

Women's Form Re-Shaped

A young woman walked into the office of a well-known corset maker in an Eastern city and said:

"My figure is so downright ugly that I'm a dismal failure in society. Would it be possible for you to build me up?"

The corset maker looked at her and smiled. He half shut one eye and with the other seemed to penetrate her very ribs. Finally he said:

"Oh, yes, you are possible, very possible ma'm'selle." He is a Frenchman, and he went on with all the enthusiasm of his race; "You might be worse. You have no hips or bust or symmetrical lines, but that can all be remedied."

"You don't mean it!" exclaimed the girl. "You can give me a figure that will defy my big brother's comments! That can't be possible."

"Perhaps I oughtn't to wear a corset at all," she went on confidentially. "Do you know they tell me that there is absolutely no physiological argument for the corset, that if we women could see our interiors by means of the Roengen rays, we would never put corsets on again."

"Dosh!" ejaculated the Frenchman. "Every woman should wear a corset. There are places where a corset should and should not press on the figure. The danger from wearing corsets lies in improperly made stays worn too tight. A corset that fits the form perfectly keeps it straight and holds it as it should be held. When a woman buys a ready-made gown she has alterations made in it. She does not expect it to fit her. Then why should she expect a ready-made corset to fit her? Most women think that if a corset fits the waist alone, it is a well-fitting garment. All wrong! The waist is the least important. If a woman is short-waisted she should never wear a long-waisted corset, for it throws her bust up under her chin and accentuates every fault of her figure. On the contrary, if a woman is long waisted she cannot with any degree of comfort wear a short-waisted corset."

"How should a corset fit?" asked the young woman eagerly. "I always feel like pulling my corset down. It is the most disagreeable sensation, and loads of girls and women tell me that they have the same tendency. When I was in college we counted 93 girls out of 110 one day who said that they were never free from that feeling of wanting to pull their corsets down."

"There now! There now!" broke out the authority. "You make my point for me. The corset should curve in well at the waist, and gradually slope upward, to conform to the natural swell of the figure; if not it gives the wearer that uncomfortable feeling, as if her corset always needed pulling down. The gradual curving of the hip, by continually pushing the ill-fitting stay up, causes this feeling."

"It seems to me," said the young woman, surveying her full length in a mirror critically, "that my figure swells in where it ought to swell out, and vice versa. Of course, I have padding put in all my gowns, but still nobody would take me for a Venus."

"There's where you make a great mistake," said the Frenchman; "I do not mean about Venus, but about the padding. Padding that presses down on the body prevents development. It not only arrests growth, but reduces it. Oh, if you women who have that padding put in your gowns, only knew the disastrous effect it has on your figures. I turned from a man's tailor into a dressmaker and from a dressmaker into a corset maker. I know woman's figure."

"Well, what on earth is a woman with no hips and no bust going to do if she doesn't wear padding?"

"Ah, that is where I come in," answered the Frenchman. "For years I studied these things, and now I make woman with no busts and hips look beautiful and plump; I make those with overhanging hips look not thin, but very trim and satisfactory to themselves, and it is all so easy. You see, I understand my business. I am a man; most corset makers are girls. They learn the business, set up for themselves, and after four or five years when they are just beginning to learn to find the faults in a corset that they are fitting, they marry. It's a good-by to the corset business with them, and other green girls take their places. It is not so with a man. He learns to make corsets and if he marries ten wives he does not give up the business. Then man is creative, inventive, and he is quick to see what each individual needs."

"But what do I need?" interrupted the young woman.

"You lack bust and hip development," said the authority, taking down a box holding many corsets. "For your style of figure a corset that has a spring in the bust and stands out from the body in such a way as to prevent pressure is necessary, and it assists nature. You see what a simple arrangement it is," he went on, pulling out one spring and slipping in a longer one. "You can readily imagine what a symmetrical figure that would give."

"Splendid!" exclaimed the customer. "But my hips, or rather my absence of hips."

"Oh, but I can fill that want too," he declared laughing. "Now, here is a corset I made for a woman who has the nearest to no hips of all the persons I've ever seen. Her figure is perfectly straight from under her arm down. She was well nigh crazy over her lap-sid appearance, and so I made this corset for her. You see it has

an inside belt over each hip. Two pieces of coutille about six inches broad are stitched on at the front and back of each side of the corset. These do not meet, but are laced together just as the corset is in the back, and they rest on the hips. The corset proper has a spring in it similar to the bust spring and stands out from the figure, giving a firm, beautiful hip, apparently. Do you see that woman coming out of the fitting room? What do you think of her figure?"

"If I only had one like it," sighed the young woman with genuine admiration. "She has no more hips and bust than you have. She has on one of these corsets with this bust and hip arrangement," volunteered the authority. "She is a great society woman, and is considered to have one of the finest figures among the women in her set. Funny, isn't it? One can't always tell."

"So many of your customers seem to be very stout women," remarked the young woman as three who looked as if they might tip the beam at 200 pounds disappeared into the fitting room.

"Yes, I have a great many," he answered. "I think that stoutness is the personal devil of a great many women in this world, but it can be fought and conquered as well as a lack of development. Women thus afflicted should wear a corset thus extending as far down as if compatible with the comfort of the wearer. It should fit well over the hips. Many women have greatly reduced stoutness by an improvement that is found in a belt which is designed on an exactly opposite principle from that which gives a hipless woman hips. This belt is made on the outside of the corset, and laces on the side. It can be adjusted to suit the wearer, and greatly assists in reducing size without injury to the wearer. I have one customer who has had thirteen of these corsets made to order within the last year, and she says that she has reduced her waist at least ten inches and feels much better. I don't care what kind of a shape a woman has, whether it be good or bad, I can improve it. The human figure is like a beautiful piece of machinery to me, and, while I don't know the first thing about an engine, I understand woman's form perfectly. It is a delicate business for a man to fit a corset, else more would go into the business and the women would suffer much less from ill-fitting corsets. A woman sends for a doctor when she is ill. He comes and he looks until he finds the cause of her illness. It should be that way in fitting corsets. The maker should look for the fault until he finds it, and then he should alter it. Sometimes the fault is in the figure, but often it is in the cut of the corset."

CROSSED SIBERIA.

An English Officer Makes a Four Thousand Mile Journey in Winter.

Lieutenant Colonel Waters, military attaché to the British Embassy at St. Petersburg who has just arrived in London, has, in an interview given some interesting particulars of his journey across Siberia.

Leaving St. Petersburg on December 19 he travelled by rail to Krasnoyarsk, which he reached on January 4. There he started forth on sledges for a drive of nearly four thousand miles. For hundreds of miles he journeyed night and day, with but little sleep, till Lake Baikal was reached. Crossing the lake was an exceedingly difficult matter, as the ice was in a dangerous condition, being thin in some places and heaped up in others. On January 21 he reached Khabarovsk, on the Russo-Chinese frontier, where he was laid up for a week. A month later Strylensk was reached. Here will be the terminus of the Siberian portion of the great railway to Vladivostok. In another month he arrived at Khor, where he took the train to Vladivostok, which he reached on March 23.

This journey is unique, inasmuch as it is the first time that Siberia has been crossed throughout in the dead of winter. Colonel Waters says that he experienced the greatest courtesy from the Russian officials throughout the whole route. On two points Colonel Waters has formed strong convictions. Those are the Trans-Siberian Railway and the treatment of Siberian prisoners. With regard to the former he says: "Its commercial value is immense. The line will open up both agricultural and mineral resources which, for practical purposes, are almost inexhaustible. Siberia can produce about every kind of cereal, all sorts of live stock, and it possesses in abundant quantities the more important minerals, precious and otherwise."

"The construction of a railway through Manchuria will open up a country exceedingly rich in gold and very valuable from an agricultural point of view. There are, I know, some who think that the great undertaking will affect British commerce. I am not of that opinion. Our commercial interests in Manchuria are of the slightest. It will effect commerce locally by cheapening freights and will seriously affect steamship passenger traffic."

FIGHTING BICYCLES.

Captain Gerard, of the French army, has formed an experimental company of sixty men riding bicycles, and intended for a fighting corps on wheels. The captain has invented a special form of bicycle for his men. The cross-bar is hinged so that the machine can be folded and carried on the back, when ground impracticable for wheeling has to be crossed. It is thought that companies trained to manoeuvre on wheels may be very useful in light skirmishing and scouting. Each rider carries a Lebel rifle and bayonet.

THEY DON'T KNOW IT ALL.

What is education? asked the philosopher in a grocery store pounding on a flour barrel to attract attention. Education, said an old reporter, shuddering at the sight of a grocer's big blue pencil, is something college graduates are sure he has until he becomes a newspaper man.

THE FARM.

SHOULD CALVES BE TURNED OUT.

The practice of keeping calves housed the first summer of their lives is becoming more and more general each year among progressive dairymen and beef raisers. Those who are endeavoring to find profit in either of those branches of stock raising are finding out that protection from heat, flies, and dried pasture is about the cheapest and most effective plan to adopt. No doubt one principal reason why more calves are not housed, says Farmers' Advocate, is that it would involve a certain amount of regular labor in the shape of "chores" which so many object to in the summer season; but unless we take a lively, practical, and self-sacrificing interest in our business in these times we cannot hope to reach the goal of greater profits in our business. The wide-awake and enterprising competitors who do things because they should be done and not draw the line at a point when an undertaking adds to or takes from a little of present personal comfort, are the ones that wear the hopeful expression to-day and declare that the times are mending. There is no question in the minds of those who have tried both plans but that indoor summering has great advantages over pasturing after the third week in June. So far as turning the calves out a few weeks on the fresh pasture before the heat and flies become harmful is concerned, there can be no great disadvantage, provided the calves are not less than six or seven weeks old and the pasture is abundant and of good quality. Perfect liberty at this time, along with fresh grass or clover, skim milk, and a lick of oat chop, oil cake, or the like, will start the youngsters in the way to be profitable feed consumers. So long as these favorable conditions exist in the pasture lot there is no advantage in making changes, but when the time comes that a cool, dark stable and mown clover or oats and tares would give the calves greater comfort, just at that time should such conditions be administered. This is more particularly applicable to calves that are to become beefers, because we want to sell for money some time in the future every pound of gain our feed has made and not allow any of it to be lost after being once beneath the skin. With dairy calves rapid development, when of a muscular character is very important. A stunted animal is always much less profitable than it would have been had its growth been continuous, because its digestion will be stronger and it will become a larger, better-looking beast, with greater capacity for service.

When calves have shade trees or a cool stable to protect them so that they may avail themselves of their shelter as they desire, they need not be shut up in a house as early as if these conditions were not present. The only guide should be the evident need of the calves for a change in order to give them the greatest opportunity grow and gain rapidly. A roomy box stall, having awnings of coarse sacking or the like, is a desirable place so long as it is kept clean and dry. A comfortable place to lie down is as desirable in summer as in winter, and pure air is equally as important. Watering your calves from a pail once or twice a day is not the best practice. Feeders who have fresh water always before their stock claim a great advantage for the convenience. We would advocate turning them out to graze at nights during the whole summer if practicable. The sort of feed to use is not hard to determine. Green clover, oats and tares, then clover again succeeded by corn and clover hay will follow in succession and answer well. There is no better grain for calves than ground oats, bran and oil cake. A small quantity will do a dairy calf, but an animal to be sold for beef will profitably consume a liberal supply. It is more profitable to sell a finished two-year-old than to keep him another year. The food of a year of support is worth money and we should seek as much as possible a return for the same.

We would not have it understood that clover should be fed without milk during their first summer. Six months old is young enough to wean calves off milk, and it should invariably be given lukewarm. Direct from the separator about the finest way, but if heated by adding a little oil-meal porridge the effect will be as satisfactory. No rule can be given for quantity, as calves differ so much in size and food requirements. Judgment must be used, the feeding effect observed, and the calf given enough to thrive and be active, but not too much. More calves suffer from overfeeding of milk than from scant supply. Keep the calf a little hungry and eager for more rather than fill it to dullness. The endeavor should be to prevent the beginning of indigestion, which leads to scouring and perhaps to fatal diarrhoea. Nothing causes indigestion sooner than overfeeding or irregularity in the quantity, time and temperature of the milk, especially while the calf is young. Cleanliness about the feeding vessel, with frequent scalding, is a healthful practice. We believe there is a great advantage in keeping calves separate while drinking and for a half hour afterwards to prevent sucking. If gritting the teeth or other symptoms of indigestion appear, a little lime water in the milk or a little baking soda will usually prove a correction. A point to keep in view is that the digestive apparatus needs to be developed and become accustomed to working up large quantities of food. A big belly may result, but no matter if accompanied with a well-sprung rib, a strong back and loin, depth of flank, and other marks of constitutional vigor, a big belly is to be desired, indicating capacity as a feeder and user of feeds. Long forage fodder or roughage will answer the purpose of stomach development both in capacity and power.

For the dairy a fall calf, well bred and healthfully grown, should "come in" when just about two years old, while a beef-bred steer similarly developed should be ready for the block from thirty to thirty-six months old.

HOGS IN SUMMER.

To make the most profit out of hogs it is very essential that they make a rapid growth and an early maturity, says N. J. Shepherd. We never like to feed a hog intended for meat over eight months, and generally make our meat from hogs and are younger rather than older, as the meat (if the hogs are properly cared for) is sweeter and tenderer than from older hogs. In order that pigs should grow rapidly and mature early it is very essential that the pigs should be of good breed, and then are well fed and well cared for. Both breed and feed are in a measure dependent upon each other and a combination of the two is essential to the securing of the best results.

After pigs are five months old we like to keep them in such a condition that two or three weeks of liberal feeding with a good fattening ration will be all that is necessary to properly fit them for market. The sows must of course be fed well at the start and then as soon as the pigs show an inclination to eat, they, too, must be well fed. A good way to induce the young pigs to eat is to have plenty of trough room and feed the sows milk feed made into a good slop with skim-milk. I consider this one the best and cheapest feeds that can be given to growing pigs during the summer, and given all they will eat of this, with the run of a good clover pasture, the best and cheapest growth can be secured. We feed twice a day, making it a point to feed regularly and to give at each meal all that the hogs will eat up clean. If corn or corn meal must be depended upon, feed bran with skim-milk in connection with it. Corn alone, or even corn with clover, is not as healthy or as economical a food as when fed in connection with milk feed.

We like to have the growing pigs have a fresh water every day. To be comfortable, they should have a shed under which they can lie when sleeping and be protected from rain and sun. Our plan is to maintain a healthy, vigorous growth during July and August so that if a sufficient growth has been secured they can be fattened during the cool weather of fall. It is an exceptional case when it can be considered advisable to fatten a hog during the hot days of summer or the extreme cold of winter. Our rule is, so far as it is possible, to fatten in the spring or fall, as the weather is more moderate and a better gain in proportion to the amount of food supplied can be made, and it is always an item economically. In fact one of the advantages in feeding milk feed and in giving the run of a good pasture is to reduce the cost, and in this way increase the profit. Feed all that is eaten up clean, but do not overfeed, as it is wasteful and increases the cost without a corresponding gain. With care in feeding the right quantity, having tight troughs and feeding floors, having a good variety of food so as to maintain a good appetite, keeping a box of salt and ashes where they can help themselves, as an aid to digestion and health there need be no waste in feeding growing pigs.

HORSE TALK.

If your horse has had a particularly hard drive, or has been worked until he is very tired, give him a little rest before he is fed.

Rub him well all over and give his legs particular attention. Every farmer should raise a few carrots. You can feed at least a third less oats and the horse will do better. They cost less to raise than oats, and you will have the satisfaction of having your horses in better condition at less cost.

If your horse bolts his feed put a few cobblestones in his manger or a handful of shelled corn well mixed with the oats. Low mangers are best for horses. Go slowly with the colts, do not expect them to do as much work as the old horses. Give them time to learn and develop.

Never lose patience with the colt, he will know it in one second, and your mastery over him will be gone, and a trick or bad habit may be the result. Use only the first-class thoroughbred sire of the very best type. Didn't lose sight of Morgan blood if it is within reach.

Buckle apad made of flannel and wet in cold water around the hoof. We do not like the use of oil on the hoof in any case.

HOW NAILS ARE NAMED.

Two accounts are given of the origin of the term "sixpenny," "eightpenny," "tenpenny," and so on, as applied to the various sizes of nails. According to one statement, when nails were made by hand, the penny was taken as a standard of weight, and six were made to equal the weight of a copper penny. This explanation is open to criticism on account of the very small size of the nails of which six were needed to balance even the large-sized old-fashioned copper penny. Others are much more probable. One explanation holds that tenpenny nails originally sold for tenpence a hundred, sixpenny nails for sixpence a hundred, and so on, the smaller nails selling for the lower price. Another explanation is that 1,000 nails of the tenpenny size used to weigh ten pounds, 1,000 of the sixpenny size six pounds and so on for other sizes. Of the ordinary sixpenny nails there are eighty to the pound; of the eightpenny there are fifty; tenpenny, thirty-four; twelvepenny, twenty-nine.

AUSTRALIA'S RABBITS.

Australia's rabbit plague bids fair to come to an end, owing to the large exportation of frozen rabbits for the London market. From Victoria alone 12,000 rabbits a day, or over 4,000,000 a year are shipped now.

THE NEW WOMAN.

With a Gun and a Dog Mrs. Buzzell Stands Off an Army of Suitors.

The singular case of Mrs. Addie W. Buzzell, a young woman of Clinton, is attracting much attention in Eastern Maine. Although but 34 years of age, she has been married and divorced five times. In each case she has been the libellant. Her five ex-husbands are still living, and are, most of them, neighbors of Mrs. Buzzell. She is now in sole possession of a large farm, that she tills with the aid of a hired man. Mrs. Buzzell is a very advanced type of an independent woman, and frankly states that when she has found that a husband has not come to her ideas of thrift, industry and congeniality she has

PROMPTLY SET HIM ASIDE.

She also says that she is still looking for the right man to handle her farm and make her happy.

A statement to this effect appeared in a local paper recently, and since then the woman farmer has been subject to a singular siege. From a radius of 50 miles about, suitors have flocked to Clinton. Some are farmers of a substance and standing, who want such a helpmate as Mrs. Buzzell appears to be.

One man who rode up to her door was a prominent Canadian man with about \$10,000. Other applicants have come in teams, on foot and by train.

Many are cranks who wanted to work on the farm two or three months on trial without pay. Some brought their extra wardrobe in valises and parcels; others came

IN LIGHT MARCHING ORDER.

This week the woman has been so pestered by attention from suitors, that she has hatched her yellow watchdog just outside her door. If a man braves the dog, Mrs. Buzzell lifts a shotgun across her arm, and with the self-reliance of Maine farmer women threatens to "let daylight" through the persistent suitor unless he leaves the premises.

She also receives on an average a dozen letters a day, all offering marriage. Ten men have volunteered to come and assist her in haying, without pay, just to show what kind of workers they are. So far, the woman has driven away all suitors, and has answered no letters. She secured a divorce from her husband only recently.

NOT HIS FORTE.

The Butcher Tells About a Collecting Trip He Once Made.

"I'm not a success as a collector," admitted the big, good-natured butcher who was talking with several others about the difficulty of getting what was coming to them. "I hire a man to do the dunning the year around, and wouldn't take his job with 10 acres of the best land, thrown in."

"We had one customer who ran up a big bill and was always going to settle in just a few days. My collector made this report till I got tired and out of humor. Here was a man always ordering the choicest cut of meat, having all kinds of game in season and sending back what didn't please him, yet never paying me a cent. It looks to me as though you didn't understand your business," I said to the collector one day when he came in with little money and with nothing from this particular customer. "I'll go and see that man myself, and he'll be glad to settle before I get through with him."

"I went, I was shown into a room as pretty as a picture, and was met by as handsome an old gray-haired man as ever you clapped your eyes on. He shook my hand warmly and made such a bow as you don't often see these days. He was delighted to meet me, sat down in a chair as easy as a feather bed. Then we had cigars and wine that no poor man can afford to drink. He talked better than any book I ever read, and I was in a cold sweat, because I didn't know how to get away without offending him. Then I invented a story about a cranky partner who insisted on this bill being paid, and rambled off into a long apology, and rambled off into a long apology. You never saw a man nicer about anything. He would have the money within a few days, and was sorer than he could tell if I had been discommoded. I receipted the bill, laid it on the table and told the old gentleman to pay when he could.

"As I was leaving here came one of those professional creditors who are as cold-blooded as a fish. He pitched into my host hot blocks, while the latter just stood and looked with a stern dignity that would have paralyzed me. Before I knew just what I was doing I had paid the bill and told the fellow to get out before I threw him out. I'm no good as a collector."

IMPOSSIBLE.

It is wonderful how clear a thing can seem, and still be only a delusion. Says an exchange:

A gentleman was riding on the outside of a coach in the west of England, when the driver said to him:

"I've had a coin guy me to-day two hundred years old. Did you ever see a coin two hundred years old?"

"Oh, yes, I have one myself that is two thousand years old."

"Ah! said the driver, have ye' and spoke no more during the rest of the journey."

When the coach arrived at its destination the driver turned to the passenger with an intensely self-satisfied air and said:

"I told you as we drove along I had a coin two hundred years old."

"Yes."

"And you said to me as you had one two thousand years old."

"Yes, so I have."

That's not true."

What do you mean by that?"

What do I mean? Whv, it's only 1897 now."