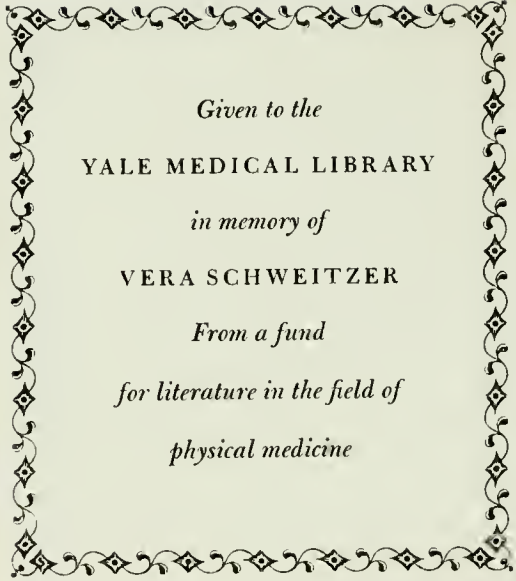


RM811
880T

LUXURIOUS BATHING.



Given to the
YALE MEDICAL LIBRARY

in memory of
VERA SCHWEITZER

From a fund
for literature in the field of
physical medicine

To C.A. Sherston
from his friend

The Artist

11/4

A/107/10

cP/107

A 2/11



LUXURIOUS BATHING:

(Fourth Edition)

A SKETCH

BY

ANDREW W. TUER:

1880



EIGHT

ETCHINGS

BY

TRISTRAM ELLIS.

5/-

London:

Field & Tuer, 7^c Leadenhalle Presse, E.C.

New York:

Scribner & Welford, 743 & 745, Broadway.



LUXURIOUS BATHING:

(Fourth Edition)

A SKETCH

BY

ANDREW W. TUER:

1880.



Shadows in the pond.

EIGHT

ETCHINGS

BY

TRISTRAM ELLIS.

5/-

London :

Field & Tuer, Ye Leadenhalle Presse, E.C.

New York :

Scribner & Welford, 743 & 745, Broadway.

THE HISTORY OF THE



1
/

1

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

*(The First Edition was published in folio form with Etchings by Mr. Sutton Sharpe, at Three Guineas :
Proofs Seven Guineas.)*

“Remarque” Proofs (signed) six only printed, Three Guineas.

Proofs before Letters, Japanese paper (signed) 20 copies only printed, One Guinea.

Proofs, white hand-made paper, 100 copies only printed, Half-a-Guinea.

NOTE.—The copper-plates having been steel-faced suffer little or no deterioration in printing.

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

ITS PRACTICE.



REATISES and disquisitions sufficient to form a library of no inconsiderable dimensions have been written during the last three centuries on the subject of baths: boiling, freezing, variously medicated—including tar-water, steam, and spray; milk, whey, broth, mud, sand, and even earth-baths—in which the patient for hours together was buried up to his neck in a fallow

[1]

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

[2]

fallow field—have all had their exponents and upholders; then there is the vapour-bath of the Ruffian, the dry, hot air or Turkish-bath, besides the cold air-bath recommended by Franklin, and those who like it may follow the example of the elder Pliny who used to indulge in a bath of sunshine. Now-a-days it is a common practice, on the shores of the Mediterranean, for many of the inhabitants, during the hot months, to pass a considerable portion of their time sitting on chairs placed a few feet from the shore, the calm water, without even the *nuance* of a ripple, reaching to the neck, while the head is protected from the scorching sun by an immense grass hat. *The*

ITS PRACTICE.

The inference may be too hastily drawn that what is advocated in this Sketch is unnecessary, being simply what everyone now-a-days practises in one form or another—cleanliness; on consideration, however, this will be found to be hardly the fact. We are a cleanly nation, or at any rate more cleanly than we were, but bathing with hot or cold water as ordinarily practised is not so enjoyable and luxurious as it might be, and moreover, to the weakly, is often harmful in its action.

[3]

Perhaps the very acme of luxurious bathing is reached in the *Soap-bath*, an application of hot water and soap to the

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

[4] the whole body, followed immediately by a cold plunge, or a sponge bath. A bath is at once a necessity and a luxury, and in order to obtain the greatest number of benefits, including increased health, appetite, vigour, and good spirits, the *Soap-bath* is the most effectual, and moreover the pleafantest and least trying to the weakly or over fenfitive constitution.

It is a fimple and invigorating luxury as compared with the felf-inflicted half-painful ordeal the cold bath is to many, which latter is too often taken, not for its own fake, but for the good fuppofed to follow its ufe. After a
Soap-bath



LUXURIOUS BATHING.

[4] the whole body, followed immediately by a cold plunge, or a sponge bath. A bath is at once a necessity and a luxury, and in order to obtain the greatest number of benefits, including increased health, appetite, vigour, and good spirits, the *Soap-bath* is the most effectual, and moreover the pleafantest and least trying to the weakly or over sensitive constitution.

It is a simple and invigorating luxury as compared with the self-inflicted half-painful ordeal the cold bath is to many, which latter is too often taken, not for its own sake, but for the good supposed to follow its use. After a

Soap-bath



A hot Afternoon.

ITS PRACTICE.

Soap-bath, however, one is ready for the duties or pleasures of the day: duty in fact becomes a pleasure, and pleasure itself is intensified.

The Soap-bath obtains a rapidly increasing number of adherents, and when once the habit of taking it is formed, it will not readily be abandoned, as it forms one of the pleasures, if not *the* pleasure of the day, and moreover, can be indulged in all the year round.

The fair sex will find the *Soap-bath* vastly superior to any cosmetic: it renders the skin as soft as an infant's, and, with increased health, the complexion will appear more delicate

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

delicate and clear, tinged with a healthy colour beyond the power of art to produce.

[6] *It* appears from the evidence obtained by modern scientific research, that hot water destroys the germinating power of malignant contagious diseases, and that soap chemically poisons it. These germs or spores are carried about by every wind that blows: and when it is borne in mind that, roughly speaking, a million of such germs will lie on a threepenny-piece; the value, as a preventive of contagion, of a thorough daily ablution with soap, may be estimated.

The

ITS PRACTICE.

The Romans, according to Pliny, raised the temperature of their air baths to almost boiling point, and they were apparently well acquainted with the grateful and invigorating after-application of cold water.

It is no slight recommendation of the *Soap-bath*, that while being an absolute luxury both for the feeble and robust, it cannot be resorted to as a mere indolent indulgence: the lungs and muscles are called into full action, a moderate though pleasant shock is encountered, and the bather has the satisfaction of knowing that all the pleasure and advantages gained are actually earned.

[7]

The

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

[8] *The* application of the *Soap-bath* is very simple: the bather is armed with a large lump of good ordinary yellow soap, and a loose washing glove (the white and very soft “Turkish” is the pleafantest, or if a hard glove be preferred, the “Baden” may be used) big enough to come over the wrist, and standing *découvert* in front of the washing basin containing *hot* water, quickly and vigorously covers the body from head to foot with a thick and abundant lather. By using hot water, chills are avoided, and the body is kept sufficiently warm to avoid the unpleasants, and often harm, following repeated applications of mere handfuls of cold liquid.

The

ITS PRACTICE.

The soap application may take about three or four minutes at most; the very robust may use tepid water, but most persons will find warm or hot more agreeable; and more delicate persons whose finger-tips have the unpleasent habit of turning numb and white upon the application of cold water, will find in the *Soap-bath* an agreeable means of bathing otherwise perhaps unattainable.

Cold bathing promotes vigour in the young and healthy, and the *Soap-bath* has the same effect in an intensified degree, with the further inestimable advantage—except where there are positive indications of lung

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

lung or heart disease—of being alike suitable to the robust and weakly.

[10] *With* the body thoroughly warm comes the plunge into cold water, which must be got over quickly—once, twice, or thrice, overhead—but a couple of rapid dips are sufficient to remove every particle of soap.

A Plunge-bath sunk below the surface of the bathroom, lined with white glazed tiles, and nearly full of clear water, into which one can take a header, and clamber out by the aid of a rope and gently sloping ladder, is perhaps the best and most luxurious form; it is to be regretted that there are few such baths in modern houses. *There*

ITS PRACTICE.

There are persons who habitually bathe in tepid water, and remain splashing about for a considerable time, but much greater benefit is to be derived, and the body becomes infinitely more refreshed and invigorated by a shorter immersion in water of a lower temperature.

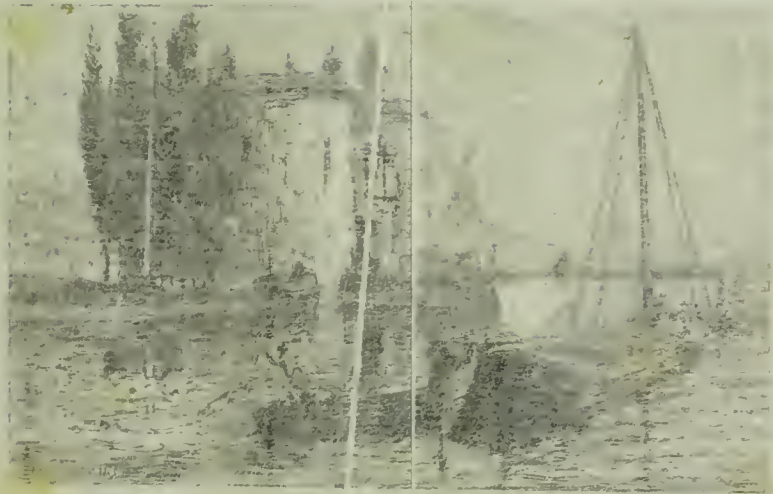
[11]

The head must remain uncovered and receive the full benefit of the cold water. This may be a serious consideration for ladies, but there is no choice: the penalty for keeping the head dry will usually be a violent headache with the probable complaint that "baths don't suit me," but whether, in the absence of wetting the head, headache follows or not, the health must suffer. *The*

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

[12] *The* momentary shock of the cold dip is succeeded by a delightful feeling of vital internal warmth—a delicious triumphant glow. It is highly unadvisable to be leisurely over this part of the bath, however one may dawdle in dressing: the coldness of the water would gain upon the warmth of the body, but without waiting for this, the bather at once quits the cold bath, and proceeds to make ample use of dry towels.

Some bathers with tough cuticles affect the use of towels bearing to the touch a strong resemblance to rasps or wire brushes, and affirm that everyone ought to use the
very

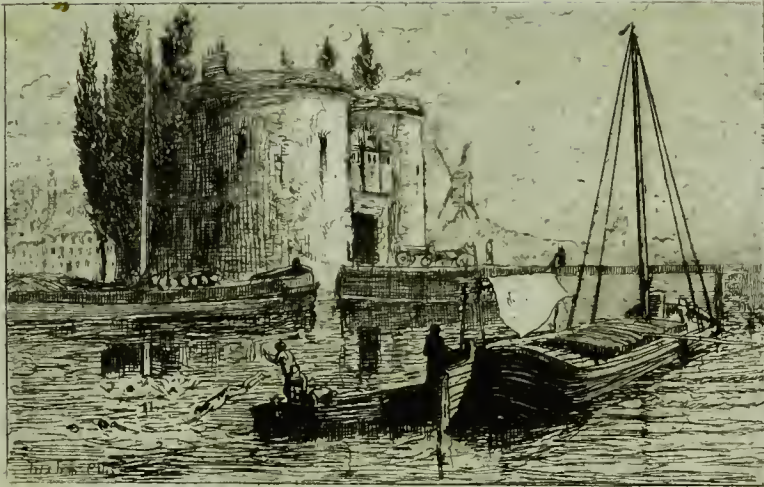


View of the Harbor

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

The momentary shock of the cold dip is succeeded by a delightful feeling of vital internal warmth—a delicious triumphant glow. It is highly inadvisable to be leisurely over this part of the bath, however one may dawdle in dressing. The coldness of the water would gain upon the warmth of the body, but without waiting for this, the bather at once quits the cold bath, and proceeds to make ample use of dry towels.

Some bathers with tough cuticles affect the use of towels bearing to the touch a strong resemblance to rattan or wire brushes, and affirm that everyone ought to use the



A Water-gate of Bruges



ITS PRACTICE.

very roughest that can be procured: there are others, on the contrary, possessing an outer epidermis so delicately soft and velvet-like, that very rough towels would, if used, cause insufferable agony, and almost flay them alive; what would be thought a rough towel by one, producing after use a full glow, would have no effect upon another.

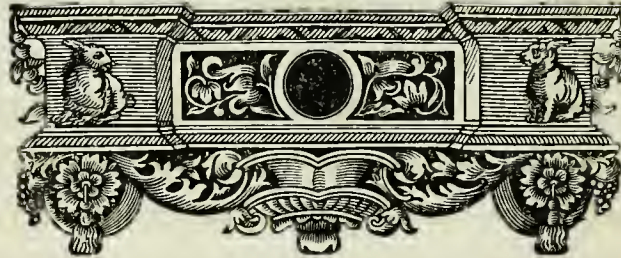
[13]

The use of the flesh-brush, after a thorough rub down with towels, is to be commended for producing a more vigorous reaction; there are many persons, however, whose skins are too delicate to allow of the application of the flesh-brush, but this is of little moment, as a moderately
rough

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

rough towel will with them produce as strong a reaction, or as great a glow, as the flesh-brush would with those possessing less sensitive skins.

[14]



AFTER

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

AFTER THE BATH.



BATH ROOM, if possible should certainly receive the benefit of the sun, and in warm and genial weather the enjoyment of the bath will be heightened if the window be opened wide at the top.

When, however, the thermometer is in the neighbourhood of freezing point, the atmosphere of the bath-room is to many intolerably cold, and one may perhaps

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

[16]

perhaps be sometimes tempted to raise the temperature of the cold water in the bath too high to produce the necessary shock with its pleasant and health-promoting reaction. It is better, by some means, in cold weather, to warm the bath-room and to keep the temperature of the cold water sufficiently low to produce the desired reaction. Drying and dressing may be comfortably gone through in front of a fire, the use of which for this purpose is a positive advantage, and will by no means, as might perhaps be imagined, tend to enervate or enfeeble, or in any way lessen the pleasure and benefits to be derived from the bath;

AFTER THE BATH.

bath; a good fire on the contrary, will act as a help in laying in an agreeable and valuable supply of warmth, the advantage of which will be felt during the whole day.

Only a very weakly person should take the bath in the bed-room, as the air of the sleeping chamber must necessarily be more or less vitiated. Still, better there than not at all, and very likely, after a few trials, sufficient courage and energy will be found to enable the bather to get into fresher air.

The surface of the human body is protected by an oily film deposited by innumerable vessels, so that after a dip
into

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

[18]

into water the skin is not thoroughly wetted, most of the water running from the body as from a duck's back. After a *Soap-bath*, the bather will find himself thoroughly wet all over, the skin being apparently saturated as if it were blotting paper; both natural secretions and foreign matter will have yielded to the warm and cleansing bath of yellow soap and the after-application of cold water.

In conjunction with the *Soap-bath*, daily exercise after breakfast is not only desirable but necessary: half-an-hour's ride, a brisk walk, or an open air game helps to circulate the blood and raise the spirits for the day. If the
accumulated

AFTER THE BATH.

accumulated effects of three hundred and sixty-five morning walks could be seen and judged, perhaps business men would not be in quite so great a hurry, after bolting their breakfast, to rush into the omnibus or train. Half-an-hour apparently thus wasted is gained twice over during the day in better work more easily done.

[19]

A celebrated physician was once heard to say that he did not much care what atmosphere his patients lived in during the day so long as they breathed pure air at night; but whether one resides in town or country, it is impossible to breathe fresh air if the bed-room window be kept closed.

Many

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

[20]

Many people appear to be afraid of taking cold if they sleep with the bed-room window open: never was a greater mistake. The most delicately constituted maiden may, with ordinary precaution, and without the slightest fear of injury, sleep with the bed-room window open almost all the year round, and with the certainty of health and vigour being materially improved. Even this uncertain climate is seldom bad enough to compel complete closing up of the windows: the bed must of course not be placed in a direct draught: *i.e.* between the open window and the fireplace.

SPONGE

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

SPONGE & SHOWER BATHS.



ANY persons have to content themselves with a *Sponge-bath*, and although its invigorating effects are great, and cold water daily applied externally—no matter how—hardens the body, and keeps the system up to that high condition which makes the mere sense of living enjoyable, the application of cold water—sometimes nearly freezing—by fits and starts

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

starts as it were, is not the most comfortable method of taking a bath, and the preference will generally be given to that which enables one to dip overhead at once.

[22] *However*, after a long continued course of the *Plunge*, the *Sponge-bath* will sometimes be found a positive relief, and, like a change of food, will act as a whet to the appetite. In taking such a bath it is desirable that the sponge be of large size, and it should be placed in the bath, charged with water, ready for immediate use.

To obtain the fullest benefit in the most agreeable manner, the charged sponge, as the bather steps into the bath,

SPONGE & SHOWER BATHS.

bath, should be lifted and carried quickly to the back of the head, which should be slightly inclined forward, so that the bulk of the water will run down the spine and back; the next spongeful should be almost instantaneously applied, leaning forward, to the top of the head, and the third, standing quite upright, to the chest; the arms and legs may then be separately treated: and if desire be felt for more, the application may be repeated to the back of the head and chest.

[23]

The species of cold bath following the hot is really of little moment, it is simply a matter of taste and convenience;
and

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

and whether a plunge, shower, hip, sitz, or sponge-bath be used, the pleasurable and beneficial results will be very much the same.

[24] *There* are bathers who prefer a *Shower-bath*, and, to those able to stand it, nothing can be more agreeable and refreshing, but it may be safely questioned whether a *Shower-bath* taken on a cold wintry morning, with the water all but freezing, can possibly prove salutary even to the most robust.

Nearly freezing water from a shower-bath produces a feeling something akin to what might be imagined to result

SPONGE & SHOWER BATHS.

result from a shower of red-hot lead; the shock is tremendous, and the shower, if continued for any length of time, would assuredly cause asphyxia. Professor Jamin shews conclusively that although ice is always at an uniform temperature of 32° , water may remain liquid at a very much lower temperature if guarded from external disturbance.

[25]

The nerves must be thoroughly braced up to take such a bath: the writer has a lively recollection of stepping into a shower-bath one intensely cold morning, when, the string being pulled, not a drop of water descended; the connections were all frozen, and the bath was empty; the
shock

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

shock resulting on that occasion from the absence of the water, though of a negative and totally different description, was really greater than would have been produced by the cold shower itself.

[26]

The Shower-bath should be taken warmer than the ordinary cold-bath; the water may be advantageously placed in the bath on the previous evening, and, if necessary, a little warm water added in the morning.

If headache follow, or reaction be slow, accompanied by shivering, the shower must be discontinued, and a milder bath resorted to.

SEA-BATHING

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

SEA-BATHING & SWIMMING.



SEA-BATHING—at least in these islands —is generally believed in and largely practised, and some persons, by means of salts sold for that purpose, produce a close imitation of sea-water for their daily tubbing. A *Salt-bath* thus prepared, when its use conduces to the enjoyment and health of the bather, is by no means to be discouraged, and

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

and may advantageously follow the soap application in place of fresh water.

[28]
Most of us must have noticed how renovating to enfeebled constitutions is the effect of even a short course of sea-bathing, but it is equally patent that the good effects quickly wear off, the physique returning shortly to its perhaps normal condition of relaxation and lassitude. The daily use of the *Soap-bath* keeps the constitution permanently braced up to that delightful condition experienced by so few, that makes mere existence an absolute pleasure. A preliminary course of *Sea-bathing*
is

SEA-BATHING & SWIMMING.

is by no means necessary to bring about this pleasant condition of things.

Salt-water is more energetic in its action on the skin than fresh, and, after a dip in the sea, there is not the same liability to take cold from insufficient drying as after a fresh-water bath. Some bathers go so far as to habitually only half-dry themselves, the saline particles left on the skin further exciting its action, and producing a healthy and more vigorous glow. Children at the sea-side may safely be allowed, without the slightest fear of taking cold, to dabble and patter about in the little pools left by the receding

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

receding tide: their constitutions will be positively invigorated and improved.

[30] *A love* of cold-water bathing can perhaps be carried to excess, as in the case of those self-devoted Spartan swimmers, who, every morning, even in winter, assemble on the banks of the Serpentine, and audaciously defying their own instinct, plunge into the freezing water, even though they have first to break through the icy covering under which it is concealed by nature: the strongest constitution must suffer sooner or later from this treatment.

Boys and girls ought to be taught swimming at school

as



to Art 200

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

receding tide: their constitutions will be positively invigorated and improved.

[30] *A love of cold-water bathing can perhaps be carried to excess, as in the case of those self-devoted Spartan swimmers, who, every morning, even in winter, assemble on the banks of the Serpentine and audaciously defying their own instinct, plunge into the freezing water, even though they have first to break through the icy covering under which it is concealed by nature: the strongest constitution must suffer sooner or later from this treatment.*

Boys and girls ought to be taught swimming at school

as



Taking the Plunge.

THE HISTORY OF THE

The history of the world is a vast and complex subject, encompassing the lives and actions of countless individuals and the events that have shaped our planet. From the dawn of time to the present day, the human story is one of constant change and evolution. The early civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Indus Valley laid the foundations of human society, introducing agriculture, writing, and organized government. The classical world of Greece and Rome brought forth the principles of democracy, philosophy, and art that continue to influence us today. The Middle Ages saw the rise of the Christian Church and the Crusades, while the Renaissance and the Age of Discovery opened up new horizons of knowledge and exploration. The modern world, marked by the Industrial Revolution and the rise of nation-states, has brought about unprecedented technological progress and global interconnectedness. The challenges of the 21st century, such as climate change and global inequality, require a new approach to leadership and governance. The history of the world is not just a record of events, but a testament to the resilience and ingenuity of the human spirit.

SEA-BATHING & SWIMMING.

as they are taught gymnastics and calisthenics—as a matter of course. We ought, as islanders, to be swimmers, and it is to be regretted that we are not: swimmers are of necessity bathers, but bathers are not always, as they should be, swimmers. The percentage of swimmers in this country is perhaps considerably less than might be expected by those who have not given any thought to the subject, and yet the art itself is a necessary one, easy to acquire, healthy, and sometimes of the greatest possible service.

[31]

When once learned the action of swimming comes as naturally

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

[32] naturally as walking, and doubtless man in a state of nature, would, like a dog, swim at once if thrown into the water. Swimming is an art which seems to incorporate itself into the physique, and become part of one's being—at any rate, it can never be forgotten, and a person finding himself unexpectedly in deep water, after a twenty years' rest from swimming, will strike out as naturally and surely, and with little more effort, than if the practice had never been given up.

Rowing-men are usually swimmers, or they ought to be. To appreciate river life one must go to bed early and
get

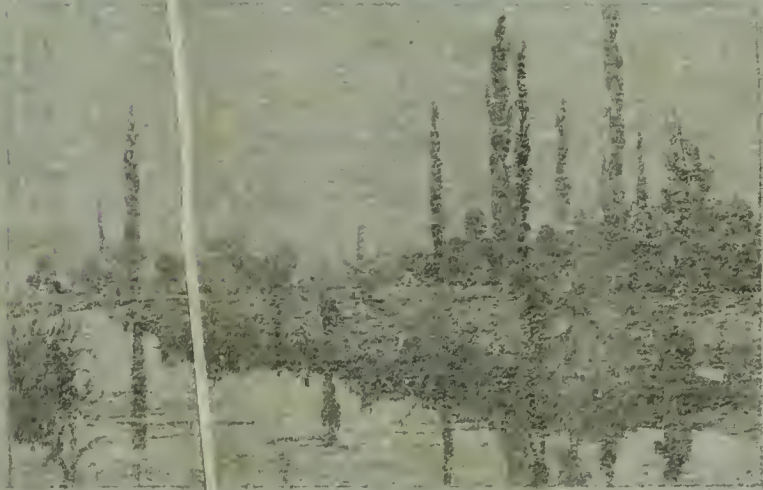
SEA-BATHING & SWIMMING.

get up early; ten o'clock should be the latest hour at which to turn in, but after an extra hard day's pull the sheets will be welcome by nine. To enjoy thorough fatigue one must do a hard day's work in the open air. Up in the morning betimes, garments hastily donned, a sharp pull to the nearest bathing place, where one can dive in and have a few minutes delicious swim, and back to breakfast—and such a breakfast! Or possibly the way lies through the fields where the grass is knee-deep and saturated with refreshing dew: then off come shoes and socks, the trousers are well tucked-up, and one gets what a hydropath would possibly

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

possibly term a leg-bath—in reality a delicious, fragrant dew-bath, which, though more than cool, is mightily enjoyable and never seems to give cold.

[34] *Small-boned* and fleshy persons naturally make the best swimmers, but it must not be supposed that thin people cannot learn to swim, and swim well. The writer well remembers seeing one morning at Brill's swimming baths, Brighton, a young fellow who had just stepped from his dressing-box ready for a plunge. He was standing where the water is deepest, and judging by his appearance he literally could not have had an ounce of flesh to spare. It was



LUXURIOUS BATHING.

possibly term a leg-bath—in reality a delicious, fragrant dew-bath, which, though more than cool, is mightily enjoyable and never seems to give cold.

[34] *Small-boned* and fleshy persons naturally make the best swimmers, but it must not be supposed that thin people cannot learn to swim, and swim well. The writer well remembers seeing one morning at Brill's swimming baths, Brighton, a young fellow who had just stepped from his dressing-box ready for a plunge. He was standing where the water is deepest, and judging by his appearance he literally could not have had an ounce of flesh to spare. It was



The dew-bath.



SEA-BATHING & SWIMMING.

was absurd to suppose that so thin a man could swim, and his movements were curiously watched. After hesitating an instant, apparently measuring the size of the bath, he shot into the water head first as if propelled from a catapult, and shortly reappeared half-way across the bath, having swum the distance under water; he proved himself a thorough master of the element. It appeared that although passionately fond of the water he could only keep himself afloat by constant muscular exertion of both arms and legs; he was too thin to float naturally, and could not venture to swim out a greater distance than he felt sure of covering on his return.

Tuition

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

Tuition in swimming has been for some time past, and is now, given gratuitously in town by the London Swimming Club, from the persevering and enthusiastic Honorary Secretary of which—Mr. J. Garrett Elliott, 14; Finsbury Square—particulars may be obtained.

[36]



NOTES.

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

NOTES.



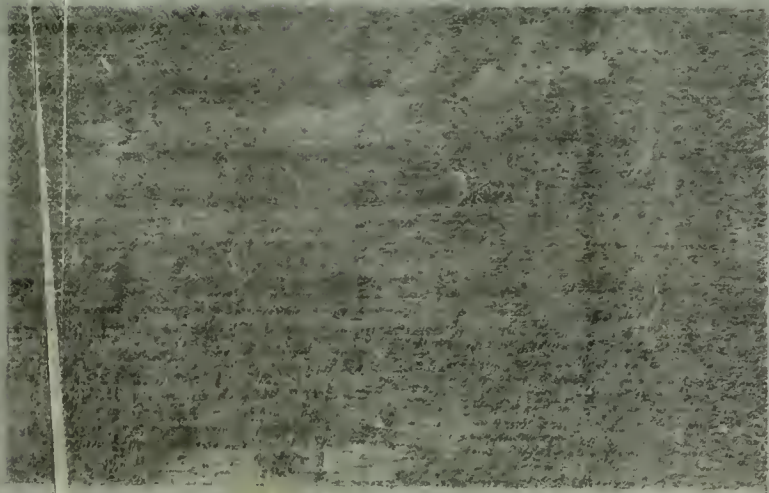
BATHING after hard exercise must be indulged in judiciously: a bath after a day's shooting or cricketing, or an afternoon at lawn-tennis—to an enthusiast, who really plays, by far the hardest and most tiring form of amusement of the three—is pleasant and invigorating, and better understood than when it was an article of faith that to plunge into cold

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

cold water, when heated, was almost equivalent to committing suicide.

[38] *Our* grandmothers who adopted this view, were not like some of the present generation of girls educated at Girton and Zurich, or they might have called to mind Homer's graphic description of the nocturnal expedition of Ulysses and Diomedes to the Trojan camp, and their refreshing plunge into the sea when they returned reeking with heat and moisture from their successful raid; certainly none need fear to follow the example of such an old soldier as the cautious Ithacan.

A plunge



1917. 10. 12. 10. 11. 12.

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

cold water, when heated, was almost equivalent to committing suicide.

[38] *Our* grandmothers who adopted this view, were not like some of the present generation of girls educated at Girton and Zurich, or they might have called to mind Homer's graphic description of the nocturnal expedition of Ulysses and Diomede to the Trojan camp, and their refreshing plunge into the sea when they returned reeking with heat and moisture from their successful raid; certainly none need fear to follow the example of such an old soldier as the cautious Ithacan.

A plunge



A Midsummer Night's dip.



NOTES.

A plunge into cold water when one is warm from exercise is intensely grateful, and may be indulged in with impunity even when much heated, provided the plunge be taken the moment the clothes are removed; the danger is in standing about on the brink, during which time the body rapidly cools, and cold may be taken.

[39]

Although perfectly safe to plunge into cold water, no matter how much the body may be heated, care must be taken to avoid it if there are feelings of lassitude and exhaustion; these are sure signs of over fatigue, and a cold bath under such circumstances is not only weakening, but
might

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

might prove absolutely dangerous. A complete change of clothing must be ready, both for comfort, and to prevent any chance of taking cold through putting on clothes rendered damp by previous exercise.

[40]

The morning-bath forms a tolerably sure index as to the manner in which the previous evening has been spent. Morning exhaustion, and antipathy to cold water, may follow after an evening's dancing with its attendant late hours, and nature will probably protest against too great a shock: it will be advisable to take the cold-bath from five to ten degrees warmer than usual, or it may be deferred two or three hours.

The

NOTES.

The much vexed question as to the advisability of continuing the bath through a severe and prolonged, or even an ordinary winter, must be left open, as it is not only unadvisable but absolutely impossible to lay down fixed rules. Each bather must be guided entirely by his own state of health and sense of vitality.

[41]

Even among the well-to-do, the bath is by no means so universal or so well appreciated as might be desired, the daily thorough ablution being looked upon by too many as a necessarily unpleasant process to be shunned or superficially hurried through, with no enjoyment and little advantage:

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

advantage: thorough ablution in the form of the *Soap-bath* is an absolute luxury, and moreover is followed by an immediate increase of health, strength and mental vigour.

[42] *The* primary object of taking a bath is cleanliness, and it is now better understood that the mere application of cold water to the skin does not cleanse, but merely closes the pores, the after vigorous use of towels doing so still further by rubbing in the impurities and natural secretions of the skin.

Cleanliness in connection with the bath should be strictly enforced: it should be cleaned and dried daily and occasionally

NOTES.

occasionally scrubbed, and the washing glove well rinsed after use.

The delicately-soft skin of Egyptian women is said to be produced by the habitual use of the *loofah*, a fibrous flesh-glove woven by Dame Nature, the use of which is to be commended for finally cleansing the skin after the soap application with the ordinary washing glove. The *loofah* not only readily removes every particle of soap, but acts as a mildly invigorating flesh-glove, increases the suppleness of the skin in a marked degree, and moreover possesses the happy faculty of completely rinsing itself the moment it is
dipped

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

dipped into water. Some persons discard the washing glove altogether, and use a *loofah* for applying the soap to the body: *loofahs* are of different degrees of texture, and when thus used, a fine close quality should be selected.

[44]

The sponge after use should be dipped in clean water and pressed out—not wrung, which tends to tear it—as nearly dry as possible: if habitually left charged with water, or—as sometimes done with a vague idea of sweetening—put out wet in the sun to dry, it will not only rot quickly but probably smell offensively, and even become unpleasant to the touch. To restore its sweetness, the sponge should

be

NOTES.

be placed for a day or so in a basin of water in which a large piece of washing soda has been dissolved: the water should be changed once or twice, or oftener if necessary, and the sponge well squeezed out each time.

A word about the soap:—the best, perhaps, is that known as “John Knight’s Primrose,” an ordinary yellow soap, sweet and sound, and apparently containing none of the foreign matter sometimes found in soaps of a commoner and cheaper description. Scented soap must be avoided, especially for using habitually and liberally over the whole body.

[45]

Decidedly

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

[46]

Decidedly unpleasent feelings, in some cases amounting to a positive loathing, occasionally follow the preliminary wetting of the feet on stepping into cold water: it may be taken for granted that such antipathy is by no means imaginary, but simply nature's protest. The use is recommended, in conjunction with the *Sponge-bath*, of a broad stool (heavily weighted at the bottom, to prevent risk of upsetting) covered loosely with carpet, and high enough to reach above the level of the water when placed in the middle of the bath: the piece of carpet may be dried each day after use; or a *Sponge-bath* may be readily constructed with

NOTES.

with a fixed raised centre of metal forming a portion of the bath, the bather standing as it were on an island: the feet may thus at first be kept dry, and the preliminary shock received on the head and shoulders; persons who in despair had almost given up the *Soap-bath*, are by this means enabled to enjoy it without discomfort.

[47]

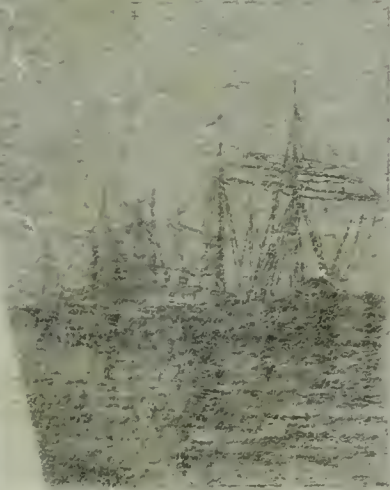
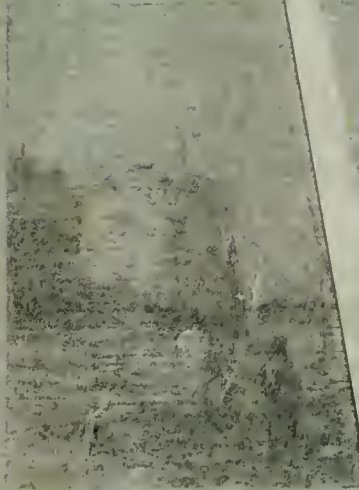
The temperature of the warm water with the soap application may vary from 75 to 95, or even 100°; it ought to be hot enough for the bather to feel it thoroughly grateful and comforting. The cold may vary from 30 to 70°, and it may be borne in mind that as great a shock will
be

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

be produced with the higher temperature on an enfeebled or weakly constitution, as with the lower on a strong and robust: the bather must be guided by his own feelings. As a rough guide for those in moderate health, 90° for the warm and 60° for the cold may be taken as convenient.

[48]

The necessity of getting quickly over the second or cold application must be strongly urged: in and out again must be the rule and not the exception. Any one may observe what takes place when the body is immersed in cold water: first comes the sharp, half-pleasing, half-painful sensation of cold, almost immediately followed by a consciousness
of



LUXURIOUS BATHING.

be produced with the higher temperature on an enfeebled or weakly constitution, as with the lower on a strong and robust: the bather must be guided by his own feelings. As a rough guide for those in moderate health, 90° for the warm and 60° for the cold may be taken as convenient.

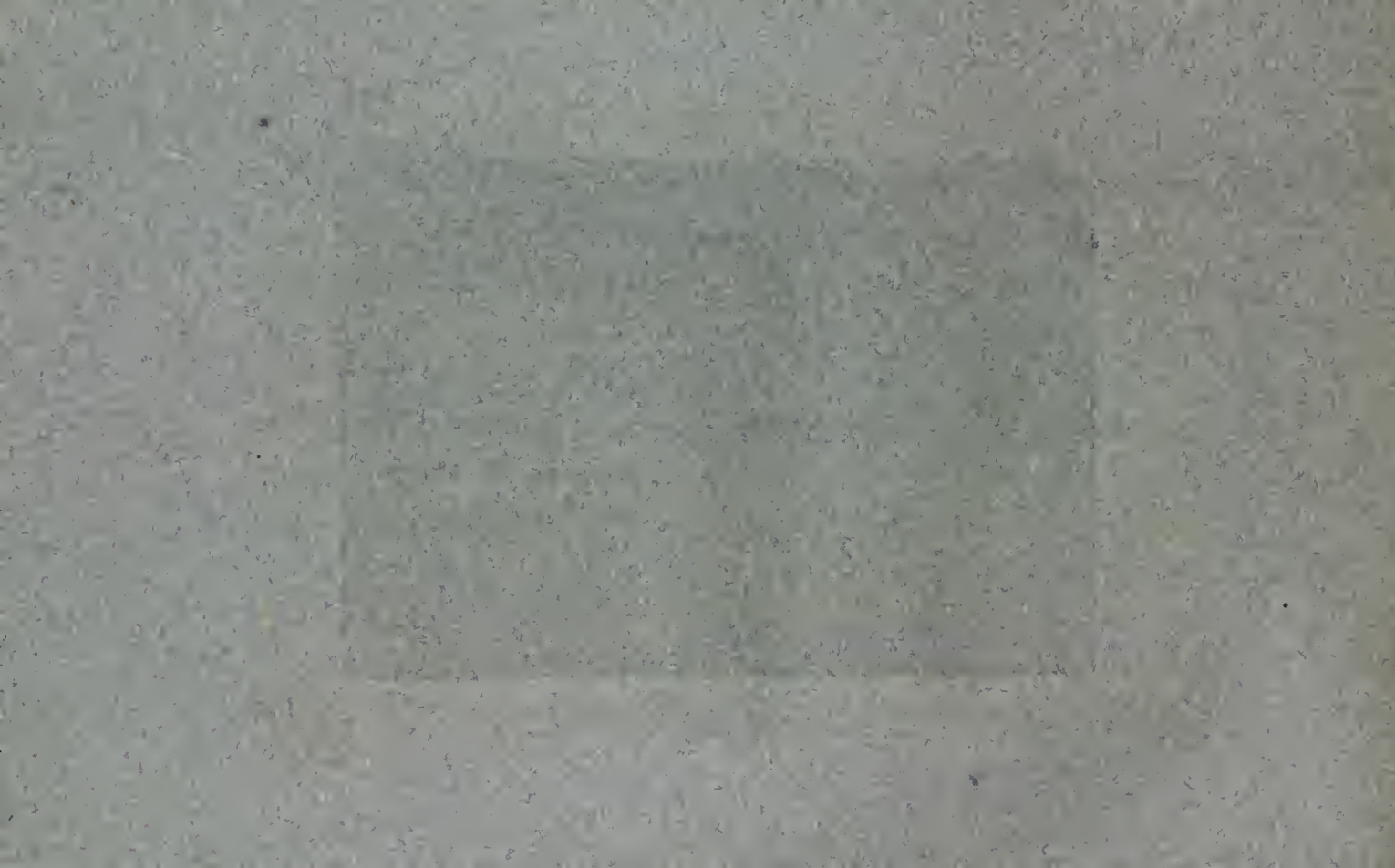
[48]

The necessity of getting quickly over the second or cold application must be strongly urged: in and out again must be the rule and not the exception. Any one may observe what takes place when the body is immersed in cold water: first comes the sharp, displeasing, half-painful sensation of cold, almost immediately followed by a consciousness

of



Cyprus-ware sharks



NOTES.

of internal warmth, the duration of which will be in proportion to the power of the organization to keep up this counteraction. The cold water slowly but surely absorbs and extracts the vital heat; if the bath be unduly prolonged, chilliness, shivering, numbness, and exhaustion follow, and although the unpleasant symptoms will probably shortly disappear, the bather will have lost rather than gained in point of health.

[49]

No notion of "getting used to it," or of cultivating hardness and endurance, should induce one to venture near the stage commencing with chilliness; by so doing the
flock

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

stock of health is wasted instead of increased: the mere patient endurance of cold cannot possibly do good, although it may unquestionably do a great deal of harm.

[50] *Many* persons suffer severely in winter from cold feet, with the attendant penalties of chilblains, colds, fore throat, and personal discomfort. It is well known to medical men that, when the feet are cold, the system is far more readily accessible to the attacks of disease, and to keep them warm, more especially during the early hours of the morning and after the bath, is, with some persons, almost an impossibility. Singers—both amateur and professional—
suffer,

NOTES.

suffer, certainly in this climate, more or less severely from affections—difficult to guard against—of the throat, induced in the majority of cases by cold, which first attacks the extremities. In lately consulting Dr. Llewelyn Thomas, he suggested as a future safeguard the wearing of shoes or
flippers (made by Whiteley, of Westbourne Grove) of a description calculated not only to retain the natural heat of the body but to absolutely exclude cold and draughts. The material is a dark felt, lined with thick white fur; the shoes are open down the sides, but the openings are heavily covered with a dark fur, effectually excluding draughts.

[51]

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

draughts. There are no laces or fastenings of any kind, and the shoes are slipped on or off in a moment.

[52] *It* need not be imagined that because the daily application of cold water in the luxurious form of the *Soap-bath* be strongly urged, it is desirable to inure the body in the manner advocated at the early part of this century, when bare-kneed little children—robust or weakly—were exposed insufficiently clothed to the inclemency of the weather under the mistaken idea of hardening them—hardening some, no doubt, but killing a great many more. The power to resist cold means the power to resist disease, and to be
proof

NOTES.

proof against intense cold, one must not only be well fed, and warmly clad, but thoroughly warm before exposure to the cold atmosphere out of doors. Protected by sufficient clothing, the body acts as a sort of store-house of heat, and a sufficiently large stock of warmth absorbed in the morning will last all day, and fresh supplies will be drawn from the heat-producing food consumed. A shivering child sent out of doors for violent exercise may certainly get warm, but it does so at the expense of its own vital energy.

The essential that must not only be looked for, but positively and rapidly attained, is the reaction from the
shock

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

[54]

shock produced by the cold water: the heart is actively excited, and the blood propelled with unusual force through the system; the temperature of the body rapidly rises, and a general glow supervenes, accompanied with mixed feelings of increased vitality, buoyancy and exhilaration, difficult to describe. With the non-robust the stay in the cold water can hardly be made too short: the principal shock is produced from the *first* application, and the endeavour ought rather to be to get out as quickly as possible, than to stay in under the mistaken notion of deriving increased benefit.

Should the stay be even a trifle too prolonged, the
reaction

NOTES.

reaction will be proportionately slow, and by no means so pleasant; or proper reaction may be made almost impossible, with the result of coldness, shivering, violent headache, slow pulse and probable sickness. It must, however, never be lost sight of that these unpleasantnesses are absolutely under the control of the bather, and never arise except with the very ignorant or very foolish: speedy reaction *must* be attained and can invariably be secured, even by the most feeble, provided the unpardonable and suicidal sin of too long a stay in the cold water be avoided.

Should the reaction after a *Sponge-bath* be very slow, it
may

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

may be hastened by the previous addition to the water of a small wine-glassful of eau-de-cologne, spirits of wine, or spirits of any description, whiskey being perhaps best.

[56] *The Soap-bath* may be commenced at any period of the year, and if children are induced to take it as a treat, rather than from any other point of view, they will soon become as partial to its use as their elders.

In slight colds the bath may be continued, but in the rare case of an extremely violent one, or affection of the throat, the bather, however much against his will, must perforce give it up for a time.

Those



LUXURIOUS BATHING.

may be hastened by the previous addition to the water of a small wine-glassful of eau-de-cologne, spirits of wine, or spirits of any description, whiskey being perhaps best.

[56] *The Soap-bath* may be commenced at any period of the year, and if children are induced to take it as a treat, rather than from any other point of view, they will soon become as partial to its use as their elders.

In slight colds the bath may be continued, but in the rare case of an extremely violent one, or affection of the throat, the bather, however much against his will, must perforce give it up for a time.

Those



in the waters.

NOTES.

Those who habituate themselves to the indulgence of the *Soap-bath* become, as it were, case-hardened, and can seldom be persuaded to forego their daily pleasure, much less to abandon the habit: by its use the body arrives and remains at its highest state of physical vigour; the power of resisting sudden changes of temperature is greatly increased, and liability to colds correspondingly lessened, while there is an almost absolute freedom from danger of infection and epidemic attacks. The *Soap-bath* is a source of immense and constant physical gratification; food is keenly enjoyed, the muscles get hard and firm, and the skin

LUXURIOUS BATHING.

skin soft as satin, while vigorous health and feelings of mental and animal enjoyment are produced attainable perhaps by no other means. Existence becomes what it was intended, and what it certainly ought to be—a positive pleasure: the numerous unpleasantnesses and dyspeptic ailments incidental to a low state of bodily health glide into the past, and their very recollection almost disappears.

[58]



ADDENDA.



SINCE going to press the author's attention has been drawn—not over-courteously perhaps—by certain manufacturers to the sweeping denunciation in this Sketch of the habitual use of scented soaps ; but after a careful examination and trial of various kinds, one alone—known as Pears' transparent soap—may in his opinion be safely indicated as a pure detergent in every way suitable for *Luxurious Bathing*.

*Field & Tuer,
Y^e Leadenhalle Presse,
London, E.C.*

“Hundreds of clever young men, who are now living at home and doing nothing, might be earning very tolerable incomes by their pens if they only knew how.”—*The Nineteenth Century*.

Journals and Journalism:

With a Guide for Literary Beginners,

BY

JOHN OLDCASTLE.

Contents:

Literary Amateurs.
Introductions to Editors.
Returned with thanks.
How to begin.
Pounds, Shillings and Pence.

The Literary Career:
I. The Fair Side.
II. The Seamy Side.
In an Editor's Chair.
A Miscellaneous Chapter.

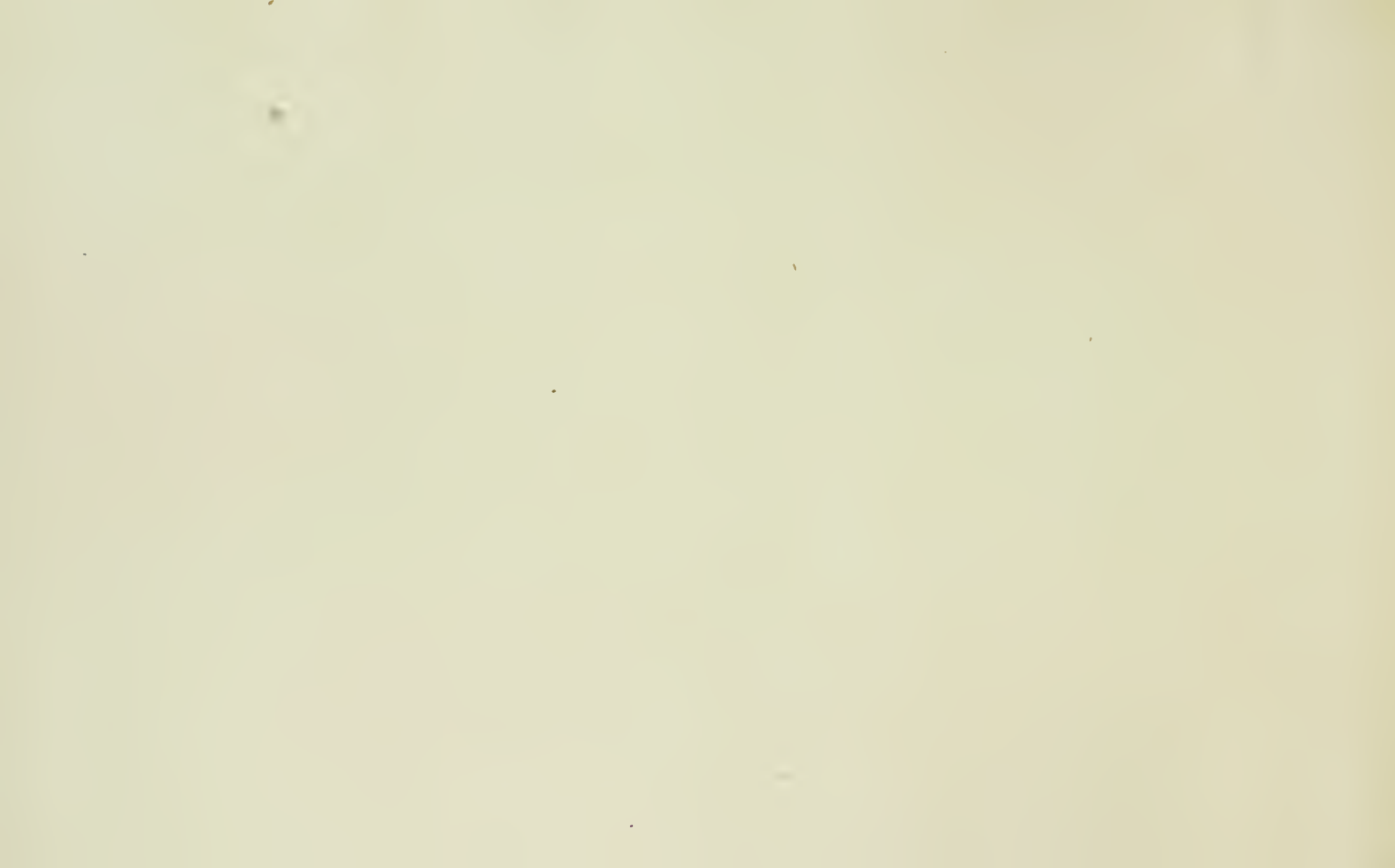
Literary Copyright.
Ten Journalistic Commandments.
How to Correct Proofs.

“This volume,” says the *Athenæum*, “will be studded with the autographs of *literati*, and is written by a practical journalist.”

PRICE THREE SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE.

LONDON:

Field & Tuer, y^e Leadenhale Presse, 50, Leadenhall Street, E.C.





Accession no. 25971

Author Tuer:
Luxurious bathing.
1880.

Call no. RM811
S80T

