

Short Skirts and Low Necks Good Moral Influence

Also Make for Better Health

General Agree With Thompson-Seton That Clothes Are Not the Life-Preservers of Morality—Women's Costumes To-Day the Sanest in History of Race.

Marguerite Mooers Marshall,
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LOTHES are not the life-preservers of morality, after all. A woman may wear a short skirt without being short on goodness. A low dress is not necessarily the outward investiture of a low mind. The human body should not be a hat of hidden crimes.

And this new philosophy of clothes—new only because it is so old—has found a modern prophet, an American Sartor Rosarius, in our great scientist and naturalist, Dr. Ernest Thompson-Seton. Like a clear, clean breath of the west wind, clearing away the fog of pseudo-morality and prurient, priggish denunciation which has hung about the modern woman's dress, comes Dr. Thompson-Seton's recent defense of its abbreviations and eliminations, of its morality, health and comfort.

"The costumes of the women of to-day," he says, "are the most sane in the history of the race since the dawn of so-called civilization, and moving in the right direction. The shorter the dress of the female and the lower the neck of her bodice, the greater her moral influence and the greater her tendency to health."

"Sex morality has no relation to clothing, as is proved by the naked tribes of East Africa, who are the most moral people in the world in their natural state, but who always take a downward step morally when compelled by missionaries to wear clothing."

Many of the naturally naked natives of the South Sea Islands might have been mentioned by Dr. Thompson-Seton to prove his point. There are plenty of explorers and writers who maintain that these peoples were both healthier and freer from vice before the white man's civilization compelled them to don pants and petticoats.

"In Turkey," continued the naturalist, "where more clothing is worn by the women than in any other country on the globe, the morality of the people is the lowest. This was also true of France when the women swathed themselves in heavy robes of silks and satins and covered their faces with powder and patches. No, covering the body with clothes tempts rather than prevents a tendency to immorality."

Or, as a Broadway philosopher once put it to me, "A little show girl in a tight-fitting black silk stocking is worth all the bare-legged beauties that ever graced."

And, defending the low-cut blouses and evening gowns of the modern woman, Dr. Thompson-Seton draws this interesting military comparison: "The soldiers of the United States Army, compelled to wear high collars and tight-about-the-neck clothing, show an average of diseases of the throat of 43 per 1,000, while the soldiers of the United States, with more exposed life and collars wide open and low, show but 21 to 1,000 with throat trouble."

"Why wear clothes?" he challenges. "Personally, I have always been in rebellion against having my body bothered and hindered by clothing."

And how many of us in our secret hearts agree with him? In the climate of our country, a certain amount of clothing is necessary; even the native Americans had their skins and blankets. As a consistent naturalist, Dr. Thompson-Seton probably would admit that the human animal needs some protection to take the place of the hairy or feathery covering with which other warm-blooded animals are supplied.

A few clothes we need—but we have worn so much too much! Physicians for decades have been urging the sartorial ideals now realized in the costume of the modern woman. "No long skirts," said the doctors. "They are germ collectors, and they mean damp ankles for much of the time. No corsets. They constrict the most vital organs of the body. No high, tight collars. They interfere with some of the most important glands."

Now women are wearing short skirts, are taking off their corsets, are donning skirts that stop just below the knees. And above the partitions howl. One British medical writer, however, recently evinced strong satisfaction over the low-backed evening dress of to-day. Far from causing colds or pneumonia, the décolleté dress improves the circulation of the blood, encourages women to develop their arms and shoulders and gives them more grace and dignity, says this physician. He continues: "But one of the most gratifying results will be the effect on the face. There is no doubt whatever that many of the skin troubles endured by women have been caused by tight and warm clothing around the neck. When the blood is permitted to circulate freely the complexion will improve, wrinkles and pimples will disappear, and other conditions being favorable, the face will become plumper, clearer and of better color."

The looseness about the neck should also have a beneficial influence on the hair. Probably much of the baldness of at least the earlier years of middle age is due to want of a sufficient supply of blood to the scalp. With the coming of the low-necked dress there is ground for hope that women will be much less troubled with falling or graying hair.

Obviously, the unpleasant effects of heat will be reduced, for the coolness of the bare upper part will cool the whole blood-stream and body. The good influence on the nervous system is perhaps the most important factor. The coolness and ease and the free circulation of pure blood to the brain are bound to reduce the number and



MR. AND MRS. E. THOMPSON-SETON

severity of headaches, prevent irritability, and make a woman in every way more cheerful and better-tempered.

That woman's dress to-day is more healthy than for centuries seems a truth beyond argument. As to the morality of this dress, that, to a clear-minded man or woman, is not to be questioned either. For morality, like beauty, lies in the eye of the beholder.

The true answer, the true explanation of the psychology of those critics of women's dress whom I have named the Vigilantes of Vice, is to be found in a paragraph from the latest book of Andre Tridon, the authority on psycho-analysis.

"A subject sexually hyper-sensitive," says Mr. Tridon, "discovers a sexual stimulus in an object which in a normal subject would not produce any stimulation of a sexual type. The subject resents the disturbance thus produced in his sexual life, and, unable to resist the attraction of the stimulus, demands that the stimulus be removed by legal intervention."

In other words, the persons who want to "reform" dress had better reform their own minds!

The Evening World DAILY MAGAZINE

Can You Beat It! By Maurice Ketten

MY DEAR: Black Is Becoming a Bit Obtrusive but None the Less Effective



My Dear—

While some of us will continue to enjoy the opulent twilight that flickers with the lights of our busy Broadway and Fifth Avenue, others of us will be at 5 o'clock in the afternoon gathering around tea tables shaded beneath the glorious sunlit branches of tropical palm trees.

Southland fashions are always interesting because they appear at a time when winter styles have become just that well acquainted with us that we welcome a diversion.

Among the new enchantments that will no doubt become popular for summer wear is the straw hat woven with a broad lacey trim, which is threaded with narrow double-faced satin ribbon. On the right side near the edge of the brim many long loops and ends drop over one's shoulder gracefully. Two colors introduced in the ribbon, such as maize on one side and pale blue on the other, would achieve a pretty effect. Another hat of the lace brimmed type, which suggested more dignity, was faced with several layers of pale blue tulle, which extended beyond the edge, while the crown and part of

What Color Tie Strings Will You Wear in Your White Buckskin Oxfords?

the brim were draped with black silk lace.

Black finds its way quite obtrusively in some of the new fashions. It is not always pleasing, but at least striking, as I believe you will agree when I tell you of a creation I saw the other day. It was intended for Southern wear and was a black crepe de chine bodice, completed by an orchid organly skirt and an orchid organly collar. Let us hope that such styles will not live to spell our summer. The tendency, however, of employing contrasting fabrics for the bodice and skirt of one-piece frocks is becoming alarming. You see, bodices of green chiffon velvet topped black satin skirts, bodices of white satin, red bead embroidered, topped black velvet skirts, etc. But there is nothing of dignity about such a type of frock nor anything else much more than novelty or variation, and few women can stand being cut at the waistline so pronouncedly.

The other afternoon in one of the hotel tea rooms where dancing is a pastime I noted a black satin frock of very simple lines, bloused softly at the hem, which was given a quaintly delicate touch by a band of black silk lace that dropped an inch or so below the skirt edge. It fell so softly I knew it must have been attached a goodly way up, making the width of the lace at least four inches.

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT HAT?



No, the above is not a photograph of the Lord High Admiral of the Swiss Navy. The gentleman is head janitor of the City Hall in Rome, Italy. Carries you back to the old song, "Where did you get that hat?"—Eh, what?

Not to be puffed by with a casual glance was the scarf set a young milton was wearing on her brisk walk down the avenue. It was of black duvetyne lined with white kammi, that imitation fur which is an effective and flattering to the wearer. The white was rolled back to show next the neck.

Have any of you seen the latest caprice of straw grass? I saw it used the other day as trimming on a Georgette frock. The straw was in black color and fringed dark blue, the tunic being encircled four times with the inch-wide braid. It was of that soft, pliable sort which did not make the tunic stand out too ungraciously.

I am sure those of you who are going South will like to hear the last whisper of Dame Fashion, that colored tie strings will be worn in the fashionable white buckskin oxford. The tie strings no doubt will match the color of one's sport hat, or sweater, or skirt, and sounds like an entrancing innovation.

MILFORD LODGEWICK

OUR REPUBLIC

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CONGRESS is getting ready to send seeds to the people. But the people don't want seeds—they want rain. If the Congressmen love the electorate like they say they do, there's only one proof they've got to give 'em. That's 190 proof. Licker is getting scarcer every hour. The bootleggers are on their last legs. The Keeley Cure is now the rich man's college. There will soon be nothing to gulp but wood alcohol, and the trouble with wood alcohol is that it has a wooden chaser—with silver handles.

The Nation is in a tough plight. All classes of workers are losing except the yeggmen. Wages are dropping like British heavyweights. The wages of sin are the only ones

that haven't been reduced. You can't reduce the wages of sin unless you abolish capital punishment.

Some of our richest movie actors can't afford a divorce this year. The two-part bathing beauty films have been reduced to one-piece suits. The price of eggs is so dizzy, Charley Chaplin hasn't thrown a custard pie in his last three feature films. Everything in Los Angeles has slumped except the climate.

In Portland, Me., right now, 10,000 tulip pickers are starving from lack of work. In Yellowstone Park, 600 guides are thrown out of work by the non-arrival of raw material on the tourist trains. Snow shovellers are on strike in North Dakota, but are unable to walk out on account of the snow. In the whole country there is only one factory that's working full time and they're making burglar alarms.

Statistics show that 5,000,000 programme solicitors have been tossed out of work by the paper shortage. Paper is so scarce they no longer wrap flippers up in bundles and transfers are two cents apiece. Misery has a clutch on the land like carlans on a milkman. Some families are down to their last thousand phonograph needles. Brave men are going without their locker to put alcohol in their radiators. Want and distress cover the Nation like a Chataqua circuit. The only guys that have as much work as ever are the boys that are repairing flippers.

Meanwhile, what is Congress doing? It is doing much—aye, twice as much! To relieve the privations of citizens, Congress will take immediate steps to stretch its membership to fifty more! Passing on to the next problem of national depression, Congress stands ready to reduce railroad fares so long as the Congressmen collect twenty cents a mile. Yes, Congress will solve the

THE JARR FAMILY

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"TALK OF shopping!" remarked Mrs. Jarr. "I am sure I'll read it, it'll see me all out."

Mrs. Rangle, to whom she was speaking, shook her head and replied that she felt the same way about it. "And yet," added Mrs. Rangle, "to hear the men like you'd believe shopping was the sole delight of women, or their chiefest."

The two ladies were in a street car bound downtown for the stores.

"Mrs. Kittingly has a taxicab called for her when she goes shopping, and it waits for her while she is in the stores, and then she comes home in it, and yet she complains of hard times and that her alimony isn't sufficient for her needs," remarked Mrs. Jarr.

"Oh, that woman!" said Mrs. Rangle with a sneer. "She should be the last to talk!" But why, Mrs. Rangle didn't explain.

"To my mind the street cars are just as convenient and much more safe than taxicabs—not to mention the expense of taxis," remarked Mrs. Jarr. "And the streets are so congested with traffic that I wouldn't have a town car like Clara Mudridge-Smith has, if it were given me."

"Neither would I," Mrs. Rangle replied virtuously. "But some people like to run air and show off—and as I said, that divorced woman, Mrs. Kittingly, should be the last person to say a word."

"She spends her time on the go, I'll say that," replied Mrs. Jarr. "Of course, she is on her good behavior when I see her, and I think it best to take people as I find them."

"At the same time she is not a person I would care to be seen with," said Mrs. Rangle. "She may be more sinned against than sinning, but I prefer the old-fashioned sort of woman."

"So do I," said Mrs. Jarr. "But Mrs. Kittingly does try so hard to be friends and make such a fuss over the children. She gave a doll to your little girl and roller skates to your Johnny Christmas, didn't she?"

"Yes, but while I didn't thank her, and while one can't exactly cut her, still I don't go out of my way for her," replied Mrs. Rangle.

"At this the car stopped in the business district and both ladies got out, to run right into Mrs. Kittingly; the little grass widow they had just been discussing."

"Why, how nice to meet you two!" cried the divorcee. "I have to go to the hair dresser's and I'll be there about an hour. Will you two meet me at the St. Vitus Hotel and have luncheon with me?"

"I have so many things to do, really," faltered Mrs. Jarr, giving a searching side glance at Mrs. Rangle.

"Oh, don't say you won't. What do

BEAUTY AND HEALTH

By Roy L. McCordell

The Disfiguring Effects of Colds

To mention the beauty-destroying effect of a severe cold in the head or catarrhal conditions of the nose and throat seems purile compared with their sinister influence upon one's health. Yet a vast number of people, women especially, are more concerned about their looks than about their freedom from diseased conditions.

Happily the disfiguring elements in an acute cold are merely transient, but it leaves its impress upon the mucous membranes of the parts affected, and, unless treated, may constitute one of the most delicate fabrics woven by nature, it can readily be seen that even the slightest susceptibility to repeated colds is a matter for serious consideration.

Thousands experience a cold with every change in the season; others with every change in the weather. Such susceptibility is constitutional and should be combated with treatment directed to toning up the system generally.

Women are more liable to acute colds than men, and have doubtless observed many times that it is far easier to "catch a cold" than to cure one for good. This is because the course. Sometimes it does away the foundation for serious trouble.

In the robust an acute cold, after having been secured, a foot-hold, abides its disagreeable stay and leaves one none the worse if precautions are taken against future attacks. But when the resisting power is low an endless series of colds is apt to follow the initial attack, which greatly reduces the vitality and so sets the keystone, as it were, for an irradicable malady, because that condition which we habitually call "common cold" is usually the foundation of every chronic illness, notably rheumatism and tuberculosis.

It has been said that we are a Nation of chronic "ailers." Our variable climate has a good deal to do with that, the sudden rises and falls in the temperature making it imperative to guard the body in some way or another from these atmospheric chances.

The air at all times is filled with more or less moisture, but the human system has comparatively little power to resist the combined influences of moisture and cold, with constant elevations and depressions in temperature that chill the body one moment, sending a great influx of blood to the internal organs, causing congestion, or heating it the next, causing the peripheral vessels to dilate, bringing the blood with a rush to the surface and so wasting a vast amount of body heat (which is energy) and thus chilling the great vital centers. In this way disease germs are enabled to create the havoc they do because tissue which is devitalized is unable to resist them.

GLIMPSES INTO NEW YORK SHOPS

THE diagonal waistline is a French idea, but it seems to be meeting with favor here. This is produced by the sash or girde and is seen on many of the new frocks. Sometimes the high effect is at the right side and the low at the left and vice versa. Invariably the sash ends fall at the left side.

A specialty shop on Fifth Avenue is showing an extensive line of negligees. There are flowing robes in exquisite colorings and design and there is a large and varied assortment of the chic pajama costumes in velvet and silk. The proprietress of this shop caters to personality, which, she says, is the founding robe expresses and her array indicates that individuality can have full sway when it comes to selecting a robe for the boudoir.

"King of Cats" at Waldorf Show

No Aerial Mail for Chinese.

WHILE Chang Tso Lin, who to-day dominates the north of China, was wondering just what he would do with six airplanes which he had ordered from England the question of the disposal of three of them was settled for him. He was undecided whether to use them for military purposes or for the establishment of a mail service, in accordance with the terms of the contract. While debating the question he ordered three to be sent to Mukden, for possible postal use, and the remainder to Pootungfu for military purposes. Those shipped to Mukden were loaded on flatcars and started on their way, some distance from Pientain they bumped a railroad bridge and were not only smashed but also put the bridge out of commission. So it looks as though those who had expected to get their mail via the air route are doomed to disappointment.