WOMEN DON "PERILOUS DRESS TO ATTRACT MAN"

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London, Feb. 7. — Certain indignant clergymen are preaching and writing upon the moral menace of present-day feminine fashions in dress. They insistingly disregard the fact that women always adopt the form of vestures most attractive to the great majority of men. If masculine tastes have decided that the corset waist is becoming, women will endure discomfort, and even ill health, to gratify the caprice of their admirers.

When men admire a "glorious figure" in their Parisian and Jewish fashions, the crinoline and its modification, the bustle, are employed to correct angularity and alinement. There are many men who esteem the tottering gait of women with high heels as charmingly feminine.

Discontentions like these are obvious among the minority. We may observe the more or less eminent medical opinion by the page, and declaim eloquently upon the unhygienic and ugly fashion of the elongated heel, but the bulk of the majority opinion prevails. Women have as much men with them to behave.

Man's Taste Decides.

Many women would like to dress rationally and gracefully and to discard cramping and distorting garments. But they are opposed by the very men whom they most wish to please.

Originality and individual preference in dress are only possible for them intensely independent or wealthy woman. Men are wont to judge of woman's merit by the style of their clothing and the girl who has to earn a living knows by stern experience that aberration from the fashion of the hour is regarded as weakness or peculiarity.

In the last few years many women seem to have taken to the tyranny of custom in dressing for the sake of avoiding an improper or eccentricity or doubtfulness. They are acquainted with the standard of fitness and charm, even if it is often the revolt against unhealthy and ugly clothing.

Women's headgear is more hygienic than is usually supposed. But the hat is a snare and a delusion that demands the chemist's pet hygienist, and, at the same time, it is a conscious display of the brawn of women's dress. Let the man who wishes to gratify his woman concerns the top hat on appropriate occasions, thus proving that the fundamental principle in custom is a true friend to the other sex.

We cannot easily dispute the rule of allurement. It is biologically legitimate, and as such socially as well as morally (with certain exceptions), as we may expect it to reflect upon women.

Are we to accept the view that the licence of feminine life is founded upon the natural law of attraction and is inherently evil? If so, we ought to apply the same rule to men.

Why should men be permitted to "attract" by such devices as lavender cologne to please their mates? Fancy walocakes and other signifying devices? Even the customary habiliment of the inmates of madhouses to "attract" "young" ladies. Where shall we draw the line?

We have neither standard, genteel, faced or sober khali, possess the fastal quality of allurement. We are concerned with a very serious moral and social problem. This display of finery must be suppressed.

We shall begin the reform by forbidding the exposure of attractive vestures and pernicious embellishments in the public window-shops. Shall we appoint clerical committees to direct legislation in this matter?

How shall we elect the dress code? And what of the economic aspect? If only the poorest and most unassuming can be expected to conform, then that rule, there is a bad time ahead for several important industries.

WOMEN'S FASHIONS.

Many men believe that the only need for educating men in the aesthetics of feminine dress is a dress code, in which every element of degradation is involved. Original, beautiful and healthy clothing is costly. I know women who have tried it, and those who have told me that the wish cannot be gratified on account of the expenses.

We should have no alteration, no conformity to the prevailing fashion. Such women, with a revolutionary mind upon dress can be counted on to design that she should be earning mass of wage-earners and professional women are compelled to accept the public fashion. It is an economically lines of least resistance.

When men in mass decide what is fashionable and fashionable should not only consider the woman's dress we may anticipate greater changes. But this is Utopian. There is no other way to make the standards of attractiveness in women's garb. And here again we face with a law of impeccable Dame Nature.