

Comparative measures made in the cases of 25 of these young women showed that before the adoption of loose garments their average waist measure was 23.3 inches. Since that time there had been an increase in waist proportion to such an extent that the average waist measure at the time the measurements were taken was 27.15 inches. The proportion of waist to height in these 25 young women had increased by the change of dress from 37.3 per cent. to 43.4 per cent., and the waist measure had gained 3.85 inches, or 6.16 per cent.

I recently secured the measurements of 10 girls between the ages of 9 and 12 years, and found the average waist measure to be 23.5 inches.

From these facts is it not evident that the small waist of the civilised American woman is a deformity? Can anyone assign a physiological reason why the civilised woman should have a smaller waist than the savage woman, or why Mrs. Langtry's waist measure should be 26 inches instead of 32? Certainly no other reason can be given for the abnormal waist of the civilised woman than the fact that this portion of the body has been subjected to abnormal pressure in such a manner as to prevent natural development.

If, in answer to the question why the civilised woman of to-day has a smaller waist than the beautiful women of ancient Greece, whose figures furnished models for the sculptors whose masterpieces modern artists have sought in vain to equal, it is said that the change observable is a product of evolution, or a result of civilisation, may we not pertinently inquire why a similar change is not to be found in the modern man?

Two other pertinent questions may be asked in this relation:—

(1) Why does the civilised woman require a smaller waist than the civilised man? Certainly no physiological reason can be given, and well-known anatomical facts suggest that if there is any natural difference in proportion, woman requires a larger waist than man. She has a larger liver in proportion to her size and weight than man, and the exigencies of motherhood require provision for an increase in waist capacity to which man is not subject. It is interesting to note also in this connection, that the waist proportion of the Venus de Milo, who may be considered as the typical woman of the ancient Greeks, is 47.7 per cent., while that of the average Grecian man already shown is 46.4.

We can draw but one conclusion from these considerations, namely, that the small waists of the women of modern times, are an abnormality. My tables also show the average modern feminine waist to be nearly 2 per cent. larger in proportion to the height than the modern male waist, when it is allowed a chance for natural development.

(To be continued.)

Mr. Passmore Edwards has generously offered to build a Convalescent Home for the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, provided that a suitable site can be obtained by the middle of October. A sum of money has been bequeathed to the hospital which can be used towards the maintenance of the Home, and the Committee are therefore appealing for some kind friend to present a site. A convalescent home in connection with a hospital is such an inestimable boon to the poor sick, as affording them the physical rest and "toning up" after their illnesses, which it is well-nigh impossible for them to get in their homes, that it is hoped some kindly person will be forthcoming with the needed piece of land.

Nursing Echoes.

* * * All communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W.



It is well known that the Queen and many other members of the Royal Family are excellent needlewomen and hard workers in the cause of charity. During the late Egyptian campaigns Her Majesty and the ladies of her household occupied themselves in knitting quilts which, at the conclusion of the war, they sent to Netley Hospital for the use of the wounded. One of these, bearing the initials V.R., every stitch of which was worked by the Queen's own hand, was the coverlet *par excellence* of the establishment, and in universal demand. In assessing the claims of the candidates for the honour of wearing it, the doctors naturally gave the precedence to the most severely wounded, and as the most severely wounded was the one most likely to die, very soon, alas! an evil omen attached itself to the distinction, the climax of which was reached one night when a poor soldier, feeling someone touching his bedclothes, woke up with the perspiration pouring down his face, and cried out; "Oh, sir, do what you like with me, but, for God's sake, *don't give me the quilt!*"

* * * AN amusing story is told of the struggles on the part of a Tipperary convalescent at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Southampton water, to address the Queen, who was paying a visit to the Hospital, in terms suiting her rank and position.

* * * The Royal Victoria Hospital is situated on Southampton water, within view of Osborne. The late Prince Consort took a great interest in it, and the Queen, since her widowhood, has been unremitting in her attentions to her suffering soldiers there. There is always great pleasurable excitement among the patients before a royal visit, though it is occasionally tempered with apprehension. One big Tipperary man lived in a chronic state of fright of

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