

raspberry plus-fours and checkered stockings and wore Fair Isles sweaters that combine a dozen colors, it was evident that Nature was reasserting herself and that the male birds were going to resume their old gay plumage.

Philosophers are at pains to explain how such a transformation happens to coincide with the final subjugation of the American man by woman. As the world's most henpecked race, Americans are apparently determined to show their independence by a sartorial revolt. The only drawback to the new freedom appears to be its cost. The newer pajamas, shirts and socks are priced according to the scale heretofore reserved for ladies' apparel. Doubtless mere husbands will not be permitted to spend the family income for purple shirts striped with green and for ultra-violet pajamas with carmine and ochre borders.

While British statesmen and Admirals are watching the navy, the the Radio. the Advisory Committee on Spoken English is doing what it can to maintain the purity of speech as enunciated by broadcasters. It is dealing with an enemy within the gates.

In the United States broadcasters may say "av-aviation" until the pilots come home, and except for a few columnists, nobody bothers. But in England the committee sits in judgment over such matters and lately has issued another list of recommended pronunciations, dealing also with the momentous question of the extent to which vowel quantities and qualities in foreign words common to daily English speech shall be followed.

"What shall we do with 'ski,' a Norwegian word, supposed to be pronounced 'she,'" asks the committee. English already has a good word "she," whereas the combination "skee" is unused. So it informed the broadcasters to say "skee" and never mind the classicists. They are to be disregarded also who would call "o-pus" "opus," and "ephemeral" "eph-ee-meral." The full list as published in The London Times of Feb. 7 would stump the average American broadcaster.

It would take more than an Advisory Committee, even though it includes SHAW, Poet Laureate BRIDGES and FORBES-ROBERTSON, to persuade him to call our northern neighbor "Newfound-LAND," accenting the third syllable.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Antiquity of Modernism. The world does move, but a discouraging amount of the motion is in circles.

This seems to be the theme of an address to a group of schoolgirls made by Sir FREDERICK KENYON, the gentleman who is director and chief librarian of the British Museum.

He assured his hearers that even so modern a style as the permanent wave is far from new. Excavations in Mesopotamia brought to light a durable and ancient specimen in the form of a golden wig, probably considered very smart in the year 3300 B. C., but worn by a man, not a woman.

Thinking in the olden days shows a familiar present-day flavor. Sir FREDERICK told his audience that "the earliest literary work is in Egyptian and deals with the decadence of the human race."

Comment in The Manchester Guardian records surprise that the lecturer failed to mention "the celebrated case of the paleolithic man disinterred by Professor Glumpff of Budapest." The skeleton was clutching a bit of bone on which mysterious writings were inscribed. The transcription proved it to be the draft of a letter to the Aurignacian Times and to the Paleolithic Pioneer and Daily Advertiser. It expressed vehement contempt for "our young men who are content to moon round after small game like mammoths," instead of battling with a dinosaur or brontosaurus, as their fathers did.

It is regrettable that the fragment of bone containing a postscript has been lost. It railed at the modern ideas of paleolithic maidens and stated that their proper place was in the home.

A Good Word for the Tombs. In condemning overcrowding in the Tombs the State Commission of Correction only repeats what it has often said before.

It is indeed disgraceful that the warden should have to find accommodations for 669 prisoners in 419 cells. Doubling up is an evil practice, resulting from the lack of adequate facilities.

It is somewhat novel, however, for the commission to find words of praise for other features of the administration of the prison. The report says that "the general condition of maintenance and operation, particularly with regard to cleanliness and sanitation, was noted to be much superior to what had been observed at any previous visit."

It speaks well for Commissioner PATTERSON and his aides that they should be able, in spite of the handicaps under which they are laboring, to bring about this improvement.

Plumage for Men. Peacocks are coming into their own again, if the New York Cutters' Club and the advocates of sartorial elegance can have their way. The male birds of Broadway and Fifth Avenue, even though still doomed to wear suits and overcoats of conventional cut and color, are to be encouraged to go to the rainbow for their inspiration in choosing shirts, collars, neckwear, socks and golf stockings. The simpler, softer shades are taboo, and real he-men are urged to go in for colors that call out loudly.

When hardy golfers took to crushed