

AMERICAN BEAUTY.

COMPARATIVE MEASUREMENTS OF GIRLS IN TWO CITIES.

The California Young Maiden Is Claimed to Be Nearer Perfect as to Form Than Her Sister in New York—Interesting Comparisons as to Feet.

A sculptor's ideal of beauty is evolved on mathematical principles. A perfect woman is 7 or 7 1/2 or 8 heads tall; her shoulders are two heads wide; her legs are 3/4 to 2/3 heads long; her waist is 3 heads in circumference. But the size of heads varies in women who are equally perfect in shape; the head of the Venus de Medici is nearly one-eighth less in proportion than that of the Venus of Milo or the Cnidian Venus of Praxiteles, which was esteemed by the ancients the most perfect statue in existence. The Medici Venus is a slim, slender girl, whose proportions resemble the statues of Psyche. Living reproductions of her are more frequently seen in New York than here.

There fell into The Argonaut's possession a list of measurements of the proportions of a young lady of San Francisco, who is looked upon as being beautiful and having a fine figure—in short, a typical California girl. With these we have compared a similar ground plan of a New York girl which we secured at the time Professor Sargent was collecting statistics concerning the young women in eastern seminaries; likewise the measurements of Ballow's well known ideal beauty. They compare as follows:

	California	New York	Ballow's
Height	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2
Length of head	9 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2
Circumference of bust	35	35 1/2	35
Circumference of hips	35	35 1/2	35
Circumference of waist	24	24 1/2	24
Circumference of neck	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Width of shoulders	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2

The weights of the first and the last are between 130 and 135 pounds, while the New York girl weighs about 120. Polydorus, an old Greek sculptor from Licyon, left rules governing the relative proportions of the female frame. He said that twice the thumb was once round the wrist, which it is not, unless the thumb is unusually large and the wrist unusually slender; that twice the wrist is the size of the neck, which is about the case in a well proportioned woman; that twice the neck is once round the waist, which is about so. But he also says that the hand and foot and face should all be of the same length, which is very rarely the case, and that the body should be six times the length of the foot, which would limit most men, whose feet average ten inches in length, to a stature of five feet. The gentleman from Licyon is evidently not a trustworthy guide.

Referring to the above table, it will be observed that the waist of the New Yorker is much smaller than that of the other two. The fashion of small waists is the rage in the east, and the desired result is obtained by tight lacing, which is carried to such an extent that the physiognomist is lost in amazement as to where the lady has bestowed her vital organs. No statue in existence exhibits such a disproportion between the waist and those portions of the trunk which lie above and below it. The compression of the girth is a mere fashionable fad which good taste must condemn. Our California girl wears a 24-inch corset, which might easily be reduced to a 23-inch if the wearer saw fit to sacrifice comfort to eastern fashion. There are belles in New York who are not satisfied till they have squeezed themselves into a 17-inch corset. Such persons, it would seem, would have enjoyed the Scottish boot.

The bust and hips should, in a perfectly formed woman, be exactly the same in circumference. They are so in Ballow's ideal, in the Venus of Milo, in the Cnidian Venus and in the California girl. In the New Yorker the circumference of the bust is half an inch greater than that of the hips, which is probably the work of art, not nature.

Ballow does not give the dimensions of his ideal's feet or hands. He merely says that they are "in proportion," which is rather vague. The rule among sculptors is that the foot should measure one head, which is unsatisfactory, as some large women have small heads, and some small women large heads.

The female foot is probably smaller in New York society than here, for the simple reason that it has less to carry. Shoemakers say here that they sell more 4 and 4 1/2 shoes than any others, but many ladies in society buy 3 1/2, 3, and even 2 1/2 shoes. The knights of St. Crispin do not believe in the sculptor's rule about feet. They say that small feet, like large wits, are a gift from heaven, and may be found attached to persons of any dimensions. Everybody has observed that there is no necessary connection between the hands and the figure; that some slim girls have large hands, and some girls with opulent figures small hands and fingers.

Take all the measurements together, and the conclusion is forced that the Californian girl more closely resembles the Cnidian Venus than the Venus of Medici, and that a representative Californian statue should be cast after a study of that masterpiece as well as of the Venus of Milo and the Venus Callipyge.—San Francisco Argonaut.

The Worthy Novel.
The novel that is worthy of the name, and which is calculated to render a broader service than the pecuniary compensation of its author, is the one which takes the problems of life as they present themselves to us, and by the example of the characters portrayed teaches us the way to their proper solution; that presents us with types of manly and womanly character that may inspire the reader to emulation of their excellences, and that is withal a natural, helpful, concrete story of a life of lives. Such a novel is worth all the literary freaks that ever have been or ever will be produced.—Donahoe's Magazine.

Mr. Hill's Influence in the Senate.
Mr. Hill's influence in the senate is very much greater than is generally believed, though it may not be strong enough for a contention with the administration. In a measure Hill has taken the place of Gorman in the senate. All the friends that Gorman lost in Chicago Hill gained, and this gives him sufficient power in the senate to make himself quite disagreeable to the administration if he desires to do so. The assumption, however, that he is going to put on a coat of war paint and carry a bowie knife in each boot and a brace of six shooters in view does not give sufficient credit to his discretion and skill as a political wirepuller.

Notwithstanding the bitterness of feeling which is provoked by the New York senatorial fight, it may be depended upon that Mr. Hill will not appear in the senate in the attitude of an open opponent of the administration. There is good reason for believing that Mr. Hill will not only decline to pose as the leader of an opposition, but in spite of all the affronts he feels have been put upon him he will support the administration in most matters. Where trouble is looked for by those who are skimming over the surface is with relation to the confirmations. There is a notion of some people that Hill will make a fight at every opportunity. They are probably mistaken. Men who are pretty familiar with the situation and know Hill very well believe that he will follow no such line of policy, but will approve everything and every person passing his test of Democracy.

It is believed the only thing Hill has in view is to stand on guard to prevent the preferment of Mugwumps. His test of party qualifications will not be personal support of himself. But he hates a Mugwump.—Washington Star.

A Supposed Cholera Victim Alive.
In the beginning of September a doctor went from a small German town to Hamburg to assist among the cholera patients. Five days after arriving there news reached his home that in following his profession he had fallen a victim to the deadly disease. His previous thriffler career was immediately forgotten, he was mourned as a martyr and all sorts of laudatory compositions were dedicated to his memory. A lady to whom he had been betrothed was among the mourners.

A sensation has been caused in town now by the news that the young man's mother has received a letter from America in which the son who was supposed to be dead informs her that he is very well, and explains that while at the hospital in Hamburg he had placed his card in the pocket of a man who had died of cholera, and who, resembling him in features, was buried as the doctor.—London News.

Married at the Head of a Coffin.
Mourners who gathered at a funeral in Elmhurst saw a remarkable sight. In the coffin in the parlor lay the body of Mrs. Lucy D. Clay. Friends and relatives were seated about. The Rev. T. J. Collins, of Scanton, was there to preach the funeral sermon. Just before the time set for the services to begin A. B. Clay, a son of the dead woman, walked into the room leading Miss Lillian Snyder. These two were lovers, and they there requested the Rev. Collins to marry them. When young Clay produced the required certificate the preacher consented to perform the ceremony. The bride and groom took their places near the head of the coffin and, with the mourners for witnesses, they were pronounced husband and wife. Then the funeral services went on.—Cor. Philadelphia Record.

Great Sport for Women.
I have followed many a fascinating sport, but if womankind desires a pastime that will intoxicate her brain with healthy excitement, that will give her carmine cheeks and make her heart grow young once again, let me recommend to her, from a most delightful experience, the inimitable outdoor sport of ice-boating, and let me also tell her that she has not lived and therefore is not ready to die unless she has had at least one trip on a stretch of crystal at a mile a minute.—E. Pauline Johnson in Outing.

Too Prompt in His Application.
One of the most interested parties in the late Connecticut River road deal was a former superintendent of the Central New England and Western. When it was first reported that the River road had gone into the hands of the consolidated road this gentleman sat down and wrote President Clark asking for the superintendency of the new acquisition. After mailing the letter he bought a newspaper and read of the unexpected turn affairs had taken and the control of the road passing into the hands of the Philadelphia and Reading, the company that had ousted him once. Now he's sorry he wrote.—Hartford Post.

An Error.
It was either the precise telegraph operator who objected to abbreviations, or the intelligent compositor or telegraph editor who filled in the omission of the unintelligent operator, but the Butte Inter-Mountain the other day paraded Mgr. Satolli before its readers as "Manager Satolli," and thus set him forth in heavy black display type at the head of the column too.—New York Sun.

Statistical.
A stranger from Michigan asked a citizen a few days ago what crops were best adapted to the soil and climate of this section. The citizen's reply was, "Rabbits, free niggers and mortgages are the surest crops in this country."—Vienna (Ga.) Progress.

A landslide at Stielacom, Wash., is said to have revealed a number of coins, ranging in denomination from five to twenty dollars. It is supposed that the money was buried in the bank some years ago by a man named John Lock.

A woman has applied for a separation from her husband on the ground that he married her while she was under the influence of hypnotism.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ASTRONOMY.

Without Instruments Ancient Astronomers Kept Track of the Heavens.
We find in the table at the Ramesseum distinct references to the bull, the lion and the scorpion, and it is also clearly indicated that at that time the Sirius rose heliacally at the beginning of the rise of the Nile.

This word heliacally requires a little explanation. The ancients, who had no telescopes and had to use their horizon as the only scientific instrument which they possessed, were very careful in determining the various conditions in which a star could rise. For instance, if a star were rising at the same time that the sun was rising it was said to rise cosmically, but unless certain very obvious precautions were taken the rising star would not be seen in consequence of the presence of daylight.

It is quite clear that if we observe a star rising in the dawn it will get more and more difficult to observe the nearer the time of sunrise is approached. Therefore what the ancients did was to determine a time before sunrise in the early dawn at which the star could be very obviously and clearly seen to rise. The term 'heliacally rising' was coined to represent a star rising visibly in the dawn—therefore before the sun. Generally throughout Egypt the sun was supposed to be something like 10 degs. below the horizon when a star was stated to rise heliacally.

We find then that more than 5,000 years ago the Egyptians were perfectly familiar with these facts, and the difference between a cosmical and heliacal rising was perfectly clear to them. But the table at Thebes tells us, moreover, that the sun's journey in relation to some of the zodiacal constellations was perfectly familiar 5,000 years ago.

These then are some of the more general statements which may be made with regard to the most important points so far discussed by those who have dealt with Egyptian astronomy, and it may be added that all this information has come to us in mythologic guise. The various apparent movements of the heavenly bodies which are produced by the rotation and revolution of the earth and the effects of procession were familiar to the Egyptians, however ignorant they may have been of the causes. They carefully studied what they saw and attempted to put their knowledge together in the most convenient fashion, associating it with their strange imaginings and with their system of worship.—Nineteenth Century.

Sarah Bernhardt Is Disturbed.
Sarah Bernhardt is in a great state of mind just at present. Her reckless son, Maurice, has squandered all of his own fortune and not a little of hers at bacarat, and as his independent little wife refuses to support him any longer they have quarreled and separated. Then business has not been exactly successful of late with the actress. Several of her ventures have not been rich in results. Finally they have bartered her Cleopatra, and represent the divine as mildly dancing and singing "Ta-ra-ra Boom-de-ay," and Sarah doesn't like it a bit. One can fancy the choice but untranslatable variety of French profanity with which the great tragedienne discusses this succession of misfortunes.—Exchange.

About the Spelling of Words.
The Springfield Republican has adopted the disagreeable trick of spelling certain familiar words ending in "gue" without their full complement of letters. In reviewing a new book a few days ago it says, for instance, "The author excels in bright and amusing dialog," etc. It always fatigues us to see such vulgar liberties taken with our native tongue, and we think it as much of a crime for a literary man to cut off the end of a word as for a roger to cut off the end of a pig's tail, for instance. Form is to all printed language what brog is to the speech of the Irishman, and a plag, we say, be on the man who would deprive either of its natural charms.—Charleston News and Courier.

Dentistry and Diplomacy.
We notice that the United States legation is doing duty as a dentist's office and consul general's court. This no doubt is another good stroke of business which kills two birds with one stone. But what if the White House were let out in part to a publican? The American legation is national property and ought not to be converted into drug stores or dentists' offices. A sense of the fitness of things or the dignity of the flag is evidently unknown at the American legation.—Siam Free Press.

The Dangers in Iced Water.
Cautions have been issued by the imperial health office of Berlin with regard to the use of ice. Investigation has shown that the ice of commerce sold at Berlin contains micro-organisms that are dangerous to health, and the conclusion has been arrived at that illnesses frequently observed after iced drinks have been taken have probably less to do with the coldness of the drink than with the disease germs contained in the ice. The public have consequently been warned to eschew drinks and food which have become dangerous to health in the manner suggested.—Cor. Manchester (England) Guardian.

women carry Daggers.
A prominent jeweler says that he sells a number of daggers annually to women. These are not ornaments, but serious weapons. They are just large enough to slip easily inside a woman's gown. Some women have these made to order, when they are lavishly adorned and incrustated with precious stones. They are frequently carried in traveling, when they are intended as weapons of defense. They are preferred to revolvers, which are likely to go off summarily and in the wrong direction.—Jewelers' Circular.

A Season's Success.
"Mrs. Dovekin's trip to Scarborough was a great success this year."
"Indeed! Has she got rid of her old trouble?"
"No, but she has got rid of her old laughter."—London Tit-Bits.

For Bronchitis

"I never realized the good of a medicine so much as I have in the last few months, during which time I have suffered intensely from pneumonia, followed by bronchitis. After trying various remedies without benefit, I began the use of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and the effect has been marvelous, a single dose relieving me of choking, and securing a good night's rest."—T. A. Higginbotham, Gen. Store, Long Mountain, Va.

La Grippe

"Last Spring I was taken down with la grippe. At times I was completely prostrated, and so difficult was my breathing that my breath seemed as if confined in an iron cage. I procured a bottle of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and in a moment I began to feel better, and in a few days I was completely cured. I can confidently recommend this medicine."—Franz Hofmann, Clay Centre, Kans.

Lung Trouble

"For more than twenty-five years, I was a sufferer from lung trouble, attended with coughing & severe at times as to cause hemorrhage, the paroxysms frequently lasting three or four hours. I was induced to try Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and after taking four bottles, was thoroughly cured. I can confidently recommend this medicine."—Franz Hofmann, Clay Centre, Kans.

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And they know where to get it. Here is another slice of news that will create another

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