

MEN DO ADMIRE SLENDER WOMEN, THIS WRITER CONTENDS

Judge Neil's Opinion That English Women Should Take On Flesh in Order to Attract Husbands Is Sharply Contradicted With Some Proofs



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BY AGNES M. MIALL.

I WAS interested and more than a little amused by Judge Henry Neil's opinions in a recently-published article called "Snaring Bachelors in Great Britain," in which he declares that the reason why so many men remain unmarried is to be sought in the modern feminine fashion for excessive slenderness. He then describes two cases of previously unattractive women who, after being "plumped out" by a special diet process, were immediately sought by enthusiastic swains. And so the inference is that men prefer their wives to be plump! Really I must beg his pardon for disagreeing with him entirely. In passing, I would contest the

idea that Great Britain is full of bachelors. In a country town or the suburbs of a big city, both far more typical of English life than inner London, the one ever-repeated cry is that there are no marriageable men. Bachelors over 40 are very few and far between. To return to the main point. No one, of course, could admire the living skeleton type, which after all, has few representatives, but surely slenderness and willowy grace have always been counted among women's greatest charms, and can there be grace where plumpness is? Certainly among savage tribes brides were sold by weight, and, no doubt, heavy women were the rage when Rubens was alive to paint them, but what bachelor would not shudder at such an ideal of feminine beauty today? Poets, the most susceptible of men, have sung the praises of light and graceful women since "slender" rhymed with "tender." The Elizabethan songsters, excellent judges of loveliness, were never tired of comparing their rosettes to nymphs (who ever heard of a nymph of ample figure?), and if Tennyson had admired embonpoint would he have written so enthusiastically of "Alry

Slenderness and willowy grace have always been counted among women's greatest charms, and can there be grace where plumpness is? Among the pre-Raphaelites thin women were an absolute cult. The illustrations show some modern English types of beauty and Rossetti's "Roman Widow."

Fairy" Lillian or "Shadowy" Adeline? And what of "the faery child" of Keats or that other "Nymph of the downward smile and sidelong glance" who "Spared the flowers in her many dance"? Among the pre-Raphaelites thin women were an absolute cult, and the damsels of those days must have suffered many pains to cultivate hollow eyes and a romantic air of soulful slenderness. Listen to William Morris on the subject of his lady: "Cheeks that be Hallowed a little mournfully . . . Of her long neck what shall I say? What things about her body's away Like a knight's pennon or slim trees?" And more to the same effect. This certainly does not savor of plumpness. And, indeed, nearly all the fair ladies of old time, in fact or legend, appear to have been slender or have been idealized so. Can anyone imagine a massive Helen of Troy or a bulky Cleopatra? What outcry there is if an actress otherwise than slim takes the part of

sprightly Rosalind or Ophelia, so frail that she floated like a lily on the pond? Why, one of the chief complaints I have heard opera-goers make is that singers, who are so often by no means thin, are obliged to represent youthful "airy fairy" heroines. Enough of the poets, though I could quote instances from them and from novelists in defense of slenderness forever. All I contend is that ordinary, every-day men, at any rate in Great Britain, have no objection whatever to the so-called "modern" craze for slender beauties. Opium Worth \$10,000 Vanishes. HONOLULU, T. H.—Opium with a retail value of approximately \$10,000, seized here recently when a Chinese attempted to bring it ashore from the liner Persia Maru, has mysteriously disappeared from a vault in the Honolulu customs house. Collector Malcolm Franklin, while of the opinion that it was an "inside job," and openly charging that some federal employee was responsible, has given up hope of apprehending the guilty person. The drug was being held as evidence against the Chinese smuggler.