

*tight lacing*, shown in the plates given in the third chapter of vol. 1.

We had almost begun to say, that could our young ladies, (and their mimetic sisters of the industrial classes), only see, even in wood-cut plates, the fearful havoc perpetrated on their God-given natural organs, and especially on their lives, by the present ruling mania of transformation of their truly æsthetic original figures into dissociate, wasp-form monstrosities, they might tremble on the brink, and resolve to content themselves with that personal outline which the Creator—has beneficently bestowed on them;—but no, it is, and ever has been, and forever will be, utterly bootless, to remonstrate against this, or any other feminine aberration. They must fulfil the behests of destiny. The rigid Darwinian law of the "survival of the fittest" demands the weeding out of all soil-cumberers, in order to afford room and adequate sustenance for the more robust and more sensible survivors. So nice, delicate, pale darlings, pull away whilst your ribs are yet pliable, reduce at once your waists and your lives to the "shortest span," and leave the field to your physical and mental betters, who know better than to squeeze the maternal zones so far away up and down into the arctic and antarctic regions. Poor liver! poor stomach! poor pent up, and crammed down colon! whither must ye drift; which way shall ye flee? Which way ye flee is, as was that of Milton's Satan—hell. We say nothing in behalf of the spleen, for though only in women is its office well understood, in them its loss would be rather salutary than hurtful.

There is one class of the medical profession who are reaping a golden harvest from female follies and maternal misdirection. These are the *Gynaecologists*. If we may believe all we hear, read, and see, there are not 500 women over 25 years of age—nor 600 girls over 14, in this city, who labour not under some form of other or uterine trouble. This evil is still more common south of the Lakes than here. It would be more common in Canada, were our practitioners more astute, and less general in the States were women there more *rally* modest.

Suggestive writers, such as Frerichs, are sure to draw their readers away into tangential by-paths. In fact no man with half a heart, or ever so little head, could read his third chapter of the 1st

volume, and inspect the plates, without being thrown into a fit of compassion towards the peninsulated heart caskets every day met by him on our thoroughfares; but they must go on and complete their work of self-immolation, for they all, and all their seniors, say the men admire small waists, and why should not all girls do their best to please and capture the lords of their destiny? Poor fools, both!

We sincerely hope that our erratic jottings will not in any serious degree detract from the reader's pre-estimate of the book now before us; but should such unfortunately be the result, the mis-adventure must be soon corrected by every one who determines to possess it, and will sedulously master its contents; and assuredly no better disposal of either his money or his time can he possibly make.

"MAN'S MORAL NATURE." AN ESSAY BY RICHARD M. BUCKE, M.D., Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: Willi g & Williamson.

Though Dr. Bucke is not so flagrant a heretic in medicine, as Dr. Poole, whose work was briefly noticed in the April number of the LANCET, we must not say that in the regions of moral or theological science, he evinces a whit less of bold insubordination than his adventurous confid e. Dr. Poole well nigh repudiated all pretensions to originality in physiological therapeutics, whilst proving to his own satisfaction, the general principles of his thesis from the writings of many eminent authors, who had failed to reach the logical conclusions which he deduced from their recorded facts and opinions. Dr. Bucke has rehabilitated, in very attractive garb, an old doctrine which has been, [though often only incidentally, or quaintly,] propounded by several eminent physiological moralists; among whom Dr. B. particularly recognizes the lamented Bishat, whose early demise was one of greatest losses ever sustained by medical science. Bishat said that "all which relates to the passions appertains to the organic life." Dr. Bucke says "the physical basis of the moral nature is probably the great sympathetic nervous system." The two propositions are essentially identical, as any person who reads Dr. B's book cannot fail to perceive.

Hardly any careful and dispassionate investigation of human actions and character, can hesitate to admit that in their development and manifesta-