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On the Bicycle.

The bicycle has come to stay. It is not a craze, one of the many that sweep through the land like the latest fashion. It has established itself among the permanent utilities. Of course, it is not equally adapted to every country, nor to every portion of any country; but wherever the roads are good and not too steep, it will more and more come into practical use.

Already bicycles and tricycles are extensively used in England as economical substitutes for horses, needing no barn, no feed, no grooming, and no medical care.

With such a machine, the pastor easily makes his calls in the most distant parts of his parish. The country doctor finds it still better suited to his needs, ready at the most sudden and urgent call, and able to wait at the patient's door with no risk from cold, however long the visit.

With its aid, too, the traveller explores the country on roads far removed from railways, and in its most picturesque parts. The bicycle must have a great future in the level West. The relation of good roads to its use is seen at Washington, where many thousand bicycles noiselessly roll over the smoothly cemented streets.

The utility of the bicycle is not confined to the more practical ends of locomotion. It furnishes a new means of valuable exercise. This exercise is exhilarating. It is in the open air, and the rider is not forced to it for his health, but drawn to it by anticipations of pleasure.

The various modifications of the bicycle adapt it to both sexes, and in many cases invalids might be pleasantly helped by it to health again. Pure air and a cheery state are often more effective than exercise or the most potent drugs.

As a rule, bicycling is less desirable than horse-back-riding; but many persons need the more quiet exercise, and many others can afford neither to keep nor to hire a horse. As for carriage-riding, it is much too passive an exercise for the needs of most, while the constrained posture is a great drawback in any case.

As compared with bicycling, walking is better for some persons, and not so good for others. Walking is far less violent exercise, but the movement in either case brings into active use the muscles of the arms, chest and back.

Most people who can have the use of a bicycle find walking too slow and irksome, and the mental state is an important factor in all physical exercise.

The German Reichstag has rejected the first part of the Socialistic bill, which provides that the maximum work-day be immediately fixed at ten hours, and that the maximum be reduced to nine hours in 1894, and to eight hours in 1898.

A correspondent writing from Sierra Leone, West Africa, reports a singular incident which occurred in that harbour on Sunday, the 22nd February. In the afternoon one of the boats which were moored off the Public Wharf was seen to suddenly start off up the river as if being carried by the tide. Some persons who witnessed the affair pursued the runaway, and on getting up to it found that the boat was being drawn along by a "seagrapple." This is really a huge octopus, and for some little time the occupants of the pursuing boat were afraid to board the other craft. Finally it was captured and towed back to Susan's Bay. It seems that it is no unusual circumstance for this description of fish to visit the Sierra Leone Harbour, and it is not the first time that they have made off with one of the boats moored there. It is said that some of the fish are of immense size, the body alone measuring from eight to twelve feet in diameter, and the legs are proportionately long.

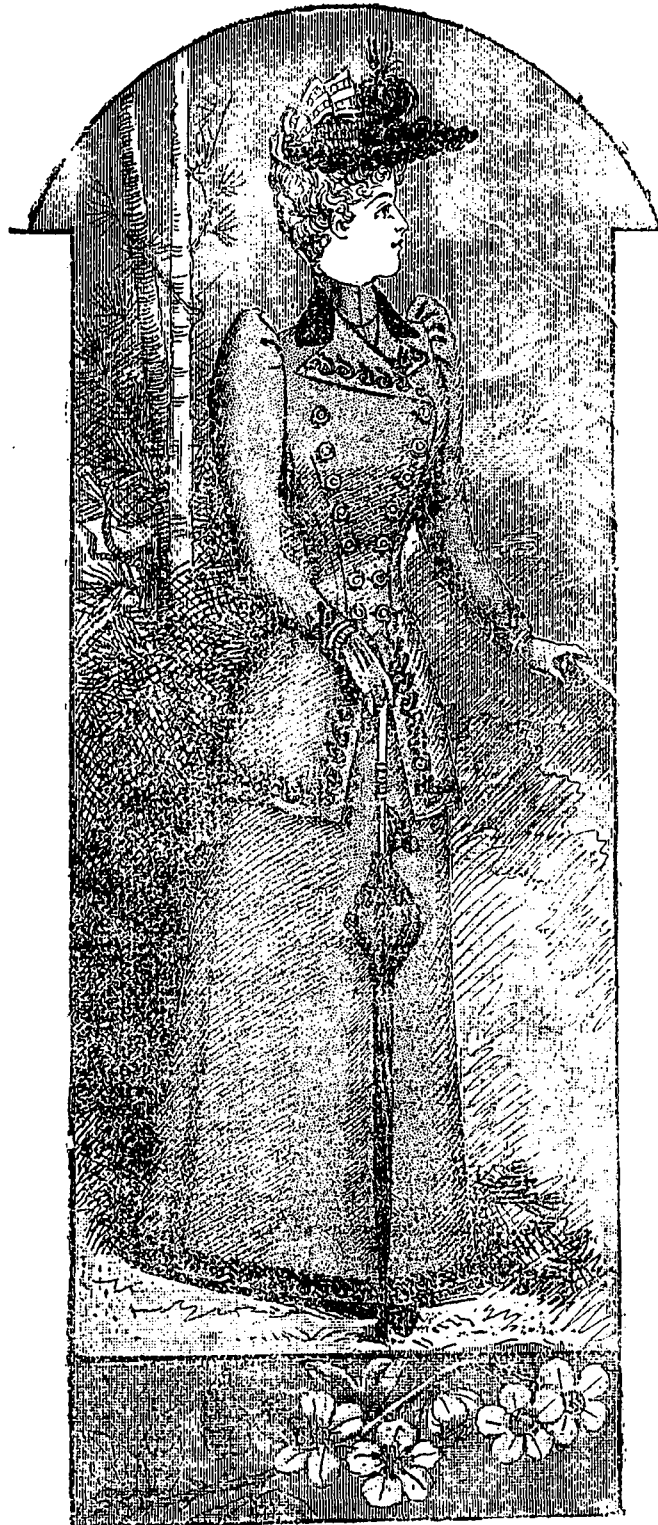


FIG. 50.—No. 4978.—LADIES' BASQUE 25 CENTS.

Quantity of Material (21 inches wide) for 30, 32, 34 inches, 4½ yards; 36 inches, 4½ yards; 38 inches, 4½ yards; 40, 42 inches, 5 yards.

Quantity of Material (12 inches wide) for

30, 32, 34 inches, 2½ yards; 36 inches, 2½ yards; 38 inches, 2½ yards; 40, 42 inches, 2½ yards.

For the medium size, 4½ yards of gimp, and for each size ½ of a yard of velvet cut on the bias will be required. This design is adapted for cheviot or any of the woolen suitings.

No. 4946.—LADIES' WALKING SKIRT. PRICE 30 CENTS.

Quantity of Material (21 inches wide) for 22 inches, 8 yards; 24 inches, 8½ yards; 26 inches, 8½ yards; 28 inches, 8½ yards; 30, 32 inches, 9 yards.

Quantity of Material (42 inches wide) for 22 inches, 4 yards; 24 inches, 4½ yards; 26 inches, 4½ yards; 28 inches, 4½ yards; 30, 32 inches, 4½ yards.

If made on the bias as illustrated, 5 yards of 42-inch material and 3½ yards of gimp will be required for the medium size.

FIG. 30.—The lady's basque shown in this extremely stylish and elegant example is made from Pattern 4978, price 25 cents, and is of the very latest fashion, and shows a pointed waist with a double-breasted front, wide, pointed revers beyond a flat collar, a round collar and a glimpse of a vest-effect being added to the flat collar displayed above the revers. The side-pieces are long in conformity to the reigning mode. The sleeves are high with the forearm tight. The graceful effect of this basque as a top makes any skirt effective, as it constitutes, in a manner, the whole tone of the costume. The fabrics used are at present the new light cloths, and among them the tan-colors, the pale olives, and Nile green are worn, and late models show Nile green associated with tan color, the first tint forming the basque and the last the skirt. The lady's walking-skirt seen in the same figure is made from Pattern 4946, price 30 cents, and is clinging and severely plain as to its front, having but few darts at the top. This shape is eminently suited to locomotion, and has a compact style, which recommends it to all who can appreciate ease in walking. The new light cloths, and woollens of all kinds, as well as summer silks and cottonsgoods, can be used for this pretty skirt.

Spots on the Sun.

Enormous fluctuations are taking place on the surface of the sun, and will be followed for the two or three coming years by spots of every variety. Their will be normal spots, consisting of an umbra and penumbra, and spots irregular in form or gathered in groups. The sizes of the spots vary from five hundred miles to fifty thousand miles or more, and they are often large enough to be visible to the naked eye. They may last for a few days, or for weeks or months. Their distribution is mostly confined to two zones on the sun's surface, between five degrees and forty degrees of latitude north and south.

Other signs of solar agitation follow in the wake of the sun-spots. Gigantic solar eruptions, known as rosy protuberances, rise from the sun's border, like tongues of flame, sometimes to the height of hundreds of thousands of miles. The earth bears witness to the disturbed state of the sun, for auroras flash in the heavens, magnetism reaches its greatest point of oscillation, and electricity takes on its most brilliant manifestations.

The sun-spot periodicity is a subject of universal interest, and little has been sounded of its unfathomable depths. It is known that the cycle is completed in about eleven years, containing a maximum of quiescence; that the spots are cavities in the solar atmosphere, filled with gases or vapors cooler than the surrounding portions; that the spots move with a varying velocity, and that the spot-producing activity has a direct influence on the magnetism and electricity of the earth.

The cause of the sun-spots, and the nature of the mysterious tie that binds together the disturbed sun and our planet, are among the problems of the future.

He—You loved me once.

She—Yes, when I was young and foolish.

He—And you rejected me.

She—Um—then I couldn't have been so very foolish after all.