

# High Jinks in the English Surf

And the Dreadful Difference of Life as Viewed by American Beach Officials and "Lady Cops," Who Have Formulated Very Precise Rules.



Surf Athletics.

By Barbara Craydon

It has long been understood that Europe and America did not agree about public bathing, and about details of bathing in general. The awful promiscuousness of American bathing—with men and women tumbled in together—shocked Europe. And Europe shocked America by letting its water nymphs, though they had a separate bathing place and emerged from a "bathing machine" that backed to the very brink of the surf, throw off their capes and appear in a very brief single garment.

American ways began to creep in on the "other side," and individual initiative began to indicate that America was going to adopt the one-piece bathing suit, even in its public bathing.

But not so fast! Private bathing, it seems, is one thing and public, "promiscuous" bathing is quite another. Anyway, New York, for example, has issued its laws. Men may make these laws, but "lady cops" have been called upon to enforce them. Some astonishing arrests were made before the rules were fully understood, and heaven knows how many warnings have been quietly issued this summer!

### Scanty Attire Rebuked

Capt. Byron Sackett, of the New York police force, has declared war on wearers of scanty bathing attire at the New York beaches.

This new rule will affect the largest number of bathers in any city of the country, as Capt. Sackett has the police supervision of more than three and a half miles of beach, which includes the most famous bathing beach of Coney Island, and the more exclusive bathing places at Sea Gate, Manhattan Beach and Norton's Point.

This territory includes Brighton Beach, where the buildings housing one of the finest indoor swimming pools was burned just before the season opened this year.

Those who formerly took part in the swimming contests at Brighton Beach were permitted to wear the one-piece bathing suits, but Censor



A Sextette and a Duo.

## Here Are New York Rules for Modesty:

- One-piece suits are barred.
- A bit of sleeve is desirable.
- Stockings are safest—sometimes imperative.
- "Clings" things are wicked.
- So are transparencies.
- "V" necks (and backs) are undesirable.
- All "vamp" effects will be regarded with suspicion.



ment who planned to introduce some novelties in bathing costumes, learned even before the sea had dampened the silk of their garments, that their work was in vain. Such ingenious ideas as a few of them had solved were not appreciated by the censor's patrols.

Some of these were of a diaphanous nature, and of flesh color that clung to the skin in such a fashion as to produce a sort of natural Eva effect.

This costume was short lived. In fact, its actual existence represented the distance from the bathing house to the searching and astonished eyes of a six-foot policeman.

The Director's effect in bathing skirts is also taboo under the summer's regulations.

In these strict rules for the season bathers, it would appear that New York was establishing a moral code that even Puritanical England has not seen fit to introduce at the seaside. In Old England this summer, where convention counts for so much and tradition is a stern parent, all the scanty bathing attire that is strictly prohibited here is freely permitted there.

Not even socks afford an excuse in the New York censor's eyes for substitution of stockings. Stockings every bather must wear. They may be of rainbow hue, or the mixed colors of the Allies, but they must be real stockings. Bare legs may get past in musical comedies, but at the New York bathing beaches this summer they haven't a chance of escaping the censor.

If pulchritude must be uncovered the feminine neck only may show the uncovering.

### Questions of "Cut"

Many persons who formerly were indifferent about the pattern of their bathing suits, under the new regulations give them much more consideration. For instance, a bathing suit cut rather too large and somewhat low, will sag at an astonishing rate when it has a couple of pounds of salt water in its hold.

Sometimes this sag will effect the garment to such an extent that it straightway, by this unfortunate attitude, becomes an object of the censor's displeasure.

All these little things must be thought of in complying with the new regulations, and it is perhaps because of this exacting measure on the part of the police that bathers this season present a more uniform appearance in costume. Certainly, it must be said to the credit of the censor that this conformity to his rulings has had a marked improvement in the general landscape at the seashore.

Some young persons endeavored this season to set a new style in sleeveless bathing suits, but their efforts were likewise frustrated at the very beginning. Sleeveless costumes come under the ban of the New York censor. Many of these innovations in bathing styles were attempted by the vampire class of women, the police say, but they met with discouragement at the start.

Men may go sockless and shoeless, and they may wear one-piece bathing suits, if within conformity of the law. But although women have the vote, and have practically established themselves as equal to men in almost every phase of war work, even in open fighting, public opinion is not yet in favor of their following the lines of their brothers when they cut the pattern for their bathing suits.

As one wit remarked on the sandy beach, "Even the moon that now looks down upon the crowd by the tumbling sea wears a discreet halo."

That these regulations have in nowise detracted from the popular summer diversion at the seashore, is manifested by the vastly increased number of bathers that the early season has shown over previous years.

Above, a Quartet of British Bathers at Bournemouth.

On the Left, a Little American Jazz on an English Beach in the Costumes Now Specifically Forbidden in New York and Elsewhere.

Sackett will have none of them this year on his bathing beaches.

Although Atlantic City has just followed Capt. Sackett's example, in the announcement made by Chief Bostart, director of the beach patrol there, that sockless women bathers and one-piece suits for the summer girl are under the ban, it looks as though Coney Island, the most cosmopolitan bathing place in the country, had actually set the fashion for bathers, that even the most puritanical could not object to.

While several young women were ordered from the beach at Atlantic City, following the pronouncement against one-piece suits and stocking-less women, there have been at this writing no arrests at the New York beaches since the actual placing of strict summer regulations.

### How Offenders Are Reached

When a young woman appears at the seashore clad in a suit that does not conform to the lines laid down by the censor, she is not dragged to the police station—nothing as indelicate as that. In some cases, if it is thought the case requires it, she is reprimanded, and in any event, she is warned to leave the beach, and leave the objectionable suit at home next time she visits the shore.

Sometimes this warning is pointed out by a policewoman, as every New York beach has its women police attired in plain clothes. Or the reprimand may be administered by one of the 150 policemen under Capt. Sackett.

And besides, there are more than fifty women police reserves on night and day duty at the beaches in New York, so that it is difficult for an unconventional bathing suit to penetrate this very excellent patrol.

Imaginative girls or girls of artistic tempera-

