

that this fashion is "a little trying for the plump, the bow-legged and the ungracefully aging," but what of that?

She gives no support to the warnings that abbreviated garments invite chills and colds. Of course, they do nothing of the kind, and the warnings are issued by people, including a few doctors, who go on plausible but false assumptions, instead of observing the facts, which are that the heavily and completely covered men suffer far oftener from colds than do the lightly clad women. The Highlanders, too, might give an authoritative opinion as to whether or not bare knees are dangerous.

Mere Man Has No Defence. It is when The Spectator's informant takes up the clothing of men that she becomes really emphatic.

The men, she writes, have shown as yet next to no signs of imitating the sensible example set by the women. But just listen to this savage critic:

Their clothes are thick, heavy, constricting, and induce excessive perspiration, and exclude sunlight and air. Their long trousers collect mud and dust just as women's dragging skirts used to do. Their collars throttle the neck with its important blood vessels and nerves. Their hats are hard and tight, inducing baldness. Their kidney-exposing waistcoats are ugly.

To deny this is impossible. But even the men are manifesting the beginning of intelligence in their dress. They have at least substituted soft for hard shirts and soft for hard collars, but for Summer wear any collars at all, and cuffs, coming just where large quantities of blood pass near the surface, prevent much cooling that otherwise would take place. And even their harshest critic would have to admit that men's shoes are both more sensible and more comfortable than those of women. And the men all eschew the absurdity and the perils of high heels.

Decision Is Not for Them. Taxicab drivers and owners have a right to an opinion how licenses should be issued to them. But the public,

realizing how far from disinterested that opinion necessarily is, will be likely to hold that in this matter there are other considerations to be taken into account than the interests of the cab companies and their chauffeurs. Merely because they want a return to the dispensing of licenses by what they call a civilian, instead of by the police, is not a sufficient reason for the change.

Fairly good arguments for putting the matter in the hands of the police were made, and apparently that system is working well—at least as well as did its predecessor—but many have felt and some have said that perhaps if this large task had not been added to the many our police have to perform, they would succeed better in doing what is primarily their natural duty—preventing crime and apprehending criminals.

If the cabmen have any real grievances against the police, they are free to say so. It would be harsh to say that they are demanding a change in order to facilitate the exploitation of the public by coming under a more remote and less efficient authority than the ever-near policeman, but the suspicious will say that it does look a little that way.

He'll Soon Hear From Dublin. Now a German professor has announced the discovery that the Irish are descended from

the Eskimos! He bases his belief on what he says is the fact that in the more sequestered parts of Ireland there are people to be found of a distinctly Mongolian type of countenance and on the allegation that the Eskimos are Mongols—or were once.

He is a very venturesome person. In the first place, the Irish will be annoyed by the ascription to them of such an origin, and annoying the Irish has its perils. In the second place, ethnologists generally will tell him that the Eskimos, except for their dress, are practically the same as other American Indians. The accepted theory is that they are the remnant of some weak and unwarlike tribe that was driven away by fiercer rivals from the better hunting grounds in the South, and that they have survived in the North because there they had no competitors. However it may be as to the looks of a few Irishmen, none of them have the temperamental characteristics of a people who preferred running away to fighting.

That the Eskimos do share some facial peculiarities with the Mongolians is true, but the same thing is true in a degree of all American Indians, and that they all originally came from Asia by way of Alaska is a theory as plausible as any other.

But perhaps the German professor just wanted to start something, the world being tiresomely quiet at present. And if the professor is a Prussian, the Irish can get back at him by saying that he is not a German at all, and very likely as much Tartar as anything else.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

And the Fact Is That She's Right. In a recent issue of The London Spectator there appears an article "by a woman," in which the present

modes of dress by the two sexes are compared, altogether to the advantage of the fairer. A German professor recently had the happy thought of weighing the clothing of his assistant and that of his assistant's wife, with the result of finding that the man's shoes alone were heavier than all the woman had on. From this the author of the article goes on to praise feminine dressing and commends it as approaching closely to perfection from both the esthetic and the hygienic points of view.

As for its propriety or morality, she hardly thinks that worthy of discussion and along that line only says that the general display of stockings nowadays has turned legs "into things of beauty for every one, instead of objects of curiosity for the unprincipled." She admits