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Housekeepers' Chat

Wed., Dec. 14, 1937

(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

Subject: "Clothes for the Very Young." Information, including reliable recipe for mayonnaise dressing, from U. S. Bureau of Home Economics. Bulletin available: "Children's Rompers."

---ooOoo---

"Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes" has a rival. The beautiful green cookbook may have to take a back shelf, for the time being. And all because a friend of mine, who is as much interested in making pretty clothes, for children, as I am in radio programs, has written a booklet on Children's Rompers. I wouldn't feel so sad about the booklet, if she hadn't put pictures in it. Pictures of real children, wearing the real rompers, that my friend made last summer. Now how can a cookbook, even though it is a beautiful green one, compete with a book which has pictures in it, of cunning children? I wish "Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes" had pictures, of Upside-down Apple Cakes, and Lemon Meringue Pies, and Gingerbread with Whipped Cream. That's a good idea for next year's cookbook.

To return to the romper bulletin -- it is one of the most attractive I have ever seen. If you have a child of romper age, you can get some splendid suggestions, from just looking at the pictures in this bulletin. If you are handy with your scissors, you can cut your own patterns.

Let me show you the booklet. See the first picture? This barefoot baby can't even walk yet, so he wears "envelope" rompers -- the kind with a long triangular flap, sewed to the front, and lapped over the back. Lots handier for the busy mother, than rompers which button through the crotch. The buttons are few in number -- three to five are enough -- and the strain is less, so the buttonholes do not pull out, as in the old-fashioned style of romper.

The little boy in Picture Number Two wears rompers with the opening down the side of the leg. You know the advantage of that, on a very young child. This romper is cut from the one-piece pattern, illustrated. So easy to make, out of scraps of gingham left over from plump Aunt Matilda's house dresses, or one of Uncle Herbie's shirts.

Picture Number Three shows a little girl, wearing a quaint romper which opens down the front with three large buttons, as fastenings. I saw this romper before the picture was taken. It was made of a cotton print, with a tiny blue flower figure. As pretty a pattern as any little girl could want.

Number Four is a youngster in a romper of dark-brown satcen, with light-tan facings, and pockets. Oh yes indeed, no boy as old as three years would wear a romper which didn't have pockets, for the precious things he picks up in the course of the day.

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Picture Number Five shows a child in rompers which have cloth legbands, instead of elastic. Elastic is not good for baby's chubby legs.

Whom have we here, in Picture Number Six? She has curly hair, and a most mischievous expression. Curlyhead wears rompers with tightly knitted wool bands. The knitted bands have more elasticity than the cloth bands, and will stay above the knee, without hindering circulation.

Turn the page, and you'll find a charming child in a suit of rompers trimmed in appliqué. The appliqué is Peter Rabbit himself, looking very solemn, one ear up, and one ear down.

There are four other pictures in the booklet -- but I must get back to questions and answers. I'd much rather talk about children's clothes today, than answer practical questions, But life isn't like that.

First question: "Will you please tell me how to wash a little girl's school dress, made of wool jersey?"

Wash the jersey dress, as you would any woolen materials -- that is, with lukewarm water, for both washing and rinsing; neutral soaps; and no strong washing powders. Use the soap in the form of a solution, or jelly, and don't rub it directly on the wool dress. Squeeze and work the dress in the suds, without rubbing. Press out the excess water, and wash in second suds, of lukewarm water. Squeeze the dress from the last suds, and rinse free from soap, in several changes of lukewarm water, as near the temperature of the suds as possible. Never use cold water, in washing or rinsing woolen materials. Since jersey is a knitted material, perhaps you had better measure the dress before you wash it. Then you can stretch it to its original size, after it is washed.

All wool materials should be dried in a warm place, but not near a fire, or in the direct sunlight. Never allow them to freeze. Knitted garments, like sweaters and jersey dresses, should be spread, back down, with sleeves outstretched on several thicknesses of clean, soft material, laid flat. Measure and shape, according to the dimensions taken before the garment was wet. Then pin it in place, if necessary. Turn the garment occasionally, after it is almost dry.

By the way, a good quality of wool jersey is a very satisfactory material for school dresses. There are now on the market wash flannels, woolen crepes, and other light-weight woolen materials, which also give good service for school dresses.

Next question -- I'll have to read part of this letter: "Dear Aunt Sammy: My young sons are quite enthusiastic over the prospect of raising rabbits for sale. I wonder if you could tell them where to get information on the best breeds to buy, how to build hutches, how the rabbits should be taken care of, fed, and so forth. If you can give me this information I shall be very grateful. I want to thank you for the cookbook, while I have a chance. It is a great help to me, to have so many good vegetable recipes. Sincerely yours"-- but here's the post-script -- "Please don't read my name over the radio." Very well, I won't.

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I'm sending you a six-page leaflet, called "Raising Domestic Rabbits," which has the information your boys want. This leaflet costs five cents. Besides the advice about raising rabbits, it contains some dandy recipes for Fried Rabbit, Fricassee of Rabbit, Baked Rabbit, Rabbit Stew with Vegetables, and Rabbit Pie.

Speaking of recipes reminds me that I have one for you today. Have you ever longed for a dependable recipe, for mayonnaise dressing? So have I. In fact, I never could make a mayonnaise dressing that I was proud of, till the Bureau of Home Economics gave me this one. If you follow directions, carefully, you will have good luck with it. Seven ingredients, for Mayonnaise Dressing:

1 egg yolk	1/2 teaspoon salt
3/4 to 1 cup oil	1/4 teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons lemon juice, or vinegar	Paprika
	1/2 teaspoon sugar

Once again, the seven ingredients -- seven - s as in saxophone. (Repeat ingredients.)

First mix the spices -- that is, the salt, pepper, paprika, and sugar. Then add one-half of the acid -- the lemon juice or the vinegar, or a combination of the two. Next, add the egg yolk, and beat slightly. Now begin adding the oil -- about a teaspoon or two at a time. Continue adding oil, until the mixture is quite heavy. Work in the other half of the acid, as the mixture becomes very thick. That's all there is to it. Very easy -- when you know how.

Tomorrow, as usual, a dinner menu, and a recipe for Rabbit Pie. Did you ever make a Rabbit Pie, with vegetables, and -- but wait until tomorrow.

~~Handwritten scribble~~

