



WOMAN'S DOMAIN.

The Viscountess Harberton read a paper on "Rational Dress," at the meeting of the Rational Dress Society, held lately in London, in the course of which she said that during the past year she had hardly met with any expressions of approval from women with regard to their present system of dress. Most of the remarks she had heard had been denunciatory of the weight, discomfort, or dragging, or—particularly from young women—the cold, when evening dress was worn. That was most cheering, at it marked the slow but steady advance of the knowledge that women were uncomfortable in carrying out the present system of dress. After referring in detail to the objections which reformers had to the present system and to the advantages of rational dress, she expressed the opinion that the only hope of reform was to be seen in a radical change to some kind of dress in which the clothing for the legs was dual. The clothing should clearly follow the shape of the form it was meant to cover.

The Directoire gown, has been pronounced by some to be the best gown for business women, the absence of full drapery and the plain skirts prevent it from encumbering the limbs, and relieve it from the unnecessary weight which has been so serious an objection to the old styles. The custom of making many of these dresses without pockets is not a necessity. The dress with seven pockets, referred to in the article entitled "Talks About Health," is the Directoire style. Four of these pockets are made in gentlemen's vests. Two are in the upper part of the vest, one for the watch and another for a pencil. The owner of this dress has had occasion many times to exclaim, "Oh! what a comfort that pencil pocket is to me. I never before could find my pencil." Two of the pockets referred to are placed in the lower part of the vest to be used for car tickets and small articles. In the back drapery are inserted two oblong pockets, the openings of which are drawn together by elastic cord. One of these is found most useful as a receptacle for a memorandum book, the other for a card-case. Under one of the panels on the right side is inserted a long pocket to be used for the handkerchief and purse; and on the other side, hidden also by one of the panels, can be placed another pocket for keys and other articles that are not needed for immediate use.

Mrs. W. A. Cockran, of Shelbyville, Indiana, has placed her name on the roll with the great inventors of the world, the result of her genius being a practical dish-washing machine. She began experimenting ten years ago. Her husband left her financially unable for a number of years to complete her undertaking. By the aid of friends, however, she finally succeeded, and has a machine designed to do the work now done by the thousands of girls and women the land over. The machine is wonderful and intricate. It is made in different sizes, for families and hotel purposes. It is also made both for hand and steam power, and is capable of washing, scalding, rinsing, and drying from five to twenty dozen dishes of all shapes and sizes in two minutes, the number of course depending on the size of the machine. Mrs. Cockran has recently disposed of her invention to an Illinois manufacturing firm for a large sum, and will receive a good royalty on all machines sold.

Miss Amelia B. Edwards, who is on a lecturing tour in the States, gave a lecture in Chickering Hall on the recent discoveries in Egypt. This "most learned woman in the world," as she is called, is not at all formidable in her appearance, but very charming and unaffected in her ways. She appeared upon the platform in a plain black gown, with no ornament but a gold necklace of strange design. Her voice is singularly sweet, and, though not powerful, she managed it with such discretion that it penetrated to every part of the large hall. General opinion is that no one ever accomplished much in more than one direction, but here is a woman who has won fame as well as a name as a journalist, a novelist, critic, lecturer, and, greatest of all, as an Egyptologist, beside being a poet, and an artist and a musician of no mean ability. Miss Edwards is the daughter of an English officer; she early showed a taste for art and letters, and began her literary career while little more than a girl. Her first novel appeared in 1855, when she was twenty-four, and was rapidly followed by others during the next twenty-five years.

Our esteemed Chinese contemporary, the *Hu Pao*, has been investigating the origin of foot cramping by Chinese women. The practice is of very ancient date. Some affirm that it arose in the time of the Five Dynasties—that is, in the 10th century, A.D. Jao Niang, the mistress of Li Yu, the last Emperor of these dynasties, tied up her feet with silk into the shape of the crescent-moon, and all the other beauties of the time imitated her. The literature of previous dynasties do not allude to the custom. During the reign of King Hi (1664, A.D.) an edict forbade foot cramping under various penalties, the local officials being held responsible in some degree for violation of the law by people in their district. But the fashion was too strong, and in 1868, at the investigation of the Board of Ceremonies, this edict was withdrawn. It is still universal in Kuantung and Kuangsi.

MODERN ALPHABETS.

In the first half of the last century the famous impostor, George Psalmanazar, invented an alphabet for his pretended Formosan language, though he forgot to give names to his letters. Such a ruse for living on the learned public would be impossible to-day. What Psalmanazar did to maintain his personation of a converted heathen, several missionaries have done to carry on the work of conversion. Of the missions of the present century, one of the most successful is that which the American Baptist Society has carried on among the Karen tribes of Burmah. Finding no written characters in existence, the zealous agents of the Society, invented an alphabet, modelled on the Burmese, and in that they have printed thousands of Bibles, tracts and school-books. In Africa and Polynesia, the same thing has been done again and again. Some of the missionary alphabets (such as those of Evans) are more correctly described as syllabaries. The mode of writing in use in the Christian schools of the Chippewyans, Crees, and Eskimos, is, indeed distinctly so named. The syllabaries in question which differ from each other only in slight details, are of the simplest kind. The Eskimo syllabarium, for instance, consists of eleven consonants, (*p, t, k, ch, m, n, s, l, j, r,* and *x*) and four vowels (*a* long, *a* short, *e* and *o*.) The vowels are all represented by an isosceles triangle, about the size of any ordinary small capital, the differentiation being effected by the direction of the apex. With apex down, it stands for *a* long; with apex up, for *o* to the right, for *e*; to the left, for *a* short. Each consonant has, in like manner, a symbol, which makes a syllable with *a*, short or long, *e* or *o*, according as it is placed. Marks of smaller size serve the purpose of finals. Several devotional and educational books have been printed in these characters, which, when associated on the page, bear a remote resemblance to some of the vernacular alphabets of India.

One American Indian has won the fame of a new-world Cadmus—the Cherokee, Sequoyah. This ingenious tribesman, sometimes called George Guess, was ignorant of any tongue but his own, until, seeing some text-books in a missionary school, and being informed that the characters represented the words of the English language, as he heard it spoken, he conceived the idea of framing a system of writing for his own people. He began by trying to invent a sign for each word; but, that plan being discarded as too cumbersome, he finally succeeded in forming, with endless pains, a syllabic alphabet of eighty-five characters, which has won the admiration of even civilized men. Sir John Lubbock says of this remarkable alphabet:—"Sequoyah invented a system of letters, which, as far as the Cherokee language is concerned, is better than our own. Cherokee contains twelve consonants and six vowels, with a nasal sound, *mung*. Multiplying the twelve consonants by the six vowels, and adding the vowels which occur singly he acquired seventy-seven characters, to which he added eight, representing the sounds, *s, ka, hnr, nah, ta, ts, ti, tla*, making altogether eighty-five characters. This alphabet, as already mentioned, is better than ours. The characters are, indeed, numerous, but when once learned, the pupil can read at once. It is said that a boy can read Cherokee, when thus expressed, in a few weeks, while, if ordinary letters are used, two years are required."

Sequoyah would seem to have thus attained, by intuition, what the Spelling Reformers have for many years past been strenuously demanding—an alphabet corresponding with the articulate sounds of the people using it. Professor George Hermann von Meyer, in his "Organs of Speech," says that "our alphabet is nothing more than an arbitrary collection of letters, in which, on the one hand, several letters represent the same sound, and on the other, several sounds which exist as pure elements of speech are not represented at all by a special letter, but must be expressed by a combination of letters, while compound sounds, on the contrary, are given in a single letter." To remedy this defect, several schemes have been devised—the most celebrated and most successful being the Pitman system, generally associated with short-hand.

But the most ambitious and comprehensive of all alphabetical schemes is the Visible Speech of Dr. Melville Bell. "In this system," its author tells us, "no sound is arbitrarily represented, but each letter is *built up* of symbols which denote the organic positions and actions that produce the sound. The letters are thus physiological pictures, which interpret themselves to those who have learned the meaning of the elementary symbols of which they are composed." Again he says: "The system of Visible Speech is the ready vehicle for a universal language, when that shall be evolved; but it is also immediately serviceable for the conveyance of the diverse utterances of every existing language. No matter what foreign words may be written in this universal character, they will be pronounced by readers in any country with absolute uniformity." According to Dr. Bell's method, there are four simple symbols for the vowels, "from the combinations of which every vowel in every language can be expressed to the eye, so as to be at once pronounced with exactitude by the reader." In like manner there are five elementary symbols for the consonants. All the elements of each class have one symbol in common—that of the vowels being a straight line, that of the consonants, a curve. From the synthesis of these symbols, which are simply directions for the action of the lips and tongue, any letter in the alphabet may be formed. Visible Speech was first made known to the world in the summer of 1867, and has been largely studied by philologists as "an exponent of linguistic phonetics." Before that date Mr. Alex. John Ellis had devoted much time to the same subject and his treatises are highly

recommended by Professor Max Müller, in the fifth of his second series of "Lectures on the Science of Language," in which he discusses the claims of the physiological alphabet or alphabet of nature.



The scholar without good breeding, is a pedant; the philosopher, a cynic; the soldier, a brute; and every man disagreeable.

To do as you would be done by is the surest method of pleasing.

Merit and good breeding will make their way everywhere.

Wit does not take the place of knowledge.

A woman's lot is made for her by the love she accepts.

What furniture can give such finish to a room as a tender woman's face?

A shameless woman is the worst of men.

Words once spoken can never be recalled.

Music is well said to be the speech of angels.

The great man is he who does not lose his child's heart.

Flowers are like the pleasures of the world.

The reward of one duty is the power to fulfil another.

Simple diet is best.

They are as sick that surfeit with too much as they that starve with nothing.

Education alone can conduct us to that enjoyment which is at once best in quality and infinite in quantity.

The scientific study of man is the most difficult of all branches of knowledge.

No sadder proof can be given of a man's littleness than disbelief in great men.

To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die.

Mercy is twice blessed: it blesses him that gives and him that takes.

Mind unemployed is mind unenjoyed.

Each mind has its own method.

The paths that lead us to God's throne

Are worn by children's feet.

Lo! as the wind is, so is mortal life,

A moan, a sigh, a sob, a storm, a strife.

A mother is a mother still,

The holiest thing alive.

Speech is better than silence. Silence is better than speech.

Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar.

Charms strike the sight, but merit wins the soul.

The cautious seldom err.

Candour is the seal of a noble mind, the ornament and pride of man, the sweetest charm of woman, the scorn of rascals and the rarest virtue of sociability.

I am sure care's an enemy to life.

Incivility is not a vice of the soul, but the effect of several vices: of vanity, ignorance of duty, laziness, stupidity, distraction, contempt of others and jealousy.

Who knows nothing base fears nothing known.

When a man dies they who survive ask what property he has left behind him. The angel who bends over the dying man asks what good deeds he has sent before him.

And now abideth these three: faith, hope and charity; but the greatest of these is charity.

Human improvement is from within outwards.

Handsome is that handsome does.

He that has light within his own clear breast

May sit i' th' centre and enjoy bright day,

But he that hides a dark soul and foul thoughts

Benighted walks under the mid-day sun:

Himself is his own dungeon.

Mistakes are often the best teachers.

To be wroth with one we love doth work like madness in the brain.

Knowledge is the parent of love: wisdom love itself.

'Tis better to have loved and lost

Than never to have loved at all.

It is no small part of the cure to wish to be cured.

Hope is the poor man's bread.

He who has good health is rich without knowing it.

The defences of Gibraltar are not by any means in a satisfactory condition. The 100-ton gun which was displaced from its position some two years ago, owing to the platform giving way during practice firing, has not yet been replaced, and the other gun of the same calibre cannot be used, lest a worse accident should happen. The famous rock galleries are quite unsuitable for the modern heavy ordnance. Yet new batteries have not been constructed. In fact, the only benefit the Rock has gained from the special fund voted for defence abroad has been a small battery near the summit.