

carrying all these conditions are *reversed*—the infant is grasped by his Nurse's arms, penned in (as it were) and by no means *securely*, and he can only be kept in position (?) by continual *jerking* efforts to prevent his falling—very comforting (?) for poor baby!—and, moreover, this routine plan of proceeding is far more fatiguing to the Nurse than the former plan I described to you.

Having finished our somewhat lengthy digression, we must return to our subject (baby's head-gear); and the conditions required by it are softness, lightness, and warmth. The materials generally employed were satin, silk, sarcenet, and cashmere, often elaborately embroidered or braided, and the first often quilted. To one and all of these fabrics there can be no objection. It is to the hood I have for many years past had the hardihood to take exception; time has not softened my critical asperities; but I am happy to say it *has* brought about some much-needed reform. This little head-gear was "fearfully and wonderfully made" (up) upon something stiff, a foundation eminently suited (?) to the tender infant's head. It had an arrangement behind that was called a *curtain*, and a rosette adorned the front, which was sometimes slightly depressed in the middle, that threw the sides of the hood away from the face. It was *hot* where it ought to have been cool, and *cool* where it ought to have been warm. It also had a delightful way of falling *back* from the head, and this put such a strain upon the strings that fastened it under the chin, as to bring the infant within a measurable distance of strangulation! There was a lace border inside the front of the hood, and a long lace veil fastened to it covered baby's face all over, in a somewhat aggravating manner, almost reaching to his toes.

The hood, like the robe, is found in all grades of society, and the lower it went down the more its faults were accentuated, especially in the matter of *stiffness*, and amongst our artisan classes it was regarded with a kind of adoration. The favourite material was sarcenet, finely quilted, the colours most preferred being white (for first-borns), pale pink, blue, or fawn (for less favoured mortals). I have beheld the first-mentioned in its pristine and immaculate loveliness, and had it been placed under a glass shade to be admired at a respectful distance, like a choice piece of confectionary, my voice might *possibly* have swelled the murmurs of applause its appearance never failed to evoke! I have also seen it in its decadence, ousted by a pink or blue successor, faded, smirched, disdainfully treated, battered

out of shape and into *softness*, and I have felt remorseful for the *hard* things I once said of it, and by way of amends admit I have at last discovered *one* merit!

Of late years this little head-gear has been largely superseded by the knitted hood; and certainly in wool we find nearly all we require; and when we consider that the hood is worn in the recumbent position, its softness and pliability are great advantages. It is sometimes overdone in the matter of ornamentation, and the baby face is almost buried under a mass of snowy wool, and the head is made too hot. There is one precaution I must mention in respect to the knitted hood. It should not be too hastily removed when the infant is taken indoors, for the head is often bathed in perspiration, and unless the room is very warm the babe may take a chill; and I have reason for thinking that this results far more than is suspected. The best plan is to substitute temporarily lighter head-covering than the hood.

The cloak was the other out-door garment, generally made of merino or cashmere, braided, embroidered, or trimmed with plush or velvet; it had a large cape to it trimmed to match the cloak. In order to prevent it getting crushed, the Nurse placed it over her arm on which the baby's head lay. It was not much use for the baby and apt to drag from the neck; it was of course put over the baby's shoulders.

For my part, I do not care for the hand-carrying of infants when they are taken out. I consider they are more comfortable in a bassinette, and placed on a soft cushion or pillow. A knitted woollen jacket should protect the chest and arms of the babe without oppressing him, and allowing the free action of the hands and arms, without which no baby can be happy; a soft, woollen shawl over the shoulders and covering the whole of the body is light and warm, and over this a coverlet of some sort; a hood of wool or soft quilted silk is the best head covering. Six-weeks-old infants, in the summer, can be taken out in this wise, for a short time every day; and another advantage is, you can feed them, if necessary, without taking them up, and it is only in the *warm* weather that infants should be taken into the air, the hood of the bassinette being always made use of to protect the face from sun or wind. I do not advise *veils*, they seem to me to tease them; they can see about them better with the face free to the air. I think I have now told you all I have to say on baby's clothing.

(To be continued.)

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