very charming addition to a thin summer gown.

Pretty, cool gowns for morning wear are made of toile, a new kind of linen, which comes in all the pretty delicate shades and the darker colors as well. It is made very elegantly over white taffeta silk, and trimmed with lace insertion, the linen being cut out underneath. One pretty model in turquoise blue made with an over-dress is spotted all over with floral medallions of ecru lace, the white taffeta lining showing through. The bodice is a bolero with a deep sailor collar of ecru batiste bordered with lace, and it is worn over a white silk shirt with a sailor knot.

All the semi-transparent materials blossom out in great beauty as the season advances, and surely there is nothing so well suited to the extravagant tastes of



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the day as these dainty fabrics, silk-lined and trimmed with fine tucks and lace. India muslin is one of the favorites, dotted all over with incrustations of lace and made with the inevitable circular flounce. Dotted muslin made with a tunic over-dress, trimmed all over with bow-knots of lace insertion falling over an underskirt finished with three narrow lace edged ruffles, form one of the many pretty summer dresses. The full bodice, also covered with bow knots, has a yoke of tucked white chiffon. One feature of the flowered organdy gowns this season is the bodice of stirred chiffon matching the color in the pattern: the combination of plain colored organdy with white is another, the former being used for the bodice and ruffles. Wide sashes of crepe de chine, chiffon, hemstitched taffeta and ribbon are still another telling item of summer dress, fastened to the belt with a rosette bow. A second rosette catching the ends together a few inches below the waist is an effective addition.

The smartest lining for all these thin gowns is white taffeta no matter what color the muslin may be. When this is not desirable, a deeper or paler shade of the same color must be used. Violent contrasts are not the fashionable thing for the linings of thin gowns. The latest and prettiest effect in color is the use of three shades of one color in one gown. In mouseline de soie, with a skirt made of three deep shaped flounces, the darkest shade at the bottom, the idea is carried out in its prettiest form. Embroidered muslin in white, cream and ecru is the latest thing among the summer gowns. This forms an entire under-dress, or enough of it to simulate one, and the tunic, with low-cut bodice, may be of nun's veiling, sheer barege or any other thin material.

An idea of the fitness of things can be very successfully applied to the purchase of stocks and collars, which, after all, are the important feature of the shirt waist. The chic of this kind of dress depends so much on the right kind of collar and tie that it is well to aim for the correct thing, since what is suited to one kind of skirt is out of place with another. The broad Ascot tie, which so many young women seem to regard with favor, should never be worn except with a coat or vest which conceals the ends. The bow ties of silk with long ends are very pretty, and feminine, too, but here care must be taken not to have the ends too long or the good effect is lost. The thin, dressy

white shirt waives require a fine linen stock with embroidered turn-over edges and a bow and ends of taffeta or batiste which, of course, extends around the neck in a narrow band. A plain standing linen collar, with a ribbon carried twice around the neck, forming a stock, and tied in a bow in front, is a favorite way of dressing the neck; and tucked stocks of silk, with a butterfly bow in front and narrow turn-over collars of embroidered or hemstitched linen lawn, are very dainty and generally becoming. Narrow Brussels lace scarfs tied around the silk stocks are also very pretty. In linen collars there are the high turn over variety with round ends, worn with a simple narrow tie, and a high band turned over fully an inch around the top.

The taffeta silk coat and skirt, tailor made, is a very stylish costume for general usefulness, and when worn with a white chiffon or lace vest, a sailor knot of lace, and lace falling over the hands, the effect is charming.

Very fine open meshed veiling is the favorite for summer wear. It has either large dots far apart or no dots at all, and in either case the veils are so thin that they will not serve to disguise a poor complexion.

Skirts of many of the thin gowns are tucked down several inches at the back, thereby giving the desired flat effect and some fullness at the same time.

Foreign fashion notes tell us that mitts are worn instead of gloves with ball and dinner gowns. They are presumably made of lace and fastened to the sleeves.

A novelty in wraps is a half coat of lace, rounded up the back and trimmed with ruffles of chiffon.

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