

HYGIENE

More Comfortable Summer Clothing For Men Advocated

ABOUT this time of year men look upon women's clothes with envy. They tug at their tight collars and consider their coats a penance to custom.

Attempts at reform of male attire along rational lines have been notably unsuccessful in the past. Minor gains have been made such as the growing substitution of the soft collar for the stiff starched neck encirclement. The penalty of further departures from com-

mon usage is notoriety and unwelcome attention.

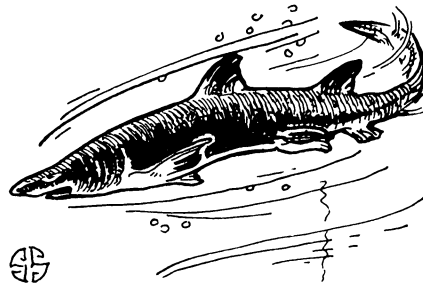
Dr. A. Bachem, who is professor of biophysics of the College of Medicine of the University of Illinois, is the latest protagonist of sanity in men's clothes. In a research narrative issued by the Engineering Foundation, he predicts that fashion and science have now reached the point where a break may occur unless fashion gives away.

"It should not be difficult to design a garment without a narrow collar and a tight belt, so that air ventilation is permitted," he says. "Disposing of vest and coat should not carry the stigma of social misdemeanor, but should be permitted as a means to allow the body to cool off, to admit some light and to increase its vitality. So long as our mode of dressing is not improved, I see no advantage to ultraviolet or in the use of ultraviolet lamps."

The skin is a heat regulator, conserving heat in cold and dissipating it in warmth. A complicated mechanism, including nerves, brain, glands and secretion and blood, must function perfectly.

Dr. Bachem contends that by living in closed rooms, by dressing in heavy and tightly fitting garments, we have allowed this mechanism to cease functioning so that we cannot withstand even small variations of temperature.

Science News Letter, June 18, 1932



Shark Scares

NOW that the water is warming up off our North Atlantic summer resorts, the time is ripe for some first-class shark scares. Once in a while a bather actually does get bitten, but far more often a whole beachful merely get badly scared by a glimpse of that ominous sail-shaped fin.

The hue and cry would be justified if all sharks were man-eaters, but as it is, scores of amiable but nervous persons are scared into hysterics for no reason at all. Most of the sharks that one sees in the upper latitudes are perfectly harmless so far as man is concerned, and when they appear close inshore it is only because they are picking up a frugal meal of floating garbage or because they have pursued a fleeing school of smaller fish into shallower water. Few of them will be found to measure more than six feet or so in length, after the scare subsides that makes them look like whales. The real man-eaters of the tropic waters, that wander northward occasionally during hot summers, are three times that big at their smallest.

Even in the warm waters where sharks are supposed to be most wicked those fearsome-looking fish are not so bad as they are painted. Good swimmers go into shark-infested waters without fear; and it is one of the profitable "sports" of West Indian Negroes to tackle big sharks under water and kill them with a knife, for the excited delectation of tourists.

Dr. Paul Bartsch, of the U. S. National Museum, has done much diving in his work of photographing marine life at home. He states that he has always found the shark a gentleman, who will attend to his own business and leave others to mind theirs.

Science News Letter, June 18, 1932

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The Science Service radio address next week will be on the subject,

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