

**McComber's tracks for 1883. : Comprising descriptions of McComber's institution for the radical cure of foot distortions by conservative surgery, and also of McComber's fashionable army and navy shoes for ladies and gentlemen.**

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McCOMBER'S

TRACKS

FOR

1883.

BY

JOEL McCOMBER,

Inventor of McComber's Patent Boots and Shoes and  
Patent Lasts,

No. 52 East 10th Street, New York,

FIVE DOORS WEST OF BROADWAY.

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# McCOMBER'S TRACKS FOR 1883.

In presenting to my customers, old and new,

## McComber's Tracks for 1883,

I feel bound to say that I believe those who will take the trouble to read the pamphlet through will be amply repaid. The articles are all interesting, and contain truths which every person of sound common sense will cordially indorse. Please observe the

### TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
A Word in Behalf of Children.....	
The Speechless Shoemaker.....	
Club-Foot and Kindred Deformities.....	
An Attractive Figure.....	
My Army and Navy Shoe.....	
The People's Shoe.....	
Paralyzed Toes....	
The Corn Doctor Dismissed.....	
Shoemaking Quacks.....	
Surgical Quacks.....	
Conservative Surgery.....	
A New Departure.....	
Look on this Picture.....	
And on this.....	
Care for the Feet.....	
McComber's Book.....	
McComber's Kid.....	
Directions for Measuring Feet.....	
List of Prices.....	

I hope all who receive this edition of "**McComber's Tracks**" will read every word that it contains and then pass it around, so that the healing balm which it provides for the wounded feet of the nation, may be enjoyed by an ever increasing multitude of men and women—rejoicing in the deliverance from some of the direst of human woes.



JOEL MCCOMBER,

52 East 10th Street, NEW YORK

March 1st, 1883.



## WORD IN BEHALF OF CHILDREN.

As the boy is father to the man, as we can never have a race of perfect men and women unless we are able to rear up perfect boys and girls, I desire to remind good fathers and mothers of the fact that the future spiritual, mental, moral, and physical beauty and symmetry of their children rest almost entirely upon themselves. By the bending of the young sapling the attitude of the mature tree is determined. It is impossible to overestimate the influence of early environment upon character and mind. Early surroundings color and shape the whole of life. The faulty imitations, the erroneous pronunciations, daily repeated in the ear of the child, become a part of himself and influence his speech for life. If his home surroundings are true and virtuous, a symmetrical manhood results. If the early home life is warped and distorted and unwholesome, the subsequent life is sure to exhibit serious deformity. As to the moral sphere, this influence of early surroundings is widely acknowledged. For centuries the Church has urged the importance of early training in the pleasant ways of wisdom as the means of securing a perfect adult life. A doctor, too, having due respect for the structure of the human frame, advises the mother that the chest must be loosely clothed; that the pressure made upon any part in tenderness destroys its vitality, impairs its



functions, and results in permanent deformity. Unfortunately for humanity, no pulpit thunders its anathema upon the heads of those who cruelly deform another part of God's image; no doctor wields his influence in condemnation of the wickedness which distorts and cripples and destroys alike the infant and the aged and makes life a terror to civilized man. A thousand writers will tell you of the corset which compresses the female waist, but not one of those who have the ear of the public through the pulpit or the press, troubles himself about the distortion of the beautiful human foot by stupid shoe-makers and the vile clothing which they fabricate for its protection. Let me ask intelligent parents this serious question; suppose it were the custom in this community to encompass the hands of children one year old with things of leather which from their improper shape should at once begin the fell work of deformity and distortion; suppose that these dreadful leather compresses should be kept upon the hands from twelve to fifteen hours out of every twenty-four, and that as one pair was worn out it was replaced by another stronger and more powerful for evil than the other, and that this course should be kept up from infancy to old age, depriving the hand of its beauty and its strength, crippling the symmetrical fingers, bending and distorting the shell-like nails with which their tips are ornamented, luxating the finger joints and forming upon them huge, painful, unsightly knobs; depriving the beautiful hands at once of their attractive



appearance and their powers of usefulness, and converting them into unsightly masses of distortion and disease. Would you follow the custom, and compel your little ones to follow it likewise? Can you conceive it possible that you would quietly submit to so barbarous a fashion? Would you not break out into open rebellion, the moment you arrived at years of understanding, against the inhumanity of those wretches who could construct their distorting sheaths of strong leather, crippling the beautiful hand, so marvelous in its structure, so cunning in its skill, so wonderful in its powers? And would you spare denunciations of those about you—your fathers and mothers, even—who could tolerate such abuse of this most wonderful portion of the human frame? Would you not, as years passed, and prattling children surrounded you, determine that for their dear sakes this torture, this loss of power, this transformation of beautiful and useful organs into vile, diseased, painful, unsightly, and horrible masses of diseased, distorted bones and inflamed tissues, should at once and forever cease? You think you can answer all these questions affirmatively. You declare that you would not submit to so barbarous a custom for a single hour; that your own hands should be instantly liberated from the cruel machines the moment you had sense enough to discover their horrors; and that they should *never*, NEVER, approach the hands of your children, though it were a million times the custom, and that custom were en-



forced by statute. But, my friend, while I am pleased to observe that you manifest a righteous spirit of rebellion against customs which enslave and cripple and destroy, I am compelled to doubt the sincerity of your reply. Your course in regard to another member of the human frame, as beautiful, as useful, as important as the hand, convinces me that you would quietly submit to the ruin which I have mentioned, alike for yourselves and for your children. You *do* submit to it in your own person, and you compel your own flesh and blood, your tender and delicate children, to submit to it also. You allow the idiotic carpenters in leather to fabricate things for your feet, and you compel your children to wear these vile, wicked, and deforming structures whose use unfailingly converts the symmetrical and beautiful human foot into the most unsightly and disgusting object to be found on the earth. It is useless, it is absurd, to plead that you are compelled to use the things which the shoemaker provides, to take his judgment and his word for what is right. He does not know what is right, and he does not care. He fastens pieces of leather together without skill, or knowledge, or sense; stitches them daintily, polishes them up, crowds them upon your poor feet or the feet of your children, and pockets his ill-gotten fees.

OH, FOR A GREAT AWAKENING on the PART of PARENTS so that SALVATION may come for the rising generation and for all who shall follow after.



## THE SPEECHLESS SHOE-MAKER.

There is probably no human being on earth so utterly dumb as the shoe-maker. The vocabulary of his trade is limited to about a half-dozen articulate sounds. Inasmuch as no skill enters into his avocation, so no need exists for the power to illustrate and explain it. He says nothing because he has absolutely nothing to say. He cannot give a reason for the faith that is in him, for his dreadful trade has destroyed reason and faith alike. His work demands no invention, no reflection, no study, no brains. The only faculty employed is that of imitation. All that he does by way of fastening pieces of leather together could be done equally well by his immediate ancestor, the anthropoid ape. Why am I so severe in my condemnation of the shoe-maker? Why do I not give him credit for honesty and good intentions? Because he is not honest, and his intentions are not good. He is not compelled to lead the vicious life which now engages him. He could dig cellars, or sweep streets, or do good in a thousand ways, if he would. He deliberately chooses to continue in his barbarous occupation. For a little money he consents to torture and distort his fellow-beings. With no thought save that of gain, he touches only to destroy. His hand is against every man, woman and child who comes within his baleful influence, and the time will come when all mankind will detest him as the author of the direst of human ills. He will



not educate himself ; he will not seek enlightenment ; he will not permit a single ray of knowledge to illuminate a stupidity which might well wrap a world in wonder. He knows, or would, if he had an iota of sense that his cruel work maims and cripples ; that every one of the dreadful leathern things which he sews, and pegs, and pastes, and finally sells, is an instrument of torture, and that soul and body alike are crucified by their use.

He pretends to fabricate desirable clothing for the beautiful human foot. The very assumption is a fabrication. He knows no more about the human foot and its needs than he knows about the foot of the megatherium, the ornithorynchus, or any other extinct animal. He is the blind, dumb, heartless master of a brainless slave. This slave is the last-maker, the shaper of that nondescript block of wood upon which the shoe-maker models the thing of leather which he calls a shoe. This last-maker may be dismissed with few words. He knows nothing, cares for nothing, is nothing. He spoils valuable timber by converting it into shapes which it would be no sin to worship, since they bear no resemblance to anything in the heavens above, the earth beneath, or the waters under the earth. Having wrought his fell purpose upon the unoffending wood, and converted it into an instrument of torture, he hands it over to the wretched shoe-maker who covers it with leather, and subsequently forces some human foot into the dreadful leather.



er shell thus provided. The last-maker chips and chisels away at his turning-lathe, and thinks no more of the anatomy of the foot, the foundation for the clothing of which he is forming, than he does of the moons of Saturn. His function is to blindly obey the commands of his equally blind master. That both should fall into the ditch is no wonder. That sensible persons should consent to painfully follow in the wake of this blind leader of the blind is marvellous; they will not, however, long so continue as intelligence increases. The stupid shoe-maker does not know how to instruct the last-maker to produce a last founded upon correct principles, so that shoes formed upon it shall be at once beautiful and free from the power to distort, cripple, and destroy.

With the dire stupidity of the shoe-maker no one is more familiar than I. For years I made my patent last for him, and vainly endeavored to educate him up to its proper use. I explained to him its principles and convinced him of its excellences. He was ready to admit its beauty and comfort, and I for a time was encouraged to hope that there was sense enough left in him to make its use general. Vain delusion! Not one of the multitude whom I supplied with my patent last continued to employ it in its perfect form. Every shoe-maker to whom I intrusted it proceeded to pare it down, and whittle it away, and ruin it. Every shoe-maker to whose honesty I so far trusted as to license him to make shoes upon my patent last, violated his



agreement by substituting for it the old foot-destroying, nondescript block, or by hewing it away or patching it with leather, until its character was destroyed, under the absurd pretense of improving it. As he knows nothing, and cannot be taught, I give him up. I will not spend another hour in attempts to beat knowledge into his beclouded brain. His business is to be destroyed by the education of the people to a higher standard, by the publicity which I shall give to the monstrous enormities practised by him. He may be forced to study and acquire such scientific knowledge as his calling demands. Only force, however, will influence him. Decency, conscience, ability, have never penetrated that dark vacuum which he calls his mind.

It would be amusing, if it were not so painfully absurd, to witness the gravitation with which the custom shoe-maker goes through the motions of marking the shape of the foot on paper, measuring it with tape and examining it with an appearance of almost human understanding, preparatory to applying to it his merciless machine of torture. To view him at the moment, one would almost be led to believe that he did really know something about the duty devolving upon him, that he was acting upon principles and governed by knowledge. His subsequent operations could be observed that delusion would speedily be dispelled. The diagram on paper is exactly as valuable to him as it was before pencil touched it. The measures signifying length and girth



simply mean that a hole surrounded by leather is to be formed, the length and circumference of which shall be a given number of inches, "only this and nothing more." Into this hole the tender foot is thrust, and then the misery begins. It is now a painful struggle between tender tissues and strong, unfeeling leather, and in the contest there is nothing but destruction and death for the victim. A single pair of strong shoes worn in childhood has crippled many a poor child for life. Indeed, the human race is a race of cripples, so far as civilization extends. The barbarity of the system of clothing the feet has made ten thousand-fold more cripples than all the wars of all the centuries. Thus it will surely be so long as the people permit themselves to be deceived by that ignorant, venal, stupid, conscienceless wretch called the shoe-maker. He is not to be trusted, for he knows nothing, seeks to know nothing, refuses to be taught. I have sought to enlighten him in vain. The darkness of what he calls his intellect is impervious, impenetrable, denser than that of Egypt. So it has been for generations, and so it is to-day. All other arts, all other trades have improved, have remedied errors, have cast off effete and harmful methods; the miserable shoe-maker continues to produce and reproduce the vile things which have brought misery to the race ever since sandals were replaced by shoes. I seek to explain all this, and to show how sensible people may have their feet clothed as beautifully, as comfortably, as their hands, or any portion of



their body; how distortion may be relieved and corns cured; how symmetry may supersede deformity and ugliness; how pleasure in exercise, dignity of motion, and grace of attitude may be secured, in my various publications for which I ask a careful perusal.

## CLUB-FOOT AND KINDRED DEFORMITIES.

I desire to call wider attention to the fact known to many citizens for ten years past that, by special methods not employed by others, I successfully treat deformities of the feet and ankles, whether accidental or congenital. These special methods do not involve the severing of tendons or the application of iron braces. I employ a system of surgery devised by myself, which neither cuts, nor punctures, nor sears, nor shackles; but, on the contrary, strengthens and saves. It is conservative surgery in its truest sense. Its mission is to painlessly restore to symmetry the deformed member.

The parent of a club-footed child will rejoice to know that relief from deformity can be effected without the use of the knife without occasioning pain or suffering, without straightening-devices or iron clamps. In talipes (club-foot), as in all varieties of foot distortion, the excising of tendons with the intent of straightening displaced members is the common and crying evil. It is the opprobrium of the surgeon's art. Cutting tendons never made a perfect foot out of a



club-foot, and it never can. To sever the fibrous cord called a "tendon," by which the muscle is attached, is, of course, to practically destroy the whole of the muscle, since a muscle having one loose end is of no practical use. "Conservative surgery" means, to save the muscle instead of sacrificing it; to give added strength and contractile power to the weak and feeble one, and provides the distorted foot with means by which every fibre and tissue may put forth its best powers for the restoration of the structure to symmetry and harmonious development. There are thousands of children born annually whose soles turn inward, and face the inner aspect of the leg; they are held thus by the contraction of the inner muscles and the inaction of the overstretched extensor ones. The common surgical method is to relieve the inner muscle by severing its tendon; then the attempt is made to hold the foot in normal position by irons. This is the most stupid of errors; it simply gives the poor little patient two worthless muscles instead of the one provided by misguided nature.

Suppose now, that instead of this barbarity we provide for the foot a shoe so constructed that at every step it is *compelled to plant itself squarely upon the sole*, what is the result?

Gradually the long contracted and shortened inner muscles are stretched and lengthened, and as gradually the elongated and flaccid outer ones acquire natural contractile power, and by this muscular co-ordination nature's error is completely remedied. The



cure is effected by setting unused muscles at work ; by sustaining and supporting weak, flaccid, and enfeebled tissues ; by encouraging the active circulation of the blood through vessels before compressed, and by securing normal vital action where feebleness and semi-paralysis had reigned. It is accomplished by the fair and honest and successful method of giving nature a chance to exercise her best energies, and assisting her in her efforts to cure by every movement of the properly shod deformed foot ; by making a daily advance in the direction of improvement, and by lessening the deformity at every step.

There are other deformities of the feet scarcely less painful than these pre-natal ones they are induced by the ignorant system of shoe making in general use all over the world which involve the distortion of the toes, the breaking down of the wonderful arches, painful and unnatural bodily posture, and unsightly growths upon the feet. All these and the physical and mental miseries which attend them, I am able to cure.

The best physicians and surgeons recognize my skill, and bring many patients to me for treatment. Yet, it must not be forgotten that my business is to save good feet from distortion as well as to restore such as are deformed. To this end I construct my *patent lasts to fit the feet*, upon which I make the only perfect foot clothing to be had on the globe. I perfectly clothe the feet of all classes and all sizes, from infancy to old age, and provide comfort, beauty, and symmetry for all.



## AN ATTRACTIVE FIGURE.

I wish to call the attention of all ladies and gentlemen who desire erectness of attitude, gracefulness of position, and elegance of figure to the fact that **McComber's Army and Navy Shoes** secure all these, together with ease, freedom, and grace in every bodily movement. The attitude of the body, its equipoise, its dignity, its presence, are largely controlled by the position of the feet, which position depends entirely upon the manner of clothing them. As ordinarily clothed, even by the best shoe-makers, they are forced into unnatural attitudes, which compel the body to assume abnormal positions, so that beauty of figure is practically destroyed. As to grace, ease, freedom of motion such as exists when every muscle is under perfect control, these are impossible when the feet are improperly clothed. If the feet are distorted the body suffers in many ways. Perfect health, perfect bodily symmetry, and perfect grace of carriage are impossible when the feet are clothed in the common, thoughtless, unscientific way.

## MY ARMY AND NAVY SHOE

induces none of the evils spoken of, but cures such as exist. It is the perfect foot-covering in all respects. The lady who suffers with inflamed, sensitive, tender, delicate feet, to whom a long walk is torture and vigorous exercise utter misery, puts on her neat, trim,



symmetrical, jaunty, attractive, glove-fitting Army and Navy Boots and finds them so easy and pleasant that walking is once more a joy. No breaking-in process is demanded; they are perfectly comfortable from the first moment. I construct the **Army and Navy Boots and Shoes** in various materials and for all occasions. I make them so light for full dress that they seem but a feather's weight upon the feet. Still, light as they are, they perfectly support the feet. They are so constructed that they can never break down and spread out and become repulsive to the sight. They are trim and handsome when new, and in age are still beautiful. The shoes of my manufacture are the only shoes in the world which "grow old gracefully."

It is strictly true that **McComber's Army and Navy Shoe** is the best and most comfortable foot-clothing ever constructed. It is a walking-shoe which perfectly and neatly fits the foot, while allowing entire erectness of attitude and freedom of motion. It not only causes no distortion of the foot, no corns, bunions, nor painful spots, but it relieves such as have already been caused by badly formed shoes such as all other shoe-makers provide.

Ladies walk for hours in the Army and Navy Shoes without being reminded that they have feet at all, so comfortable are they. I make them in all styles and of various materials. My Army and Navy full dress or parlor boot is unequaled for grace and beauty.

For Autumn and Winter outside wear I



make them with a thick or medium cork sole, light in weight, which lifts the foot from the wet, cold pavement, and protects it from the damp contact.

**The Army and Navy Shoe** is worn by many of our most fashionable people, who value health and comfort, and who habitually seek for the best in all departments.

I hope to excite sufficient interest in this admirable invention to induce such of the more thoughtful, intelligent, and careful portion of the community as have not heretofore enjoyed its great benefits, to call upon me and learn by observation, inquiry, and explanation, how entirely it meets the wants of all persons who walk, and all who would have their feet beautifully, symmetrically, and comfortably clothed, and who would be spared alike the tortures and permanent distortions of the feet and the injuries from which many other organs of the body suffer, from the use of the senseless and abominable boots and shoes generally worn. I say, and I desire to have the remark understood, that I speak to the best classes, and neither seek nor expect the patronage of those who lack intelligence, and who care nothing for tasteful and elegant attire. Thus far, most of my patrons have been the rich, the fashionable, the well-dressed, the cultured, the learned, the men and women of brains and position, who will have the best at all hazards; who appreciate the many far-reaching and enduring advantages secured by my perfect system of clothing the feet, and are partly able to comprehend the distortion,



suffering, disease, and premature death which must ever attend the cruel, merciless, wicked mode still practiced by that brutal, conscienceless clod, the shoe-maker, and which are still endured by his ignorant, thoughtless, unreasoning victims. The Army and Navy Walking Shoe was thus named because it was originally devised by me for officers in the service, to whom beauty and comfort in foot-gear are of the first importance, since their duties render them conspicuous on state occasions, when absolute faultlessness of attire is as essential as is that perfection of bodily posture that freedom of muscular movement, that grace of carriage, and that visible power which are impossible to hampered limbs, to feet distorted, cabined, cribbed, confined within the nondescript things of leather which the stupid shoe-maker forces upon the feet of his equally stupid customer. And there are other occasions in camp and in field when the power for good or evil of the clothing worn upon the feet of the soldier is tested to the utmost, when added to comfort under the most trying conditions, there must be perfect protection, amid vicissitudes of climate, against heat and cold, snow and ice, storm and tempest. Depended upon, as I constantly have been for many years, by leading officers of the Army and Navy to provide boots and shoes which should meet their every requirement, which should combine those essentials of perfect beauty, perfect comfort, perfect protection, and perfect durability of which I have spoken, I produced, as a result of my



deep reflection and study, the admirable article to which I affixed the name of the Army and Navy Walking Shoe, which has not only completely met the many exacting demands of the two classes for whom it was invented, but has found immense favor with all intelligent persons who have seen it, and is considered as above price by every one of its many wearers. The Army and Navy Walking Shoe may well lay claim to being the most beautiful clothing for the foot which has ever been worn. It adorns and beautifies even the wretchedly deformed and distorted feet of those who have always previously been shod by the inhuman shoe-makers of the period, while, when worn by those of my long-standing patrons who have for several years had their foot-clothing made by me and have thus secured for their feet perfect restoration to that beauty which obstructed nature so gladly bestows, and which would never have been lost but for the barbarity of the ignorant horde of shoe-makerdom, it is, indeed, a thing of beauty and a joy forever. No man or woman can lay claim to being perfectly attired, to being utterly graceful in movement, perfect in posture, and elegant alike in repose and in motion, who does not wear this shoe. No man or woman can walk with absolute ease, grace, and conscious power in any other shoe. There can be no such thing as "full dress" in any true sense, in which the Army and Navy Shoe does not find a place. WORTH may marvelously adorn and drape the body, but the want of McComber's Army and Navy



Shoe surely mars all. The first thought in the construction of the Army and Navy Shoe was that it should be perfect as an out-door garment, as a beautiful, symmetrical, comfortable, and durable walking-shoe, which should perfectly protect the feet amid the mud which soils, the moisture which saturates, and the snow and ice which chill. For comfort it must fit elegantly, and must not be too heavy; for protection it must elevate the wearer above the cold, wet sidewalk, and the damp, muddy or snow covered earth; and it must be so constructed that while the perspiration from within can escape, water from without can gain no entrance. All this I accomplish by methods peculiarly my own. The feet of the wearers are about as safe when exposed to cold and storm as when in the drawing-room. No rubbers are worn with them, because none are needed. Those pernicious structures known as India rubber over-shoes and Arctics, are vile things, which should be banished from human sight. They do no real service to any class, except doctors and undertakers. They consign thousands of human beings to untimely graves. Rubbers are worn because they are supposed to repel water. But walking shoes properly constructed, of proper material, and properly cared for, keep the feet far drier than the deceptively impervious rubber. India rubber cools whatever it touches. Shoes made from it are largely composed of mineral substances, which, being stone in a pulverized state, are precisely as cold as stone. Rubbers rapidly



conduct from the body its warmth, and thus give rise to colds, coughs, bronchitis, pleurisy, pneumonia, and many serious diseases. To wear them occasionally and briefly is to suffer great harm. To wear them habitually, hour after hour and day after day, is to come to destruction. That they destroy the vitality of the leather over which they are worn is true, but that is of small moment. Leather bungled together by the stupid shoe-maker ought to be destroyed. But the life of the wearer may be worth saving, and to him I speak. He ought to know that with rubbers worn upon the feet, all the excretions from the skin, all the poisonous emanations from hundreds of thousands of minute orifices are pent up beyond possibility of escape, to be re-absorbed and passed into the circulation of the blood and into the tissues, there to accomplish a destructive and deadly work. He should understand that good health is impossible under such conditions; that some organ of the body must acknowledge the injury done by such treatment; that the weakest link in the chain of life must snap, be it lungs, heart, brain, or kidneys; that the wages of sin, of violence, of ill-treatment to these wonderful bodies of ours, is death, and that the death thus caused is not chargeable to Providence, but to our own thoughtlessness and the lack of that knowledge which inspires and saves.

### **THE PEOPLE'S SHOE.**

I have told my readers something about



McComber's Army and Navy Shoe. That popular article of foot clothing was introduced, as I have said, in the interest of the wealthy classes, to whom a few dollars more or less is but a trifle. It is a costly garment **to make**, as I make it from the best material, and as it is fabricated by workmen whom I have personally educated, its cost, when first produced, placed it rather beyond the purses of the common people. So decided were the blessings conferred by this new invention of mine that I determined to find means to place it within the reach of all the great mass of the people, of the great army of workers, to whom bad and painful feet mean ultimate failure in life. By employing many workmen, and utilizing each one upon such portions of the work as he proves to be most expert in, by investing large capital, by purchasing materials at the lowest market prices, by watchfulness and care at every point to guard against extravagance and waste, I am enabled to produce **the People's Army and Navy Shoe** at a price within the reach of all who are rich enough to buy shoes of any kind.

In **the People's Shoe** the stock used is such as is known as "first class" by shoemakers all over the country. It is fine and excellent and durable and comfortable, but it does not cost as much as that which I use in my highest price goods. No doubt the best is the cheapest, as it is the most costly; but for those who cannot afford the best and most costly, I provide in **the People's Shoe** an



article much better than is usually supplied by the best custom shoe-makers. I make it in all styles, for dress occasions, for walking and for heavy wear, and whether light or heavy it is perfect in fit, attractive in appearance, and very durable. When new it is glove-fitting, and in age it is never broken down and slouchy.

### **PARALYZED TOES.**

I desire now to call the attention of all intelligent persons to a subject which intimately concerns every civilized human being the world over. I allude to that loss of power in the muscles in the foot induced by irrational, ignorant methods of clothing them, which amounts to practical paralysis. This paralysis is universal among the wearers of shoes. Indians and other barbarous nations who go barefoot or wear moccasins, do not suffer paralysis, nor do barefoot country boys. The only decently formed feet among our people to-day are the untrammelled feet of infants and those of the barefoot children; all the rest are more or less deformed and paralyzed. I have examined many thousands, and I have never found one perfect foot after it had been shod in the usual stupid way for a single year. Its form may not have been materially changed in one year, but its muscles have become weakened and their powers lessened. I have found multitudes of feet which were practically dead by reason of false shoeing, but which were still being dragged about by their unconscious owners. These dead feet are the worst feet of all, be-



cause they must be restored to life before there is the slightest hope for them. The wasted muscles of these cold dead feet will never manifest life, will never begin wholesome, symmetrical growth, until pressure is removed and the warming, vitalizing blood is allowed to course freely through every part. It is the new blood which saves and restores and replaces wasted tissues ; and when this is forced out by pressure and not allowed to return, death of nerve and muscle must be the result. These horrible dead feet, with sensor nerves paralyzed and feeling destroyed, do not impel their unfortunate owners to save them from further ruin, because they are insensible to their wretched condition.

The luckless owners of these dead feet do not come to me for relief, because the moribund organs complain not, and send up to the brain no plaintive cry for help. "Dead men tell no tales" of the foul murder done to them. So the dead nerves of murdered feet send up no cry for help, engage in no revolt against the merciless monsters who bind, and shackle, and paralyze, and destroy. Pain ceases when gangrene (mortification) sets in. Gangrene means death, and there is no pain after death. Prolonged pressure upon an important nerve in the leg, by the accident of position, may deprive the entire foot of sensation and power. We say the foot is "asleep." Remove the pressure and life returns. Continue the pressure and unconsciousness and death become permanent. In like manner the continued pressure of badly



constructed shoes deadens all sensibility and destroys all power. The poor feet hang as nearly lifeless appendages, and their owner thinks they are perfect, because they do not hurt him. It is a thousand pities that they hurt him not. A painful foot is a good foot, a promising foot, because it has life enough left to complain. It will not be abused without uttering a howl of remonstrance; being alive, it speaketh; being cruelly hurt, it resisteth; being wickedly tortured, it cryeth aloud. Thus, a painful corn is a genuine blessing, because it tells us that life remains, and therefore hope. Seek not to palliate this friendly monitor by the methods of the vile corn-doctor, but let him remain watchfully at his post, to warn and threaten and command. The twinges of feet not utterly paralyzed, added to those of a conscience not wholly seared, may impel you to seek for your greatly abused extremities that life and health and beauty which my skill is able to impart. Better to continue to suffer than to lapse into the forgetfulness of death. Better to remain in purgatory, escape from which is possible, than go forward to the death which is eternal. Let the poor dead victims, unconscious of the death which has already invaded the lower extremities, continue to hobble about without knowing the joys which come from vigorous muscular power, manifested in the delightful exercise of walking. Nothing saves the owners of these dead feet from the grave, except the fact that at night, during the hours of sleep, the shackles are removed,



the blood is permitted to flow unimpeded through the congested tissues, and life is temporarily restored. But for this the feet would decay, the toes would speedily rot off; and for this destruction only the ignorant shoe-maker and those who stupidly employ him are to blame. This terrible, universal, toe-paralysis of which I have spoken, is no more necessary to civilized humanity than would be paralysis of the fingers. The structures are much alike, and one should be as enduring, as permanently useful, as the other. The joints of the toes of civilized man, being sustained only by wasted and powerless muscles, readily bend backward, as they should not do (any more than in the fingers), when the weight of the body is put upon them. The toes, having lost their muscular power, are like a jack-knife blade having no back-spring; they are powerless in themselves, but may be moved about in any direction by external force. The muscles having been weakened by bad shoes, have no power either to move and control the joints or to hold them in natural position. In perfect and unimpaired vigor, all the toes are powerful, and may be depended upon to sustain the bodily weight. When destroyed in function, as I have described, they are as useless as rags. With such toes, a beautiful, graceful gait is impossible. A square "heel and toe" walk is not possible to our adults. In this natural style of walking, common to uncivilized man but unknown in anything like perfection among us, the heel first touches



the ground, and from this point of contact the foot rolls under, like the segment of a circle; first the heel, then the ball, then the toe. This calls into play all the muscles of the foot and leg, and, indeed, gives exercise, to some extent, to nearly every muscle in the body. This gait, impossible to the owner of paralyzed toes, gives elegance and erectness to the body, expansion to the lungs, freedom, animation, and power to every part. — What a dreadful mass of distorted bones, and ruined muscles, and paralyzed nerves, and depraved tissues, is the foot of the man or woman of to-day! Examine its condition with the eye of knowledge, and you will find it to be always pathological, always morbid, always deformed. The wrenching, twisting power of leather badly applied, aided by the misapplied force of every bodily motion, has destroyed the contractile vigor of the transverse muscles, which attach to the condyles of the metatarsal bones and pass under the hollow of the foot, and has thus permitted the transverse arch to be broken down and destroyed. Being no longer held in apposition, the first and second phalanges separate and sprawl and flatten. The wretched shoe distorts the foot, and wrenches and twists it out of all proportion and symmetry at every step. The time comes when there is no health in it. It is a diseased, unwholesome mass. The blood, impeded in its passage, becomes vitiated, vitality is weakened, the mind loses its power, the temper is ruined, the moral nature is perverted, the worthy man or woman is trans-



formed into a moral, physical, and mental monster. Who can compute the amount of suffering, disease, and death caused by the common and idiotic method of shoeing! Who can frame words in which to describe the torture to which the miserable shoe-makers of the world subject all civilized humanity? It begins with the first tiny pair of shoes with which the fond mother seeks to protect the tender feet of her baby, and continues while life lasts. The first little shoe is only a soft monstrosity, a feeble instrument of distortion and torture. Successive shoes bring new power for injury, new means of distortion and destruction, until the ruin is complete. Accompanying all the torture and deformity, who shall dare attempt to estimate the mental alienation, the destruction of human kindness, the creation of morbid and diseased mental states, which follow in the train of the physical evils which the wicked shoe-maker is so sure to produce?

I CURE ALL THESE TERRIBLE EVILS, as thousands can testify. I cure them by giving nature a chance, by providing the dead feet with means for their restoration to life, by so forming their symmetrical clothing that every step taken is a step toward life and health and beauty and power. I provide the means, but nature and my patient complete the cure. Without the assistance of my patent shoes, made by me, a cure can never come; with their aid, improvement is speedy, and ultimate recovery only a question of time.



## THE CORN DOCTOR DISMISSED.

To cast out this mischievous personage, to consign him to outer darkness, has long been my earnest desire. He lives and thrives upon the misery of others, misery for which he is directly responsible. He is as pitiful an excrescence upon society as are those which he pretends to remove. He is the venomous shark that follows the misguided craft of shoemakerdom, and preys upon its victims. The *direct* cause of his existence is, of course, the shoe-maker, who ignorantly creates clothing for the feet, which racks, strains, distorts and ruins them. The benighted shoe-maker fabricates the leathern thing which he calls a "shoe," with one pointed end, and then tilts up the other end on a peg, which he denominates "a heel," and thus forces the poor foot forward into the wedge-shaped receptacle, by the whole weight of the body, and the added power of the muscles. The thumb-screw of the inquisition was not more absolutely terrible than are these miserable leather compresses, called boots and shoes. Is it any wonder that corns, and bunions, and distorted toes, and dreadful sufferings follow? Is it strange that this wicked stupidity of the shoe-maker begets a horde of pestilent corn-parers? And since the well-being of the community demands that they be driven from the face of the earth, shall I not enlighten the public as to the cause of their existence, and call upon a public thus enlightened to aid me in their



overthrow? Corn doctors are, as I have said, the creation of that emblem of dire stupidity the world over, the shoe-maker. So long as shoe-makers are utterly ignorant of the anatomy of the beautiful human foot and of its needs under the vastly varying conditions to which it is exposed, so long will the corn doctor, with his paucity of skill, of science, and of conscience, continue to extort enormous sums of money in efforts to palliate the injuries born of ignorance and inhumanity. That these fellows do manage by paring and soaking, and plasters and lotions, to temporarily relieve the pain caused by the Chinese method of shoe-making which shoe-makers practice the world over, is true; but they never effect a cure. The cure is to come from the *education of the shoe-maker and of the last-maker.*

Under a proper system of foot-clothing, corns and abnormal growths would be as uncommon upon the feet as they are now upon the elbows. A system so potent for evil as is that practiced by the shoe-makers of the past and present, would be driven from human sight by all the force of the State, were it not for the power of the corn doctor to lessen the misery of the race, not by curing existing evils, but by destroying sensibility to pain. This power it is, then, which makes these corn-parers the deadly enemies of humanity, because they make the abominable boots and shoes which ignorant men sell for sensible foot-gear, almost endurable. They do their best to encourage the terrible



work of foot-distortion and destruction which abounds, because upon this they fatten.

When the day dawns upon which corn doctors and corn plasters are annihilated, and the poor, distorted, ruined feet, upon which the nations hobble painfully down the century, are allowed to suffer as they should in order that the ignorant authors of their woes shall not be forgotten, relief will be near, because an outraged public, fully conscious of its ill-treatment, will not be long in visiting appropriate punishment upon the wretched shoe-makers who scatter pain and ruin on every side. The absolute remedy for all the aches and pains and distortions of the feet, for the abnormal growths called corns and bunions, and in-growing nails, and gouty enlargements and callosities, and painfully enlarged joints, is not the remedy of the corn doctor ; the cure is not an ointment, a lotion, nor a plaster. It is not palliative nor temporary ; it is radical and permanent. It is not my cure, it is nature's ; for nature is ever kindly and helpful when permitted to exercise her benevolent purposes. Nature cures if she is allowed to ; but the *methods employed* are mine, the same which I have practiced for many years, for which letters patent were issued to me, and which I alone, of all the shoe-makers in the world, apply. By these purely scientific methods the beautiful human foot is saved from discomfort, distortion and destruction, and restored to symmetry and usefulness. Sensi-



ble people who would unite in their foot-clothing the essentials which they naturally seek in garments for other portions of the body, *viz.*: grace, ease, and freedom of motion, great durability, elegance of design and perfection of fit, together with a daily and gradual improvement in the size and contour of the foot, will pursue their investigation of this subject.

### SHOE-MAKING QUACKS.

I wish I could do justice in words to the horde of shoe-making quacks which infest every street of our great cities and ply their merciless avocation in every town, village and hamlet all over the broad land. But this is impossible. Language is inadequate to the task. To properly condemn the cruel barbarities practiced upon the persons of their many victims is beyond the power of the vocabularies of all the nations and tongues of earth. The habitations and the haunts of civilized man everywhere, have echoed with the groans of the tortured multitude whose feet have suffered agonies unutterable from the wicked things of leather which have been fastened upon them by the vandals and quacks of shoe-makerdom. There is not an inch of the green earth trodden by civilized man which has not been bathed in the blood of the victims of this unholy and barbarous traffic. Wherever civilized man plants his foot, whether upon the sands of the seashore or the snows of the eternal mountains, he leaves the imprint of a beautiful organ utterly



shorn of its fair proportions ; of a portion of God's image, distorted, twisted and wrenched out of all symmetry and beauty, and scarcely recognizable as a member of the human body. I wish I might say that there are exceptions to this rule. It would delight me above all things to be able to single out even one man from the detestable gang which pretends to provide clothing for the feet of humanity, who has educated himself in the first principles of his art ; who has studied the anatomy of the foot ; who knows for what its bones, muscles, tendons and nerves are intended, what purpose they subserve, and how the designs of the Creator in cunningly fashioning them can best be carried out in the fabrication of their clothing. If I had the name of even one such man, of one, indeed, who had given days where I have given years, to those practical studies in dissecting which lay bare the secrets of life and show its innermost workings, its hidden mysteries, through which alone comes that knowledge which confers upon man the power to save that which would otherwise be lost, to heal the suffering, to bind up the wounds inflicted by the ignorant and brutal, to enable the lame to rejoice, and the cripple once more to walk uprightly, I would publish his name and his noble deeds as another human benefactor. Alas ! there is not one in all the world. I stand absolutely alone, without a rival, without a compeer, without a competitor. On this planet of ours there is but **ONE TRUE SYSTEM** of clothing the human foot by



which it may be saved from injury and distortion, its powers and usefulness and beauty preserved through life, its comfort and symmetry insured amid all ordinary vicissitudes—and of that system I am the inventor. This admirable, unfailing method is pursued by me alone. The foot clothing made by me, by the methods which I have patented, can be procured only at my establishment. I have no agents and no partners. The hope that all the shoe-makers of the world would hasten to adopt the beautiful system of my invention, animated me for years. I strove to educate them to something higher and nobler than the brutal methods which have descended to them from the dark ages, when science and mechanics bore no relation to one another; when to be a hewer of wood or pounder of leather was to be as senseless, as stupid, as doltish, as the inanimate materials wrought upon. The effort was vain. There was something lacking. The system was admirable, the teacher understood his art, the result was perfect apparel for the foot for the first time in the history of the world. The wearers applauded and rejoiced, and declared, in their glad hour of deliverance from pain, distortion and disability, that money could not buy the patent lasts which I had made for them, and upon which I had fabricated the shoes which had so charmed their every sense. But the blockheads of shoe-makers proved worthy of their stupid ancestry. There was no crevice in their thick heads through which one ray of light could



enter. Strive to educate them as I might, they insisted upon returning to their hateful distorting blocks, upon which the shoes of hundreds of generations have been wickedly formed. Not one among them all adhered to the principles established and taught by me. So reckless, so utterly unprincipled, were they in their departure from my teachings, that I was compelled to repudiate them entire. Being bound to their nondescript idols which they call lasts, I am content to let them alone.

The shoe-making quacks do not lack impudence any more than they lack ignorance and stupidity. In power for wicked deeds their gifts altogether eclipse mere talent, overshadow genius, and occupy the unhallowed depths of evil inspiration. There are scores of them who tell their customers that they make shoes on McComber's lasts, when, in truth, if they had the lasts they could no more fashion a shoe upon them than they could dip the ocean dry. One man calls himself the "original McComber," and this claim is the only display of originality, of genuine invention, chargeable to him in a life now all too greatly prolonged. Many others are swift to claim to make the McComber shoes "when desired," who know no more about their construction than does the ape in the fastnesses of an African jungle. These are the silly quacks who deceive no one. There are others who are vastly more dangerous because they now and then entrap a stranger and subject him to lingering



torture and ultimate destruction. These are the "Anatomical" fellows, whose "stock in trade" consists of one idea. It is a great thing to get even one idea into a shoe-maker's head, and it is a thousand pities that this one should be so infinitely worse than worthless. These "Anatomical" creatures have read something which a stupid Dutchman named Meyer once wrote, and seek for notoriety and patronage by repeating the absurdities which the old simpleton uttered. He wanted shoes made so that they should "toe inward." He declared the human foot to be shaped like one-half an ellipse, and accordingly he provided it with an elliptical shoe; a sort of a crescent, with a place for the great toe at one end, and a heel-tap at the other. In contour it approached the shape of a new moon, or the shoe of an ox, a good deal more than it resembled the foot of man. It was simply a monstrosity, a fraud, a delusion, and a snare, as all who were seduced into trying to wear it learned to their misery. The follower in the footsteps of Meyer is a trifle more an object of contempt than his brutal brothers, because he assumes to know something about the anatomy of the foot, while in reality he is as ignorant of the foot as he is of the mountains in the moon. The assumptions of this wallower in the mire are too absurd for discussion. There are other specialists among quack shoe-makers who shall have a pleasant word. There is the "broad sole" nuisance, as soulless a creature as ever crept. He idiotically declares that all the ills that



the abused foot is heir to are to be cured by broad soles. He never troubles his dull brain about the relation which the sole bears to the upper part of the structure; it matters not to him if the man stands on the outer edge of his "broad sole" and overhangs it; the misguided and deceived customer is permitted to shuffle around in his "broad sole," and finds out all too soon that although its breadth is dreadful to look upon, it does not save him from crushing down the upper leather at every step, wrenching and twisting his poor feet out of all shape, and consigning him to the most poignant misery. No! not by a broad sole is the cure for the distortion of the feet to come, even though it were as broad as is the road that leads to death. There is no need to cover the foot with leather enough to shoe a giant in order to secure comfort. Elegance, neatness, and grace are entirely compatible with comfort, and these my methods alone secure. I have not time to allude to all the devices of these enemies of humanity whom I am discussing, the shoe-making quacks. One proclaims himself the "Common Sense" shoe-maker, when in fact, nothing could be more uncommon, nothing more impossible, indeed, in the shoe-maker of to-day, than to find that kind of common sense which believes in honesty, which demands that a minister shall comprehend the mysteries which he teaches; that the lawyer shall know something about law; that the physician shall understand the human system,



its needs, and its appropriate remedies in disease, and that the shoe-maker shall be qualified to clothe without marring, the beautiful structure committed to his charge, and to protect it from the wickedness of pretenders, of shoe-making quacks who deface and destroy the useful members of the body which they pretend to care for, and properly clothe. Against the barbaric horde of wicked shoe-makers who thus deform God's image, I wage now and always the most unrelenting warfare. I follow in their path, to heal their victims, to save such as will be saved, to point out the way of salvation to all who will walk therein. I CURE the EVILS INDUCED BY SHOE-MAKING QUACKS by methods of my own, patented by me, and used alone by me. Come unto me all ye that labor under the dreadful disabilities induced by the wickedness of shoe-makers, and are heavy laden with the clogs which maim and cripple, and I will give you rest, and peace, and joy.

### **SURGICAL QUACKS AND M'COMBER'S METHOD OF DEALING WITH THEM.**

I wish to warn any parent who has a child with deformed feet and ankles, whether such deformity existed at birth or was subsequently induced as the result of accident, that as he values its future happiness and well-being, he must avoid the quacks in surgery who pretend to strengthen the limb by cutting its tendons and afterwards affixing shackles of iron to force it into something



like a natural position and hold it there. This is a very unscientific method of remedying the evil ; it is, in fact, no remedy at all. To sever the tendon of a contracted muscle practically destroys the muscle itself, because it releases one end of it from its attachment to the bone and renders it wholly inoperative. The deformity known as talipes or "club-foot," whether congenital or the result of disease or accident, is a contraction of certain muscles, which contraction and the relaxation of the ligaments, cause rotation and partial dislocation of the various bones of the foot and ankle. When the deformity exists at birth, the distorted bones are always smaller, the muscles wasted, the circulation poor, the limb cold and feeble, and nutrition and sensibility imperfect. Slight force applied at this stage suffices to strengthen and reduce to a natural position the distorted member, which immediately resumes its attitude of deformity on the removal of the pressure. The old method of remedying the evil was by bandages and splints, and kindred measures for extending and holding the organ in place. It was abandoned because it never made a fairly good foot. There was little growth in size and strength in the disorganized member, because it was practically unused. The muscles did not grow, did not gain in elasticity and power, because they lacked that exercise by which all muscular tissue thrives. So the starch bandage and splint, and plaster-mold system became recognized as a failure. Then came the operation called tenotomy,



which for fifty years has been practiced upon young and old, and upon every tendon accessible to the knife. In pursuance of this brutal work the great and all-important tendon achilles has been cruelly severed in hundreds of thousands of cases, together with the flexors of the toes, the planter fascia, and the various tendons surrounding the ankle joint. The entire muscular system of the deformed extremity has been cut loose from its attachment to the bones, leaving the foot hanging in its skin, as a limp and worthless sack of slightly connected bones. To compel the poor pendent foot to assume something like a natural position, braces and fixtures of iron are applied, clamped within which the abused member is left to "grow straight." There is no chance for development; there is no growth in muscular power; no strength comes to the feeble, unused tissues. The severed tendon heals and a callus forms, which, like any other cicatrix, becomes in time as inflexible as horn. When the callus is new it can be lengthened by stretching; but this elongated, non-elastic tendon never takes the place of an elastic muscle. A tendon once stretched remains stretched; it is non-tractile; it does not rebound when released; it has no elasticity; no pulling power is inherent in it. It is a rigid string or band, which may unite after being severed, and which may then be lengthened at the point of union. When thus pulled out it is merely a longer string than before. Extension by iron braces permits the overstretched outer



muscles to become shortened, but they never attain to a high degree of usefulness. The long contracted and greatly shortened muscles having the tendons severed connecting them with the bony structure which it is their function in health to hold in place and to properly actuate, never acquire normal vigor and strength and usefulness. They are blasted and withered and destroyed by the sharp steel of the knife and the strong iron of the shackle. Nature has made them halting and misshapen, has arrested their development and sadly malformed them, and her imperfect work is followed by that of the surgical quack, who, finding a fixed, short, and rigid muscle antagonizing an attenuated and inoperative one, proceeds to cut the short muscle loose, and in effect to tie it to the bone with a non-elastic cord. The destructive work of this quack must be followed and supplemented by that of another, the blacksmith, who fastens the iron cage around the disabled limb, and makes perpetual the distortion and disability which sensible and scientific treatment would have completely remedied. What do I do in such a case? Let me tell you **WHAT I DO NOT DO**, and why. **I DO NOT SEVER** the **TENDON OF A CONTRACTED MUSCLE** in order to subsequently stretch it, because I do not desire and cannot employ as a restoring agent a rigid non-elastic cord. I need a lengthened muscle, a flexible, active, lively, responsive, structure, which shall serve its true purpose as soon as it is taught to act in harmony



with its now equally useless fellows, whose function has been suspended by over-attenuation. I DO NOT BIND AND CLAMP THE LIMB with iron hoops and splints and braces, because I know that no limb thus hampered can ever be restored to life ; because I have learned that muscular power never comes to muscles unused, and that induration, atrophy, and death are the sure fate of muscular tissue thus confined and cramped. I know that in every club foot there are numerous muscles which are rendered wholly useless by reason of contraction, and that there are other muscles which are powerless, because they are stretched beyond the possibility of return, until educated up to that possibility. The habit of both sets of muscles has been unnatural, depraved, pathological, and deformity has resulted. We can overcome this deformity by cutting, just as well as society can overcome crime by decapitating the criminal ; but in either case to cut is to destroy, and destruction is not the highest of human missions. It is far better to save—it is much nobler to restore. Instead of cutting off untimely the erring mortals and the erring muscles, let us lead them into ways of wisdom and usefulness ; let us direct their tremendous, but misapplied energies, for good, so that real benefit in lieu of injury may spring from their existence. I trust I am making the matter plain when I declare as the result of great experience in the treatment of club foot, that what the poor deformed limb needs is not a contracted muscle,



pieced out with a lengthened tendon, for that combination is, after all, merely a rigid, elongated band, having no elasticity, and entirely lacking in muscular power; its natural development, whether arrested by misguided nature or by some accident or injury, can never be resumed after the tendons are severed. Until that atrocious barbarism is wrought, there is hope; with the accomplishment of that crowning act of wickedness the possibility of entirely curing the evil ceases. Improvement, amelioration, I am still able to secure, but there is always weakness of the joints and lack of vigorous growth in the foot itself. The owner of such an organ is never sure of his footing; his ankle, unsustained by good muscles, is liable to "turn" at every step; it has no springiness, no propelling power; it does not readily respond to the will; its movements are ungraceful, uncertain, feeble. It is a poor substitute for a good foot, because it has lost its mainstays, its controlling organs, its supports. I can so clothe this much-abused foot that its powers will increase from year to year; that no amazing deformity will exist; that it will excite no attention or remark; but I cannot give it the power and vigor which could have been conferred upon it had not its muscles been practically abolished by cutting its tendons. But give me the misshapen foot before ruin has been brought upon it by the surgical quack, and I will restore it to beauty and symmetry and power by methods so simple and beautiful that they



command the admiration of all. I compel these very muscles to perform the cure—these muscles which are so odious to the surgical quack, because of their lack of coordinate action, that he cuts them loose from their attachment to the bone. If I could accomplish my object any better by cutting the tendons I should not hesitate to cut them. The operation is very simple and I could perform it as well as any one, but to do it would be to ruin the foot beyond all hope of complete restoration. My duty is to save the foot, to make it not simply as beautiful as one that has never suffered from deformity, but as strong, as active, and as useful. In doing this I have many evils to combat, many obstacles to overcome. Talipes varies greatly in its character, and each case demands its own especial treatment. But throughout the entire range of cases, I find, invariably, one set of muscles greatly shortened and contracted, and the opposing ones lengthened, attenuated, and lacking in contractile power. Both are quiescent, both inactive, both at present useless. Yet these useless, inactive antagonists are to be made the instruments by which the deformity is to be slowly, but surely, abolished. These fixed, immovable tissues are destined to bring order out of this dreadful chaos of dislocated bones and establish the reign of beauty in place of hideous deformity. How shall it be done? The answer is identical with that of the philosopher who was asked to define eloquence. “Action, action, action.” By ac-



tion only can these dire deformities be cured. The muscles must be set in motion in the right direction. The misshapen foot must be so clothed that every step taken, however hobbling, will induce a slight improvement in the power of the muscles and in the shape of the unsightly structure. If the heel is elevated it must gradually be brought to the ground by the power of its own restored muscles. If the toes are bent under they must be brought to straighten out at every step; gradually, painlessly, one muscle after another becomes operative and useful; gradually one bone after another is drawn into its natural position and held there. Every step taken is a step in the direction of perfect restoration, a step toward symmetry and grace and power. I hope I shall not be misunderstood when I speak with seeming harshness of the surgical quacks. The truth is, I am too mild and gentle in my expressions concerning them. I have reason to be terribly severe upon their vile methods, because they make my kindly and salutary work of restoration well-nigh impossible. If I am so fortunate as to secure the patient before he has come under the hand and knife of this dreadful creature, I can save him; I can undo nature's imperfect work; I can give strength and usefulness as well as symmetry and beauty, to the deformed organ. But my skill is not adequate to the restoration of an excised tendon. I cannot impart strength to a muscle destroyed. And so I war upon the surgical quack because he blights and blasts



and ruins and destroys, and makes perfect restoration imposssble. But when I speak of quacks I do not allude to the true surgeons and physicians who prefer to save rather than to destroy; whose familiarity with the muscles and their functions assures them that the same muscular power, which, when misapplied, is potent to distort and destroy, can, when properly guided, restore and save. These learned, able, skillful men are my friends, as they are the friends of humanity. They would no more cut a tendon, and thus destroy a muscle forever, than they would cut a throat and call it conservative surgery. They know that the highest skill is shown in saving; that to cut and slash and ruin are easy enough, save to the man of science and feeling, and humanity. They rejoice in my power to painlessly save, to perfectly restore. They bring to me their patients, small and great, and take a deep interest in watching, day by day, the properly directed power of nature, until the cure is complete and the feet so recently feeble, helpless, lifeless, ugly, become strong and beautiful. Doctors such as these, I respect and admire. No nobler men live. But the quacks I abhor, and of the quacks none are more hateful than the surgical ones, who claim knowledge while they have it not, and ruin beyond human power to re-create. It must not be forgotten that my skill in treating deformities of the feet and ankles is not confined to children. It is exercised upon all ages and conditions, upon all deformities and distortions, whether



of recent or long standing. There is, in my system, help for all. There is a cure, complete and radical, for those who have been spared from the tampering of quacks. While I cure the deformities, I clothe the deformed members, and provide for them the most attractive apparel, so that while growing in strength and power they shall grow also in grace, beauty, comeliness, and all fair proportions.

I have many things yet to say, and as often as I find time amid onerous and exacting duties, I will pronounce them for the public good. I will give advice concerning the feet, which, if followed, will make them beautiful, useful, comfortable, serviceable members, from childhood to old age. I could talk for years, speaking constantly words of wisdom and experience, which are competent to make the suffering, distorted, hobbling nations of earth leap for very joy. If they will listen to me, and be guided by me, they shall suffer martyrdom no longer, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Their ways shall be ways of pleasantness, and all their paths shall be peace.



## CONSERVATIVE SURGERY.

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With the advent of the year 1882 I have to announce another new departure, the establishment of an institution in New York City for the cure of all distortions and deformities and diseases of the feet. The institution is located at No. 52 E. 10th Street, five doors west of Broadway, and close to Stewart's great Dry Goods House. The location is in the healthiest part of the City, convenient and easy of access, as thousands of my old customers and patients can testify. So far as treating foot deformities is concerned this is not a new departure. I have done this successfully for years, but I have necessarily done it at arms length, not having the patient with me long enough to accomplish the best results in the shortest time. Under such circumstances it is impossible. The best results can only be secured when the patient is under my own eye from day to day, and subject to such variations of treatment as are suggested by the circumstances of the case. I want my patient in the same building with me so that I can observe him constantly and critically, so that I can encourage the processes and methods which are proving advantageous, and modify the appliances as needed. These facilities enable me to push the work of cure with rapidity and to secure the best results without delay or waste of time. So the thought uppermost in my mind is, that it is my duty to make this great work of mine as successful and far reaching as possible. I have provided accommodations for the



deformed and their friends under my own roof, where I can provide for them the appliances calculated to accomplish a radical cure and where I can watch them from time to time, and place them and keep them in the line of recovery. I feel certain that the establishment of such an institution, the first in the world for the painless cure of foot distortions of every kind, will gratify multitudes of parents whose children suffer from congenital and other deformities of the lower limbs. The parent of a club footed child will rejoice to know that relief from the deformity can be effected without the use of the knife, without occasioning pain or suffering, without straightening devices and iron clamps. Naturally such parents will desire to expedite the cure by placing the patient under my constant observation for a sufficient length of time. To them, therefore, this new establishment will prove a source of genuine satisfaction. To this last step—the opening of a hospital for deformed feet—I have been driven by the logic of events from year to year. My practice in this field has been growing larger and larger, until a very large portion of cases which come to me, are cases of sad deformity, rendered more serious in many instances by the misguided use of the surgeon's knife. In *talipes*, as in all varieties of foot distortion, the excising of tendons with the intent of straightening displaced members is the common and crying evil. It is the opprobrium of the surgeon's art. Cutting tendons never made a perfect foot out of a club foot and it never can. To sever the fibrous cord called a "tendon" by which the muscle is attached,



is of course to practically destroy the whole of the muscle, since a muscle having one loose end is of no practical use. Conservative "surgery" means to save the muscle, instead of sacrificing it; to give added strength and contractile power to the weak and feeble one; and provides the distorted foot with means by which every fibre and tissue may put forth its best powers for the restoration of the structure to symmetry and harmonious development. The means to be provided involve no scalpel (knife) to cut, no red hot irons to puncture and scar, no iron shackles to benumb and palzy the impaired and enfeebled structure. Instead of these barbaric and worse than useless instruments of torture and destruction, I provide encouragement and assistance, I employ nature's own forces, and strengthen the weak parts by calling upon them for service at every step, and when properly strengthened, I direct them to complete the cure.

In treating serious deformities of the feet, I prefer to see my patient daily, although a daily inspection of the case is not always absolutely necessary. There are many residents of neighboring cities who are under treatment, and who come to me once a week or once a month, as I direct, for the re-adjustment of the curative foot gear which I supply. The progress of these towards entire cure is constant and unceasing, so long as they keep up the system of walking-exercise which I impose; because every step which they take brings them one step nearer symmetry and health. This is the point of value in my system: That I *provide the patient with the means*



*for curing himself.* I effect the cure, or rather he effects his own cure, by shoes and shoes alone. If his distorted foot bends inward, I provide him with shoes so constructed that every time he puts his foot down, it is borne gently outward into a natural attitude by the power of his own weight. It is leverage, properly applied, which effects the cure, and that leverage is applied by the patient only. It cannot give pain because its exercise rests entirely with the patient. If he walks, relief from the distortion must surely come; naturally he walks out of deformity into symmetry. So evident does this become in the beginning that it is found difficult to restrain the patient, who is inclined to walk too constantly at first. It is not uncommon for one who has never walked a mile continuously in his life, to start out for a tramp of three or four miles the first day, so clearly does he see that each day of active exercise brings him a day's march farther from deformity—a day's march nearer the symmetry and beauty of nature.

Patients suffering from very serious deformity, and living at a great distance from New York City, should by all means come here for examination and treatment, and should remain long enough to have the curative processes well entered upon. Once fairly started in the direction of cure they can return home, with the assurance that the good work will go on without the necessity of daily watching. Those who reside in New York can live at home, and call as often as necessary; those who come from afar need not board in my establishment unless they prefer to do so. Good boarding places,



convenient to my establishment abound, and prices vary greatly, according to the quality of the accommodations. My own charges vary in the same manner. For treatment the price depends upon the difficulty of the case; for rooms the price is based upon their value. No extravagant or exorbitant prices are charged. Fairness is the rule, and to this rule there are no exceptions. I treat deformities of the feet of every possible kind and for all ages; the young as well as adults. For the cure of club feet the best age is from one to two years, at the time when healthy children begin to walk. At this age it is comparatively easy to put a club foot in the way of cure, provided it has never had the tendons cut, nor the circulation and powers impeded by clamps and braces, and other torturing devices. If walking is difficult, owing to inadequate muscles, it is rendered possible and is encouraged. As soon as the child finds that he no longer drags his injured members, but lifts them readily and more readily with each added attempt, he rejoices in his newly acquired power and comfort, and soon practices himself into strength and symmetry. The little one is as quick to see the change and to profit by it, as is the adult; so joyful is he in his newly acquired powers, that he can scarcely sleep, in his desire to walk. He begs to take his new shoes to bed with him, because he rejoices in them as his very best friends. The horrid shoes heretofore supplied him have simply crowded, constrained and injured the poor feet, which have suffered such unkindness at the thoughtless hands of a misguided nature. If he has walked at all he has



planted his contracted and deformed feet upon the outer edge of the sole, or upon the upper or the outer side of the foot, and each necessarily painful step has been more painful and has increased the deformity. To be able to once *squarely plant his foot upon its sole* is a new revelation of delight for him. To feel, as he quickly does, that each step is not only easier than the last, but is far more graceful, is usually the first genuine delight of his life time. He walks and runs with a will, each day increasing in strength of muscle, each day gaining in symmetry, until he finally manifests the same success in locomotion, and shows as perfect feet, as a child not congenitally deformed.

My departure for 1882 then means the comfort and restoration to natural beauty of the deformed feet of children and adults by

### *CONSERVATIVE SURGERY,*

the surgery which saves, not the surgery which destroys. It means happiness for the wretched sufferers from foot deformity. It means joy for parents who now suffer because of congenital foot deformity in their poor little ones; it means longer life, higher powers, greater usefulness, added happiness for very many good boys and girls, and men and women, during the year now just entered upon.

There is one other improvement to which I would call attention and that is my new

### CORK SOLE MCCOMBER SHOE.

This I consider a great improvement over all other Cork Soled Shoes inasmuch it is neater in



appearance, very light in weight, very substantial in construction, and exceedingly durable. This new CORK SOLED SHOE I make in all styles, but prefer and recommend that the style which I call the ARMY AND NAVY shoe should be used for the application of the Cork Sole. In the ARMY AND NAVY shoe the inner sole is of the very best sole leather. in order to prevent any distortion of the shoe in use. Most makers of shoes use very poor leather for inner soles because they are not seen and because they do not touch the ground. I always use very substantial leather for the inner soles in the ARMY AND NAVY shoes and I find it proper to employ sole leather of a very high grade so that the foot may be perfectly sustained, and that the shoe may be as pleasing to the eye, as perfect in fit, as erect and unbroken in contour after a year's wear, as when first put on. This solid inner sole and the equally solid outer sole with a fine close-grained welt and a rim of superior sole leather over the welt, to be filled in with close-grained cork, all combine to form a very substantial, light, graceful and elegant shoe, which raises the feet from the damp ground and acts as a non-conductor of heat and cold, thereby keeping the feet at a normal temperature alike in Summer's heat and Winter's cold.

JOEL McCOMBER,

52 E. 10th Street,

NEW YORK



## A NEW DEPARTURE.

The invention of the Army and Navy Shoe was originally in the interest of the wealthy; of those who are both able and willing to pay the best price for the best article. But I have always recognized the necessity of providing means for bettering the condition and lessening the discomforts and increasing the physical and mental powers of the great mass of the people, of those who want good, useful, durable and comfortable shoes, and will pay for them to the extent of their ability. At last I have devised means to meet and supply the wants of these. I have done this, not by using cheap leather and employing cheap workmen, and turning out the hasty goods known as "machine" work; not by using paste-board inner soles and stiffenings, and heels built of scraps of leather or blocks of wood, but by greatly adding to my facilities for the production of my superior hand-made goods.

My increased business has greatly added to my capital and resources for the purchase of material, and I can now take that advantage of the market which the large buyer always has over the small buyer. Moreover, I abandon, in this class of goods, the slow and costly plan so long in vogue for the production of work made to measure. The methods used in the production of my popular shoe are entirely different from those used in the old-time shoe. My shoe for the people is not made as a patent-office model is made, singly and alone, by one slow and patient workman; instead of this eight or nine active and skilled artisans are employed upon each and every shoe. The soles and counters are all struck out by dies, of which there are eight-



een widths to every size in length. One man selects and prepares the massive solid sides of sole-leather for the rolling machine and cutters; another feeds the leather to the dies, exercising sound judgment to see that no imperfect or spongy parts are used; others cut the uppers, and another set of operators fit them; another lasts the shoe, by which is meant the process of attaching the inner, sole to the Last and stretching and moulding the upper over it and fastening it there; another connects the welts with the lasted shoe, and covers all with the outer sole; another stitches the outer sole and welt together; another builds up the heel, if a heel is desired; while still another trims, smoothes and blackens the edge and polishes the sole. The Last is subsequently removed from the completed shoe by a final workman, who imparts the finishing touches, leaving the shoe ready for the wearer. By this division of labor the productive power of workmen is wonderfully increased; is, in fact, just about doubled, and the work done by the united labor of the "gang" will be better and handsomer than that in which all parts are undertaken by a single workman.

This is easily explained; if a man does but one thing he becomes expert and rapid in it; if he has a talent for that one thing, experience quickly makes him the absolute master of it. Few men have more than one gift. Few workmen can do more than one thing perfectly. The construction of a perfect shoe demands half a score of gifts, which is a good many more than can be found in perfection in one man. It is then far better that the one talent be



utilized in the best way, by giving to each man the one duty which he prefers, and which, in consequence of his adaptation to it, he is most expert in. By this means the work done by each man is not only greater in amount, but far more perfect than it could possibly be if constantly varied in character.

My new departure then is this; to give to the great masses of the people the advantages which greater capital, increased facilities, and the employment of the highest skill at each stage of construction, give me. It means first-class shoes by my patent method at lower prices. It insures the increase of patronage bestowed upon me by one hundred per cent. during the next year. It announces comfort and relief from distortion, delight in locomotion, improvement in bodily posture, better bodies, clearer heads and happier hearts, for thousands who have never before felt able to patronize me. It predicts the downfall of the old, destructive, distorting, wicked system of clothing the delicate human foot.

My People's Shoe will be made to order and to measure when demanded. To fit special deformities it would have to be constructed upon lasts made to fit the feet; in that case the lasts would have to be made expressly and paid for, and the extra expense for making to order would be charged.

The question will be asked, how can you fit all feet, good, bad and indifferent, without accurate measurements and diagrams for each? I answer, I cannot do it. Just as those hump-backed men whose bent, angular and protruding bodies can hardly be approached save at one or two prominent



points by ready-made coats, so there are many hump-backed feet, which cannot be even approximately clothed by ready-made shoes; still I can meet the wants of a vast multitude. I start upon the basis of an average foot, and multiply length, width and height; thus, of each size and fraction of a size in length, I provide eighteen different widths and heights, the outline of all being the same. All feet which are not unreasonably distorted can be comfortably, if not accurately, fitted by some one of the eighteen which I decide to be the correct length of the People's Shoe. I shall keep a very large supply of all gauges constantly in stock, so as to be able to select fair fits for all who may send measurements and diagrams. Those having reasonably good feet, who call on me in person, may be sure of comfortable and neat shoes. Those living at a distance can usually be fitted at the first trial; if the measures and diagrams they send me are correct they will be right the first time in every instance; but some may have to return the shoes first sent, with a more complete description, and have them replaced with others, thus making sure of success.

I continue to make to order the costly and perfect shoes for which I have long had such a high and wide-spread reputation. In these the highest grade of the most costly stock will, as heretofore, be employed, and the price will remain unchanged.

I have said that the introduction of my Army and Navy Shoe, was at first in the interest of the wealthy class of ladies and gentlemen to whom a few dollars more or less is but a trifle. I still cater to that class, not only in the production of the Army and Navy



Shoe, but in every description of my most costly patent boots and shoes; but the new facilities of which I have spoken enable me to produce the Army and Navy Shoe by gang work, die-cutting and labor-saving processes, to which I have alluded, and thus the whole people can be accommodated with this class of goods at greatly lessened cost.

In the People's Shoe the stock used is such as is known as first-class by shoemakers all over the country. It is fine and excellent, and durable and comfortable, but it does not cost as much as that which I use in my highest price goods. No doubt the best is the cheapest, as it is the most costly; but for those who cannot afford the best and most costly, I provide in the People's Shoe, an article much better than is usually supplied by the best custom shoemakers.

With reference to the relief of bad feet. It is better to have accurate diagrams and measurements taken, and to direct me to make a pair of my patent lasts to fit your feet and shoes upon them, to cure the deformities and overcome the injuries. No two pairs of feet are alike. What is meat for one may be poison for another. What would relieve the distortions of one may but increase the misery of another. So get the best if you can pay for it. If you conclude to try the People's Shoe and cannot call in person, send measures and diagrams exactly as you would if you were ordering lasts to fit your feet, as well as shoes. In fact, if you can endure the additional expense of lasts, order them made, so as to secure perfection. They will last you your life time, and it will more than pay you the price of



the lasts in one pair of shoes. If you seek to avoid the cost of special lasts, send measures and diagrams, and let me select a pair to meet your needs as nearly as possible. My large stock of boots and shoes which are so peculiarly adapted to the human foot, will always enable me to fit you far more perfectly than you could be fitted by any custom shoemaker in the world, even if you were measured by him and he made the shoes especially for you. This is because my system is perfect; the only perfect system in the world. If your foot is an average one, and not too much distorted, I can meet your needs the first time, and can give you neatness, symmetry and comfort if the diagrams sent are correctly taken, according to the directions accompanying this.

Let me say here that the shoes sold all over the country as McComber's, are not McComber's, and are not worth wearing. There are a good many frauds in this world, and I suffer as much from them as almost anybody. It is the penalty which man suffers when he produces the best thing. I have no agents in this or any other country. There are persons in every large city and town who claim to make McComber's Patent Boots and Shoes on his patent lasts, or to take measures for them as my agent. These men should not be trusted. It is only by applying to me direct, and not through some dishonest and self-constituted agent, that my Patent Boots and Shoes made by me can be procured. There are millions of shoes sold all over this country called McComber's, and claimed to



have been made on McComber's lasts, which are simply frauds.

I want to ask the friends of many years, who have derived much comfort and satisfaction from my patent boots and shoes, to constitute themselves as earnest and willing missionaries for the spread of the great truth which I am inculcating by precept and example. Tell the glad tidings to your friends, that comfort and health and the ability to walk uprightly, uncrippled and undistorted, are theirs if they will avail themselves of them. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring glad tidings such as I have indicated. In this noble missionary work you will be sustained by the knowledge that you are doing a genuine service to humanity, a service which will greatly alleviate some of its most painful ills and for which humanity will thank you while life endures.

I will cheerfully send pamphlets descriptive of my patent boots and shoes, and of my patent lasts to all persons whom my missionary friends desire to interest in this important matter.

I ask attention to the directions for measures and diagrams, which should be sent me in all cases.

The price of the People's Shoes will range from six to twelve dollars per pair for Mens. For Ladies, from four to ten dollars per pair. For Boys, Misses and Children apportionately.

When ordering tell me what kind of material and what heft, light, medium or heavy, and what kind, Button Boots, Lace Boots, Long Boots or Army and Navy Walking Boots, or Low Shoes, and tell me what price you wish to pay, and I will give you the full amount of your money's worth.

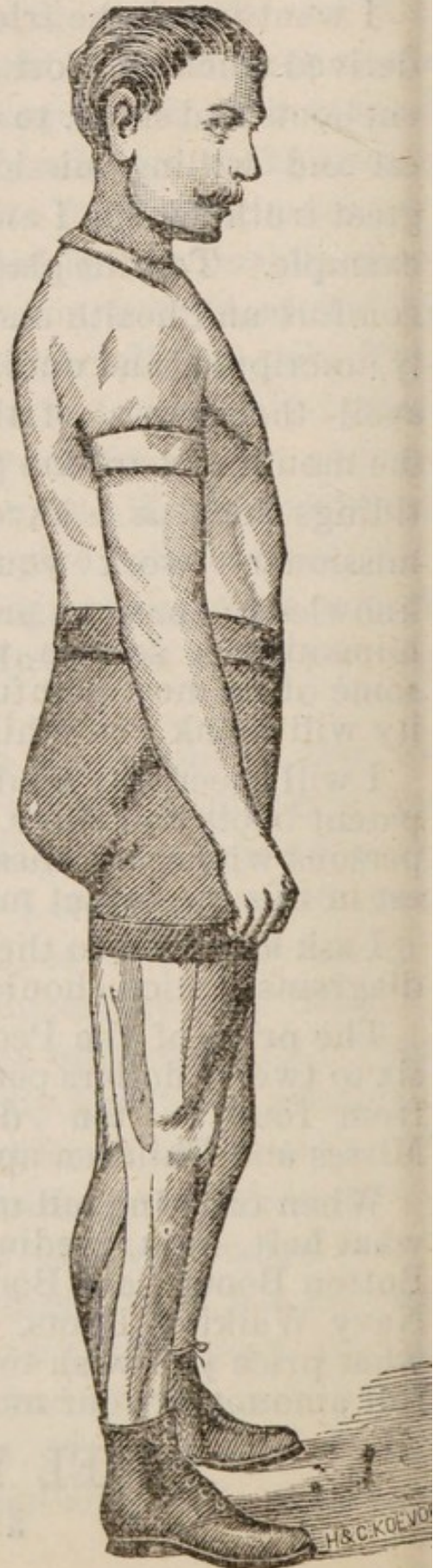
**JOEL McCOMBER,**

**52 E. 10th St., New York.**



**LOOK ON THIS PICTURE.**

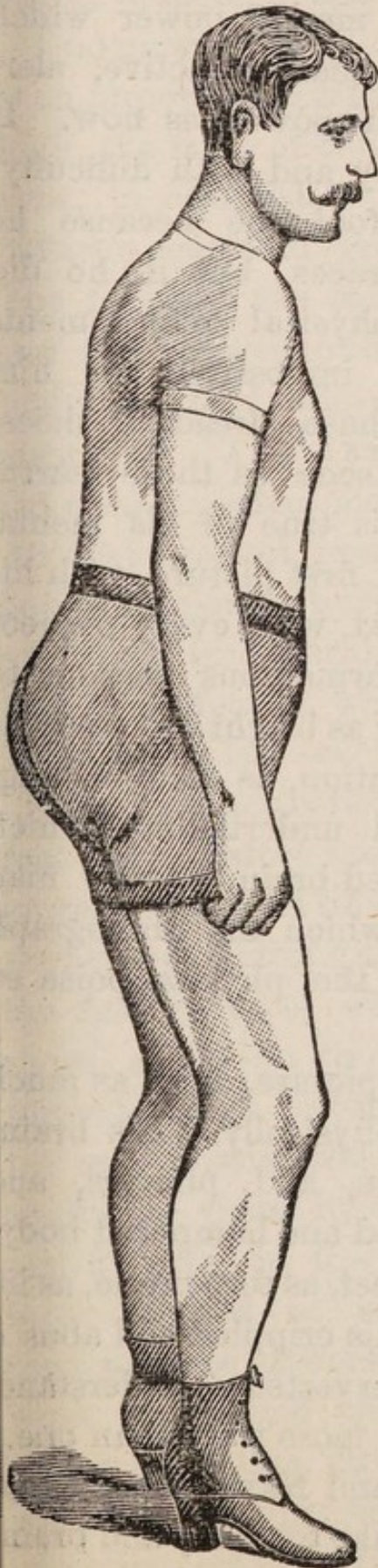
I ask you to look at these two pictures that stand side by side. One is the picture of a perfect specimen of manhood; the other, of deformity. This is an accurate full-length likeness of a gentleman residing in New York City. It shows him standing in a pair of my ARMY and NAVY shoes, made on my patent lasts. His attitude is as natural as it would be if he were standing in his bare feet. Not a muscle is under tension; the equipose is one of perfect ease and grace and naturalness. The exhibition is that of a noble specimen of physical manhood.





### AND ON THIS.

Here is a picture of the same gentleman taken ten minutes later. A little while ago he was a truly up-



right man; he is now a cripple as you may see. He cannot now stand in an erect and natural attitude without effort, for the reason that he has changed his shoes for a pair of different construction. These improperly constructed shoes have changed his centre of gravity, have bent his back awkwardly, have thrown his knees forward. The attitude which he now assumes, awkward as it looks, (and all its awkwardness is visible because he is without loose clothing to conceal it,) is the attitude of all persons who wear the so-called "elegant boots and shoes" in common use. It is, in short, an attitude enforced by high heels and wicked, ignorantly constructed foot clothing.



It is a pity thus to deform so noble a specimen of humanity, but the injury to his good looks is scarcely worthy of a second thought when compared with the deterioration of physical and mental power which such deformity induces. This man so active, alert and powerful before, is almost powerless now. In the first picture he walks, he walks unnaturally and with difficulty. He would not engage in a foot-race because he does not care much for foot-races, but if he did he would fail. Important physical achievements of every description will be impossible for him so long as he is clad in those dreadful shoes. His bodily balance is lost as soon as those fearful shoes are put on. The same is true of his mental state. As you see him in the first picture, with his feet neatly and perfectly clothed, with every tissue of his body in perfect, natural, harmonious relations to every other tissue, he is probably as bright and ready, as fertile in fancy, as apt in illustration, as solid in judgment, and as successful in all undertakings which demand the subtle and well-poised brain, as any man living. His mental balance, which the photograph cannot show, is as perfect as is the physical poise so apparent in the picture.

As you see him in the second picture, he is as much a cripple mentally as he is physically. His brain limps, and halts, and staggers, and plunges, and lurches, in unison with his clogged and hampered body. Its course is as tortuous, as indirect, as serpentine, as ineffectual, as is the course of his crippled and abused feet. Perverted shoes and perverted "understanding" are identical in his case, in more ways than one.

What is McComber's ARMY and NAVY shoe, which proves itself such a *salvatory*, alike for body and brain



What wonderful arrangement of leather is this, which so conserves and improves, and lends an added charm to mental capacity, and achievement?

Understand, that it is without raised heels; this is an important feature of the shoe. If the heel were high, the body of course would have to be unnaturally bent, to establish a new centre of gravity in place of nature's centre of gravity, which has been sacrificed. The feet and the sole are on the same precise level, and this secures to the wearer, perfect equilibrium of body, and perfect level-headedness. But this is by no means all. The ARMY and NAVY shoe is constructed upon a perfect model in wood, of the perfect foot. All feet are not perfect; in fact, no feet which have been long clothed by the brutal and ignorant shoemakers of the civilized world, are free from terrible deformity. But the effect of wearing a neatly fitting shoe, made by me on my last—which when made specially for the individual, is much better than a perfect reproduction of his foot—is to restore the distorted foot to something like perfection in due time. I am constantly restoring, by proper foot clothing alone, to symmetry and usefulness, the feet of those who are distorted by wearing bad shoes, and even those who are born crippled and deformed. This restoration is not effected by the dreadful and unscientific plan of cutting tendons, and stretching them by screws, and applying iron braces and fixtures, in the vain hope of improving upon nature's method of support. It is done by setting unused muscles at work; by sustaining and supporting weak and flaccid and enfeebled tissues; by encouraging the active circulation of the blood through vessels before compressed, and by encouraging normal vital action where lifelessness and semi-paralysis had



reigned. It is accomplished by the fair and honest and scientific method of giving nature a chance to exercise her best energies correctly, and assisting her. Every movement of the correctly shod deformed foot, is a movement in the direction of improvement; every step taken lessens the deformity. On the other hand, every step taken by the badly clothed deformed foot, increases the deformity.

Every valuable principle pertaining to my patent last upon which my patent boots and shoes have been made by me for many years, is employed in the construction of my new ARMY AND NAVY SHOE, and many new features of excellence are added. The advantages of its use are numerous and important. It is not an awkward "broad-soled" shoe, unless indeed the foot of the wearer is broad-soled, but is far more comfortable and treads better and wears longer than any so-called "broad-soled" shoe in use. It is not a high-heeled shoe, and yet it looks neater, more trim and tasteful on the foot than the highest heeled shoe ever constructed. It is not a so-called "Spanish arch," but it is more beautiful than any arch which Spain ever produced by raising the heel. It is in short, in every respect a perfect clothing for the feet, for usefulness, for comfort, for real elegance, for graceful and natural walking, for the power to correct errors of bodily posture and all deformities and injuries to the feet themselves.

My ARMY AND NAVY SHOE is peerless and unrivaled. It is peculiar in construction, and its peculiarities can only be partially comprehended by an examination of the picture. The great aim in the production of this Shoe is to provide a foot covering which will perfectly



protect the foot under all circumstances of exposure ; which will so support its soft parts and weak muscles that severe usage produces no ill effects upon the delicate tissues, and will enable the wearer to engage in active and prolonged exercise upon his feet, without the slightest inconvenience. The soldier upon his long marches, the sailor on deck during long watches, the pedestrian walking for hours in search of health, the lady enjoying the city promenade or the pleasures peculiar to active exercise in the open air of the country, all find genuine delight in free movements and unrestrained activity when the feet are protected and supported by the ARMY AND NAVY SHOE. Genuine comfort and perfect grace attend the use of this new clothing for the feet.

The sole is thick as will be seen, thicker indeed, than can be detected at a glance. The inner sole, which cannot be shown in the picture, is as thick and substantial as either of the outer soles, two in number. These three solid soles are the safeguard of the delicate foot, protecting it from all harm, sustaining it in all exertion, preventing weariness after long exercise, and maintaining at once the foot and its covering in perfect form and contour under all circumstances.

The upper may be heavy or light, as may be desired, but it must be perfectly adapted to the foot, so that no distortion or twisting or improperly applied pressure exists. The foot is a wonderful structure and there is no reason why it should not last as long as any other member of the body instead of being the very first to break down. Abuse ruins it, and once injured it takes more skill than any mere shoemaker possesses to restore it ; nature must be helped, not hindered ; the muscles must be allowed and encouraged to act natur-



ally, instead of being constrained and hampered, and by their natural action nature's lost symmetry may be restored. Everybody wants to possess a small foot, and a shapely foot. This ARMY and NAVY shoe gives the appearance of both in perfection. The soles must be thick, as I have said, for upon the firmness of the sole depends the support of the foot, and the power and the comfort of the wearer. But the appearance of thickness is dispensed with by beveling the edges of the sole. All the needed strength and support is thus imparted while the appearance of lightness is maintained. A point of great importance, particularly in hot weather, is secured by a new device of mine, a ventilated tongue for laced boots. I build up an instep on a flat or low arched foot by padding the tongue with curled hair. This is porous and allows the vapors of perspiration to escape while admitting air to the entire surface of the foot. The suffering from hot, inflamed and painful feet is avoided by my methods, and a very tasteful instep is secured. These points of elegance apply as well to ladies as to gentlemen. All are provided with foot clothing which is pleasing to the eye, while rectifying deformities and improving the appearance and powers of the body. I cordially commend the improvements which I have introduced into the ARMY and NAVY shoe, to all my old patrons, who, I am sure, will be delighted with it.

Do not conclude from the name of my new shoe that it is constructed only for Army and Navy officers. To be sure they admire, and appreciate, and wear it with the greatest satisfaction, but it is intended for *all classes who walk*. It is for the ARMY OF INTELLIGENT LADIES



AND GENTLEMEN that I construct this shoe, and I adapt its design and ornamentation to all classes and to both sexes. It is emphatically the shoe for men and women, and the more perfectly the value of walking as an exercise is appreciated the more highly is the ARMY AND NAVY SHOE prized.

A word now to those who do not know me very well, with reference to the compensation which I expect for services which I alone can render. I am not paid entirely as a shoemaker, but as a repairer of injuries to an important part of the human body. I am a Foot Doctor, if you please. I straighten out distorted feet by methods of my own. I cure club-feet in children and also in adults, as far as they are susceptible of cure, without resorting to the knife. I could cut tendons as accurately as the most skilled surgeon because I know just where they are situated, and have traced them all out, time and again, in the dissecting room. My services are worth infinitely more than those of the doctor who cuts, because mine save while his destroys. Show me the case of the foot straightened by cutting the tendons and I will show you a weak and imperfect foot. I save feet, I do not destroy them, and I must be paid for saving them as fairly as any man, for services and skill. If I am able to use methods unemployed by others it is because I have studied my profession as no mere shoemaker has done and as no other doctor has ever done. My knowledge is not obtained from other men or their books, but from the laws of nature and by studying cause and effect. It is my skill as well as my time for which my patients pay, and I add no more to my already long list who are not willing to pay me something more than mechanics' wages, and I do not want physicians to send me such patients. I have many physicians whom I



treat and cure (for doctors' feet are as bad as anybody's) and I have to be paid for my labor, time, and skill, in the preparation of the lasts and shoes to meet such deformities. It does not benefit me to have doctors for patients unless they pay me liberally, and the same is true of all other patients. I will be very kind and considerate and liberal to the poor, and will help them as far as I can. But those who are able must pay me for all I do.

Shoemakers are poor creatures; they do not know the first principle of making proper clothing for the feet. They have no opinions of value, and no ideas worth a straw. They are simply the wretched slaves of their ignorant customers.

I am not of that ilk; I am the Doctor in my line, and no patient is allowed to dictate to me what treatment he needs. My time, as a Foot Doctor, is more valuable than that of any other doctor in New York. Most doctors are made in two or three years, at an expense of a few hundred dollars. It has taken me thirty years and cost me many thousand dollars to become a Foot Doctor. I have never graduated from a medical school, because medical schools do not give instructions of value in reference to the injuries from which feet suffer. But the anatomy of the feet, the injuries from which they suffer, and the proper means of cure are as familiar to me as the highway. My knowledge has been gained by hard work and large expenditure, and I must be compensated accordingly. My time is limited, and my expenses are one hundred dollars a day. The professional services which I render to hundreds of poor sufferers each year are worth to them a thousand times more than I receive from them, and my charges, always reasonable, must be fully paid without grum-



bling. If real or imaginary cause of complaint exists it must be kindly and pleasantly stated, and I shall take pleasure in listening to it and in removing the error if any exists. But those who come with abuse will fail to receive my attention. I seek to deal only with intelligent, respectable ladies and gentlemen, and have no time to waste on boors.

It is a pleasure to state that the last year has been the best business year that I have ever known. In my appeal one year ago to my thousands of friends and patrons all over this continent—that they buy the patent lasts which I had made for them and on which I had made their boots which had proved so great a blessing, and pay me for them—a ready response was generally made. Thousands of all classes of patrons paid for their lasts and left them in my possession, where they still remain: when shoes are ordered I make them on the owner's lasts, which are then replaced in the accustomed pigeon hole. I now enforce the ownership of lasts upon those who employ me. They are the proper persons to own them, and they are usually delighted to possess them. This fact, that I compel my patrons to pay for and own their lasts instead of being dependant upon my charity or my good nature for the use of them has greatly increased my income. I am making money, as I should be, and with the increase of money I expect to extend my business to as great dimensions as that of the prince of merchants A. T. Stewart, by and by. My best services are always at the disposal of those who seek my aid and are willing to pay for it. There are no real, permanent methods of curing the deformities of the human feet, other than the methods which I have devised and patented, and these never have failed when



applied by me, and never can, because they are in harmony with nature which comes in to assist my skill and to render it effective in every instance. For very badly deformed feet, in every case, without exception, new inventive powers are demanded, new applications of important principles required. The lasts made by me for a given case are useless for other cases.

Every *Patron* brings me other patrons. My business should double annually, and there is no reason why it should not become enormous—in fact, far beyond my power to superintend. As it increases and capital flows in, my facilities are increased. Every dollar over and above my living is put into my business and thus given to my patrons. It is their business far more than mine, and I am proud to say that they sustain and increase it right nobly.

I continue to make all the various kinds of my Patent boots and shoes, and to make my Patent Lasts to fit the feet, as I have done for many years, and all my patrons can rely upon having orders promptly filled as heretofore. But this last invention of mine—my *Army and Navy Shoe*—pleases me especially, as it does all ladies and gentlemen who have worn it; and I wish to urge all who are about to order from me to test a pair of these sensible, elegant, and desirable shoes. I make them in all styles as I have said, and have attractive specimens on view at my establishment, which all are cordially invited to call and examine.

I want all who place a proper value upon true morality to bear in mind that I am doing my full share of work in that direction. A good many of my customers used to swear because their corns and bunions ached. They have no corns now. Had they allowed me to



clothe their feet from the beginning, they never would have had corns to complain of, and might never have learned to swear. It is undeniable that the sour, cross-grained, ugly man is apt to be a wicked man, a brutal man, and that *somebody* suffers from his wickedness and brutality. I *kill* all such men—that is to say, I kill their wickedness and acridity and supply its place with gentleness, and sweetness, and courtesy, and kindness, and human sympathy. I am not lenient in the presence of brutes any more than I am in the presence of corns, and bunions, and foot distortions.

Bad feet and bad hearts are closely allied, and I hate both and am doing a good deal to exterminate both. I feel that when I kill a bad corn I do a good deal toward making a good citizen, and that when I give a man good feet I improve his understanding, enable him to walk uprightly, sweeten his temper, and make his life more worthy and good conduct vastly more natural than vicious habits and tendencies. In this good work I invoke the assistance of all.

*From* PROF. R. S. NEWTON, *President New York Eclectic Medical College.*

MR. JOEL MCCOMBER is a shoe-maker and an anatomist—rare and hitherto unknown combination. He has dissected and studied the human foot, and can tell you precisely what each bone and muscle is intended to do, and how surely ignorant shoemakers deform and cripple the delicate structure.

He long ago convinced me that corns and distortions are no more necessary to the feet than to the hands. The MCCOMBER Patent Boots made by him are in every respect worthy to be called THE ONLY PERFECT CLOTHING FOR THE FEET. ROBERT S. NEWTON, M.D.



## CARE FOR THE FEET.

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Feet are certain to become sore, inflamed and irritable under ordinary shoeing methods, and sometimes suffer from heat and irritation even when skillfully shod. Excessive walking under a hot sun or over rough paths will sometimes raise blisters or abrade the skin. Some feet perspire excessively, and unhealthy feet usually perspire more by far than any other portion of the body. This profuse sweating is in itself weakening, and is always an evidence of weakness or disease. It may safely be lessened by any application which will strengthen the flabby and flaccid tissues and give contractile tone to the capillaries through which the perspiration exudes. I have tried various applications for both these purposes, and all but one have proved useless. That one is an *infusion of bark*. It is entirely harmless, and thoroughly efficient, both in relieving all inflammation of the feet, increasing their muscular vigor, and in lessening the excess of perspiration from which they suffer. This tea or infusion may be applied daily with a sponge or the hand, and allowed to dry with the most comforting results. For the convenience of my customers, I have made a quantity of this infusion and put it in bottles with labels explaining its use, which bottles are sold at \$1.00 75c. and 50c. each. In its preparation I have added to the tea a small quantity of the aromatic bark of sassafras root, which is in itself an admirable healing astringent, and which imparts a pleasant aroma to the infusion.



I recommend this bark infusion to all who suffer from feeble or painful feet. If they wear boots or shoes made by any one but me, whether pretending be made on McComber's lasts or not they need not expect permanent relief from their miseries through any local applications. There is no cure for the suffering and distortion caused by bad shoeing, except to cease to do evil and learn to do well, by which I mean that you must cease to abuse your feet with the old fashioned distorting and ruinous shoes, and restore your feet to health, strength, comfort and beauty, by the adoption of my perfect system. If you thus radically reform, your cure will be hastened and greatly facilitated by the application of the healing, sweetening, strengthening tonic bark-lotion to which I have alluded.

There are cases in which the individual leads a purely inactive life, riding instead of walking, remaining for days at a time shut up closely at home, leading a morbid, unnatural, unhappy existence. From such inactivity of body the feet suffer most of all. If these morbid recluses attempt to walk, their feet and ankles suffer torments because reasonable exercise is an uncommon event. The muscles and ligaments which should support and sustain the arches and the whole framework of the foot, become weak, and the heavy weight of the body spreads the boot far beyond its natural limits. The soft tissues are cut into by the bones; the nerves suffer from compression; the organs become intensely painful. There is no elasticity of movement, no alertness of muscular motion. The bear-



ing surfaces of the feet are changed as <sup>the</sup> badly-balanced body toddles along on its nearly useless feet. The shoes, borne upon improperly in their turn, are speedily destroyed. The pulpy feet demand the softest material for their covering, and the yielding structure quickly goes to destruction under the lifeless, sprawling and stumbling tread.

In cases of this description there can be no complete cure save through the strengthening power of gradually increasing exercise. A hand disused becomes useless in time, and the foot is no exception to this rule. Such useless stumps may be converted into good and useful feet by exercise which shall be slight at first, and shall increase daily, until a walk of a few miles shall be accomplished with as little inconvenience as would attend a walk of two blocks before the feet are restored to life and health. While nothing will take the place of exercise by walking, the *Bark Lotion* will greatly assist in the cure. It will strengthen and constrict the flabby tissues, will lift up and support the weak and collapsed and weakened muscles, ligaments and tendons, which, in their weakness, have had to rely entirely upon the leather for support, and will thus lessen the girth of the feet and render them more natural in configuration. The flaccid muscles of the transverse arch and of the toes of the foot, thus drawn up sustain the toes and hold the arch up as it is in its natural and vigorous unbroken condition, and the flat and unsightly object becomes, under proper treatment and when properly clothed, a thing of symmetry and beauty as God designed it to be.



No deformed or diseased foot can possibly seem to be as small or as elegant as it will when restored to a normal and healthy state. Therefore, the lady who takes pride in displaying small feet must see to it that they are kept perfectly healthy, perfectly shod and perfectly sustained by the methods which I have here endeavored to set forth.

There is a disease known to stock raisers as foot rot, or "rot foot," from which sheep are particularly sufferers, and which utterly ruins them. Farmers are very unhappy when this destructive disease secures a hold upon their flocks, yet very many human beings suffer from a like complaint, without seeming to be conscious of its injurious character. The feet become feeble, withered, lacking in muscular and nerve power, semi-paralyzed and almost useless as feet, by the bad treatment which they receive from shoemakers. This disease may as truthfully be called "foot rot" as that from which quadrupeds suffer. No church or public assemblage is free from the victims of this horrid foot disease. The sense of smell is outraged in every public conveyance. The air is polluted by it wherever civilized humanity congregates, the lungs are assailed by it, and the blood thereby poisoned in thousands of homes. The daily use of the bark infusion will strengthen the tissues and give a healthy tone to the diseased organs. The radical reform which I institute in the mode of constructing clothing for the feet will ultimately work a complete cure and the sufferer will no longer be abhorred and avoided, but will be welcomed, where before he was treated with contempt.



## McCOMBER'S BOOK

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SOME years ago I published a volume of 76 pages, made up of my lectures before scientific bodies and my writings for the press, and giving a great deal of valuable information concerning Foot Deformities, and my method of over-coming them.

This book has attracted much attention, and has been the means of accomplishing great good. It has been my practice to give it away to all who would peruse it. I offered to do this in the beginning and that offer has been good till now; I have at length decided to withdraw that offer. Henceforth, I shall sell the book at its price, **50 cents**.

I have added much new matter to it and made it about twice as large as it was before. It is, I believe, impossible that any one could thoughtfully read the volume without becoming convinced that the physical, moral, and mental evils caused by the wretched system of clothing the human feet, which prevails all over the civilized world, are among the most serious for which remedial measures are demanded. I here give a brief synopsis of the volume, and have a word or two to say to the reader of these lines. I will send you the book, free by mail, on receipt of 50 cents in postage stamps or money; but if you buy it I want you to *read it through* and invite your friends to do the same. If you do not wish to read it, do not buy it, for I would rather not sell it to you. I know that my writings will do good if read, and I feel that the



copy of my book which would be wasted upon you will serve to educate some intelligent sufferer up to a knowledge of the only means of relief for one of the direst ills which afflict humanity.

That the subject of which I treat will prove to be one of interest to you I cannot doubt. Clearly and unmistakably, it is one of enormous importance to every civilized being. Everybody prefers handsome feet, while not one in ten thousand possesses them. Everybody seeks comfort in foot-clothing, while not one in ten thousand enjoys it. It is because comfort and elegance are entirely compatible that I engage in this work. Upon the perfect union of beauty and ease—which is secured by my system, and by no other under the sun—is my great success based.

I do not hesitate to say that the book alluded to is an interesting one. A taste of its quality is herein given in the preface to the Tenth Edition of the work.

The "Introduction," or preface, to my book occupies over four pages, and is devoted mainly to an explanation of my business system. It announces my removal from Union Square to my large store and manufactory, No. 52 East Tenth Street, and alludes to the advantages which I now enjoy for carrying on my large business under my immediate supervision in every department. It speaks of the quality of my work, and of the excellence of all materials used in my establishment. It is followed by three pages of carefully-written instructions for outlining and measuring feet, and the preparations of diagrams to be sent to me by mail, and from which, if accurate, I am able to construct my Patent Boots and Shoes and Patent Lasts in such



a manner as to ensure satisfaction and comfort. These instructions are simple, and readily comprehended. When understood, they can be followed by any intelligent person. Upon the care with which these directions are carried out will depend the perfection of the fit. Following the instructions, is a complete price-list of all conceivable styles of my Patent Boots and Shoes, in all the materials which I deem it proper to employ, and for all sizes of feet, from those of the tiny infant to those of adults, and for both sexes. In this extended list, which includes over eighty items, all purses and tastes are pretty certain to be met.

The list spoken of is followed by an address which I delivered before the Polytechnic Branch of the American Institute, on the evening of May 20th, 1875, at the Cooper Union, New York, by the request of the President of that organization. The lecture is entitled, "The Human Foot: Its Use, Abuse and Preservation." It is copiously illustrated with drawings and diagrams of natural and distorted feet, as well as of my Patent Lasts, from various points of view, and occupies thirty-two pages of the book. This paper discusses the old-time errors of the shoemaking fraternity, their utter ignorance of the delicately-organized human foot and its needs, and explains, in detail, a scientific method of remedying the fearful errors of past ages in this direction. It is illustrated with fifteen wood engravings, representing feet in a state of nature, and feet distorted by the use of boots and shoes as ordinarily constructed, and giving views of my Patent Lasts and Shoes made upon them. No one can carefully peruse these pages without acquiring much useful knowledge of the subject discussed,



nor without becoming fully convinced that by the adoption of a true system, based upon a knowledge of the anatomy of the human foot, that organ can be as delicately clothed, without enforced distortion, or injury, or suffering, as any portion of the body. The whole subject is made plain to the comprehension of all.

The next chapter of the book is entitled, "A Subject for Reflection." It is an earnest appeal to parents and all having the care of children to save them from that lifetime of deformity and misery which is the common lot of all human beings who are shod by the old unscientific method. It is impossible for me to urge too strongly the importance of a consideration of the thoughts contained in this portion of my work. I am strongly of the opinion that no subject is of greater importance than this, involving, as it does, the comfort, the health, the happiness, and, to a greater degree than is generally supposed, the mental and moral well-being of the rising generation. These points I consider at some length; and I am at a loss to see how fathers or mothers who read my words can fail to discover that they have an important duty to perform in this particular.

The discussion of this, perhaps the most important division of my subject—the infinite mental, moral and physical misery which is entailed upon the race through the viciousness of the clothing provided for the tender feet of children—is followed by a chapter descriptive of the True Purpose of the McComber Last and Shoe. In this portion of my book I seek to dissipate the idea that I am capable of performing miracles in the way of restoring distorted, diseased and broken-down feet. I



try to assert very plainly, that I cannot take a foot which has been racked and twisted in tender infancy and youth out of all symmetry and beauty, and restore it at once to elegance and comfort by the magic of my art. I say, distinctly, that I cannot speak into being, new and perfect feet in place of those distorted and diseased by long abuse and maltreatment. There is no power to instantly remedy all the evil effects of long-continued violation of nature's simplest laws. I claim no such wonderful power; but I can and do deprive the corn-doctor of his business and his stipend. I can and do give ease where misery has long existed.

But my work does not end when comfort is achieved. My leading thought in providing clothing for the universally-injured feet of adults is to gradually remedy, by appropriate means, existing errors and distortions, and thus to convert ugliness into beauty. The uniform, unavoidable result of clothing the foot for a considerable period by the ignorant plan in common use, is to make that member—so beautiful and useful when uninjured by misguided and vicious artifice—a horrid, misshapen, unsightly mass, the seat of deformity and disease, and often of little use in long-continued locomotion. This deformity is universal. The local misery may be severe or unappreciable according to temperament, to the natural powers of resistance possessed by the tissues, and to the readiness with which the feet permit themselves to be crowded, wrenched and drawn into unnatural postures without complaint. Upon the tissues of some persons the wrenching processes may go on for years hardly noticed, so small is the susceptibility to pain. Pressure, ignorantly applied, often



blunts the sense of suffering by arresting circulation and depriving the nerves of sensibility. To overcome this semi-paralysis of the sensor and motor nerves, and to restore them to vital action and to a consciousness of wrongs inflicted, is the province of my art. But, while comfort is secured, the æsthetic taste must also be gratified, the love of the beautiful must be encouraged. The poor, deformed, distorted feet must be gradually restored to symmetry and beauty. In most cases this is by no means an impossible task. It is, as I have remarked, not the work of a day or an hour; but it can be done. Ladies who pride themselves upon the small size of their feet have characterized the power to sustain the broken and flattened arches, to hold together the spreading and sprawling phalanges, as the most marvellous attainment of my art. They wonder how it is that they can wear smaller shoes than ever before, and, at the same time, suffer no pain or discomfort. The explanation is easy. It has its answer in a single sentence, viz.: A knowledge of the anatomy of the foot. With me, the knowledge which I bring to bear on this subject is the knowledge of a lifetime. I have dissected the human foot, and know precisely where to apply pressure and where to withhold it. I have carefully studied its anatomy and its pathology. I know how to preserve it in all its original beauty, and how to apply such remedial measures as will restore it, sooner or later, when disfigured and distorted. Restoration is not, as I have said, the work of a moment; but there are few cases in which it is not possible, and not one in which the contour, comfort and usefulness of the foot may not be speedily and greatl



improved. Sensible people, therefore, who would unite in their foot-clothing the essentials which they naturally seek in garments for other portions of the body—viz., grace and ease and freedom of motion, great durability, elegance of design and perfection of fit, together with a daily and gradual improvement in the size and contour of the foot—will pursue their investigation of the subject with the earnestness which its importance merits. They will soon learn that anatomical knowledge is competent to determine precisely what pressure the foot should receive and at what points it may usefully be applied, in order to secure symmetrical and graceful results, instead of that growth in ugliness and distortion which is certain to result from pressure misapplied. It is a satisfaction to be able to state, that no attribute of my system is more highly lauded, from day to day, than is its power to beautify distorted feet and to lessen their ugliness.

Readers of my book will find the deceptions practiced by the shoemakers of the period barely hinted at. Since medical men, teachers, professors in medical colleges and public lecturers, have come to understand, through my public utterances, that the old system of barbarous foot-clothing, which touches no foot of child or adult which it does not torture, cripple and distort, is one of the most potent agencies for evil now extant, and that I have devised the only remedy, a host of unprincipled dealers in the wicked old shoes which have crippled so many generations, are asserting that they use the McComber Patent Last and supply the McComber Patent Boots and Shoes. Let me



say, with emphasis, that I cannot vouch for the honesty or the skill of this class of pretenders. There is no size or style of boot or shoe, for child or youth or adult, that I do not make, at prices as low as perfect articles can be supplied. There is, there can be, no possible economy in employing any of these dishonest and incompetent imitators, who piratically assume to employ my Patent Last, while existing in utter ignorance of its principles or its application to important and critical cases. There is but one sensible way, and that is to apply at headquarters, and to ignore the mushroom pretenders who periodically start up on every hand, the density of whose ignorance is so complete that they even fail to discover the miraculous burden of unenlightenment under which they stagger to and fro before the world.

If my book fails to make clear the fact that it costs nothing to consult me, to secure a critical examination of the feet, accompanied with advice as to their care, I desire to re-affirm it here. Crippled feet, club feet, distorted feet, and lame feet come to me daily for examination and advice, and all receive my best attention. The lame, the halt, the moderately deformed and the wretchedly crippled, not less than the strong and well-proportioned, are privileged to call and secure my advice, without money and without price.

Let me add that I have striven in my book to show the importance of preserving in its original beauty and symmetry the natural, unimpaired foot. If I have explained the possibility of restoring the maltreated and deformed, I have even more earnestly endeavored to impress upon all whose feet are as yet in fair condition, the vast advantage



which is certain to accrue from their preservation from all distorting and destroying agencies. To perfectly accomplish this, the preservative influences must commence in early life with the first pair of shoes—the first pair of stockings, in fact—which encase the tender feet. I seek to impress upon all thoughtful persons this great thought; that no remedial measures can be considered as at all approximating in value those preventive acts which my system so perfectly provides.

My book concludes with many unsolicited testimonials from physicians and others who have worn boots and shoes made by me on my Patent Lasts, and who, one and all, testify to their beauty and their excellent qualities. These persons, many of whom are well known in public, professional and business life, append their names and their addresses, and would, no doubt, express more fully the satisfaction which they feel in being properly shod, if called upon.

I have thus given you a brief synopsis of the contents of my book. From this, I think, you will be able to determine whether you are willing to pledge yourself to read it through from beginning to end, provided I send it to you. I do not want your half-dollar, but I do want you to benefit by my knowledge and experience. I want to instruct you, so that you can secure for yourself happiness, comfort, and long life; so that, speaking the truth to others, the truth shall make them free. JOEL MCCOMBER, 52 East Tenth Street, near Broadway, New York City.



## McCOMBER'S KID.

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FOR over a year past I have been using a new and valuable article of manufacture, which I designate McCOMBER'S KID. It is prepared by processes of my own, from the skin of the kid or young goat of a species found in the mountain regions of Switzerland. The strength, flexibility, and tenacity of the skin are not only not lessened, as is the case in the usual system of tanning the article called French kid, but are greatly increased by the methods employed.

The skin is subjected to a vegetable infusion, in contact with which it undergoes prolonged manipulation, by which the soluble gelatinous and albuminous constituents of the skin are rendered insoluble, imperishable, and indestructible; while at the same time the peculiar stiff and unyielding character common to the kid skins used in shoes is entirely overcome. In finishing the skins, the same care is exercised, not only for the conservation of their natural integrity, but for the increase of their ductility, and power of resistance to strain.

The chief effort of the tanner of French kid is to impart a bright gloss to his product. He secures this glaze by the use of heat and pressure,



just as the laundryman imparts a polish to linen. But the heat used by the leather-finisher is destructive of the integrity of the skin, and so greatly weakens it, that it readily cracks or breaks on being subjected to wear.

Little care is taken, ordinarily, to see that the coloring and dressing solutions or dyes, which are used to transform the outer surface of the skin into the densest black, have no destructive influence upon its texture and strength.

The dyes usually applied have an acid reaction, and are used *hot*, thereby weakening the skin.

French tanners use alum (sulphate of alumina) universally. The sulphuric acid or oil of vitriol of this mineral has the power to entirely destroy the integrity and strength of all animal fibers. It is not strange that French kids turn blue and crack and break and peel and become rough after slight wear, since the seeds of destruction are sown in every skin in the processes of manufacture.

In my kid the dye is a vegetable astringent infusion, which constricts and toughens instead of burning and weakening the animal fiber.

It is plain that animal fibers are certain to be weakened by exposure to caustic chemicals, or a baking temperature, and that excessive friction, by stretching and rubbing, will lessen the wearing capacity of kid or other skins.

In the French kid-tanning processes heretofore made use of, the leading thought seems to have been to complete the work as quickly as possible,



and to produce the most shiny leather, regardless of its durable qualities.

My effort has been to produce a cloth-like, flexible skin, having the characteristic softness of very fine doeskin cloth, as well as the most perfect qualities of quiet elegance and durability.

I have not sought to impart a *tawdry* shine at the expense of all qualities of excellence. The gloss given in finishing the McComber Kid is quiet, elegant, and durable. It does not soil or fade or become dim. It is not induced by destructive chemicals, by heat, or by friction. I say it is worse than folly to scorch and ruin the naturally tenacious grain or cuticle of the skin, by the destructive processes and applications which have been in use for a century or two, and which originated in a darker age, when the natural tensile strength of animal fibers was little understood, and when the destructive power of various chemical agents used in tanning, dyeing, dressing, etc., was comparatively a sealed book to the world.

There is still another point of superiority connected with my kid, the importance of which will be readily appreciated. The flesh side of the skin is not shaved, split, or dressed down to secure the desired uniformity of thickness. The skins are left of the thickness afforded by nature, some being naturally much thicker than others; and no loss of strength by loss of substance is permitted.

The ordinary method is to shave down the inner side of the large, thick skin of an older



animal, thus making it appear like the unsplit product of the young kid.

This shaving greatly lessens the durability and wearing power of the skin, because the toughness and capacity of resistance to strain, depends not a little upon the integrity of every portion of the structure, the interior tegumentary fibers not less than the denser exterior or grain. While I am able to produce the lightest and most delicate boots and shoes from my kid, I do not secure lightness by artificial means. I depend upon the youth and delicacy of the animal whose skin is selected. There are coarse and fine varieties of animals of the same species, and the skins differ as essentially as do any other features or characteristics. If the skin of a young kid is coarse and loose-fibered, I reject it. If a delicate, yet very strong article is desired, I use the skin of a finely-organized young goat or kid, but I never seek to imitate the softness and pliability inherent in the skin of the finest infant goat, by the common practice of splitting and weakening.

By assorting the skins, I am able to supply boots and shoes of any grade without resorting to the weakening methods of splitting or shaving.

It is safe to say that in finishing kid skins in the common way, more than half the strength is always taken away. A skin is a unit, and not a series of parts to be segregated without injury to the structure. Its entire fibers are perfectly interlaced, and to shave from either surface is to greatly lessen the durability of the skin. The



exterior of the skin is called the *cuticle*, the interior the *cutis*. Both are of like importance, not only for the strength of the skin, but for other equally important considerations. There is in all animal skins a nutritive oleaginóus substance, which is held in place by this interior fibrous structure, the *cutis*. With this *cutis* removed the skin speedily dries up, and becomes hard and horny, and no longer capable of sustaining the strain and wear and tear of ordinary usage, being sure to crack. The difference between the McComber kid and the kid commonly used is exactly the same as between the best kid gloves and the cheaper kinds. The best young kid skins are cut into the best gloves without shaving or splitting. The poorer and older skins are shaved down, and used in cheap goods. Ladies know well that these shaved or split gloves tear readily, and speedily become lifeless and worthless. They may be heavier, but they are at the same time coarser and more loose and spongy.

I have been driven to devise new and better systems by the weakness and ready destructibility of all French kids. I know from experience, and thousands can testify that the McComber Kid will prove three times as durable as any heretofore used. While this kid is very flexible and pleasant to the foot, it does not stretch out of shape nor lose its symmetry after long wear. If my patrons will reflect upon the suggestions here



made, I believe they will agree with me that skins treated as described must be more lasting and useful than skins which have been weakened by corrosive agents and destructive processes. It is not hard to believe that this new kid will greatly outwear any other, and will be more comfortable and elegant while it lasts.

Ladies who have tested the McComber Kid are certain to order it again, and to discard all other varieties. I do not, however, insist that this superior article be used; I keep on hand all kinds of kid skins, and make up such as are decided upon. It is gratifying to feel, however, that more than nineteen out of twenty select the McComber Kid. So far as temporary profit is concerned, it is by means for my interest to advise the use of the McComber Kid. I, however, consider my interest the interest of my patrons, and am happy to recommend such methods and materials as shall increase the durability, and thereby lessen the cost of the clothing for the feet which I provide.



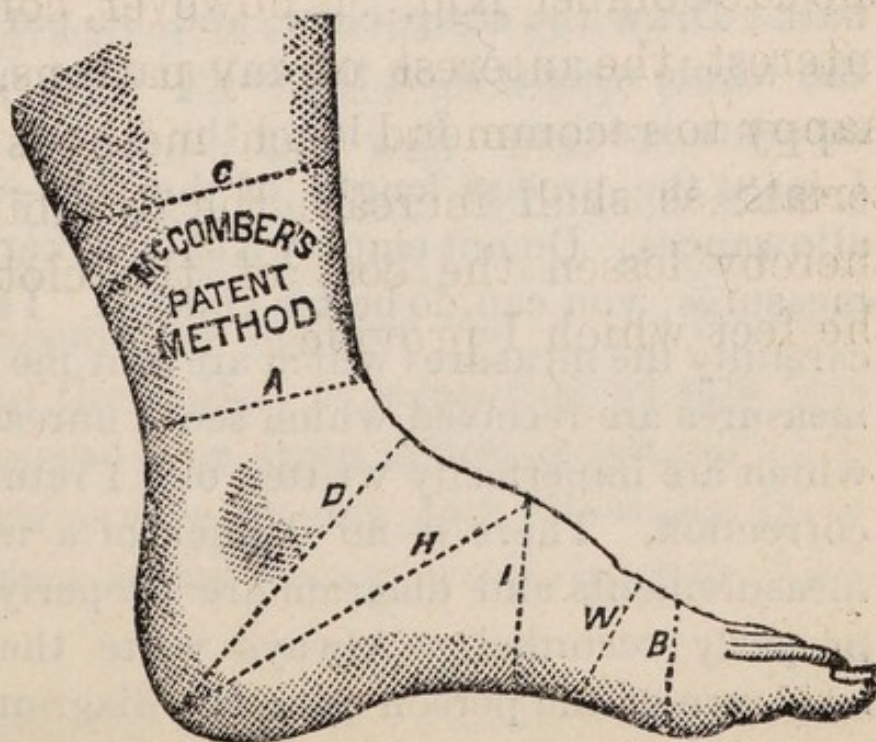
# DIRECTIONS

FOR OUTLINING THE SOLES OF THE FEET  
AND FOR MEASURING FEET,

FOR

**McComber's Patent Boots and Shoes and  
Patent Lasts.**

1st. After removing the shoes and stockings, stand erect upon a sheet of paper, bearing equal weight upon both feet; then draw a well-sharpened pencil around the foot, being careful to keep close to the bearing portions of the foot — in other words, draw the line close to that portion of the foot which comes in contact with the floor. Be very careful not to make the draft any wider or longer than the foot. *Mark and measure both feet.*





## DIRECTIONS FOR MEASURING.

**2d.** Place the stockings upon the feet and cross the legs, allowing the foot to be measured to hang naturally, and then with a tape measure take the seven measurements shown in the above illustration. Give the exact length in inches, when standing with whole weight on the foot. Measure exactly upon the lines shown, and place the result in inches and fractions below. Allow the toes to hang during this measurement. The measure for ladies at C must pass around the calf of the leg at a point seven inches above the sole or bearing surface of the heel, while this measure for gentlemen should be taken sixteen inches above the bearing surface of the heel. The measure at B must be taken as follows: Stand up and bear the entire weight on the foot to be measured. Pass the strap around the foot diagonally, across the large joint or ball of the great toe, and around the outer ball—in other words, from ball to ball. Draw the strap close, and be particular that the whole weight is on the ball of the foot when this measure is taken. In giving the length, BE EXACT. I want the precise length of the feet—I make all allowances. Do not employ a shoemaker to take the measures; you can do better yourself. I shall follow carefully the measures which are sent me; but when measures are received which seem unreasonable, or which are imperfectly written out, I return them for correction. There is no danger of a misfit if the measurements and diagram are properly taken and properly recorded. Always write the name and residence of the person upon the diagram taken.



## DIRECTIONS FOR MEASURING.

**Notice.**—If any bunions or other protuberances are upon the feet, mark their exact size upon the proper place in the diagram. If any points are particularly tender, mark and describe their location.

RIGHT FOOT.	LEFT FOOT.
<i>Line C</i> .....	<i>Line C</i> .....
<i>Line A</i> .....	<i>Line A</i> .....
<i>Line D</i> .....	<i>Line D</i> .....
<i>Line H</i> .....	<i>Line H</i> .....
<i>Line I</i> .....	<i>Line I</i> .....
<i>Line W</i> .....	<i>Line W</i> .....
<i>Line B</i> ....	<i>Line B</i> .....
<i>Length</i> .....	<i>Length</i> .....

Be very particular about taking the length. If this is not given, or is imperfectly given, I cannot make the Lasts. To insure accuracy, press the foot closely against the wall, bear the entire weight of the body on that foot; then stick a knife into the floor at the end of the longest toe, and then accurately measure the space between the wall and the knife. In measuring be sure that your tape measure or strap is first measured upon a carpenter's square or rule, and allowance made for the errors which always exist in tape measures.

*Cash to accompany all orders. I cannot send C. O. D.*



# PRICE LIST.

Lasts to fit the feet, for ladies or gentlemen from \$5 to \$10.

## MEN'S FRENCH CALF HAND SEWED.

	First Choice.	Second Choice
Army and Navy Calf Boots, Single Sole..	\$19	
Army and Navy Calf Boots, Double Sole..	20	
Army and Navy Calf Boots, Cork Sole...	21	
Army and Navy Calf Button, Lace or Congress Boots, Single Sole.....	16	
Army and Navy Calf Button, Lace or Congress, Double Sole.....	17	
Army and Navy Calf Button, Lace or Congress, Cork Sole.....	19	
Army and Navy Calf Oxford Ties or Low Button Shoes, Single Sole.....	12	
Army and Navy Calf Oxford Ties or Low Button Shoes, Double Sole.....	13	
Army and Navy Calf Oxford Ties or Low Button Shoes, Cork Sole.....	14	

## MEN'S FRENCH CALF, HAND SEWED, WITH LOW, SQUARE HEEL.

Calf Boots, Single Sole.....	17	15
Calf Boots, Double Sole ..	18	16
Calf Opera or Tongue Boots.....	20	18
Calf Boots, Cork Soles.....	20	18
Napoleon, Heavy, English Grain, Water Proof Boots, and other materials.....	25	
Miner's Boots.....	30	
Riding Boots.....	30	
Calf Button, Lace or Congress Boots, Single Sole.....	14	12
Calf Button, Lace or Congress Boots, Double Sole.....	15	13
Calf English Walking Shoes, Single Sole	14	12
Calf English Walking Shoes, Double Sole	15	13
Calf Oxford Ties or Low Button Shoes, Single Sole.....	11	



Half Oxford Ties or Low Button Shoes, Double Sole.....	12
Half Strap Shoes, Single Sole.....	12
Half Strap Shoes, Double Sole.....	13
Kid Shoes, all kinds, \$2 extra.	
Slippers.....	5

#### MEN'S PEGGED OR NAILED.

Half Boots.....	15
Button, Lace or Congress Boots, Army and Navy.....	12
Army and Navy Lace or Congress Boots, Cork Sole.....	14
Button, Lace or Congress Boots, Low, Square Heel.....	10
Half Lace Boots, Stock.....	9

#### LADIES' HAND-SEWED.

Army and Navy French, Mat, McComber, or Curacoa Kid Button Boots, Single Sole.....	11
Army and Navy French, Mat, McComber, or Curacoa Kid Button Boots, Double Sole.....	12
Army and Navy French, Mat, McComber, or Curacoa Kid Button Boots, Cork Sole.....	13
French, Mat, McComber, or Curacoa Kid Army and Navy Oxford Ties, Low Button Shoes, or Newport Ties, Single Sole.....	9
French, Mat, McComber, or Curacoa Kid Army and Navy Oxford Ties, Low Button Shoes, or Newport Ties, Cork Sole.....	10

#### LADIES' WITH LOW, SQUARE HEEL.

French, Mat, McComber, or Curacoa Kid Button Boots, Single Sole.....	10
French, Mat, McComber or Curacoa Kid Button Boots, Double Sole.....	11
French, Mat, McComber, or Curacoa Kid Button Boots, Cork Sole.....	13
French Calf, Single Sole.....	11



French Calf, Double Sole.....	12
French Calf, Cork Sole.....	14
Serge Foxed, with French, Mat, McComber, or Curacao Kid. Same price as kid.	
Serge Boots, plain.....	10
French, Mat, McComber, or Curacao Kid Oxford Ties.....	8
French, Mat, McComber, or Curacao Kid Newport Ties.....	8
French, Mat, McComber or Curacao Kid Low Button Shoes.....	8
Slippers, trimmed.....	5
“ untrimmed.....	4 50

## LADIES' PEGGED OR NAILED.

Button Boots, Stock.....	7
Button Boots, To Order.....	8
Button Boots, To Order, Cork Sole.....	9
Button Boots, To Order, Army and Navy, Single Sole.....	9
Button Boots, To Order, Army and Navy, Cork Soles.....	10

## BOYS' HAND-SEWED.

Calf Boots, Size 1 to 3, inclusive, Single Sole.....	11
Calf Boots, Size 1 to 3, inclusive, Double Sole.....	12
Calf Boots, Size 3½ to 5½, inclusive, Single Sole.....	13
Calf Boots, Size 3½ to 5½, inclusive, Double Sole.....	14
Calf Button, Lace or Congress Boots, Sizes 1 to 3, inclusive, Single Sole.....	8
Calf Button, Lace or Congress Boots, Sizes 1 to 3 inclusive, Double Sole.....	9
Calf Button, Lace or Congress Boots, Sizes 3½ to 5½, inclusive, Single Sole....	10
Calf Button, Lace or Congress Boots, Sizes 3½ to 5½, inclusive, Double Sole....	11
Youths' Button or Lace Boots, Sizes 10 to 13½ inclusive, Single Sole.....	7
Youths' Button or Lace Boots, Sizes 10 to 13½, Double Sole.....	8



## BOYS' PEGGED OR NAILED.

Boys' Rivet Button or Lace Boots, Sizes 12 to 13½, inclusive.....	4 50
Boys' Rivet Button or Lace Boots, Sizes 1 to 2½, inclusive.....	5
Boys' Rivet Button or Lace Boots, Sizes 3 to 4½, inclusive....	5 50
Boys' Rivet Button or Lace Boots, Sizes 5 to 5½, inclusive.....	6

## MISSES' HAND-SEWED.

Misses' French Dress and Mat Kid or Mc Comber Button Boots, from 12 to 2..	7
Misses' French Dress and Mat Kid or Mc Comber Lace Boots, from 12 to 2....	7
Misses' French Pebble Kid or Goat, or Mc Comber Button Boots, from 12 to 2..	6
Misses' French Pebble Kid or Goat, or Mc Comber Lace Boots, from 12 to 2....	6
Misses' American Pebble Goat and Morocco or McComber Button Boots, from 12 to 2.....	5
Misses' American Pebble Goat and Morocco or McComber Lace Boots, from 12 to 2	5

## CHILDREN'S HAND-SEWED.

Children's French Dress and Mat Kid or McComber Button Boots, from 6 to 9½	3 50
Children's French Dress and Mat Kid, or McComber Button Boots, from 10 to 11½.....	4 50
Children's French Dress and Mat Kid, or McComber Lace Boots, from 6 to 9½	3 50
Children's French Pebble Kid or McCom- ber Button Boots, from 6 to 9½.....	3 00
Children's French Pebble Kid or McCom- ber Button Boots, from 10 to 11½...	4 00

## INFANTS' HAND SEWED.

Infants' French Mat and Pebble Kid or McComber Button Boots, from 1 to 5½	1 50
Infant's French Mat and Pebble Kid or McComber Lace Boots, from 1 to 5½.	1 50



## How to Make Ladies' Shoes Durable

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The fashionable dressings in common use for ladies' kid or goat shoes are destructive of leather, because they generally contain either a strong alkali or alcohol. Both of these destroy the life of the leather so that it speedily cracks and peels.

I advise the use of a mixture of beef tallow and neatsfoot oil well rubbed into the surface of the leather every time before the dressing is applied. The dressing which I prefer is called "Vernisine." Used after the leather has been thus greased, it is entirely harmless.

I keep both the mixture and the "Vernisine" for sale.

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VERNISINE, Per Bottle, - 25 cents

MIXTURE, " Tin Box, - - 25 cents

JOEL McCOMBER,

52 East 10th St.,

NEW YORK



22502670302