People in the U. S. can still dress almost as they did in peacetime, but they pay more for what they get and quality has suffered.

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Take only the people in the States who are really having a tough time getting clothing are those who are living on a shoestring. In children's and infants' wear there are shortages, but men and women have no trouble dressing themselves adequately in preparation for the war. In most lines, though, quality has gone down while prices have risen.

Mouse uniform and pajamas are often hard to come by, chiefly because manufacturers are busy with Army-Navy orders for 60 million shirts and shorts. Women often can't get a house dress for less than $5, and their gams don't look quite so good in rayon or rayon stockings as they did in silk and nylon.

When the war first started and manufacturers faced the problem of producing for a vastly increased Army and Navy as well as a civilian population, it was thought that all clothing might have to be rationed. Actually, however, only one line have been put on the ration list.

Credit for saving off scarce rationing goes to so-called production groups, patriotic American youth, which came through with bigger supplies of wool, cotton and silk, and partly to Government restrictions on manufacturers. Such restrictions, for instance, came in materials like clogs and clogs on men's suits and extra width in women's garments were outlawed. Double-breasted men's suits were sold without vest; the tails on men's shirts became almost too short to tuck into a pair of pants; the length and width of women's skirts were decreased, and frills, by and large, were cut down.

The War range from 40-45, however, kept its hand off wedding gowns, maternity clothes and shrouds. These examples of nonintervention were approved in most native circles as a sign that our officials were still capable of sentiment.

The absence of culls and vests aside, pre-war styles in men's clothing are still obtainable. A man can get plaid, stripes, herringbones and all sorts of weaves in brown, blue, gray and red in the various pastel shades. The best-selling suits and overcoats have gone upward, coming in a bit higher than the price of suits of comparable quality before the war. Both prices and shortages may increase during 1943 as a result of expected heavy Government orders for uniform cloth.

The greatest shortage right now is in cotton goods. Not long ago the Office of Civilian Re-quirements asked 4,609 housewives (nobody seems to know why the agency didn't query just one more housewife) to send in a list of everyday needs. The official dollar value of what clothing was hardest to buy. The most crucial shortages were reported in women's dresses, sheets, pillowcases—particularly children's—and diapers. A recent Government order for 90 million children's diapers will be able to use, if the inventory is not sold, to be cited as a probable cause of the scarcity. To help correct it, the Government is working on a place, a cotton cloth, a larger percentage of available cloth will be earmarked for production of scarce lower-cost items.

With soldiers and sailors, many of the serviceable run-of-the-mill variety hard to get, the department stores report a run on black sheer negligee with a lot of lace. Most of the exciting articles seem to be bought by overseas veterans, the girls in the stores say. There's not too much even of the luxury北京逼 the stores can get because the makers of sheet stuff and lace are turning out parachutes, camouflage nets and mosquito bars.
The designers of women's outer garments are producing something they call the new "pencil silhouette." The new line is flatter, trimmer and pleats. The "pencil silhouette" is supposed to show off a woman as she really is, and the name isn't well chosen, for it doesn't look anything like a pencil even if they were foolish enough to want to.

When women start having to make great changes in their dressing habits. In the first place, the shortage of rubber has raised hell with the girdle, or foundation garment. Most of the elastic is gone from the girdle, metal attachments have been removed and all but two stockings supports have been taken out. Women who used to have trouble only in keeping their girdle down over their hips, shall say, we now also have trouble keeping their stockings up.

And the stockings are something the women—the man are not used to dealing with. There are just about non-existent. Cotton is apt to make the legs look fat, and rayons fall down and bunch at the knees, the girl's say. Zippers are far from as common as they used to be, and women again have to contend with gaps and bulges between buckles.

The fur business is having the greatest season in its history, with more women than ever wearing fur coats. Rabbit is still the staple for low-price coats selling for $60 to $80.

The shoe-ratining plan used to "work every- body's nerves." It is based on color for Government, as the result of mounting Army-Navy purchases, has decided to lengthen the period in which they are issued. The exact length of time hasn't been announced yet, but it will not be shorter than ten days after each ration stamp, many men are buying a better and more expensive shoe than they used to.

Women have it easier because many of the nonrationed shoes have been developed for them. A new and profitable industry has sprung up for the production of this type of shoe. Soles are made of several substitutes—wood made by flexible crisscross cutting, chemically treated plywood, rubber, corded canvas and coiled rope soaked in reinforced rubber. Reclaimed rubber was used for a while as a substitute shoe sole for men, but housewives complained that it left black marks on the floor. Designers are now introducing wider toes in both men's and women's shoes, because work war has broadened the American foot.

Children's shoes are scarce, because manufacturers can make more money with less trouble by producing shoes for adults. The small fry will have to do as best as they can.

Men have some trouble getting socks—or at least they have during the war. Many knitters are working overtime filling military requirements, and the loud socks once popular with us are now scarce. More practical, is younger men in a position to wear loud socks.) The imported Argylls, fancy wool, French lace and English diamond are out of stock. These people are staying up nights planning for the returning servicemen. Some believe that brown and blue clothes will be hard to sell after the war, because no soldier will want anything brown and no sailor will want anything blue; others say these colors will be as popular as ever because they flatter most men.

Silk-and-slash combinations, based on the Army's requirements, are now becoming well liked for civilian wear, and the Army's new battle jacket, modeled after the British battle dress, has been adopted by many sports jackets. The hat makers hope the Army and Navy will have done away with their biggest problem—the habit, you know, of folding the cap brim bare-headed. They think that after several years in organizations where hats are compulsory, a man will bring the headgear habit back to civilian life.
Shirts go up and necklines down for evening wear.

Men's shirt tails are being worn high this season.

Shortened pajama arms and legs help to save cloth.
Betty Anderson, 19, of Kansas City, Mo., met the shortage of elastic garters by cutting up a pair of gents suspenders, of which there are plenty lying idle.

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