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MEASURING OUT BEAUTY

PERFECT PHYSICAL TYPES DISCOVERED BY SCIENTIFIC METHODS.

The Unreliable Eye Gives Place to the Absolutely Accurate System of Anthropometry—The First Winners Under the New Rules—The Possible Consequences.

[Copyright by American Press Association.] The first man known to have officiated as judge at a beauty show was that old-time duke and masher Paris, son of Priam. Each of the three aspirants for the prize—the golden apple of discord—offered the gay young Trojan huge bribes. Juno's tender was dominion over Asia and wealth; Minerva's, military renown and wisdom; Venus, the fairest of females for his wife. The prince was at an age when "wo-



MISS MARGARET BLANCHE BEST. [Reproduced from Boston Herald.] man's looks were all his books," and he decided in favor of the Queen of Love. She paid the specified price for her triumph, and Paris ran away with Helen. The two defeated goddesses took revenge for the "injury of their slighted forms," and when the Greeks went whooping about the gates of Troy the prince probably felt that it "would have been 40 in his pocket had he never been born."

They manage affairs of this kind better in these later and more practical days—that is, at least Dr. D. A. Sargent, of the Harvard university gymnasium, does. Three years ago the doctor offered cash prizes for the man and woman, students of his system of physical culture, who could show, at an examination to be held in the summer of 1880, the most perfect symmetry of form, the candidates to be between the ages of 17 and 30. Three thousand persons entered the contest. It was one entirely different from that in which Paris came to grief. There was no chance for bribery or favoritism. When the lists closed and the period of probationary exercises ended each fair maiden and stalwart youth was subjected to what is known as the percentile system. The tape of the scientist regarded not bright smiles or



HENRY C. JACKSON. [Reproduced from Boston Herald.] anxious looks. It went on recording, person by person, every item of size. Here is the list of measurements: Height—Standing, sitting, knee, pubic arch and sternum. Girth—Head, neck, chest, waist, hips, thighs, knees, calf, instep, upper arm, elbow, forearm and wrist. Depth—Chest and abdomen. Breadth—Head, neck, shoulders, waist, hips, shoulder elbow and elbow tip. Also length of foot, horizontal length and stretch of arms.

The female winner under these exacting conditions was Miss Margaret Blanche Best, of Mendville, Pa. She is the daughter of Dr. David Best, a graduate of La Salle seminary, at Auburndale, Mass., and follows the calling of a teacher. She is 25 years old, and has been one of Dr. Sargent's pupils for twelve months. The doctor said recently:

"Miss Best is 5 feet 5 inches in height. My tables show that 83 1/2 per cent. of all women are shorter than she is, and 17 1/2 per cent. are taller. Her weight is 130 pounds. My tables show that 82 1/2 per cent. of all women weigh less, and 17 1/2 per cent. weigh more. That is, with all other women to judge from, Miss Best's height and weight are in just the same proportion; in other words, symmetrical."

The preceptor, naturally, would give no details in inches of the other measurements.

Henry C. Jackson, who gained the prize offered to men, is said to approach much



ADAH ISAACS MENKEN. nearer the standard of perfection than Miss Best. He is a Harvard college student and a trained athlete. His height is 6 feet 1 inch, and his weight 185 pounds. When asked the question, "Which is more symmetrical developed as a class, man or woman?" Dr. Sargent replied: "Man. Yet, notwithstanding generations of staves and corsets, and all the inflictions of dress, the average woman has a much more symmetrical form than those published caricatures that pass for fashion plates would make us believe."

There is a remarkable fact to be noted in connection with Dr. Sargent's contest. If Mr. Jackson's proportions are to be accepted as standard for the typical Amer-

ican, then the fully developed citizen of the United States has not his equal on the globe in stature. Anthropometry—the measurement of man—has for some years been the study of scientists, and one of them, Dr. A. Weisbach, chief physician to the Austro-Hungarian hospital at Constantinople, who enjoyed exceptional advantages, has taken measurements of several hundreds of persons representing nineteen different peoples. His report gives heights in millimeters. A millimeter is 38667 of an inch. Jackson is 73 inches tall, or nearly 1,855 millimeters, and here is the way he towers above other race types whose stature is set down in Dr. Weisbach's statistics:

Table with 2 columns: Race, Height in millimeters. Includes: Henry C. Jackson (1,855), New Zealand Maoris (1,737), Kafirs of Africa (1,733), Norwegians (1,728), Scotch (1,708), English and Irish (1,700), Swedes (1,690), Danes (1,695), Germans (1,690), Italians (1,668), French (1,667), Spanish and Portuguese (1,658), Hebrews (1,599).

What an iconoclast science! In some phases of its research it would seem to be sworn foe to sentiment and romance. Now that Dr. Sargent's new style of beauty contest—where inexorable weights and measures reign—has come into vogue, the verdict of the eye must be regarded with distrust. It will be safe no longer for Mr. McGinty to declare that Sallie Waters is the finest girl in town, for Captain Jinks may be expected to respond at once: "No, sir; you are mistaken. Her measurements, according to the percentile system, do not come within ten marks of those that record the superb lines of the peerless Annie Rooney."

Ideals and hitherto recognized standards must also fall. I know a courtly gentleman of middle age who is a bachelor today because a quarter of a century ago Adah Isaacs Menken refused to give him a



THE NIOBE OF SCOPUS.

place on her list of husbands. She is his ideal yet. It is his not unpleasing custom, when the subject of handsome women is under discussion, to descend upon the glorious history from the hour when she was born at New Orleans, in 1835, and baptized Dolores Adia Furtess, to the autumn day of 1868 when she found sepulture in a Paris cemetery. He can give quaint reminiscences of all the men she married—Menken the musician, Heenan the pugilist, Newell the author and Barclay the capitalist. Tears stand in his eyes when he quotes the pathetic poetry she wrote while dying, and she seems to smile before him in all the oriental charm of her insolent magnificence as he tells of her theatrical triumphs as Mazeppa at Astley's. Some day while he chants the Menken's praises there is the possibility that a believer in the percentile system will ask:

"What were her measurements?"

Then trouble will follow, for the old bachelor has a short temper and a strong arm. Until the present the Greek type—that preserved for us in the sculptured works of ancient masters—has been the generally acknowledged standard of perfect physical beauty. Hermes and Niobe still gaze with the changeless youth of marble upon the modern world, of which their makers never dreamed. Apparently they are faultless of outline and without flaw, but the var-



THE HERMES OF PRAXITELES.

dict to be rendered by anthropometry may divide them from the throne, and where they reigned others may be crowned in their stead. FRIED C. DAYTON.

Work of the Vegetarians.

The recent conquest of vegetarians in America and England have been of advantage even to the scoffers. The foes of animal food have at least demonstrated that such things as beans and peas and cauliflower may be so artistically dressed as to cause even the gourmet to regard them as ends in themselves, and not merely as the subsidiary adjuncts of a chop or steak. A London paper, commenting on the vegetarian, says: "That the majority of Englishmen eat more meat than is good for them—a habit which is due not so much to the perversity of their dispositions as to the incompetence of their cooks." It is a little queer, by the way, that these British cooks, who are denounced at home for incompetency, find easy employment and big salaries in the kitchens of wealthy Americans who think nothing worth their use unless it is imported.

To Marry a Prince.

Another American young woman is to marry a prince. The announcement is made at Dresden that Miss Anna Hallingsworth Price is engaged to wed Prince Frederick Wilhelm of Ardeck, a lieutenant of the Second Prussian Hussar regiment. The Prince of Ardeck was born at Offenbach-on-the-Main in 1858, and is the son of Prince William of Hesse.

The Widow of President Polk.

At her home near Nashville, Tenn., the widow of President James K. Polk recently observed her eighty-seventh birthday. Annually she receives the members of the state legislature with all the dignity and grace that characterized her when mistress of the White House.

Mme. Modjeska, the well known actress, who in private life is known as the Countess Bozanta, has gone to Poland to visit her mother, who is 83 years of age. She will not return to America until next year.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL.

F. N. Johns has gone east. F. E. Lewis has gone to Texas. G. W. Collins is in Kansas City. John Dowder has gone to Des Moines. A. Halter has returned from Colorado. Mrs. A. Weber has returned from Boston. D. W. Spencer has gone to Buffalo, N. Y. W. H. Scoville departed Monday for Ogden. State Treasurer Hill was in Omaha Thursday.

Miss Jennie Freligh left Monday for Chicago. Miss Jessie Gibson visited Sioux City this week.

Miss Susie Williams left Monday for Logan, Ia. Frank F. Alma departed for Baltimore, Monday.

Miss Minnie Elliott left Monday for Victoria, B. C.

Rev. O. E. Baker visited Waterloo, Ia. this week.

A. W. Brown departed Tuesday for Seattle, Wash.

C. S. Polk of Plattsmouth was in the city this week.

Mrs. Robert Cameron has gone to Glen Marm, Wis.

Miss Rosa Topping started Tuesday for Louisville, Ky.

Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Marsh have gone to Lippincott, Kas.

Senator J. D. Pope of Friend was a Lincoln visitor this week.

H. C. George was a passenger for Los Angeles, Cal., Tuesday.

Mrs. David Wise and Mrs. D. N. Goldberg visited Sioux City, Tuesday.

Misses Mary Carter and Josephine Leduc have gone to Vancouver, B. C.

Mrs. A. S. Tweed is entertaining Mrs. W. R. Dawson and son of Columbus, O.

Mrs. M. B. Southwell and daughter, Miss Cora, left Monday for Sioux City, Ia.

H. H. Riser, Mrs. H. E. Riser and Mrs. M. E. Riser left Monday for Nyack, N. Y.

Ground was broken for the new Episcopal college Monday. The building will cost \$45,000.

George W. McKinnon is entertaining Mr. and Mrs. M. McKinnon of Sheboygan Falls, Wis.

James Heaton attended the national convention of funeral directors in Omaha this week.

Mrs. Christian J. Parker left Monday for Thackeray, Ill., where she will reside in the future.

A. C. Cass of Denver, general sales agent of the Colorado Fuel company, was in the city Thursday.

Miss Lizzie Fisher, who has been visiting Miss Alice Hubbard, has returned to her home in Geneva.

State Bank Examiner Sanders has resigned his position to connect himself with the new bank in this city.

H. J. Walsh has resigned the presidency of the Lincoln Gas company. He is succeeded by D. E. Thompson.

Miss Leila Tecker of Chicago, who has been visiting Miss Myrtle Mann, left Monday to visit relatives in Altna, Neb.

The Capital City Chautauqua circle met Tuesday evening in the Y. M. C. A. rooms to arrange for the winter's work.

An enjoyable musicale was given at the Universalist church Thursday evening under the auspices of the church choir.

Invitations to a high five party, to be given by Misses Hattie and Carrie Leland next Wednesday evening, have been issued.

The third quarterly meeting of the Women's Christian association was held Thursday evening at the First Presbyterian church.

James E. Boyd, Judge Savage and M. V. Gannon of Omaha, and S. S. Harwood of Lincoln will address the democratic meeting at Funke's this evening.

BURNELL, Ill., Sept. 30.—[Special.]—Mr. Charles Calhoun of Lincoln, Neb., was married to Miss Kate Parks at 6 o'clock this evening by the Rev. Dr. Copeland.—State Journal.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians gave a ball at Temple hall Monday evening. Over two hundred people were present and a most enjoyable time was had. A feature of the evening was the dancing of the Irish jig by the Hon. John Fitzgerald and Mrs. Kate Martin.

Mrs. E. C. Rewick has accepted the agency for Madame Rupert's complexion remedies. Mrs. Rewick satisfied herself of the merits of these preparations during a trial of some months, and she is thoroughly convinced that they accomplish excellent results. She invites the ladies to call at her residence, 1411 G street, any day between 9 and 10 a. m., when she will take pleasure in explaining the remedies.

Additional local and personal page 5.

Mr. John Keown, the worthy postmaster at Keown, Allegheny county, Pa., says: "Chamberlain's cough remedy sells better than any other." The reason of this is because it can always be depended upon. Let any one troubled with a severe cold give it a trial and they will find that the first dose will relieve the lungs and make breathing easier and that its continued use will free the system of all symptoms of the cold. The promptness and certainty of this remedy in the relief and cure of colds, has won for it many sincere friends and made it very popular. For sale by A. L. Shrader.

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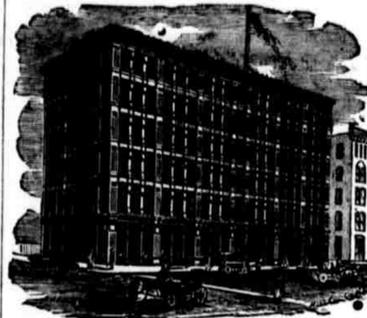
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