

RAVAGES OF FASHION.

The world moves, and while enlightened nations are not slow to emancipate themselves from the chains of ancient thralldom, the living wonder yet obtains that men and women, intelligent and philosophical in all things else pertaining to their general well-being, will voluntarily endure the worst physical slavery that ever existed on earth. If vice is a monster, then is modern fashion a most uncompromising tyrant, verily ruling its subjects with a rod of iron.

In the personal decoration and wearing apparel of the day, a system of idolatry and bigotry is hourly exemplified, most astounding to any careful and thoughtful observer. Ridiculous as many old styles would now appear, it needs but the behest of some leading votary of fashion to exhume them from the annals of the past, reinstate them in the domain of popular favor, and make them the cynosure of admiring vulgarity. The fashionable world has yet to produce a Moses through whose expert generalship we may yet be led through the wilderness of abject folly into the promised land of common sense.

To improve upon Nature is the avowed object of many of the expensive fashions now in vogue among those who belong to the higher walks of life. No sooner does a young girl begin to ripen into womanhood than she discovers the appalling fact that there has been some miserable error committed somewhere and by somebody, about her model or complexion; and thenceforward it is the sole object of her life to correct the blunder that has been made. Wholly ignorant of the first principles of physiology or the laws of health, she goes about giving new lines to what she deems her misshapen form. She impudently questions the propriety of the beautiful exterior that the great Architect has given her innocent girlhood, and calls into requisition the villainous appliances of human ingenuity to convert her yielding body into what in the end is nothing less than a horrid deformity. By main strength and awkwardness she girds her expanding chest with plates of steel, jams her feet into abominable things that St. Crispin never invented, apes the savages by bedaubing her face with mineral poisons, and scoots up her hair into

shapes of ineffable ugliness. Thus accoutered and stuck up, she persuades herself into the silly belief that she is really beautiful and attractive.

O shades of our dear departed grandmothers! come and deliver us from this abomination of desolation.

But this is a gigantic and far-reaching topic, and in order to thoroughly investigate it, we must do as great men and books say: examine the subject *seriatim*. We will begin, then, with the cosmetic absurdity.

Few ladies know to what a fearful extent mineral poisons enter as principal ingredients into the composition of their much-esteemed face powders. It is a libel on the vegetable kingdom to say that there are no mineral products in the face powders so extensively sold throughout the length and breadth of our fair land.

Dr. Hassell, of London, is prosecuting a work for which future generations of healthy men and women will rise up and call him blessed. It may be remembered by our readers that this eminent chemist thoroughly exposed some of the principal food adulterations several years ago. But the Doctor did not weary in well doing. Horrified at his discoveries in regard to what unsuspecting people put into their stomachs under the attractive guise of food, he was subsequently led to examine what silly women put upon their faces. His explorations in the latter field justifies the ominous assertion that there is fully as much pure and unscrupulous iniquity practiced in the manufacture of the various cosmetics as in the preparation of canned and many other kinds of food. The lovely "violet powder," for example, so extensively sold at perfumery stores, was found to be a most pernicious hash of active mineral poisons. Even the popular "rice powder," which the careful mother applies to the delicate skin of her infant, was found to contain no less than twenty-five per cent. of arsenic, and it was proved that several young babes had died from the effects of this powder.

Every physician knows that a thin, delicate skin will take up large quantities of arsenic through the process of absorption, and having thus gained access to the various tissues of the body, its immediate effects are very much the same as if taken into the stomach.

The stylish wife of a physician was

one day stoutly protesting that her face powder was purely a vegetable creation. But when the sagacious physician undertook to weigh a spoonful of the powder against a similar quantity of wheaten flour, the scales would not balance, and he was obliged to treble the quantity of flour before it was equal in weight to a spoonful of the powder.

Even though a face powder is entirely free from mineral poisons, it is no less deleterious in one respect, at least. It is just as instrumental in filling up and clogging the pores of the skin as the more objectionable compounds. Prof. Helwig asserts that a stoppage of the pores of the skin in and about the face is the main cause of pimples and other cutaneous eruptions.

But the latter gentleman has made a still more unpleasant revelation. In one specimen of toilet powder prepared by a leading perfumer of Paris, he had discovered the healthy eggs of the *Demodex folliculorum*, an active little parasite that delights extremely well to burrow at the base of the irruptions on the faces of pretty young ladies.

The Professor is of the opinion that many of the volatile oils used to perfume cosmetics renders such compounds a fit abode for those living germs which so largely pervade our atmosphere. Prof. Chon, another expert of Berlin, fully coincides in this interesting matter, with the two eminent authorities already referred to above. More of this subject in a future issue.

LADIES ABOUT TO MARRY.

In marrying, make your own match. Do not marry any man to get rid of him, or to oblige him, or to save him. The man who would go to destruction without you, will be quite as likely with you, and perhaps drag you along. Do not marry in haste, lest you repent at leisure; do not marry for a home and a living, when by taking care of your health you can be strong enough to earn your own living. Do not let aunts, fathers or mothers sell you for money or a position into bondage, tears and lifelong misery, which *you alone* must endure. Do not place yourself habitually in the society of any suitor until you have decided the question of marriage; human walls are weak, and people often become bewildered, and do not know their error until it is too late. Get away from their influence, settle your head, and make up your mind alone. A promise may be made in a moment of sympathy or half-delirious ecstasy, which must be redeemed through years of sorrow, toil and pain.