

# SKIRTS? NO SKIRTS? WHICH SHALL IT BE?

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Auxiliary" the best opportunity to spend their idle hours gossiping and minding everybody else's business except their own and last, but not least, to pass remarks upon their younger and fair sisters.

Often I have wondered if jealousy could be the real cause of all the pili-ki-ki! If the good women of the above mentioned club could feel and act a little bit more cosmopolitan, I am convinced that they would try to see and understand things in an entirely different light. I am positive if they would try to see beyond their narrow horizon they would know and understand how ridiculous their complaints are in reality. If some mothers really think it necessary to keep their children away from the beach, by all means let them do so.

Undoubtedly you all, good women of the Women's Auxiliary, attend the dances given at the Country Club, for one instance. Did you ever happen to notice the deep cuts at the neck, always considerable deeper than four-inches! Did you ever notice the flimsy and almost transparent fabric the Evening Gowns are made of and how much more of a woman they reveal than a "Boy's" bathing suit?

Nevermind, the Water is Fine., Sincerely yours,

SIMPLICIUS SIMPLICISSIMUS.

## Free Discussion Wanted

Editor Advertiser—It is to be hoped that there will be a free discussion before action is taken to compel women to return to skirted bathing costumes or other cumbersome accessories.

"To the pure all things are impure" is an inversion which has quite as much truth as the familiar maxim in its usual form. That is to say, to the prudish, puritanical mind any departure from primness and the strictest conventionality is given its worst interpretation, no matter how innocent and wholesome it may be. Were Turkish women to unveil their faces in the interests of convenience and common sense the same class in their community would be horrified and declare it indecent and immoral.

The real question is, of course, does the existing condition in women's bathing suits create an undesirable effect from the standpoint of the community at large, or only from the viewpoint of a small group so minded as to hold that opinion? For surely in this day we want the decision to be democratic.

What, then, are the elements of the case? In the first place from all generally accepted standards of health and physical well-being as well as from the artistic or aesthetic side, the argument is all in favor of a minimum of clothing for swimming and beach exercise—freedom and grace of movement, sunshine and fresh air for the body all point in this direction.

Thus it resolves itself to a question of morals which is plainly the real issue. Is morality safeguarded when women are compelled to emphasize their physical distinction from men by wearing impractical costumes for swimming and by donning kimonos or raincoats to approach the beach. It should not require the verdict of physiologists to tell us that there is more power of suggestion and seduction in that which is shrouded and veiled than in that which stands open and disclosed. Any tendency to hide or cloak creates at once a sense of tantalizing mystery that the eager, inquisitive mind of youth is not slow to seize upon, especially in exciting field of sex, whereas frank exposure within the same limits that are set for men quickly subdues the interest to a normal and wholesome level.

Certainly no one contends that the sex instinct can or should be eliminated. Granting it a legitimate place in our lives, is it not better that it be conditioned by light and air, rather than made secret and morbid by artificial sex distinctions?

The whole tendency of child-training, education and psychology is in this direction which is conceded as the direction of health and wholesomeness. Shall Hawaii turn back?

Moreover, present conditions at Waikiki promote the fine aims of the eugenicists without partaking of their unwelcome proposals of outside interposition. If the less favored fear a franker competition, succeeding generations may thank us none the less. (My own personal interest would lead me to favor long trousers as beach costume for men but I am willing to subordinate my vanity to the general interest.)

Surely this whole matter is one that can safely be left to public opinion which will quickly enough eliminate any dangerous extremes through the very effective weapons of scorn or ridicule, and leave conditions on a sound, self-regulating basis.

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W. S. S.