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Feet and False Ribs.

BY ELIZABETH CADY STANTON.

French women appear marvelously slight these days, and wonderful must be the skill of the corset maker to produce such slender waists and rounded hips. It is claimed by those who profess to know that there is a perfect revolution in corset making, and that if one is willing to pay the price for the proper article there is little discomfort in compressing one's figure to the fashionable limits. It is certainly cheerful to know that if there is to be a revival of tight lacing, which seems probable, one's anatomy is to be disarranged with as little suffering as possible. Certainly French women are "wearing smaller waists" than they have for some seasons, and diminutive waists are as equally characteristic of those who appear in quiet tailor-made suits as of those who are responsible for more sensational costumes.

A movement was begun this week by several Methodist clergymen to prevent the foot-binding of Chinese female children born in this city. The practice is said to be increasing and the church society is determined to break it up. Careful inquiry has shown that more than a score of little Chinese babies are undergoing the torture.

It would be to the credit of Christianity if our clergy in their several congregations would preach to young women on the sin of tight lacing and high heels, throwing the spine out of plumb.

A careful examination of the skeletons of women show a life-long pressure on the false ribs, bringing them together and even lapping in some cases. It is a common remark among dressmakers and ignorant mothers, when a large well-developed girl of Nature has a normal waist, "it is time to begin to give to her some form."

Talking with quite an intelligent mother, who was conscientiously forming four daughters, I recommended them to study the Venus, considered the perfect specimen of womanhood. The mother replied: "I never liked her form. I think the fashionable woman's waist is far prettier!"

It is not to be supposed that Nature, such an economist of space, has provided more than is necessary for the comfort of growing girls of sixteen, in which the vital organs can have full play.

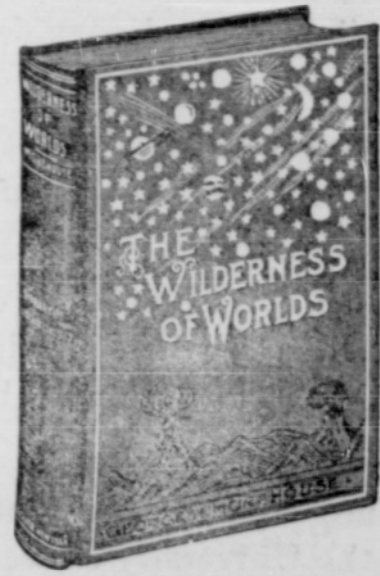
What must be the powerful forebodings of the stomach, heart, lungs, kidneys, bowels, et al., as they behold the sides of the house they live in gradually collapsing.

Half the sorrows of maternity result from this suicidal treatment of the human form, far worse than the Chinese fashion of compressing the bones of the feet. It is time for every American patriot to turn his attention to the children of his own household.—[Boston Investigator.

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