

LIVING

More than Mere Looks

by Fayza Haq

A man build a career and make his first million. She looks forward to maturity and togetherness with shared pains and ecstasies. Men who are drop-outs from their jobs are not very much in demand for a Lotus Eater seldom attracts an intelligent woman. Every woman adores the blue-eyed boy of the office or firm, the dependable slogger and 'the wiz kid'. It is his standing in society and potentialities and not the weight of his wallet that matters for her.

She may have romanced with many a gallant once, yet she always settles down with the steady provider. She wants to be sure of the roof over the head and 'three square meals a day.' She is aware of her precarious position in the society where 'survival of the fittest' is the rule. She is bound to be excited and carried away to an extent by the Casanova, but after being warned and interogated repeatedly by her mother and female friends aplenty, she will settle down with someone of a reliable nature — an individual whom she can fall back on to provide love, warmth and care for her self and her young ones.

Heroes and "stars" are only for wall pin-ups or for teen-aged dreams. It is both the heart and the head that govern a woman.

The namby-pamby and cologne-addicted charmer in flowered or polka-dotted shirt does not necessarily lure the woman. In fact, all those Narcissitic fuss-pots her off. He should be able to handle the rough and unpleasant tasks as getting the weekend marketing and fixing the fuse in the living-room. She expects and wants her man to be more intelligent and pushy than herself, as superior mental capacity connotes vigour and power. He should be the master and be able to fathom the fears and expectations in the innermost recesses of her mind.

A woman realises that hyperbolic, romantic attachment and passion will peter out and not enjoy the same tidal wave as in the beginning. Yet love is not restricted to the bedroom, but extends to the behaviour before the children, neighbours and friends. She does not wish to make their apour

a secret affair but rather have it aired for all to see and remark upon. She would hate it if the affection died out after a couple of children and the high maternity hospital bills. She wants him to play the knight-at-arms all the way — through thick and thin.

A woman expects to be showered with exorbitant praises by her male. She wants to be flattered about her looks, curves, her cooking, gardening or even crochet and sewing — if not her flair for painting and attempts at poetry. All his passing pet phrases that he has picked up from books, and which she knows to be borrowed, only flatters her ego. It is not as if she does not accept the challenge of his eyes straying elsewhere, as she wants to be selected out of the many, but surely, she will hardly tolerate his passing flirtations more than ten days.

A woman is always possessive and will seldom share her male with his sister or mother, leave alone social friends and accommodating neighbours.

It is not necessary that a woman will marry the man she adores or with whom she

finds instant rapport at functions and get-togethers at home. There may be no magical, mystery, cementing glue between the couple. What brings them together might be just shared experiences and sheer admiration and liking for the qualities of one another, such as his place in society as an airline or shipping company officer or even an advertising executive, and her charming ways at cocktail parties, besides being able to run the house as smoothly as a dedicated char-woman.

At times, just the fact that he makes her feel relaxed and at home at any given time and place makes her confident of herself and for this she will stick by him, 'for better or for worse'. Gentleness, belief, and faith in one another and mutual understanding mean the *elan vital* of her whole existence to a woman although she may not cry this from house-tops the whole world and her entire existence.

There are reasons aplenty for a woman plunging in for the final and almost irrevocable 'yes' and there are endless qualities that she seeks, expects and finally extorts from him with her feminine guiles and winning ways.

The History of Jeans

by Shahid Akhter Makhsfi

IS there anyone you know who does not or has never owned a pair of jeans? Young, old, rich and poor alike. An interesting fact is how quickly an anti-style can become a style if enough people wear it. In the beginning, as they were supposed to, adults associated denim with disobedience, draft resistance and drug culture. As their popularity increased, dungarees came to stand not only for rebel youth, but for all youth. Even if you were not young, you may look younger, in a pair of jeans.

In the history of jeans, Calvin is a babe and Sergio a willing newborn. The blue jean

'roots' begin with Levi Strauss & Company. It is to that San Francisco based clothing manufacturer that the dungaree phenomenon owes its century old pedigree. Denim, the cotton fabric from which jeans are made, originated in France, probably as early as 1600's.

For most of the next two centuries, this cheap, durable fabric was used for military tents, which is exactly how it was introduced to a Bavarian immigrant named Levi Strauss. Selling canvas trousers to California gold rushers, Strauss switched to denim when Civil War surplus suddenly became available. His frontier resourcefulness transformed the

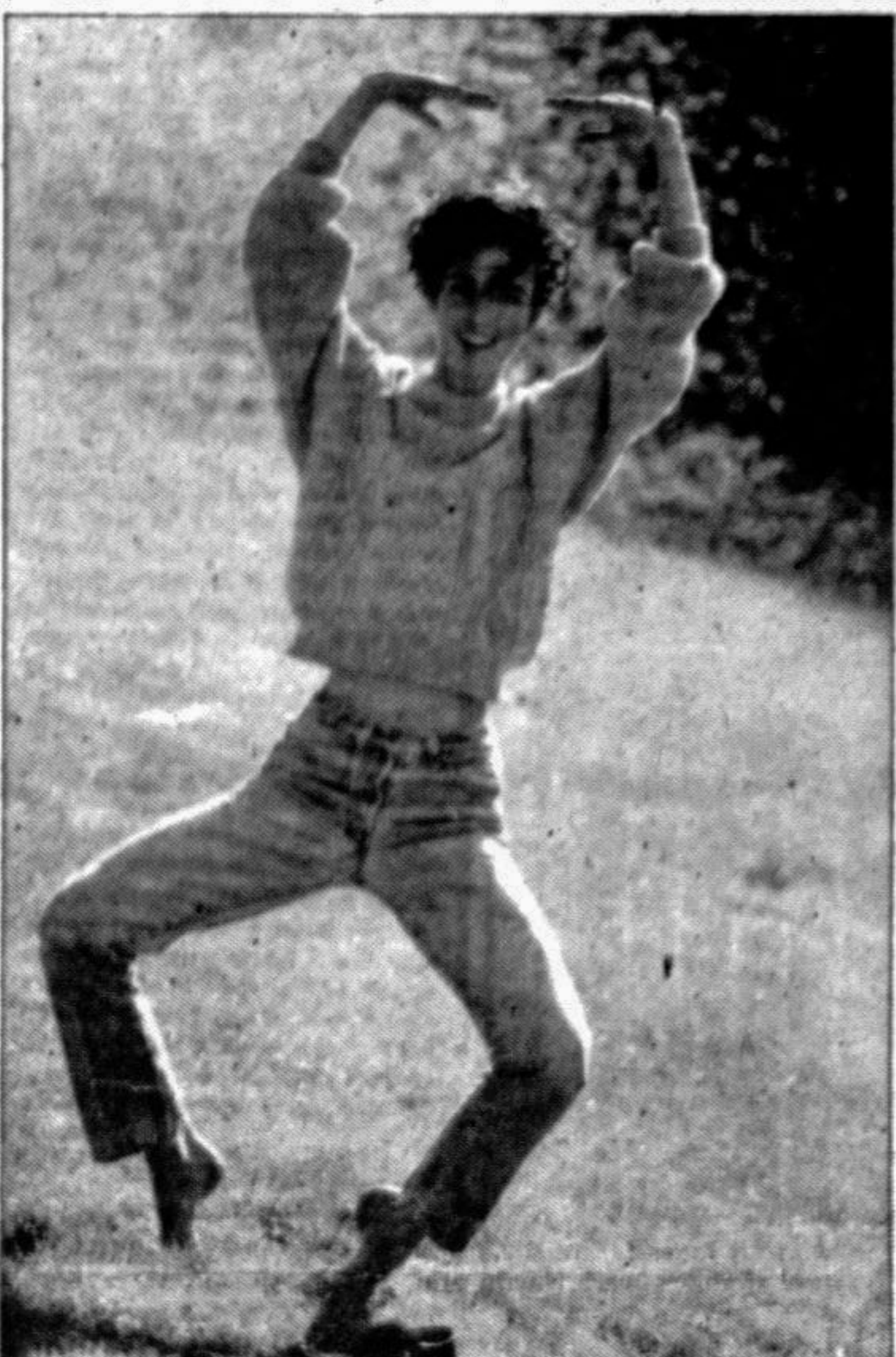
tents into pants and a fashion dynasty was born.

An excellent work garment for miners, farmers and cowboys, blue jeans earned their reputation not only for their fabric but also because of the unique construction. The use of copper rivets to reinforce stress points was patented by Levi's in 1873. Soon afterwards, the company began to manufacture what proved to be the keystone of the jeans empire: 501-Double X blue denim waist overalls, or simply blue jeans. And doubtless you did not know that this blue colouring is 5,000 years old!

The blue colouring comes from the Indian plant 'Indigofera tinctoria' that was discovered in the Far East 3000 BC. But if the world had to depend on this plant only, the colour would have disappeared years ago, as there would not be enough to supply the constantly growing demands. The world was saved this dilemma in 1905 when the Bayer Company developed the process that has not changed since then and which produces a synthetic industrial indigo.

The four big manufacturers of the imitation indigo are BASF (Germany), ICI (England), Allied Chemicals (USA), and Mitsui (Japan). Other producers became wary and stopped production of the imitation indigo in 1950, when China, which had until then absorbed 25% of the world's synthetic indigo for its unisex Mao suits, suddenly forbade its import into the country.

Although other producers are working overtime to meet the demand for the imitation indigo, they can not keep up with the worldwide demand, and each year there is a lack of about 3,000 tonnes. This means that 1,500 million jeans annually remain uncoloured. But why do these firms not increase the output? The reason appears to be that, after a century of the blue colour, the companies fear there may be a tendency to run to other colours for variety. This seems a false-reasoning, as the constant increase in popularity for blue jeans shows.



What's in it for Me, Asks India's New Generation

Atiya Singh writes from New Delhi

They work hard, play hard and think only of themselves. Politics is out. Casual sex in. For Gemini News Service, Atiya Singh, who as a lecturer has direct experience of the phenomenon, looks at India's style-breaking 'Me Generation.'

INDIA'S middle-class 'Me Generation' is set only on chasing a zooming career and amassing outrageous wealth.

Materialism is their mantra. Self-aware and self-confident to the point of selfishness, they defy success. They do not even want to think about poverty.

It is a far cry from the idealism of the 1950s, the confusion of the 1960s and the discontent of the 1970s.

Delhi-based sociologist Ranjan Dave says this 'Me Generation' is concerned only with 'my life, my money, my success, through any means.'

They do not want to buck the Establishment. They do not want to change the world any more — they want to manipulate it, says a student leader.

No-one wants to take on the headache of changing the system, agrees 18-year-old Amit: 'If you are not pushy and aggressive you just get swept away.'

They are willing to bribe and backstab, pull strings, take marriage dowry and enjoy casual sex and are unmoved about the growing danger of 'communalism' in the country.

They regard the education system as irrelevant but have decided to make the best of it. Those who enrol for three-year degree courses (they call it a prison term) have learnt that two months' hard work a year is enough to see them through the final exam.

So they make token appearance in college classes once or twice a week and fill the rest of their time with part-time jobs, computer courses, ac-



countancy work, public relations training and the like.

Ramesh Mehta, an 18-year-old college student, calls it a market approach: 'If I have a simple BA degree and the other guy has two other diplomas as well, he'll surely be picked for the job.'

The wiser ones enrol in distance education courses instead of regular college. This gives them time to work, earn and gain experience while their peers attend classes.

Some go to college, but attend classes twice a week and run their own businesses on the side. They are already doing the rounds of banks and clients, peddling their wares while they learn how to shave,' says student Rahul Pathak.

The purchasing power of money is what drives them. 'It gets you the world. That's what I want,' says 20-year-old Mohan Lal.

They want to live in style — glamorous girls, handsome guys, fast cars, high-flying society.

They call it maximisation. The idea is to squeeze the most out of their time without jeopardizing the future.

One are the days when the mixing of girls and boys was taboo. The gender divide has crumbled and they date freely. Many university and college campuses are strewn with embracing couples, city discotheques throbbing through the night.

But they are not romantics. Few niceties are attached to

romance. 'We should not confuse love with fun,' says 19-year-old C Kaur from Calcutta. 'I won't give up my career for a guy.'

For the under-21s, career plans are more important than the political agenda, unless of course the latter interfere with the former. Students can no longer be thought of as a 'third force.'

'The era of meaningful politics is gone,' laments a college teacher in Delhi. 'You can't interest students unless there is something in it for them.'

Groups on campus are now bound only by self-interest, not a common ideology. 'What kind of unity do you expect in a set-up where one can't even trust one's own friend?' asks university teacher Sudhir Mahajan.

However, there has never been such a single-minded and hard-working generation in India, so willing to act instead of moaning about the unfairness of life.

But it is a generation geared to compete and make the best of liberalisation and the country's entry into the global economy. They are a wonderful selfish lot, after Adam Smith's own heart,' says Rahul Pathak in a reference to the revered British theorist of private enterprise.

The older generation just watches, holding its breath. An unbridgeable gulf separates the

under 21s and their parents who are mostly steeped in traditional culture.

With the youngsters using a special lingo to converse with each other, they have created an exclusive environment designed to shut others out.

There are exceptions, including some upper middle-class parents who themselves have been out-going go-getters and are perfectly willing to split a beer with their teenage son and wunk at his escapades.

Some youngsters do not hide their feeling about their elders. 'My parents must be jealous of me,' says 20-year-old Manoj. 'I'm sure they wish they were born in my generation.'

Despite the competitiveness and ambition, the under-21s are a lonely lot. This is not surprising given that they see everyone as potential rivals and refuse to confide in anyone.

A teenager summed it up: 'Your girl friend of today could grab your job tomorrow.'

'Friends can be treacherous competitors in an age that scoffs at scruples,' says a youngster. The insecurity and loneliness creates a vicious circle in which teenagers concentrate all their energies into 'Me.' University teacher Ram Dahi calls it a generation in a hurry. He says it works hard, plays hard and is not prepared to lose but on anything, except sleep.

A Brief Story of Time

by Fakiha Haq

IN my childhood days, I read a lot of essays about the value of time. And I found that it was precious!

And just now, I realized it to the bone! I put a cake-mix in the oven, then absorbed in something else and the cake had become a piece of charcoal! Exact time was past, then the extra time, then it reached the extreme situation to shake the mummy!

Whenever I use to say that I am going to cook a special dish, all the faces of my family members become ashen at once, and they begin to remember that they have not been treating themselves in Chinese restaurant for a long time! Taking that piece of coal in my hand, I couldn't blame them totally.

As I am very much concerned about the environment and total pollution, I began to think what I would do as recycling with that waste product. Ah, the idea! I wanted to curv a sculpture with that vanilla scented granit! Just at that time of creation my physicist friend came! What a bore he is with all his materialistic ideas! I like physics in French, it is 'physique', and how romantic they are!

Have you heard about Stephen Hawkins? No, no Hawkins, but you can call me Huqween, i.e. the queen or wife of a Huq... Ah! Stephen Hawkins is a famous physicist of today. I hope you know Newton

'No, I gapsed. I heard they have introduced kg in our weighing system but I don't need anything in tons because for the family planning... Your are incredible! Stop

your jabbering. Look everybody should read this book. *The brief history of time*, by Stephen Hawkins.

I like anything of a 'His'. What is inside the story? I became curious.

The scientists say that the whole universe was in a highly condensed form and at a certain moment it exploded and began to spread out. The modern conception of time has started from that moment and it is popularly known as the Big-Bang Theory. Have you heard it?

'No, I heard only the door banged just now.'

'Don't try to escape. As a member of this 20th century, you should know something about modern science. Do you know the distances between two planets or a planet and a star or, precisely between any two extra terrestrial bodies are gradually increasing?'

'No, nobody informed me,' I confessed.

'As time passes the universe is increasing day by day...'

'But what would be the boundary?'

'The idea of boundary is not conceivable. Yes, science has got its limitations too. Do you know the story of Meraj, Prophet Muhammad's (SM) journey to the Heaven, etc?'

'Yes, He spent quite some time there but when he came back he saw the water of ablation was still running.'

'That means the place where the Prophet had gone time passes much quickly relative to that of our worldly time. Einstein concluded this idea in

his Time-Space Theory. Have you seen any movie with a time machine?'

'Yes of course. *Back to the Future* or the *Terminator 2* are the best examples.'

'OK, the Boraq or the space ship in which the Prophet had travelled was like that. You know, according to Einstein moving clocks run slower as they move closer to the speed of light. And if their speed becomes same as that of the light then it would stop and the time stand still. And the atomic particle, photon, which moves with the same speed of light is independent of the idea of time, as earthly time is a relative identity. Anyway, now tell me why the earth revolves round the sun?'

'May be, like in the mythology the princess Earth marries her prince — the charming Sun and does the 'Sath-Pak' or seven roundabouts ritually but as she is weak in math, she forgot that she had to do only seven times.' I answered.

'Absolutely, rubbish,' he groaned.

'Then is she a vagabond and prefers her Bohemian life style...?'

'Like you? Not at all! Because the sun was there eight minutes earlier, the time to cover hundred million miles in the space just to surpass the influence of the gravity. If the sun is removed somehow, from its present position, we would get the light and the earth would revolve for another more eight minutes. The scientists imagine lots of things like the poets. Understand?'

'Clearly, I nodded. It is as clear as 'Hing Ting Chhot' by Rabindranath Tagore.'



FASHION: Feeling cozy in warm clothes in the wintry West

COOKERY

Christmas Cake

- 300 self-raising flour (12 oz)
- 1x5 ml spoon mixed spice (1 tsp)
- 100g ground almonds (4 oz)
- 200g butter (8 oz)
- 200g caster sugar (8 oz)
- 4 eggs beaten with 125 ml milk (8 tbsp) (or 1/2 milk and brandy)
- 200g currants (8 oz)
- 200g sultanas (8 oz)
- 200g raisins (8 oz)
- 100g halved glacé cherries (4 oz)

100g cut mixed peel (4 oz)

- 1 Sieve together flour, spice and ground almonds.
- 2 Cream butter and sugar, stir in flour mixture and eggs with milk (alternately, a little at a time).
- 3 Lastly add fruit. Mix thoroughly.
- 4 Place mixture in a greased and lined 23 cm round or 20.5 cm square tin. Protect with brown paper.
- 5 Bake in slow oven, 150°C/300°F. Gas mark 2, for about 4 hours.

Preparation for the Baby

CLOTHES for the Baby have undergone revolutionary changes in the past thirty years. Whereas it was formerly the fashion to provide elaborate sets of clothing, often in three or four layers, the object today is to provide the simplest and lightest clothes which will keep the baby warm and comfortable and at the same time allow free movement and exercise. It is essential to remember when buying or making baby's clothes, and also later on when washing them, that a baby's skin is very sensitive and liable to chafe easily. The under-garments must be of soft and fine material that will wash and wear well, and the layer next to the baby's skin should be the same in summer and in winter and night as well as day. A common mistake is to put too many clothes on the body and not enough on the legs. A baby loses heat quickly from the whole skin, including the legs, and in cold weather the legs should be covered. The old tradition of wearing bonnets is now nearly dead. Provided that the baby is not directly exposed to draughts and keen winds, there is no need to wear any head covering except in very cold weather, when a woollen bonnet which covers the ears should be worn out of doors.

Vests should be of soft, fine wool, silk or silk merino, with sleeves down to the wrists and long enough in the body to ensure that there is no gap between vest and napkin. A wide piece of tape can be sewn to the bottom of the front of the vest so that the napkin can be pinned to the vest without tearing it. The neck of the vest should be wide enough to go over the baby's head without force.

Napkins are of two kinds. The soft muslin napkin for the young baby and the baby with sore buttocks, and turkey toweling napkins for the older children. The various ways of putting on and changing napkins are best learnt by demonstration by the midwife or at the clinic.

In cold weather the baby will need, in addition to vest and napkin, a woollen jersey and knickers and good woollen socks long enough to reach almost to the knee. As woollen socks are easily kicked off they should be drawn in by a ribbon and tied above the ankle. As a

change to the jersey and knickers a frock, long enough to cover the feet, can be worn. In really cold weather a long-sleeved double-breasted matinee coat of wool should be worn.

At night the baby may wear, in addition to vest, napkin and socks, a flannel nightdress with the addition, in cold weather, of a matinee jacket.

In hot weather the baby need only wear vest and napkin, but care must be taken to add clothes, including socks, as soon as it turns cooler. Incidentally it is wiser not to speak of summer and winter clothes when dealing with young children. In the British Isles at any rate a winter day can be warm and cold spells occur in the summer. If the system is adopted of adding warm garments to the foundation of vest and napkin according to the temperature indoors or outdoors, the child will be most comfortable. In this, as in all other matters relating to the care of the baby, common sense plays a very large part.

Bibs are needed to save the clothes when the child dribbles or regurgitates its food after feeding. They should be of soft, absorbent material, such as drill or cotton, with tapes to tie round the neck and the waist. Bibs made of plastic material are not recommended, as they may cover the child's face if he falls asleep, and a young baby was stifled in this manner, not long ago.

Binders are not necessary after the first ten days of the baby's life. Once the stump of the umbilical cord has separated and the scar at the navel has healed the binder should be discarded.

The equipment and furniture required is simple and will vary with the type of home and financial circumstances, but the underlying principles are the same for all homes. The first essential is cleanliness. This means not only provision for bathing the baby, but also facilities for washing the baby's clothes and napkins and for the clean preparation of the baby's food and clean surroundings generally. It is essential also that the mother should be able to see to her own cleanliness and in particular the care of her clothes and hands.

All these objects can be attained by the exercise of a little ingenuity in arrangement.