

The Perfect Human Figure.

Baron von Humboldt, who had studied men and women in every quarter of the habitable globe, used to say that the notion that the female figure was of better proportions and more graceful outline than that of the male was a delusion. Women did not believe it, averred the great scientist, and men only said so out of natural gallantry. Humboldt was right on a great many points concerning which his views were scouted by the wise men of his day, and perhaps he was equally correct in thus attributing superior physical beauty to men. But since his time nobody has ventured to urge or defend his theory, and it has naturally fallen into disrepute. Besides, the modern world really has no use for "pretty men" as such. They may be counter-jumpers and animated tailors' blocks, and infest at will the public promenades and places of general resort, but the present masculine fashion favors the strong, square-built, quick-witted, and agile fellow who never thinks for an instant whether he conforms to the model of the Apollo Belvedere or not.

With the softer sex the question of form is quite another affair. The possibilities of dress have been developed to such an extent that within reasonable limitations a woman may take on pretty much whatever outward shape seems best and most becoming for her. While the creations of the modiste have stimulated a taste for the beautiful, they have ministered also to the love of admiration and harmless instinctive vanity appertaining to every feminine nature. They have also created ideals of contour that are decidedly at variance with classical ideas of perfection; and these departures from the antique standard have been to many theorists and a few otherwise sensible women a source of profound disquiet. There has been, it is affirmed, a departure from the "classic figure" that is as disfiguring as it is reprehensible; and in many quarters are pleading more or less cogent for the return to the lines of beauty wrought by Phidias and Cleomenes long before physical distortion became a fashionable art.

American maids and matrons have thus been led to study the requirements and measurements of the perfect female figure, with results, if current draperies correctly indicate, altogether distasteful to the classicists, who point with pride to the master works of the ancient sculptors as embodying the beautiful in feminine contour. A living counterpart of the Venus de Medici would be less than five feet in height, while wearing a No. 25 corset and No. 7 shoe. This, to the woman of to-day, would mean hopeless clumsiness. The *Popular Science Monthly*, in a recent issue, descends to particulars, and affirms that to meet the requirements of a classic figure the proper dimensions should be: height, 5 feet 4 1/2 inches; bust, 32 inches; waist, 24 inches; armpit to waist, 9 inches. This is further improved upon by giving the proportions of a "queenly" figure, thus: height, 5 feet 5 inches; bust, 31 inches; waist, 26 1/2 inches; over the hips 36 inches. These figures are interesting only as they illustrate the vagaries and contentions of the purely scientific mind when floundering through the ungenial realm of taste. It will be difficult to persuade ladies of an inquiring turn that the scientific constructor of these classic proportions has not been endeavoring to perpetrate a solemn joke upon the select circle of literary females whom he addresses. The "queenliness" of a tall woman with a hollow chest and an exceedingly thick waist is an attribute likely to be discovered only by an observer whose head is perpetually among the stars.—*Philadelphia Record*.

The Fish.

Rather more than five years ago, one of the vessels employed by the United States Fish Commission dredged up from the depths of the ocean, about one hundred miles east of Cape Hatteras, specimens of a fish which had never been seen before. The discoverers called it the tile fish, from its extraordinary shape. Until quite lately other deep-sea dredgers in the same neighborhood have frequently found the fish; but it appears that since the beginning of the present year the species has, in some way, been destroyed. In the early summer, scores of ships arriving in New England ports from the South brought news that the surface of the sea over an immense area off Cape Hatteras was covered with dead fish of an uncommon variety. Investigation proved that the defunct were tile fish, and ever since, although the tile fish has been repeatedly dredged for in its old haunts, not a single specimen has been brought up. Prof. Baird, who has already pointed out that there are many deep-sea fish that cannot survive a variation of four or five degrees of temperature in the waters they inhabit, is of the opinion that a cold current must have penetrated the domain of the unfortunate tile fish, and thus caused the apparent extinction of the race.

"Orpheus C. Kerr."

The story is denied that "Orpheus C. Kerr" is in straitened circumstances. One who knows him says of Mr. Newell that "he is not old, but, on the contrary, young, hale, merry, and the delight of a charming circle of which his family is the center and most devoted to him. In other words, Orpheus C. Kerr lives an ideal life; he writes when he pleases, and besides his family, who adore him, he has many friends."—*Chicago Tribune*.

A woman who claims to know says it takes more strategy to marry off a family of girls than it does to secure reelection to Congress.

The Increase of Insanity.

Boston supports 800 insane, says Mr. T. B. Sanborn, not 15 of whom will recover. This is frightful. Insanity has increased forty per cent. in a decade, and most of the cases are incurable. Whatever the individual cause may be, the fact remains that Uric Acid blood sets the brain on fire, destroys its tissues, and then comes some form of fatal lunacy.

Nothing is so pitiable as a mind diseased. Most brain troubles begin in the stomach; then if the blood is filled with uric acid, caused by failure of kidney action, and the consequent destruction of the blood life—albumen—you have the fuel and the flame and a brain in full blaze as when one raves, or in slow combustion, as in milder forms of insanity. Rev. E. D. Hopkins, of St. Johnsbury, Vt., a few years ago was confined in an asylum. He took a terrible cold while aiding in putting out a fire in a neighbor's burning house, and for twenty-five years that cold was slowly filling his blood with uric acid, and finally the deadly work was done. The case looked hopeless, but he happily used Warner's safe cure and recovered. That was three years ago, and having ridden his blood of all surplus uric acid, he has remained well until this day.

It is indeed a terrible thing to lose one's mind, but it is a more terrible thing to suffer such a condition when it can be so easily prevented.

Old Newspapers.

The *Indiana Farmer* having stated that the first newspaper ever published west of Cincinnati was the *Vincennes Sun* in 1806, the next the *Missouri Gazette*, of St. Louis, in 1808, afterward merged into the present *Republican*, and the third the *Illinois Gazette*, at Kankakee, Ill., C. F. Clark, in the *Des Moines Register*, comments as follows: There are two slight errors in the foregoing paragraph from the *Indiana Farmer*, and they may as well be corrected while men are living who can do it. The *Vincennes Sun* was commenced by Elihu Stout, in 1804. And the *Missouri Gazette*, the first paper published at St. Louis, Louisiana (now Missouri), was started July 12, 1808. In the year 1800 Congress divided the Northwest Territory and established the Territory of Indiana, including all of what is now Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and the seat of government was established at Vincennes, and Gen. Wm. H. Harrison was appointed Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs. At that time there were about 9,000 white inhabitants in all that vast Territory, and the Indian title was extinguished to but a small part of the Territory. But Gen. Harrison went to Vincennes, and soon found it necessary to have a man with a few printing materials to print the various documents he found necessary in the administration of the Territory. About 1803 he induced a young man by the name of Stout to go there and occupy one corner of the blockhouse with a press and type, not with the idea of printing a newspaper, but of job printing. The writer has talked with General Harrison and also Mr. Stout about the first printing and the commencement of the first paper in the Northwest Territory. Some time in the latter part of the year 1804 Mr. Stout, probably being out of employment, published the first number of the *Vincennes Sun*. It was a small concern, and was published semi-occasionally for the next nine years, during which time the inhabitants there were in constant dread of their lives from hostile Indians, constantly stirred up by British agents and the turbulence of Tecumseh and the Prophet. Most of the time, except when the soldiers were in camp there, the inhabitants had to keep their block-houses constantly barricaded, so a very limited edition of the *Sun* could have been circulated if printed. But it was so irregular in its publication that the *Indiana Farmer* would be safe in saying it was started in 1806, or even in 1810, or really not until after the battle of Tippecanoe, in 1813.

But the writer has pretty clear evidence of the date of the commencement of the *Missouri Gazette*, as he has before him as he writes, No. 3, dated July 26, 1808, and, as it was a weekly, would make the date of commencement July 12, 1808, by Joseph Charles. It was the impression of Mr. Stout that he published a paper at Vincennes before one was started in Cincinnati. But it must have been but a short time before, if at all. We have before us a copy of the *Liberty Hall*, published at Cincinnati, June 3, 1816, and it is a weekly paper, and this is No. 35 of the twelfth volume, which makes it at that time eleven years and thirty-five weeks old, which would fix the date of its commencement about December, 1805. Probably there may be older men, or older records, that may correct these dates. But history requires their being put upon record correctly now.

Two young ladies were singing a duet in a concert room. A stranger, who had heard better performances, turned to one of the guests and said: "Does not that young lady in white sing awful?" "Excuse me," replied the other, "I do not feel at liberty to express my sentiments; she is my sister." "I beg your pardon, sir," said the first speaker; "I mean the lady in blue." "You are perfectly right there," replied the gentleman; "she is my wife."

Male weakness and loss of power promptly cured. Book, 10 cents in stamps. World's Dispensary Medical Association, 663 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

People who live in gas-houses had better not throw squibs.—*Texas Siftings*.

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Get Lyon's Patent Heel Stiffeners applied to new boots and shoes before you wear them out. The Frazer Axle Grease is the very best. A trial will prove we are right.

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Cause for Rejoicing.

CINCINNATI.—The *Times-Star* says: "A remarkable discovery made last winter is attracting widespread interest. As it involves a most important question, that of public health, it is being discussed by eminent physicians and public men. It is shown conclusively that throat and lung troubles can be cured without resorting to the use of morphia or opium—especially dangerous in the case of children, as arresting development and poisoning the system. The Governor of Maryland and all the officials of that State endorse the remedy; the State chemist of Delaware pronounces it the purest and most effective, and hospitals and charitable institutions in Philadelphia and other cities use it with remarkable results. The remedy, which is only twenty-five cents a bottle, is Red Star Cough Cure. It is purely vegetable; it contains no poison or narcotics, and is a positive cure."

Canine Intelligence.

"It is truly amusing," says the *London Truth*, "to see the assembled wiseacres of the British Institution making discoveries in the canine intelligence, which must have been common knowledge to dog-fanciers in the days of Nimrod. Sir John Lubbock's learned poodle is a fool beside a little performing mongrel which I have lately seen at one of the south-coast watering-places. Any spectator was invited to show this little animal his watch, when the dog, after studying the face for a moment, would proceed to tell the time by selecting the proper figures from a row of Arabic (not Roman) numerals placed before him. Again, Prof. Flower's eminently Scotch tyke, who refused to go for a walk on the 'Sawbath,' is very little ahead of the dog whom most of us have seen or heard of who loses all desire to go out Sunday morning upon being shown a prayer-book. In the same way I have heard of a university dog—probably not a unique specimen—who, though always frantic to start out the moment his master took up his hat, never offered to move when the head-covering was a college-cap."

Russell Sage

is a well-known operator in Wall street, who is generally considered as "up to snuff." Hence, it may have been quite natural that a countryman who reads the papers recently called at his office and asked for a package of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. He discovered his mistake, but he made no mistake in the article called for. This Remedy, when applied with Dr. Pierce's "Nasal Douche," will surely and rapidly eradicate the most aggravated case of catarrh, with all its unpleasant and dangerous accompaniments.

Young lovers ought to make good detectives, because they are so inclined to investigate.—*Texas Siftings*.

Young Girls

are at a critical period when they are about maturing and developing into women. The lack of watchful care at this time may result in fixing irregularities upon delicate organs and entailing a long list of "female weaknesses." All this may be avoided, and the young woman come through this period clothed in all the beauty and strength of a perfectly healthy organization by the aid of Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription," prepared especially for female troubles by one of the most successful physicians of the day.

NEVER judge by appearances. A ten-dollar dude may have a two-dollar salary.—*Texas Siftings*.

During One-third of our time the processes of digestion must go on in our bodies, and if the stomach and bowels are not well, nothing is well. To be dyspeptic is to be miserable; dyspepsia is the foundation of fevers and diseases of the blood, liver, skin and kidneys. Dyspepsia invariably yields to the virtues of Dr. Walker's California Vinegar Bitters.

Why is a burglar like a dog that tries to catch its tail? Because he goes around after his swag.

First-Class Carriages, Wagons, Etc., at Low Prices.

Our readers will notice the advertisement of the Hotchkiss Carriage Works, of Syracuse, N. Y., in another column. This firm have the most complete and best regulated factory in the East, having all the latest machinery used in that business, and possess the best possible facilities for manufacturing first-class vehicles, consisting of two-seated Carriages, two and three seated spring wagons, Timken, Brewster, Elliptic, and four-wheel Spring Buggies, Cutters and Sleighs. This firm also make a specialty of light two-seated wagon for one horse. They use the best material in the construction of their vehicles, and sell them at very low prices, and warrant them, and we advise our readers, before buying a vehicle, to correspond with this house, as they are very particular to answer all communications and give full information. To dealers they make very liberal concessions in prices.

"Put up" at the Gault House. The business man or tourist will find first-class accommodations at the low price of \$2 and \$2.50 per day at the Gault House, Chicago, corner Clinton and Madison streets. This far-famed hotel is located in the center of the city, only one block from the Union Depot. Elevator; all appointments first-class. HOYT & GATES, Proprietors.

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After suffering with rheumatism for several years, I was persuaded to try Athlophoros, and am pleased to say that I am cured. I cheerfully recommend it. C. L. Wetmore, of Thompson & Wetmore, 151 Fifth avenue, Chicago, Ill.

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