

## TWO TROUSERED LADIES.

Chat with the Secretary of the London Rational Dress Association.

Among the busy, moving throngs crowding the corridors of the Horticultural hall during the morning and early afternoon, writes a correspondent were two ladies, who attracted marked attention wherever they were seen. They both wore the red and purple badge which designated their foreign birth, but they wore something else which earned for them their chief distinction and made the little knots of people standing here and there nudge their elbows in their neighbors' sides and point with a significant wink to the fair couple. The garment which made the two gentle Britishers thus conspicuous was the much-maligned but ever-appreciated, awkward but comfortable, thoroughly masculine, yet getting to be sweetly-feminine trousers. One lady's wore of checked silk, while the other wore blue serge. They were—at least as much as could be seen—neither bowditchingly tight-fitting like the modern duds nor aggravatingly baggy like the dark-eyed Odalques's. They were of a highly respectable middle-rate pattern, and as the fair occupants of the odd attire moved gracefully down the main stairway of Horticultural hall the silk and serge seemed the embodiment of elastic comfort.

"Oh," said the older lady with a neat little bashful blush, as she came to a halt in the corridor, "you are a reporter, are you? Well, I'm right glad that you spoke to me. Let me introduce my companion, Miss Glenn. Elizabeth, this gentleman is a reporter. He is the first one we have met in the States, and you know in our crusade we are very much dependent upon the press. I am Mrs. E. M. King, of London, sir, and I am the honorable secretary of the Rational Dress Association. We organized three years ago and have done fairly well. Of course, we encountered many obstacles, but we only expect that. You see, we wear well-fitting trousers down to our instep. Only about four or five inches of the trousers show. Above this is the skirt, which, as you observe, fits neither too loosely nor too snugly. Our idea is to wear any sort of comfortable bodice or jacket, but never to wear stays. Comfort is our great aim. You know two things are required in dress. One is that clothing—permit me to emphasize the word clothing—should cover the body according to the body's lines. That is the chief thing. The next point to consider is the drapery, which is for ornament rather than practical use, and the drapery should be left to the individual taste of the wearer. Now isn't that sensible? You must admit it is. I am just fifty years old, but I feel just as brisk as any young woman and can jump a fence as well as a man.

"I have practiced this dress in England to see how much the public will allow without bringing down insult. The boys laugh at us there just as they did this morning on the streets. We are in perfect harmony with the dress-reform women of this country and we respect Mrs. Bloomer as a noble pioneer in the cause. But we don't believe in such radically male attire as some of the American women have adopted. We are in favor of bringing about a change, step by step. People may smile at us, you know, but that doesn't break any bones. No good thing ever comes without some one having much to put up with. We are opposed to fashion more than anything else, and take up arms against abominable France, where every idiot who chooses sets a model for foolish women to follow. Yes, I will return here to lecture on dress reform if any one asks me. Good morning, sir."

Miss Glenn, just one-half Mrs. King in age and adiposity, but somewhat longer, smiled sweetly upon her surrounding admirers during her senior's remarks, and assented to all the doctrines enunciated by the honorable secretary of the Rational Dress Association of London.



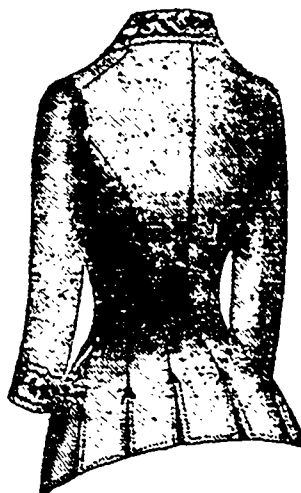
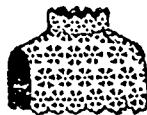
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## Leprosy in Mediaeval Times

Though leprosy in Europe generally, and Great Britain and Ireland in particular, was not due solely to the intercourse with the East brought about by the crusades—for leprosy prevailed here and on the continent centuries before the first crusade was preached—it is undeniable that there was great increase of the disease after the efforts to rescue the holy sepulchre from the infidel caused constant communication between the East and the West. Many records remain to prove the early prevalence of leprosy in different parts of Europe. For instance, the laws of the great Welsh King, Howell the Good, decreed in 928 that if a woman left her husband on account of his being a leper, she was entitled to the full restitution and sole possession of all her goods. But earlier than this, in 757, Pepin, King of France, by an edict promulgated at the council he convened at Compiègne, ruled that leprosy in either husband or wife might, with the consent of the leprous consort, be regarded as a sufficient ground of divorce, and that the husband or wife not affected could thereupon contract a fresh marriage. "Si conjugum alter sit leprosus, potest alter cum illius consensu aliud inire conjugium," &c. And, earlier still in the eighth century, we have historic proof that leprosy was common in Europe. Rotharis, the great Lombard legislator, passed a law in 643 depriving any one of his kingdom known to the judges and people to be affected with leprosy—and therefore expelled from the city—of all right of disposition over his property: "Quia in eodem die, quando a domo expulsum est, tanquam mortuus habetur." Moreover, in 594 the Council

of Orleans specially imposed the care of lepers upon the Bishops of the Gallic Church, directing that none should be left destitute in their respective dioceses; but that they should be provided with all necessary food and clothing from the funds of the church, in order that, the decree—with a tenderness in strange contrast to the manners of those rude times—continues, "non eis desit misericordiae cura, quos per duram infirmitatem intolerabilis constringit inopia." The third Council of Lyons in 583 laid a similar injunction on the episcopate regarding the lepers either born or dwelling within their jurisdiction; and it further enjoined that lepers were to be forbidden to wander through other cities than their own.

## Some Curious Contrivances by Smugglers.

The curious tricks to which people resort who deal in contraband goods shows a zeal and ingenuity worthy of a better cause. One dealer in costly lace used to run in a valuable lot through the gates of Paris, under the very feet and eyes of the officials, on the back of a little dog, who had another coat fitted neatly all over his back, which he wore with as much grace as his own hairy jacket. The lace was wound smoothly and evenly about his body, and he could carry thousands of dollars' worth in this way, and nobody be the wiser. He was a sharp little fellow and, when baffled at one gate, would run off to another, slipping in under the very hoofs of the horses as a carriage rolled along. The trick was at last suspected, and the wary dog, rather than suffer himself to be caught, took to the water, and was shot. He had a costly winding sheet of lace about him when

he came to be examined. Such a faithful dog ought to have had a better master.

There is a museum of these confiscated articles at Paris, which is now and then visited by the curiosity hunter, where there is a pile of coins, with a spool of sewing thread in each chunk; boots with French watches hid in the heels; a coffin which is filled with cigars; a huge stuffed boa-constrictor, a rent in whose side disclosed a precious assignment of valuable laces; a huge African hangs by his neck in a very ghastly fashion, but a stroke of the cane shows him to be only a sounding tin. He used to figure on the footboard of a carriage, as an attendant, and drove in and out many times through the gates of Paris. But one time, in a jam, when everybody was scolding and swearing and trying to get on, an officer present harangued the crowd of drivers and told them to take an example of equanimity from this black, who looked on so serenely amidst the tumult. Slapping the good fellow approvingly on the shoulder, he was surprised to hear him give a very metallic rattle. He was taken off to the inspection room, and found to be filled with excellent brandy, which was drawn off at the toe. They soon sampled an "armful" of the fluid, and the poor black's day of service was over.

A somewhat similar game was played on English custom house officers, who inspected a consignment to Dr. Swartz, which proved to be four African heads preserved in brandy, and also some other pickled "remains," all in "excellent preservation." They "passed," and the owners poured off the brandy from their porcelain heads and bones, and drank to the health of the sharp officials in the excellent liquor.