

WOMAN and HER WORK.

If I remember aright, I did not quite finish talking about the lads we women are so apt to take up and hug to our hearts, and be almost willing to shed our life blood in defence of. I know there was one form of this special monomania

ing, but rather to make men see the ugliness and inutility of the steel and whalebone cage, since we will persist in dressing to please the other sex.

How this result is to be accomplished without shocking the modesty of the dear

corsetless woman contrasted with a group of trim well corseted girls, and then see what his unprejudiced opinion will be!

"For Heaven's sake, Astra, tell me what is the matter with that woman's dress," said my brother to me, one evening when we were at an amateur concert together. "The third from the end at the left side. What does make it double up over the hips, and go in folds around the waist? I never saw such a garment?"

"There isn't anything wrong with the dress," I answered. "It is a very handsome one, and well made, but the wearer does not believe in corsets, and that explains everything."

My brother did not believe in them either, or he thought he didn't, but I have not heard much about the subject since that evening. The lady in question happened to be one of the singers, and as she sat in the glare of the lights amongst the rest of the chorus, the contrast was very marked. Now no one disapproves of tight lacing more than I do. I believe the habit is easily responsible for half the ailments our sex suffer from, but as everything which is carried to an extreme is bad, I cannot see any argument in that, for the abolition of the corset; and further still

refined ideas. She need not lace herself to death, and if she objects to stiff whalebones and steels she can procure many varieties of boneless corsets which will afford ample support, without compressing the body in any way or causing the least discomfort. Of course it is a matter of individual choice whether one shall belong to the corset, or Anti Corset



BALL GOWNS FOR YOUNG WOMEN.

The dress on the left is Russian net, cream color, with pale blue ribbon flots and silk girdle. The central figure shows a silk muslin, pale rose, with pearl pendants sewn upon it and flowers around the neck. The figure on the right is apple green silk muslin, accordion plaited, with a garland of roses around the neck.

which I intended to hang upon last week, but I had not time, so I postponed it, and perhaps it would have been better for me to make the postponement indefinite, since I will be certain to draw down upon my head the contempt of a good many worthy reformers, when I announce my text, which is—'Don't be induced to join an Anti-Corset League, or let anyone persuade you to 'take off your corsets, put them in the fire, and you will have a beautiful figure.'"

The agitation against corsets has reached such proportions, that one of the latest women's leagues, which has been organized, is the Anti-Corset League, the members of which bind themselves together, probably with blood curdling ceremonies, never to indulge in the insidious corset in any form, on pain of instant expulsion from the league, and absolute forfeit of their certificate of good standing membership.

me, and corracting the innocent minds by letting them into mysteries of the toilet which they have hitherto kept sacred, I cannot see; but perhaps the leaguers have prepared some special course of lectures which shall fully illustrate all the worst points of the corset, and at the same time be quite suitable for an audience composed of both sexes. Of course the men will accept the invitation with cheerful alacrity. What properly constituted man could resist such an opportunity of hearing such a hitherto forbidden subject as that of feminine underwear openly discussed, with all its fascinating possibilities in the shape of illustrations? But whether there will be many male converts to the new doctrine is quite another question! All men disapprove of the corset, and are in favor of its utter annihilation—theoretically—but I think that is because they know so little about it. They see a beautiful statue, or

I believe that one extreme is just as bad as the other.

The great trouble with reformers, especially our sex, is their tendency to run to extremes and generalize. One woman laces so tightly that she nearly succeeds in paralyzing the muscles of her back, and cutting her liver in two! A long and dangerous illness brings her to her senses and she at once flies to the conclusion that the whole cause of her trouble was the corset, instead of the lack of common sense. She becomes a violent opponent of that article of dress and lifts up her voice in condemnation of it at every opportunity. As well denounce peaches and cream, for all time, because one has once partaken too freely of that luscious dainty, and made herself ill with it!

"Look at the savage nations!" cried the corset fanatic triumphantly, "note their perfect figures, their graceful carriage, their untrammelled motions, and thus tell me what the Indian maiden, the African woman, or the untutored savage of the South Seas would look like boxed up in a whalebone case!"

Well, thanks awfully, my friend, but after a dispassionate observation of the graceful contour of a South Sea Island dame's figure, and the lovely creases of fat which obscure her waist from view I must say that I declare unhesitatingly in favor of the corset, and a glance at the abnormal development of hip measurement, which is the most prominent feature of the average woman, only confirms me in that opinion.

Nature delights in curves, I know, and the more beautifully a woman is formed the more noticeable is Hogarth's "line of grace and beauty"—the curve—but the very existence of their beautiful flowing lines only render the corset more necessary.

The thin spare hollow chested woman may go corsetless with impunity and nobody will be any the wiser, but the Milo Venns requires the restraining influence of whale bone and steel to keep her charms within bounds, and in my opinion the woman who is at all fleshy, or even womanly in build, and who refuses to wear corsets is distinctly lacking in modesty, because the sight of a stout uncorseted woman shaking all over like a magnified jelly fish is decidedly repulsive to anyone with

League; fortunately this glorious Canada of ours is a free country and we can do as we please, but if we ever exercise that freedom of the ballot which some of us are so anxious to obtain, by putting the matter to vote, and of the very first on record her vote in favor of the moderate and intelligent use of French sateen coraline, and 'watchespring' steel will be— ASTRA.

Mexico's Advances.

Although Guatemala has made great advances in recent years, and is now the largest, most populous and richest of the Central American states, she is no match for Mexico. Her population, according to her most recent census, is 1,394,233, and her standing army consists of 3718 officers and men, who are for the most part Indians, and good fighters if well led. The Guatemalans claim that they can put 50,000 troops in the field, if necessary, but even if the rather extravagant claim were to be allowed, they could hardly stand up against Mexico's fine army of 45,000 men on a place footing, and 160,000 in time of war, including 131,000 infantry, 25,000 cavalry and 4000 artillery. They, too, are for the most part Indians, but they are thoroughly drilled, well equipped and compare favorably with any European army.

A Polite Englishman.

They are telling of a lady in New York who, on a visit to London some time ago, refused an offer of marriage from a young Englishman. On her return to this country she married one of her own countrymen. Recently she gave a dinner, and thought it would be a graceful compliment to send an invitation to her former admirer in London. She was amazed when he presented himself on the evening of the dinner, but this was nothing to her surprise when she subsequently learned that he had departed the following day for England, having taken the journey of nearly 6000 miles apparently to show that he could not be outdone in the compliment business.

Somewhat of an Anachronism.

A peripatetic exhibitor of the phonograph in Holland seems determined to outdistance all competitors as regards his excellence of his records. He was exhibiting the machine in the streets of Utrecht, and a number of customers were listening to selections of tunes. Suddenly the tune ceased, and there was a pause. Then in a loud clear tone was heard the one word: "Halt!" delivered in a tone bespeaking authority. "What is that?" asked one of the listeners. "That," was the reply, "is the voice of Napoleon Bonaparte giving an order at the battle of Waterloo."

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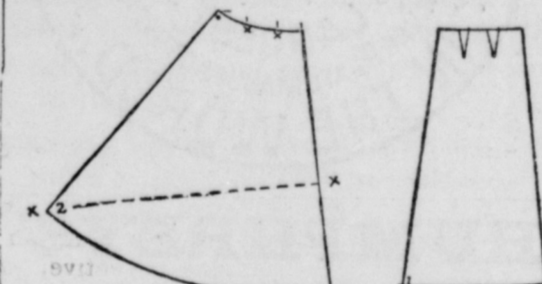
with the new patent Felt Innersoles.

WATERBURY & RISING.

HOMEMADE DRESSES.

How to Make the New Skirt Hang Gracefully.

The new skirts are known as the three piece and the five piece skirt, though some dressmakers call them the organ pipe and funnel skirt. There is more labor and time expended on the proper adjustment of these skirts, plain as they appear, than on many an elaborate costume. It is only by the most extreme pains that these skirts become successes, and whoever wishes to make one exactly right will do



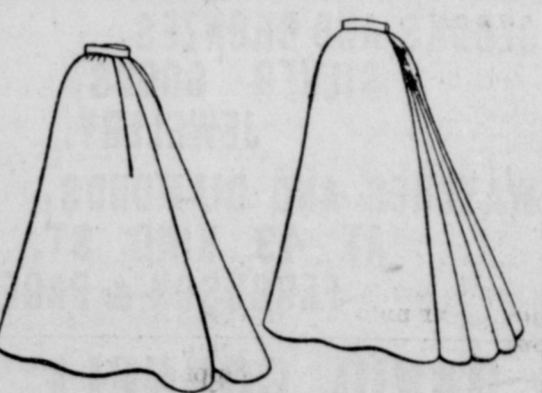
THE THREE PIECE SKIRT.

well to profit by these directions. The three piece skirt is quite as pretty as the five piece and is much easier for the amateur to handle. The first move is to take the material and spread it out and draft out the length, always allowing an extra inch for "take up." Then measure across the top, so that the doubled fold will reach two-thirds around the waist. Hollow it out three-quarters of an inch in front and mark in four darts, each 5 inches deep and 1 1/2 inches across. These should cause the front to fit smoothly over the hips. If they are not deep enough or too deep, adjust them. The sides slant 5 inches, so that the bottom of the front breadth is 10 inches wider than the top.

The two back breadths measure 1 1/2 yards each, and the front one three-quarters of a yard, or a yard at the bottom if preferred. The back pieces are cut on the full width of 54 inch goods, and the side joining the front is cut straight on the selvege of the goods and should be drafted so that the straight thread goes from one to the other of the two XX's. The top of the skirt is curved 1 1/2 inches, and they each measure 18 inches across the top. The back seam comes bias. The three seams are stitched up, pressed flat, and then the facing, which has been cut to exactly fit the outside, is put on.

First comes a deep facing, or full lining of silsena, with an interlining of horsehair or wigan. A bias band of indestructible velveta is then stitched upon both linings, so that when sewed to the dress to join the front is cut straight on the selvege, then basted in place, or the lining if it is lined, and herringboned to the outside in invisible stitches. After this it is pressed into perfection. The darts may be left out of the front at the top and small gathers run in to fit it over the hips. The back fullness may be gathered and left to fall in natural folds, or it may be laid in the small box plaits which spread out widely toward the bottom, or it may be laid under in small, flat plaits, two on each side. The model shows a skirt of the same length all around, but by allowing greater length around the back of the two back breadths it can be made a demitain. The back breadths, which are to fall in round, flat or burr nose plaits, should be lined with wigan, or better still, haircloth, and when the plaits are taken in at the top they are fastened into their rounded shape by tapes. The three piece skirt is better adapted for street wear than the five piece, and for that purpose the three breadths must be the exact measure all around. It is quite impossible for any one to make one of these skirts and have it exactly right, and the slightest imperfection shows glaringly, without a dress frame to try it on, or some one to help the maker, who is to wear it. The bias parts are also apt to sag. Some dressmakers put straight lining about 10 inches wide down the sides and catch it down. Lining when cut with the dress will sag with it.

It is permissible to have a very little narrow trimming on these skirts, but al-



THE THREE PIECE SKIRT COMPLETED.

most all are severely plain. The richness of the heavy folds of the skirt would lose something of its effect if cheapened by trimming. Enough of that is bestowed upon the corsages.

The amateur will be discouraged more than once before she gets these apparently simple folds into their proper shape, but with the diagrams as guide she will succeed if she perseveres. Those of equal length hang in a manner that has made them so famous. All depends upon the finish of the seams and the laying in of those two or three innocent little plaits.

OLIVE HAMPER.

The Queen's Conservatism.

The Queen is remarkably conservative so far as the routine of life goes. She loves old customs and doesn't like new things—not even new furniture or new fashions. "When a distinguished lady," it is said, "a few years back, sent her children by Her Majesty's request to Windsor, she sent them dressed as was and is still the mode, in tucked blouse dresses without sashes. But the Queen considered that no child should be brought to her in other but full dress, and full dress in her mind did not

exist without the smart sash she has always known. And very courteously but firmly she made objection to the little frocks, and asked that the next time the Countess brought her children to her that she would not forget the sashes."

Mummy Flowers.

The remains of no fewer than fifty-nine species of flowering plants from mummy wrappings in Egypt have been identified. The flowers have been wonderfully preserved, even the delicate violet color of the larkspur, the scarlet of the poppy, and the chlorophyll in the leaves remaining.

THE ACME OF PERFECTION.

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Colors bear a relation to each other something like that of musical notes, and there is a harmony of colors, analogous to that of musical sounds. An exquisite taste in the combination of colors may be the result of a nice perception of these relations, in the same way that an exquisite taste in music is produced by a nice perception of the relations of musical sounds. It is unquestionable that there are some combinations of colors which are universally pleasing, and others are universally disagreeable, independently of any associations or acquired habits. To the connoisseur and lover of colors, no more lovely or beautiful sight can be presented than the tasteful arrangement of over forty standard colors of Diamond Dyes, and the one hundred rich shades and tints which are produced from them. Diamond Dye colors are scientifically prepared, and when used according to directions in the home, the results are pleasing and truly grand. It would require a good sized volume to describe their uses and possibilities, and to tell the comfort, joy and pleasure they are capable of giving.

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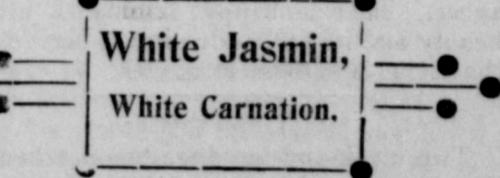
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COWN AND CAPS FOR AN ELDERLY LADY.

This figure shows an elegant figured peau de soie, gray and pink, for an elderly lady. The trimming is of dark gray velvet and lace. Above are shown two caps for elderly ladies, one trimmed with small feathers, the other with ribbon rosettes.

ship. Curiously enough the "Women's Anti-Corset League" has extended almost cordial invitation to the bold bad members of the sex which is supposed to go corsetless, to join them, and has openly avowed that the reason for so doing, was not to warn men against the evil effects of corset wear-

an idealized picture of "The Indian Princess," or "The Chief's Daughter" and as they cannot but observe that those lovely damsels are guiltless of corsets they rush to the conclusion that every other woman would look as well, if she could only be induced to discard her corsets. But once let a man see a well developed case of the