

clothes are so much more healthful than they used to be.

"Frankly, I am delighted with this newest importation from Paris, the harem skirt.

"From the standpoint of hygiene it is a capital innovation. In the first place, the trouser-like division gives perfect freedom of movement. But more important than that, the harem skirt will not drag going down steps, as even a short tailor-made skirt is apt to do. That is, the wearer will be freed from the collection of germs, dust and mud that is bound to gather along the bottom of an ordinary skirt. Also, on wet days the ankles will be protected from the chill caused by damp skirts rubbing against them. If all women adopt the harem skirt I believe they will be much healthier.

"Another modern innovation in clothes which all women should accept is the union underwear, at least for the winter season. Not only is it a great protection to the skin but it relieves the waist of extra bands and bindings.

"No woman who wishes to be well should wear a corset.

"The empire gown is a physiological success, hanging, as it does, from the shoulders and leaving the waist unconstricted. That must be the ideal of all women's garments of the future—absolutely no band of any sort about the waist."

"It's at the two extremities that the modern woman most risks her health," declared Dr. M. M. Vinton, of East Orange, N.J. "Her shoes are an abomination. The high heels are bad enough, but the thin soles are worse.

"The large hats are very bad for women's health, and so is the quantity of false hair they've been wearing in the last few years. The head becomes overweighted and overheated, and headaches and nervous troubles inevitably follow."

"I believe in the corset worn by the majority of sensible women to-day," frankly admitted Dr. De Witt Miesse, who comes from Pennsylvania. "It supports without constricting."

Dr. Mary D. Hussey, another representative of New Jersey, was optimistic. "Athletics are daily making women's clothes more rational and hygienic," she affirmed. "A woman is almost free to-day to choose her own style, and if she wishes she can combine beauty and hygiene in her costume. Many women do."

## United States Cities and Sewage Disposal.

The scheme for dealing with the whole of the sewage from the city of Philadelphia has been advanced a stage by the construction of disposal works for dealing with the sewage from a small portion of the city as a preliminary additional experiment before coming to a definite decision as to the methods to be adopted for the whole of the sewage. In the present case the sewage from about 10,000 people, with a daily volume varying from 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 gallons per day, is to be purified, and the preliminary treatment will consist of sedimentation in tanks of the Imhoff type. The tank effluent, after flowing into a special dosing tank, will be treated upon percolating filters by means of fixed spray nozzles, and the filtrate will subsequently be passed through effluent settling tanks where provision will also be made for disinfecting the final effluent with hypochlorite of lime. This scheme promises to be very complete and efficient in every respect. The sludge will be dried upon special draining beds, which, in addition to the usual fine material and ample under-drains, will receive a top layer of sawdust. It is intended to remove the sawdust with the dried sludge, which will then be burnt under boilers or in a gas producer.

It is a sign of the times that Imhoff tanks have been recommended for the new disposal works at Atlanta, Ga., and for several other places, by Mr. Rudolph Hering, the eminent consulting engineer, as a result of his study of these tanks in actual operation in the Emscher district of Germany. The chief reason for the adoption of the Imhoff tanks by Mr. Hering is the facility with which the sludge is dried without creating a nuisance in the actual works inspected by him in Germany. Our contemporary, the *Engineering Record*, in a recent issue, also prints an article dealing with the various methods of converting sewage sludge into marketable manure and deploring the waste which now results from the discharge of enormous volumes of crude sewage into the sea or rivers by large cities such as New York and Chicago. It is evident that the sludge problem is becoming universally acute, and as this means that a satisfactory solution is being sought in other countries than our own, we may hope to see some successful results in the near future.