

Description List, Text Sheet and Bibliography

Outside Cover Bag:

Antique white scallop trimmed corset bag with original hand embroidered "S" and flowers.
4 vintage plastic buttons.
Interior : New purple trim with ties to hold 3 corset books in place.
Bag closed: 12" Width x 11 ½" Length
Bag opened: 23" Length

Outside Corset #1 of 3

Corset Cover 1: "*Features of Loveliness*"

Antique off-white waist-cincher corset with 4 front hooks, back corset lace and new lavender ribbon trim.
Machine embroidered title.
Interior linings are ink jet printed images on cotton twill with purple sheer cotton voile over-linings, attached with vintage plastic buttons.
Height: 11"
Width closed: 8 ½"
Width opened: 17"

Interior Book 1: "*The Mother Interest*"

6 pages + 2 covers
Cover: Attached with 3 vintage plastic buttons.
Machine embroidered on vintage linen fabric with laced edge.
Pages: Ink jet printed images on vintage cotton bed sheets. Locket image printed on Quick Fuse™ iron-on fabric sheet, with purple ribbon.
Page Height: 5 ½" (6" includes lace edge)
Page Width: 7" (7 ½ includes lace edge)

Outside Corset #3 of 3

Corset Cover 3: "*Form the Figure*"

Antique doll corset with 5 holes, laced with vintage shoe lace.
Machine embroidered title.
Height: 4"
Width closed: 4 ½"
Width opened: 9 ½"

Outside Corset #2 of 3

Corset Cover 2: "*The Mother Intent*"

Antique off-white cotton waist cincher corset with lace edge, 4 front hooks and back corset lace.
Machine embroidered title.
Interior linings are with ink jet printed images on cotton sateen with sheer off-white silk georgette over-linings, attached with antique bone buttons.
Height: 9"
Width closed: 8 ½"
Width opened: 16 ½"

Interior Book 2: "*Punctualities of Dress*"

6 pages + 2 covers
Cover: Attached with vintage size 22, off-white, Boye Unbreakable Flexible Buttons.
Machine embroidered on vintage linen fabric with laced edge.
Pages: Machine embroidered covers with ink jet printed images on vintage cotton bed sheets.
Page Height: 5 ½"
Page Width: 6 ½"

Interior Book 3: "*An Inborn Habit*"

7 pages + 2 covers
Cover: Attached with 3 antique mother of pearl metal buttons.
Machine embroidered title on vintage linen fabric with ink jet printed images. Hand embroidered frame.
Pages: Ink jet printed images on cotton sateen, silk organza and vintage cotton bed sheets.
Hand embroidered details.
Page Height: 3"
Page Width: 4"

Bibliography and Sources (partial list)

Books:

The American Lady. Charles Butler, Esq., 1845

The Art of Beauty, Mrs. H. R. Haweis, 1878

Beauty of Form and Grace of Vesture, Frances Mary Steel and Eliz Livingston Steele Adams, 1892

Centuries of Female Days: Englishwomen's private diaries, Harriet Blodgett, 1988

(Anne Clifford diary 1617, about daughter Margaret, born July 2, 1614)

Confidential Chats with Girls, William Lee Howard, 1911

The Education of American girls. Considered in a series of essays, edited by Anna C. Brackett, 1874

Girlhood and Womanhood, Or, Sketches of my Schoolmates" Mrs, A. J. Graves, 1844,

Health – beauty – sexuality – from girlhood to womanhood..., Bernarr Macfadden & Marion Malcolm, 1904

Letters on the Equality of the Sexes , Sarah Grimke, 1837

The Second Sex, Simone De Beauvoir, 1953

The well-dressed woman: a study in the practical application to dress of the laws of health, art and moral,

Helen Gilbert Ecob, 1892

Woman in American Society, Abba Goold Woolson, 1873

Womanhood; Hints and Helps for Young Women, William Makepeace Thayer, 1895

Women and economics: a study of the economic relation between men and women as a factor in social evolution,
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 1898

Other:

Corset and Underwear Review, 1914 – 1915

Corset advertisements: *H.P. Nursing Corset*, *Ferris Good Sense Corset*

Spirella Company – corset pamphlet

The Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine, 1867

Outside Corset 1

front corset cover

embroidered

Interior lining –
inside,
right & left sides

Features of Loveliness

[Left side: Sheer image of woman]

MATERINITY (Registered)Waist
The “H&W”

Soft and pliable, with lacings on each side which can be adjusted to the wearer, all steels removable. This waist holds the figure at all times in proper position, bringing physical and mental comfort. It is a boon to the expectant mother.

Price \$1.50

At Corset Dept. All Stores

The H&W Co.

[Right side: Sheer image of woman]

Early constriction of the body means lack of bust development.

This means that your little baby, so hungry for its mother’s milk, will have to be artificially fed.

W.L. Howard, 1911

**Inside Book 1,
Front cover**

embroidered

*Inside/back of front
cover*

The Mother Interest

[Embroidered image of maternity corset]

H.P. Nursing

Patented July 10, 1882

In this Corset the cut of the lower part of the bust, being like a cup shaped shelf standing at nearly a right angle with the body of the corset, combined with the arrangement of the shoulder straps, affords entire relief to the muscles of the upper part of the breast of its wearer, by sustaining the weight from the shoulder. This, together with the convenient arrangement of the upper part of the bust for exposing the whole breast to the child when desired, and the perfect ease and comfort afforded by the elastic section in the body of the corset, renders this *the only* satisfactory Nursing Corset, and free from the many objections found in all others.

Inside Book 1
p. 1 front

In garments whose main purpose is unmistakably to announce her sex; with a tendency to ornament which marks exuberance of sex-energy, with a body so modified to sex as to be grievously deprived of its natural activities...

back

The Mother Interest

The mother is the all shaping force of child life—the best one to train the child.

No one is so sympathetic so kind, so patient.

But if she is to become a wife, and mother, how different should be her training!

She must be taught, that it is woman's lot to minister unto others. To fulfill this lot, she must learn to bear pain, sickness, and disappointment, with patience and fortitude.

Inside Book 1
p. 2 front

So far from expecting attention to every little ailment she may experience, she must not dwell on them, but must rouse herself from the disabling effects of indisposition, by strenuous, persevering exertion in the path of duty.

back

Her husband will look to her as the head of his household, as the one who is responsible for the care and management of all that he entrusts to her.

The numerous and pressing duties of domestic life, must be attended to, though her strength may fail under her constant and fatiguing exertions.

Inside Book 1
p. 3 front

For her helpless babes, she must endure broken rest and long and weary hours of watching, when sickness comes upon them, cradling them in her arms, resting their little heads on her bosom, whatever may be her own feebleness and pain, for who can so faithfully tend them as a mother, and to whom else do they look as their own proper nurse?

back

Your Daughters Corset

The supervision of the mental and physical development of a daughter from childhood to womanhood is the most important responsibility of any mother.

Inside Book 1
p. 4 front

...the forcing upon girl children of an elaborate ornamentation which interferes with their physical activity and unconscious freedom, and fosters a premature sex consciousness, is a clear and menacing a proof of our condition as could be mentioned.

That the girl-child should be so dressed as to require a difference in care and behavior, resting wholly on the fact that she is a girl,—a fact not otherwise present to her thought at that age—is a precocious insistence upon sex-distinction, most unwholesome in its results.

[Locket Book Cover]

Adapted To All Figures

back

If you learn the *characteristics of a beautiful woman*, you will recognize and not despise them if they are yours.

To do this, one must have a measure of health, intelligence, and self-poise.

Just to mention these qualities is to enumerate some of the *Features of Loveliness*.

Inside Book 1
p. 5 front

3 Requirements of Dress

1. To Protect
2. To Conceal
3. To Display

The best grace is perfect naturalness.

Our manners form themselves, *but we must form our getting of them*.

Nature can do much, but not everything.

Art should lend a hand.

back

Nature of Beauty

This style of dress is agreeable to the eyes only on condition that the strictest uniformity of tone is maintained in each material of the same colour.

Nothing can be more revolting to taste and unpleasant to the eyes than different shades of colour placed in close proximity and not matching well together...

And yet how constantly do we meet with such strange anomalies of taste.

Inside Book 1
p. 6 front

The Fashion is followed... as much as possible by all, from instinct of imitation inherent to the human race, and particularly to the feminine portion of it.

{Mothers are themselves responsible for the vanity which they may deplore in their daughters.}

back

Neatness in person, as in dress, is natural to a woman.

It is the product of a civilized society. It is recognition, in some sense, of the equality of others to one's self, a bending of the undisciplined will to the pleasure and satisfaction of others.

Like all other habits, it becomes, in time, agreeable to the person who practices it, but the first training into it, is a painful struggle.

Inside Book 1
p. 7 front

(Back cover *inside*)

... how complex the relation is between the mother and the daughter:
for the mother, the daughter is both her double and an other, the mother cherishes her and at the same time is hostile to her; she imposes her own destiny on her child: it is a way to proudly claim her own femininity and also to take revenge on it.

back
(Back cover *outside*)
embroidered

Social Culture

[Embroidered image of maternity corset]

© Tamar Stone 2017

Outside Corset 2 The Mother Intent

front corset cover
embroidered

Interior lining –
inside,
right & left sides
embroidered text

[Left side: Sheer image of Ferris Ad with Girl]

The education into *Habits of Neatness* is almost entirely in the hands of the mother or of her deputies.

She herself then must be thoroughly educated into it, and it were well that she remembered and taught her daughter to remember, that real neatness includes the unseen as well as the seen.

[Right side: Sheer image of Ferris Girl wth printed text]

Do we not all know that a child behaves better in clean clothes than in soiled ones?

Neatness has a moral significance...it is true that the dress is the index of the character and the external neatness habitually covering untidy underclothing, is only typical of some moral unsoundness, it is equally true that there is an influence in the other direction, from the external, inwards...

Inside Book 2
Front cover
embroidered

Punctualities of Dress

[Embroidered image of corset with text, and hand stitched bows]

Colied Spring

Elastic Section

Inside/back of
front cover

Last in our catalogue, but first in importance, because of its effects on our daughters, is our

H.P. Misses' Corset.

Every mother will recognize and appreciate the value of this corset over all others for her daughter, if she does not that of our other corsets for herself. It fits closely and perfectly, and in its elasticity admits perfect freedom of movement, room for growth and full respiration.

Train your daughters to a healthy and symmetrical body and mind, *and existence becomes a delight.*

Inside Book 2

p. 1 front

The Dress You Wear.

The subject of dress has become a matter of great importance. It is so intimately connected with the manners and customs of the age, and fashion has invested it with so much interest, that it is impossible to pass it by as a trivial thing.

back

There is no article of civilized dress which when first begun to be worn does not feel uncomfortable for a time to those who have never worn it before...

But surely no one would argue against these necessary articles of dress merely on the ground of inconvenience to the wearer, for however uncomfortable they may be at first, it is astonishing how soon that feeling goes off, and how indispensable they become... stays should always be made to order, and not be of too flimsy a construction.

The waistbands are only applicable to middle-aged ladies or invalids, as they do not give sufficient support to growing girls, and are likely to make the figure look too much like a sack tied round the middle, instead of gradually tapering to the waist.

Inside Book 2

p. 2 front

A generous mother who sincerely wants the best for her child will, as a rule, think it wiser to make a "true woman" of her, as that is the way she will be best accepted by society. So she is given other little girls as friends, she is entrusted to female teachers, she lives among matrons as in the days of the gynæceum, books and games are chosen for her that introduce her to her destiny.

back

...her ears are filled with the treasures of feminine wisdom, feminine virtues are presented to her, she is taught cooking, sewing, and housework as well as how to dress, how to take care of her personal appearance, charm, and modesty; she is dressed in uncomfortable and fancy clothes that she has to take care of, her hair is done in complicated styles, posture is imposed on her:

Inside Book 2

p. 3 front

"Stand up straight, don't walk like a duck"; to be graceful, she has to repress spontaneous movements, she is told not to look like a tomboy, strenuous exercise is banned, she is forbidden to fight; in short, she is committed to becoming, like her elders, a servant and an idol.

back

The little girl observes that child care falls to the mother, that is what she is taught; stories told, books read, all her little experience confirms it; she is encouraged to feel delight for these future riches, she is given dolls so she will already feel the tangible aspect of those riches.

Thus, women given the care of a little girl are bent on transforming her into women like themselves, *with zeal and arrogance mixed with resentment.*

Inside Book 2
p. 4 front

The little girl can compensate for boys' superiority of the moment by those promises inherent in her woman's destiny, which she already achieves in her play. Because she still only knows her childhood universe, her mother seems endowed with more authority than her father; she imagines the world as a sort of matriarchy; she imitates her mother, she identifies with her; often she even inverses the roles: "*When I am big and you are little ...*," she often says.

back

The doll is not only her double: it is also her child, functions that are not mutually exclusive insofar as the real child is also an *alter ego* for the mother; when she scolds, punishes, and then consoles her doll, she is defending herself against her mother, and she assumes a mother's dignity: she sums up both elements of the couple as she entrusts herself to her doll, educates her, asserts her sovereign authority over her...

Often the mother is associated with this imaginary life: in playing with the doll and the mother, the child plays both the father and the mother, a couple where the man is excluded. No "maternal instinct," innate and mysterious, lies therein either.

Inside Book 2
p. 5 front

Women are naturally more sensitive to appearances; and they must always desire to become pleasant objects to the sight, not, perhaps, after any prevailing fashion, but according to the eternal principles of taste.

So engaging are the attractions, so impressive is the force of beauty, that women distinguished by superiority of personal appearance are not permitted long to continue unconscious of being the objects of general attention.

Inside Book 2
p. 5 *back*
p. 6 front

A great change has taken place...it is no longer necessary to have straight and tight-fitting bodies. A great deal more *ease*, and consequently, far more grace and real elegance, has taken the place of the stiff and unnatural fashions of our grandmothers.

The long, ungainly corset, as unbending as a coat of armour, and filled with whale bone and steel, oppressing the chests, and keeping the body in close and painful imprisonment, has now been discarded, much to the benefit of health and comfort of ladies of all ages; and in its place a small corset has been chose, which, while very improving to the figure does not cause the least pain or uneasiness...

Whatever dress reform you adopt be sure that it is of a beautiful and not of an ugly nature.

Inside Book 2
p. 6 *back*

Take the best care of your pelves and their contents. Give them exercise, shape, health, beauty, by letting them grow unrestricted...
{the condition of a woman's pelvis tells in her face.}

Broad hips mean happy and painless motherhood. Early constriction of the lungs and internal organs means a miserable existence for a woman, *married or single*.

Inside Book 2
p. 7 *front*
(Back cover *inside*)

It is the girl whose mother allows her to wear easy, loose, flowing garments as light almost in winter as in summer, who has dresses that permit of the greatest amount of freedom and the exercising of every muscle of the body, that acquire the beautiful, graceful, superb figure, and splendid carriage that is so much admired in women.

back
(Back cover *outside*)
embroidered

The Dress You Wear

[Embroidered image of corset with text, and hand stitched bows]

Coiled Spring

Elastic Section

Inside Book 3
p. 4 front

When our infant daughter coquettes with visitors or wails in maternal agony because her brother has broken her doll, whose sawdust remains she nurses with piteous care, we say proudly that “*she is a perfect little mother already!*”
What business has a little girl with the instincts of maternity?

back

Childhood is not the period of these marked manifestations of sex.
That we exhibit them, that we admire and encourage them, shows our over-sexed condition.

Inside Book 3
Sheer pp. 5-6

[Sheer pages: repeat image antique wood hand mirror]

Inside Book 3
p. 7 front

More than ever of before the mothers of to-day realize that they must begin to control the development of their daughters’ figures at an early age.
The Junior Corset shown here is an ideal *figure-builder* for girls ten to fourteen years old.
...the new models show a further tendency in the direction of a real corset – fulfilling every function the properly constructed corset should fill. The *new lines* follow as nearly as may be the ideal lines of the human figure...

back

The poise of the corset determines the poise of the wearer, and the poise of the wearer determines the proper development of muscles adjacent to the vital organs preventing the development of many physical troubles that may be caused by the wearing of an improper corset.

Inside Book 3
p. 8 front
(Back cover *inside*)

Every girl cannot possess *Harmony of Outline*, but nearly every girl can possess that which makes faces most pleasing and attractive which may be said to be physical wholesomeness, an appearance of health, and internal cleanliness.

back
(Back cover outside)
embroidered

An Inborn Habit