

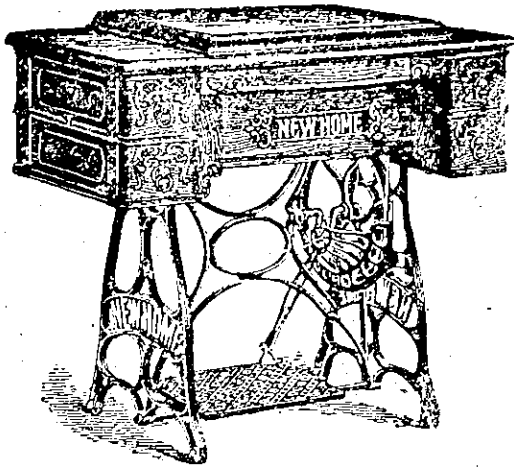
Venus, the Goddess of Beauty, had a 26in. waist.

For the prevailing fashions in hats, the Regal Salon in Queen Street meets the requirements of the most fastidious. Mrs. Robson, who is able through long experience in widely-established firms in Australia to give authoritative expression to the latest modes, has made a special feature of advance styles for the winter, and her present show gives a satisfying indication of what will be worn. Trimmings cover a wide variety of style, and may be chosen from ostrich and paradise plumes, glycerined feathers, wings in an infinite number of colours, beautiful ribbons and French flowers. The brushed wool hats strike the eye very pleasingly with their softness and coquettish shapes, while straws and velours, of course, are to be seen in abundance.

The following interesting old legend is attached to Bart's (St. Bartholomew's) Hospital. The person who established it in the reign of Henry I. was a man named Rahere, "a man of infinite mirth, humble of birth, the friend of the king, nobles, the people's, possibly the Court jester, who with his merry jokes charmed away the cares of William the Conqueror and his son Rufus." There came a sudden and dramatic change into the life of Rahere; he became serious and earnest, though the gaiety which made him beloved was not lost. He went on a pilgrimage to Rome, and while lying on a bed of sickness his mission in life came before him in a wondrous vision. Tradition says that St. Bartholomew appeared to him and spoke thus:—"I have chosen a place in the suburb of London, at Smithfield, where, in my name, thou shalt found a church." When Rahere returned to London he obtained the support of some wealthy barons, succeeded in impressing Henry I. favourably, and obtained the gift of the land which belonged to the King. He commenced a building there, and behold, many who had been his companions in former days joined him and toiled there, dug foundations and dragged stones. The work went on, and Rahere, the jester, became a popular preacher, and crowded congregations followed him. Rahere lived to see a waste field adorned with a fine church and hospital, and became the first controller of this great charity. The hospital and church were probably placed in extensive grounds, as a quaint old-world part of London called Little Britain is between the two buildings.

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