grandmothers did. For this relief credit is due to the development of exercise among women and to the use of the bicycle and the motor-car. But, as Mr. Lane points out, the use of a corset constructed to aid instead of to weaken the abdominal muscles is a matter which concerns the medical profession in a marked degree, and it may be that in time the influence of medical men who study the matter will enable fashion to go hand in hand with good sense.

THE FATE OF THE LONG-HEADED BLOND RACE.

THE Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland was particularly happy in its choice of Professor Gustav Retzius of Stockholm as Huxley lecturer for the current year. He is a son of Anders Retzius, who in 1840 divided mankind according to the shape of their heads into *Gentes Dolichocephalæ* and *Gentes Brachycephalæ*, and thereby laid the foundation on which the great superstructure of modern craniology has been reared. In delivering the Huxley lecture at the new premises of the Institute in Great Russell-street, Professor Retzius dealt with the increase of knowledge regarding the origin and distribution of European races which had attended the application of the methods introduced by his father. A recent survey of recruits for the Swedish Army revealed the fact that 87 per cent. of the Swedes are "long-headed," while 73 per cent. have fair hair. Professor Retzius regards his fellow countrymen as a pure representation of the North European race—a race still found in Scandinavia, North Germany, and Britain, but at one time spread widely over Europe—from earliest neolithic times downwards. They may be regarded as the aborigines of Europe, not, as at one time widely believed, Aryan invaders from Asia. Professor Retzius agrees with those who take a gloomy view as to the future of this ancient race. The qualities which made them great in the past are just those that unfit them for the routine life of an industrial civilisation. The round-headed dark-haired race which has replaced them in central Europe has gained its victory by the possession of superior industrial qualities, a superiority that threatens ultimately to overwhelm the fair-haired North European stock. Professor Retzius is not one of those who believe that an industrial mode of life can alter the shape of the head or colour of the hair; the evidence in support of such a hypothesis is altogether unconvincing. Such questions, of the very greatest importance to industrial nations, can be settled only by a comprehensive physical survey of the people.

AN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF RADIOLOGY AND ELECTRICITY.

WE are informed that arrangements have been made for an International Congress of Radiology and Electricity to take place at Brussels in connexion with the exhibition to be held there in 1910. The Congress, which will meet on Sept. 6th, 7th, and 8th, will be held in three sections. In the first section, general questions of terminology and methods of measurement in radio-activity and subjects connected with ions, electrons, and corpuscles will be dealt with. The second section will be divided into various sub-sections, dealing respectively with fundamental theories of electricity, the study of radiations (including spectroscopy, chemical effects of radiations, and other allied questions), radio-activity, atomic theory, cosmical phenomena (including atmospheric electricity and atmospheric radio-activity). The third section will be biological and will be devoted to consideration of the effects of radiations on living organisms. The section will deal with purely biological questions as well as with the use of various radiations for medical purposes, both for diagnosis and therapeutics. In order to ensure the success of the Congress committees have been formed in the various countries which will take part in the Congress, and the following scientists have already consented to act as presidents of the committee in each country: Professor Lenard (Germany), Professor Exner (Austria), Professor Oëtvös (Hungary), Professor Castillo (Spain), Professor Barus (United States), Professor Langevin (France), Professor Rutherford (Great Britain), Professor Blaserna (Italy), Professor Birkeland (Norway), Professor Lorentz (Holland), Professor Ferreira da Silva (Portugal), Professor Hurmuzescu (Roumania), Professor Lebedew (Russia), Professor Arrhenius (Sweden), and Professor Guye (Switzerland). Communications regarding the Congress may be addressed to Professor Rutherford or Dr. W. Makower at the University of Manchester, but anyone wishing to become a member of the Congress should communicate his intention directly to the general secretary, Dr. J. Daniel, 1, Rue de la Prévôte, Brussels. Communications relating to the Biological and Medical Section should be addressed to Mr. W. Deane Butcher, Holyrood, Ealing, London, W,

ILLUSTRATIONS IN A NEWSPAPER.

IN another column will be found an account of an interesting case of fracture of both patellæ by direct violence in a patient under the care of Mr. William Sheen. The first illustration to this article is of a more frivolous nature than generally characterises our pictures, but we have admitted it for the very good reason that it gives at a glance the exact method, a rather complicated one, in which the injury was brought about. The original sketch was not, of course, intended for reproduction in the columns of a scientific journal. In providing illustrations for articles for the scientific press it must be remembered that the object of the author should be not, in the first case, to produce an artistic result so much as to give a picture which will show exactly what the writer means to express. It is quite possible to combine extreme technical accuracy with perfect artistic feeling—a good example of this is Turner's drawing of a windmill given in Vol. IV. of "Modern Painters," in contrast with another drawing of the same subject by Stanfield—but for artists of a meaner kind it is generally necessary to subordinate artistic finish to accuracy of detail or even to make the illustration semi-diagrammatic, especially in pictures dealing with anatomical or surgical subjects. We have been led to make these remarks both on account of the clever sketch accompanying Mr. Sheen's paper and also because of a series of articles now running in our contemporary the *Author*, written by Mr. W. B. Plummer, on "The Art of Illustrating." Many of our contributors from time to time have thought us captious with regard to the photographs, drawings, charts, and diagrams with which they have supplied us for the purpose of illustrating their articles, because they have not been familiar with the processes of reproduction. Everybody cannot know everything, and the technicalities of illustration for the press may not concern medical men very closely. But the tendency of medical men being more and more towards illustrating their articles, we recommend to those who are interested the study of Mr. Plummer's instructions. In these the mysteries of the line-block, the advantages and disadvantages of the wash drawing, and the necessity of using certain materials are all explained in a very clear manner. We may briefly refer to two little matters which have frequently prevented us from reproducing a drawing or a chart exactly in the form in which it has reached us. A chart may be drawn so that the curve will reduce to a third or even less of the original size without losing clearness, but only if the figures or the letters written upon it have been drawn on a scale to allow of the reduction. As a rule, the