THE FASHIONS.

The Cure Worse than the Disease-A Useful Substitute for Stays - A Costly Matronly Reform-The Catalane Bonnet - Promeunde Dresses and, Latest

Panis, September 28 .- There is a carjeature which your readers may have seen, showing a man who is sea bathing, when suddenly all his man who is sea bathing, when suddenly all his pleasure is destroyed by a young crab fastening on his leg. A friend standing near the sufferer (let us doubt the sincerity of his affection) advises him to run home, plunge the crab, leg and all, in a pail of boiling water, the effect of which, he supposes, will cause that over-attached member of the crustaceous family to

drop of its own accord.

What he supposes will happen to the leg is not a matter of consideration. This is but a caricature, and the moral drawn therefrom is evidently that in some cases prescribed remedies are worse than the evils human flesh has to bear with. This little crabbed story, in which philosophical reflections take one by surprise, is but a preface to a communication concerning the fashions, a kind of preliminary to the unpleasant obligations I am under of stating the existence of a great evil among ladies. It is almost as painful to dash into such a subject without some introduction as it would be to scorn stairnesses, and leap from the attic to the cellar. But cases, and leap from the attic to the cellar. But with all my diplomacy and attempts at transi-tion, I find the crab is no help, as I am, by the force of example, evidently going backwards. I will therefore rush straight from Scylla to

Charybdis.

Now that I am prepared for a whirl, the matter in question is, firstly, a pair of stays. It looks antiquated, it reminds one of a piece of armor; moreover it is spoken of as a pair, as if one article of eress could be two, and altogether the absurdity of the whole affair condemns its existence, and stays are considered preposterous. At first they were gently taken in hand, but they soon underwent every kind of treatment, i. c.. torture. At length a very slightly built, slender declared they were useless, barbarous, thug-like, and, to prop up her argument without stays, she affirmed that none of the Grecian matrons would ever have worn them, and yet, what models of perfection! What forms! What moulding! This appeared very wise and true, a few statues were consuited, and stays were disearded; but what was the consequence? That is a query which the most eloquent could never answer without a vast deal of circumlocution or delicate wording, but as tashion writers are not troubled with oratory, I can exactly state what

did happen.
Fat women did not look well at all under the Grecian system; there was an evident roll about their figures, a redness in the face which I am their figures, a redness in the late which I am told was produced by the cutting of strings, and I readily believe the fact—a something, whatever it was, as indicative of Rubens as of a florid fishwife. It could not be kept up, they all said; but the point is, that ladies who do not suffer from corpulence are still keeping up the fashion, and I consider the remedy applied to stays as bad as the steel basks complained of

Learn, then, O ye followers of Greece, that a staysband has been invented, and is already adopted by our elegantes. It is very suitable to our present style of dress-it is low and clastic, fits the figure like a glove. It is healthy, which is more than merely pretty, leaving every part of the body, with the exception of the waist, entirely free. It is indispensable to stout ladies and adds a certain roundness to the less favored. To this band lies the secret of Parisian grace, Parisian fit, Parisian etceteras, of which American daughters have as large a portion as the rest of Eve's children.

Secondly. The remedy to the evil of no hair is the over-done chignos. There are pretty httle heads hidden under a great deal too much

httle heads hidden under a great deal too much of it, and a pretty little head with a due proportion of brains in it ought not to be concealed under oceans of coil, curl, and twist; for the effect produced is too heavy.

Thirdly, I will speak of the neglige evil which a French husband reviled, and which a French Comtesse remedied in a way that would reconcile any thinking husband to a legion of minor evils. The Comtesse in question was slovenly in her own home, and dressed extravagantly for the Bois. She one day went from her bedroom to the breakfast table in such attire that a stranger having, by some extraordinary circumstance, burst unexpectedly upon the family stance, burst unexpectedly upon the family party, the Comtesse had to leave the room with hands upraised over the most complicate skewering of plaits in hairpins, which crimp locks by night and cause them to wave luxuriantly by day. The Comte looked on, and when re-nection reurrned he did not feel that his wife's morning appearance was a pointed compliment to himself, and he reasoned that if she objected to being seen by a stranger when en neglige she ought not show her husband less attention; he therefore pondered it over, and, in the course of therefore pondered it over, and, in the course of the day said:—"Vitalie, my love, couldn't you buy a nice morning robe and a pretty little neglige cap for the early hours?" Madame was piqued, but she said, "Yes, I will." The carriage was ordered, and selections made for, not one robe, but a collection of morning robes, which were sent in with accompanying neglige caps—and bills. Vitalie entered the breaklast-room next morning in a lovely musin peticoat frilled round the bottom and edged with Valenciennes, a royal neglige robe a la princesse, of light pora royal neglige robe a la princesse, of light por-celain blue cashmere, richly worked with shaded yellow silk palms and tassels. It was quilted with the lightest yellow silk, and a little square piece of lace fell over her hair, which had been dressed for the day. The Comte was somewhat astonished, but as he had not seen the bill and Vitalie really did look very pretty, he compliwitalie really did look very pretty, he compli-mented her on her exquisite taste, and thought as much of her as if they were both again in the first quarter of their honeymoon.

The second day, just as the "coteleties a la Maintenen" were making their entry, Vitalie appeared at the opposite door "a la Pompadour," with just a little powder in her hair, and a pink cashmere sack Louis XV, all cut in one flowing robe from the shoulders down to the ground, and lined with the lightest blush of a rose. It was open in

was open in Front, showing a petticoat which was one ladder of Valenciema irills on insertion, and a round star of blonde on the top of her head with a pink and blue rosette on one side, gave her face the most defying and fasci-nating taunt that ever husband beheld. She had not forgotten to stick a disainutive patch of

court-plaster above a dimple on her right cheek. It was too bad.

"Upon my word!" exclaimed the admiring Comte; but that was not all he said, for the cotelletes got cold before he had done.

The third day was to be the bouquet. Vitalie was down first; the sun was shining brightly, and she was reading her letters at the open window, when the Courte entered the diplograph. dow, when the Comte entered the dining-room.
She was dressed in a very pale green silk robe that hung somewhat loose, and there was a scarf cut in two hanging down behind from the scarf cut in two hanging down behind from the neck; all the facings were trimmed with swansdown, and the same encircled the armholes of her wide medieval sleeves. Her hair was bound with green ribbon bands worked with sliver thread, and lace lappets fell over her chignon. The Comte was completely dumblounded and produced something extempore, which Vitalie put an end to by handing him her bills on a plate. And they were bills! Vitalie looked on till her husband's face spoke volumes, but his lips remained speechless. I can only say there was a little procession of naughts at the bottom of the fatal paper that did not stand there for nothing.

vitalie, who was not a bit afraid of her husband, finding prolonged silence uncomfortable, began to say she had done what she was told. "If people are to look pretty of a morning," she continued, "of course it comes very expensive, there being no gaslight to set off one's beauty.

Moveing robes are much more extravagant than
ball dresses; that is why I have always wanted
to be economical till I was told I did not care

for my family."
Vitalie did not speak the truth, but she looked as if she was going to cry, and nothing more was said about the naughts, but from that day lorward the Comte never meddled with his

We have a few novelties in the accessory line —necktles with worked breech-loaders, paletot-sacks in white cloths, belts with painted profiles on squares of gros de Naples, little white bolero

wests embroidered over with black jet, and made without sleeves to put on under paletots which are not yet worn. The catalane bonnet is square behind, and round in troit. Tee full blown lea-ruse in the favorite flower are ruby colored velvet Watteau hats. Mother-of-pearly ornaments and trimmings are used in protusion. Boots are even more costly; in fact, feet are now set in boot mountings, as if they were jewels. Every material is worn on the promenades—some dress for the sun, some for the rain, some for both sun and rain. Three narrow plisses round under petticoats are preferred to a deep one.

A BEAUTIFUL TRIBUTE TO A WIFE.

Sir James Mackintosh, the historiae, was married to Miss Catherine Stuart, a young Scotch lady. After her death he thus depicted her character in a letter to a friend:—"I was guided in my choice only by the blind affection of my youth. I found an intelligent companion and a tender friend, a prudent monitress, the most faithful of wives, and a mother as tender as children ever had the misfortune to lose. I met a woman who, by tender management of my children ever had the mistortune to lose. I met a woman who, by tender management of my weaknesses, gradually corrected the most per-nicious of them. She became prudent from affection; and though of the most generous nature, she was taught trugality and economy by her love for me. During the most critical period of my life, she relieved me.

"She gently reclaimed me from dissipation; she preneed my weak and irresolute nature; she

propped my weak and irresolute nature; she urged my indelence to all the exertions that have been useful and creditable to me, and she was perpetually at hand to admontsh my heed-lessness or improvidence. To ter I owe whatever I am; to her whatever I shall be. In her solicitude for my interest she never for a monocitude for my interest she never for for my interest she ment forgot my feelings or my character. Even in her occasional resentment, for which I but too often gave her cause (would to God I could recall those moments!), the had no sullenness or acrimony. Her feelings were warm, nay, impetuous; but she was placable, tender, and constant. Such was she whom I have lost, when her everlient actural conservations. constant. Such was she whom I have lost, when her excellent natural sense was rapidly improving, after eight years' struggle and distress had bound us fast together and moulded our tempers to each other; when a knowledge of her worth had refined my youthful love into friendship, and before age had deprived it of much of its original ardor. I lost her, alas! the choice of my youth, the partner of my misfor tunes, at a moment when I had the prospect of her sharing my better days."

Change in the Fashions in France.—It is be wildering, and almost ridiculous, says the Lonwildering, and almost ridiculous, says the London Queen, "to note the change which inshion has of late wrought in the appearance of French ladies. During the last six weeks there has been a collapse; all the women who strictly follow the fashions appear to have suddenly shrunk, and, to outward appearance, have grown both thinner and shorter. This is all owing to the decrease in width of both crinoline and petticoats, and the decrease in length of all out-door dresses; for it is an undisputed fact that a trained skirt adds considerably to the apparent height of the figure. Stiff, with all their graceful folds and sweeping lines, no sensible woman will regret the disappearance of the absurdly long trains and sweeping dresses which have been worn during the past two years in the streets, for they proved so exceedingly inconvenient and uncleanly. The new fashion is infinitely more reasonable, for it leaves the trains for drawing reasonable. drawing-rooms, and insists on short petticoats in the streets and promenades."

Medical Prescriptions Through the Atlantic Cable.—The London Lancet says:—'Amongst the uses to which the Atlantic cable has been put is one which would hardly be anticipated. A correspondent communicates to us a telegram which he received from a patient who, being seized with a renewed attack of illness from which he had suffered in this country, and for which he had been successfully treated, tele graphed to his old medical attendant for directions. These were returned by the same channel without delay, and we hope they have prospered, and that the proper remittance will icllow by an early packet. This prescrip-tion will rank among the curiosities of tele-

Greek Mines .- The silver mines of Sunium, in Greece, after a lapse of two thousand two hur dred and ninety-four years, are now worked by a French company, principally for the produce of lead. The works employ continually four hundred workmen, and work seven furnaces. From ten to twelve British vessels take the coal required, and bring to England cargoes of lead.

How Lead Pencils are Made -Great quantities of pencils are now made in England of a composition formed of sawdust and small pieces of black lead, which are ground to an impalpable powder, mixed with some cobesive medium. In Keswick, 250,000 pencils are made in a week, or 13,000,000 a year, and 12,000 cubic feet of cedar are annually consumed. are annually consumed.

American Guns and Cannon for Europe -The Colt's Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company, Hartford, Conn., have received an order for the manufacture of a thousand needle-guns, con forming in all respects to the famous needle-gun of Prussia. The Company have also an order for the production of one hundred revolving cannon, at a cost of \$100,600.

A Tenor.—Another English tenor, Mr. Morgan, who during the last few years has been studying and singing in Italy, is announced as

about to return to his native country. Verdi's New Opera —M. Verdi has just terminated the fifth act of his new opera, Don Carlos, now in preparation at the Grand Opera,

Meyerbeer .- A piano-forte score of Meyerbeer's fruensee music is about to be published.

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Analytical Chemis Boston, March 7,1859

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