

The Quest for the Perfect Silhouette

By Mrs. Cholly Knickerbocker.

Corsets Which Mould the Figure From Shoulder Almost to the Knee. One-piece Under Garments and Clinging Gowns All Go to Make Up the Fashionable Silhouette



Various Methods in Vogue to Reduce Too Prominent Hips. Tights and "Knickers" Are Now Indispensable to the Smart Woman's Outfit

A—This Corset Takes Four Inches From Your Hips and at the Same Time Reduces Your Waist One Inch.

B—This Is the Kind of Satin Slip the Fashionable Woman Wears Under Her Evening Gown.

C—Corsets That Lace in Front Give the Flat Back So Desirable for Princess Gowns.

IF EVEN greater importance than the new spring gown is the new spring figure.

to proclaim oneself quite out of the fashion. I'm sure you all recognize just where the new figure differs from the old. How, when once we displayed nicely rounded hips, we must now present as nearly a straight line as possible from the knee to the place where the waist-

When you have pictured all this, behold the fashionable silhouette. But, I suppose you are mentally inquiring, how in the world am I to get that? There's nothing difficult about that. Quite easy, I assure you. For anything for which there is a demand there is always a supply. Therefore we find people of various occupations ready and waiting and anxious to supply you with the up-to-date hipless figure. The physical culture people will tell you that if you will come to them and go through various sets of exercises you will in time give a due amount of patience, take off superfluous flesh in quick time. I advise you, and remove faddists. No doubt mental scientists will try to convince you that it's merely a matter of right thinking. But perhaps you haven't the time for the necessary number of genuflections a day, or the strength of mind to abstain from your morning chocolate or the faith that "moves mountains" or how anxious is an attractive woman to buy a good up-to-date corset. For that's the short cut to the fashionable figure.

Various methods are used to get rid of that annoying superfluous flesh which gathers around the hips. In some corsets it is smoothed down, away from the waist, and taken care of by the extension of the corset, which extends far down in an unboned material. In others the flesh is lifted and moulded into the waist line in front, where the corsets are built out into almost a curve to accommodate it. As for the length of the corsets, it is almost beyond belief. Last autumn corset-makers conquered the "too, too solid" below the hips, only to find that their bust measure is now out of all proportion. Do not despair, for there is a contrivance designed for just such a case as yours. It fits snugly over the bust and the lower part of the corset is soft and unboned and is only used to keep the line unbroken. The corset is laced in front, for that gives an absolutely smooth line in the back, a thing so necessary to the success of these difficult gowns. This has the recommendation of comfort as well as line, for it proves most restful to the back, as it does not impede the chest. Among the corsets making their appearance this spring is one which was built with this object in view, and as it combines all the new figure lines as well as the promise of ease and freedom from fatigue in the back, attention but too well known to the woman who has to wear her corset all day—it will be sure to be of interest to the feminine.

At each side, fastening on the front steels. This gives support to the back, and at the same time makes the corset cling closely to the figure without any being at all, for the straps hold the corset in without the pull of a corset string. They also prevent the back steels turning. So you see, to be in the fashion in the matter of figure doesn't mean that you must sacrifice comfort. Indeed, in the case of this corset, comfort is added. If you have, with the help of your corsetiers, conquered the "too, too solid" below the hips, only to find that your bust measure is now out of all proportion, do not despair, for there is a contrivance designed for just such a case as yours. It fits snugly over the bust and the lower part of the corset is soft and unboned and is only used to keep the line unbroken. The corset is laced in front, for that gives an absolutely smooth line in the back, a thing so necessary to the success of these difficult gowns. This has the recommendation of comfort as well as line, for it proves most restful to the back, as it does not impede the chest. Among the corsets making their appearance this spring is one which was built with this object in view, and as it combines all the new figure lines as well as the promise of ease and freedom from fatigue in the back, attention but too well known to the woman who has to wear her corset all day—it will be sure to be of interest to the feminine.

WE SHOULD GROW BEAUTIFUL WITH AGE

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox. BEHAVE how beautiful is nature in youth, in maturity and in old age, oh, mortal! Then ask yourself, why is man beautiful only in youth? Look upon any landscape in spring, in summer, and again in autumn; how varied are its attractions, and how they deepen and grow in splendor with the passing of the months. More wonderful and vivid are the charms of the wood and field and meadow in autumn than in summer. And when the winter comes, then again may we see beauty and majesty in the snow covered landscape and in the frost, wearing its white mantle with the dignity of a Roman senator supporting his toga. It is seldom indeed that one finds a resplendent scene in any season, unless it is some spot frequented by the hand of man. Nature, left to her own ways, grows old beautifully. Why then, should man, the most animated and intellectual expression of nature, so rarely follow her example? Why should the majority of men and women lose their personal charms after 30 and begin to grow plain, more frequently ugly, and almost universally commonplace, with the passing of each decade? The old Hindu philosophers said thousands of years ago that there was only one thing in the universe; they called it "Brahma" and they said it was the expression of God, in various forms. Of this God stuff all things came. Rocks, trees and women and rivers were one way this Akasa expressed itself, and man was the same thing in a higher rate of vibration. All is one absolute existence. As said the "Secret" men.

DECAY OF POLITENESS--By Mrs. John A. Logan

By Mrs. John A. Logan. WHAT means this constant saying that "Mr. and Mrs. so and so are ladies and gentlemen of the old school"? Why thus differentiate between ladies and gentlemen, if there was not some reason to emphasize the fine manners and courtesy of men and women of the days of old? It is hardly a sufficient apology for a person perhaps young in years, after they have almost knocked you down in passing you, to say: "I beg your pardon," or to sneeringly say: "Excuse me," when they wish to commit some act of unpardonable rudeness. No one could claim for a moment that there had not been the greatest possible retrogression in the politeness of both men and women in this country. Not long since, a grey-haired lady was in an elevator in a business building. The elevator was crowded with passengers, and she was the only one to recognize the presence of the lady who was no longer young. This one gentleman out of the half dozen or more who were in the elevator, stepped aside to allow her to pass out when they reached the lower floor. And rushed forward, took hold of the heavy doors that are invariably used for the entrance to large buildings, doffed his hat and said: "Please, allow me to hold this door for you." After she had passed out, he noticed that she was going to her carriage, that was waiting for her at the sidewalk. He came forward, opened the door for her, and when she attempted to express her astonishment and gratitude for his great politeness, he said: "Not at all, madam. I should feel that I was doing discredit to my mother if I do not pay proper respect to all women." The lady was so impressed by this unusual mark of politeness that she made an inquiry and found that the gentleman was a

MONARCHS AS DANCERS.

King Edward Graceful and Nimble Fooled--Henry VIII's Pride. From the Westminster Gazette. One is not surprised to learn that Prince Edward of Wales is one of the most promising of all the dancing pupils at the Royal Naval College, Osborne, for skill in dancing seems to run in the royal blood of England. King Edward in his younger days was as graceful and nimble-footed a dancer as you would find in England, as many of his partners, now state, dowagers, love to recall, and so, with scarcely an exception, are all members of his family. Henry VIII's dancing, from the pavon to "conrato high," was the envy and despair of his courtiers, but he was prouder of his performance in the ballet. Queen Elizabeth had no rival in the stately pavon unless it was her favorite partner, Sir Christopher Hatton, and Queen Mary's grace and agility in the ballet went more than one poet into rhyme. Charles II, however, seems to have been the king of royal dancers. He never knew how to stop, for when every one of his courtiers was dropping from fatigue he would call for a round of country dances. "Indeed," says Pepys, "he dances rarely."

CHINA'S FOREIGN DEBT.

Startling Increase During the Last Fourteen Years. Before the outbreak of the war with Japan, 1894-95, the foreign debt incurred by China was insignificant in amount, the only loan of which any portion now remains outstanding being a small one of \$115,000 at 7 per cent, in-

some contending that one long lace, pulled up and tied at the waist is best, while others insist on the use of three laces, one tied at the top, one at the bottom and one at the waist. But on one thing they all agree, and that is that each time a corset is put on it should be laced, and the laces pulled into place again after the corset is on. If you attempt to wear your corset without this precaution it will result in broken side bones. It apparently stands to reason that the build of the corset will determine how it should be laced. If the flesh is to be smoothed down, then the corset should be tightened from the waist line down. But if the scheme is to lift the superfluous flesh of the hips then the lower edge of the corset should be pulled in first, gradually forcing the flesh upward. But do not make the mistake of "pulling in" your waist line, for a hour glass waist is not a thing to be desired according to the present fashionable lines. In fact, it is extremely vulgar. Underclothes are just at present reduced to a minimum. As the corsets are combined in one and that one is made to do service for the whole corset cover, drawers and short skirt combined in one garment are worn by many women, with or without the addition of a longer petticoat, while the skirts or close-fitting "knickers" of china silk, lined with albatross, are other choices. Princess Marie Bonaparte, in that wonderful trousseau of hers which caused a ripple of interest to run through the ranks of civilized women, had several original models of one-piece undergarments for wear under the extremely clinging lines of the gowns. One of these garments has found its way to this country, and has been adopted by American women. Indeed, it is pictured in the sketch marked "B."