COVER UP DEFECTS

REASON FOR CLOTHING THE HUMAN FORM DIVINE.

According to Writer in London Periodical, Vanity Is Responsible for Garments Prescribed by Present Fashion.

It was the opinion of Cetawayo, a noble African monarch who despised all garments, that we took to clothing to keep ourselves clean, because we were too lazy to wash ourselves. This, however, was an error on his majesty's part. The simple fact is that we adopted clothes because we were ashamed of our appearance, says a writer in London Ideas.

To begin with, leg coverings were invented to conceal bony knees and shapeless calves. Boots were artfully devised to curtain off ugly feet from the public gaze and silence loud jeers.

The hat, it is easy to see, was the crafty invention of some frivolous patriarch with a bald head, who was anxious to hide it in order that he could cut a youthful figure with the ladies.

Gloves were devised by pretentious women of the lower middle class in Herculaneum, who wanted to pose as gentlefolk. Having to do their own housework, they hit upon this ingenious plan of covering the redness and roughness of their hands. Thus they were able to cut a dash and delude society into the belief that they kept servants. Hence the name "kid" gloves.

Socks derived their name originally from shocks, as describing the effect frequently produced on the mind by the spectacle of feet in their naked size and simplicity.

Shirts, and, after them, doublets and coats, were resources to cover pigeon breasts, hollow chests and curved spines. The collar is a development of the silken scarf or bandage, first worn by that hideous old porcupine Rameses I., pharaoh of Egypt, to conceal a boil on his neck.

Coming to the face, we find the veil. This was introduced owing to the annoyance occasioned to King Ptolemy by the countenance of one of his ladies. She developed a squint, and one day the king, being uncertain whether she was eyeing him or not, shouted furiously: "Cover that woman's face!" The offensive countenance was instantly obscured by a window curtain torn down by a resourceful courtier. And thus veils for objectionable faces rapidly became popular.

Now, we have been told, and are constantly being told again, by countless scientists, that in strength and beauty we are a deteriorating race. Our forefathers—and mothers—had their little flaws in figure, but, compared with us, they were perfect Venuses and Adonises.

A high authority says that "scarcely one man in a hundred is properly proportioned, and most women would be shapeless without the cunning curves of their stays." Another stern authority says: "We are a physically degenerate people, round shouldered, sunken loined, narrow chested, crooked ribbed, splay footed, knock kneed, short winded and weak backed."

So, on the whole, clothes are not only desirable, but indispensable. To cast them off and permit an astonished universe to see us as we really are would be a great mistake.

Hungry Thespians.

They looked like actors, or rather they looked as if they would have been actors if some manager with more than the usual discernment would recognize their ability and give them a job, says "The Stroller" in the Portland (Me.) Express. Just now they were staring through the window of a popular-priced restaurant in Congress street absorbed in the unerring accuracy of the chef as the griddle cakes were flipped into the air by him, only to fall gracefully back into the grease mark they had just quitted. The tall man jingled some keys in his pocket and the little one pulled his belt an other notch.

"Lord!" said the big one; "I'm hungry enough to eat my own words."

"I'm in just as bad," complained the little one. "I feel as though I could bolt a front door."

Figures on Drink Question.

Speaking before the Church of England Temperance society recently the bishop of London said that, as the result of an inquiry regarding the drink evil, 15 doctors stated that in the middle class there was a decrease of drinking, 88 in fashionable practice spoke of the increase among the well-to-do, and 93 of the increase among working women. At the request of the home office 23 London public houses were watched for four days, and 39,540 women, with 10,471 children, entered. The chief cause, said the bishop, of drinking among the well-to-do was want of occupation; among the poorer classes it was overwork and overworry.

American Horses for Brazil.

James R. Keene and J. B. Haggin recently sold in Buenos Aires 75 thoroughbreds from their racing and breeding farms in the United States. The sales were only fairly successful because American horses were previously unknown there

Room at the Top.

"There is plenty of room at the top," quoted the moralizer.

"Yes," replied the demoralizer [illegible] will be unless fresh [illegible] there can [illegible]

TOO AFFECTIONATE FOR MAYOR.

Dignified Official Dislikes Being Hugged in the Dark by Bruin.

When closing time came in the city hall the other afternoon Mayor Charles H. French coughed impressively, indicating a proper degree of satisfaction with the dignified progress of his administration, closed his roll-top desk with a bang, permitted the messenger to adjust his overcoat and present his hat, and then trod forth to meet his fellow townsmen, says a Concord (N. J.) dispatch to the New York Herald. Instead of going out the front door of the city hall, however, Mayor French took a short cut that led through a dark hallway past the back entrance of a theater.

While the mayor in the city hall was throwing off the shackles of official care a wrestling bear in the theater was busy throwing off the shackles of a more material nature, and as the mayor put on his overcoat the bear shed its leather collar. So it came about that as the mayor entered the dark hallway at one end, the bear entered it at another. The mayor has a great respect for bears, but this bear had no respect at all for mayors.

In the darkness the mayor felt a powerful detaining force laid upon his arm.

"Sir," he said, in chilly tones, "if you have business with me, you may call at my office in the morning."

"Ur-g-r-r," was the unpleasantly harsh response.

"My man—" began the mayor, but he stopped right there, for a furry arm was thrown about his neck, and a rough tongue made a demonstration, which, if it was intended for a kindly salute, failed utterly of its purpose with the mayor.

"Le' go!" commanded the mayor, but his companion showed no disposition to yield to harsh commands. The mayor had other resources. He struck out so savagely with his free hand, and with such painful precision, that the bear, smitten on the nose, loosed its hold and fell back a step.

Content with this temporary victory, the mayor sped agilely back over the route he had just traversed, shouting: "Bear! Bear!" at every jump. In corroboration of his alarm, the bear galloped along behind, bound not to be deserted by his new friend. The mayor was the first to reach an open door, through which he sped just in time to be able to close it in the face of his pursuer.

The bear was led back into captivity by the theater employes.

All About a Pie.

Goff, the famous London barrister, has a humor peculiarly his own. He looks at the world in a half-amused, half-indulgent manner sometimes very annoying to his friends. One day, when in town, he dropped into a restaurant for lunch. It was a tidy, although not a pretentious establishment. After a good meal he called to the waitress and inquired what kind of pie she had.

"Applepiemincepieraisinpieblueberry piecustardpiepeachpieandstrawberry shortcake," the young woman repeated glibly.

"Will you please say that again?" he asked, leaning a trifle forward.

The girl went through the list at lightning rate. "Andstrawberryshortcake," she concluded, with emphasis.

"Would you mind doing it once more" he asked.

The waitress looked her disgust, and started in a third time, pronouncing the words in a defiantly clear tone.

"Thank you," he remarked, when she had finished. "For the life of me I can't see how you do it. But I like to hear it. It's very interesting—very. Give me apple pie, please, and thank you very much."—Tit-Bits.

Telegraphers' Cramp.

An interesting feature of telegraphers' cramp is that certain letters are nearly always the stumbling block. The most frequent are "C" and "Y"—that is, the code signals used for these letters. When a sender begins to be "conscious" about so common a letter as "C," his case soon becomes a hopeless one. Another form of cramp attacks the receiver of the message. It takes the form of inability to write fast enough to take down a message quickly transmitted. This is easily understood when it is remembered that a receiver often has to write continuously to code dictation, so to speak, for hours at a time. The strain is enorous, and leads fairly commonly to what is practically a form of nervous breakdown.

Reunited After Many Years.

Report says that Gen. Sickles, veteran of the civil war, and his wife are reunited after 27 years of separation. The story is that Mrs. Sickles' mother, who was an invalid, wished her to return to Spain after her marriage and reside with her. Mrs. Sickles thought she should return to her mother and remain with her till she died. Mr. Sickles did not agree with her and he refused to return to Spain to live. The couple separated, the wife returning to her mother, who has recently died. Now in their old age the couple are reunited.

The Phonograph in China.

American phonograph companies do a big business in China. The most famous Chinese bands and palace singers are engaged to make records They are brought from all parts of the empire to the three record-making centers—Peking, Shanghai and Hongkong. Here the apparatus for making the master records is set up and the recording done under the direction of an expert. A record popular in the north of China seldom is popular in the south.

POULTRY AND BEES

POULTRY TESTS.

Important Conclusions Drawn from the Investigations That Are Helpful.

A series of poultry experiments has been carried on by Thomas I. Mairs of Pennsylvania. Several different lines of investigations were developed with the following miscellaneous set of conclusions:

1. Large breeds in general eat more than small ones during the growing period.

2. Early hatched chicks grow faster than late hatched ones. April 1 seems to be a desirable time for hatching in this latitude.

3. The amount of feed required to produce a pound of grain increases as the chicks approach maturity.

4. Between the ages of 6 and 13 weeks it required from 4 to 4¾ pounds of feed to produce a pound of grain. Between the ages of 13 and 26 weeks it required from 4¾ to 5¾ pounds of feed to produce a pound of gain.

5. Chicks forced when young do not make as rapid growth as they approach maturity as those fed a more moderate ration.

6. Chicks weighing less than one pound seem to grow faster on a wet mash; those weighing a pound and a half or more do best on dry feed.

7. The loss among chicks on wet mash was much greater than among those on dry feed, even when weighing less than one pound each.

8. The slaughter tests indicate that the American breeds dress out better than either the Mediterranean or Asiatic breeds, and that in general pullets dress out better than cockerels. When rather small, weighing less than 3½ pounds live weight, the cockerels of the Mediterranean and Asiatic breeds seem to dress out better than the pullets.

9. Forced moulting seemed to first depress then increase slightly, egg production, but the net results at the end of three months were against forced moulting.

10. Eggs set about April seemed to produce the highest per cent. of chicks.

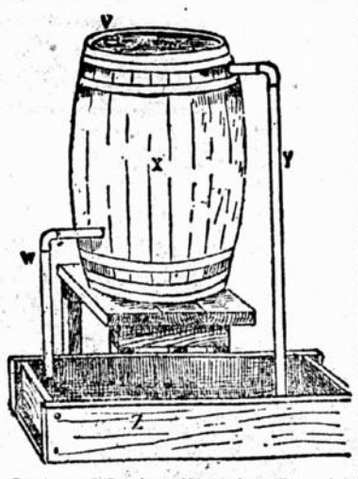
11. The eggs of the different breeds in order of their weight were as follows: Black Minorca, Light Brahma, Barred Rock, White Leghorn, White Wyandotte, Rhode Island Red, White Crested Black Polish, Buff Cochin. A great deal may depend upon the strain, as it is known that some hens of any breed normally lay larger eggs than others of the same breeds.

12. The weight of chicks when hatched does not seem to be in direct proportion to weight of eggs.

AUTOMATIC POULTRY TROUGH.

Gives a Large Supply of Water and Keeps it Clean.

In the accompanying illustration X is the barrel of water; Z is the trough into which the water flows from the pipe W. When the water gets low in the trough the air enters the pipe Y. This allows the water to flow out of



Design of Poultry Watering Trough.

pipe W into the trough. When the water reaches the end of the pipe Y it shuts off the air and the water ceases to flow from the barrel until it has been consumeed below the mouth of Y.

To fill the barrel, explains the Prairie Farmer, take out the plug V and insert into the end of the pipe W, and when the barrel is full, replace. To make the process of filling quick and easy, use a funnel in the opening of the top.

FROM THE POULTRY YARD.

Goslings should not range in wet grass nor swim until they are well feathered out. They should also be provided with ample shade to which to retire on hot days.

Corn is the lazy man's poultry food.

Fowls that are on a range all summer are much tougher and hardier than those that are closely confined. They obtain strength of muscle and bone by selecting a variety of foods and by exercising.

Stale bread is good to feed the poultry. Oftentimes a considerable quantity can be bought from a baker at 75 cents to $1 per barrel. If the bread is soaked so as to soften it sufficiently it makes a good feed.

Never keep mature pullets with those that are immature, or even mature pullets with hens a year or two old. They haven't the same inclinations, and if they are kept separate much better results can be obtained.

USEFUL AND PRETTY COAT.

Primarily Designed for Girl of Between Ten and Twelve Years.

Our little model is carried out in fine white serge, but tweed and cloth are also suitable materials in which to make it. At each side of the bodice

part shaped pieces stand away from the plastron over the top of arm.

The turn-over collar and the cuffs are faced with grayish-blue silk.

The hat is of fine white straw, trimmed with a grapish-blue silk spotted scarf.

Materials required: Three yards 46 inches wide, one-half yard silk, six buttons.

TO MAKE SEWING BOARD.

Indispensable Requisite for the Mother of a Family.

Just to secure for her individual use the one or two sewing necessities—that otherwise would be borrowed and always out of place—every housemother should own a sewing board.

It can be easily made at home. A piece of stout cardboard cut 12x14 inches is the foundation. It is covered back and front with natural-colored Russian crash or blue Holland linen, and hung in a convenient place by a finished strap of the linen or by ribbons to match. In the center a strap of linen forms a scissors pocket; there are two pockets to secure papers of needles; a bodkin and thimble are held in place by two smaller straps, a black and a white spool of No. 50 thread are so tied in place with ribbons that the cotton can be reeled off without disturbing the spools. A pincushion is suspended below the scissors.

It is not expected that this useful board will do duty on all occasions; holding such a limited supply of materials, it is necessarily only an emergency case. The well-filled basket is just as necessary as it always has been, but the case is supposed to be private property and to terrorize the would-be borrower.

To Turn Bias Folds.

Run a hat pin in and out of your ironing board once, taking up a half inch of the ironing sheet. Place one end of the fold under the pin and turn over each edge about one-third inch. Then run the point of pin in the sheet just beyond the turned edge of fold, keeping the opposite turned edge as near as possible to where the pin emerges from the sheet. In the same way place another pin over fold about three inches from the first pin and have the width of space between where the pins leave and enter the sheet equal, and of the same width that you want your folds when turned.

Have some one pull the strip along and with a warm flat iron press over and between the pins. This saves all labor of basting and as soon as they are turned they should be stitched on one edge and the other basted on the skirt or garment on which they are to be placed.

In Various Greens.

Green has the stamp of approval for the moment, at least. Parisians show a decided leaning toward the color right now. There are smart green tailored costumes abroad, and indoors the afternoon gown of green in all its shades from the peacock blues and greens to the empire green, and again the softer shades of gray-green.

Sorel, the popular French actress, has chosen this gray-green for a street costume. Emerald green satin is an accepted shade for the evening gown, and rough green straw has appeared among the season's millinery

Oriental Print Hangings.

Cotton prints in imitation of the real East Indian fabrics are now found in all department stores. These make very effective hangings. They are not expensive, they wash well, and they give to an otherwise plain bedroom a warm and cheerful effect at very little cost.

Lightweight Suit Cases.

Suit cases especially made for women to carry are extremely light in weight and are lined with silk and fitted with silk pockets. These weigh little more than an ordinary shopping bag, but will not stand any rough handling and should never be checked when traveling.

BETTER THAN THE GROUNDHOG.

Old Farmer Had Own Weather Sign That Never Went Wrong.

"Do I believe in the groundhog?" replied the old farmer with a smile, as the question was put to him. "Wall, I can't say as I do. Mebbe there's some as do and mebbe they find him all right, but I reckon it's mostly folks in the cities. I've noticed that they git all sorts o' notions into their heads."

"But there is a groundhog, isn't there?"

"Mebbe, but no farmer can swear to it."

"But tradition tells us that the groundhog comes out of his burrow on the second day of February."

"Like enough he does, but I never heard of any farmer fool 'nuff to watch for him."

"Then you can't believe that if he sees his shadow he will go back in his burrow and stay for six weeks?" was asked.

"What's his shadder got to do with it?"

"I can't say."

"No more can I. He's a fool of a groundhog if he don't make his burrow in the woods, and how's he goin' to see his shadder there? Would it make any difference if a calf saw his shadder on that day?"

"Then I can take it that you don't believe in the old saying?"

"I hain't sayin' yes or no to the groundhog bizness," replied the old man, "but I'm tellin' you that I've got a better thing. When I git up on the mornin' of February 2 I take a good long look at the old woman's face. If I see a scowl between her eyes and hear her teeth grittin' I git ready for six weeks of snow and hail and jawin' and faultfindin' and callin' me names. If there's a smile on her face instead, and she makes extra good slapjacks for breakfast I just turn to and begin to grease the plow and hunt up the seed corn and look for blue birds and robins within ten days. The rest of the folks can have the groundhog if they want to, but as for me, gimme the old woman every time."

Nests That Weigh Tons.

In Australia are to be found the largest, heaviest, and most peculiar nests in the world. These are the nests of the jungle fowl, so-called, and are built in the form of great mounds, the average measurement in height being 15 feet and the circumference 150 feet. The nests are erected in secluded, sheltered spots; and, as in the case of the small nests of birds, they are skilfully interwoven with leaves, grass and twigs, and such other suitable material as the fowl may be able to procure.

A similar system in the construction of nests is followed by the bush turkey, whose home is, however, more comprehensive in design. Its shape is pyramidal. It has been asserted by Australian naturalists that the nests of the bush turkeys, which live in colonies, are so large that to move them requires the services of six or seven men. The material of a single nest has been found to weigh upward of five tons.—Sunday Magazine.

Indian Runs Down Wolves.

Charley Taylor, a halfbreed Indian living at Colon Springs, a small town near Superior, is in the wolf hunting business for the bounty there is in it and catches the wolves by running them down. He hit the hot trail of one of the timber beasts February 19 and overtook the exhausted animal on February 22. He killed it with a stout club, which he carries when "hunting."

Taylor says that there is nothing remarkable about hunting wolves in this manner. With snowshoes a man can run down a wolf, whose pace is slower in snow, in from one and a half to two days, but Taylor was without snowshoes. All one needs is endurance, patience and the ability to follow the trail of the wolf after dark. The Indians usually hunt in pairs.—Superior correspondence, St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Portrait Pleased Wagner.

Sir Hubert von Herkomer, the celebrated English artist, recently described in an address his experience in painting the portrait of Richard Wagner without a sitting. Wagner in 1877 was introducing his music to English audiences, and he permitted the young artist to be with him at his house, see him day by day, and watch him. When Wagner was asked when he intended to sit, he replied, "He sees me all the time." That went on for a month. Then the artist started one Friday on the portrait, worked at it all day at white heat, slept badly all night, and worked again all day Saturday. By the evening it was finished, and the next day he took the portrait, glazed and framed, to Wagner. Then came a change over the great musician. He was delighted.

Rude of Him.

Stubb—Where are you off to in such a hurry?

Penn—Man hunt. Can't spare a minute.

Stubb—Man hunt? Great Scott? Has some criminal escaped?

Penn.—Oh, no, only the Girls Bachelors' club is going to have a gentlemen's night, that's all.

The Limit.

Hewett—Gruet is a pretty mean fellow.

Jewett—What's the matter now?

Hewitt—He knows I need the sunlight for my garden stuff and so he keeps his old airship anchored right over my property.

LINGERIE OF TO-DAY

UNDERWEAR A MATTER OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE.

Bulkiness and Multiplicity of Knots Impossible While Present Styles Prevail — What Smartly-Dressed Woman Wears.

It is not to be expected that the corset story can go on indefinitely without lurching over into the domain of underwear—French and American.

The corset and its accompanying underwear must, some time or another in our 52 chapters, be considered together, and at the same time taken piece by piece and dissected.

We no longer try to accomplish the perfect figure over the old-fashioned chemise. It was long ago abandoned, for reasons of waist measurement first, I suppose, and then to comply with the demand for back flatness, says a well-known writer on fashions. The straight carriage of our American women has been of gradual growth, and the result undoubtedly of a desire to look well gowned; therefore it may be laid at fashion's door. The gauze undervest, and those of heavier weight, grew out of a demand for the garment that would aid the corset in its work of flattening backs and straightening figures.

The next step was the union suit, which is the accepted garment for many figures, and belongs undoubtedly to the hipless period. There persisted for years the corset cover, with its many ridged seams and a lenghty hip section; drawers with a double muslin band and a multiplicity of waist gathers; a flannel petticoat made the same way, and top petticoats that were better forgotten were they not ludicrous enough to recall for present purposes. They were at times made of heavy felt or quilted materials for warmth, and the best among them were ridged and corrugated at the waist line with tapes that lapped round to the front and tied in a large bow with a tight knot.

This much said by way of a reminder, it seems useless to utter further condemnation. All women nowadays who try to dress reasonably have abandoned the gathers and substituted the occasional dart, and they have warmed themselves sufficiently in the union suit to discard the quilted skirt.

Most of the smartly-dressed women of to-day have been converted to the corset-cover combination of one sort or another. If the corset cover and drawers are a combination garment, the short and long petticoats are separate garments. When the fitted circular drawers are worn first, the corset cover is made in combination with the long petticoat.

There are varied "knickers" made of batiste or satin, according to whether your ideas are American or Parisian, but all of them are well fitted. No matter which of these newer garments each woman may decide upon for her particular wear, there is nothing in favor of the bulky, gathered "has beens," and everything, from a comfort and health standpoint, to uphold the circular models of today. You see, I am not even saying orset, because I expect you to see just how the corset enters in. There were little use, indeed, in holding yourself straight in the perfect corset you know enough to buy if you were to cling to the balmoral petticoat of the early fifties.

When polishing the finger nails, rub across, not up and down. Dust the hands with orris powder for excessive perspiration.

Liquid green soap, which is the chemically pure potash soap used in surgery, is excellent for the complexion, but so strong is it that once a week is sufficient for its use.

In order to keep the head clean for a month, a tonic should be used, after which the hair should be thoroughly gone over with a clean brush. It is surprising how much dirt is removed by this process.

A simple but effective way to make hair wave in big ripples, which continue to be fashionable, is to dampen it and tie it down with bands of baby ribbon, pulling the hair out in loose waves between the bands.

To prevent noise round pads of leather, cut from old boots and nailed to the legs of kitchen chairs, prevent the grating noise upon a brick or tiled floor which is so distressing to the nerves of sensitive people.

Foulards Back Again.

After years of suppression, the foulard has come back to its own. It is reappearing for the spring trade in all styles, figured and plain, and deserves the popularity which is expected for it. It is at once the coolest and the most durable of the summer silks, while looking far more elegant and draping more gracefully than the raw silk varieties.

High Ruches Going Out.

Undoubtedly the high ruches are going out as fast as they came in and [illegible] and [illegible] are being used instead.