

MORE ABOUT MALE ATTIRE

THE AGITATION FOR REFORM in men's dress, which has not yet got beyond the columns of the press, is not likely to bear fruit at present, concludes a writer in *The Daily Mail* (London; Continental edition). Men are shy creatures, he says, and would rather die than wear anything unconventional in public. He writes:

"Now that the highest lawn-tennis authority has decided that it has no power to forbid women to play that game bare-legged, it was inevitable that attention should be concentrated on the oddities of male dress. It seems to be universally agreed that male dress at the present time is the most unhygienic, inartistic, somber, and depressing form of costume that the mind could well imagine. But the difficulty is to get the idea of a brighter, more hygienic, and more picturesque attire into the mind of the mere male.

"The male is a shy creature, and has always been particularly fearful of appearing conspicuous. He looks very much askance at projects which would require him to go back to the fashions, say, of the pre-Raffaelite man, and to wear tights of different startling colors on either leg and queer jerkins without any pockets in them. It is to be feared that he could never be habituated to the carrying of such belongings as his money, his letters, and his cigaret-case in a ridiculous little bag, which he would be apt to forget or drop fifty times a day.

"Nor would most men like to be drest up in trousers with frills, or to wear lace-trimmed 'plus fours.'

"Last year Sir William Orpen was good enough to contribute a hot-weather design for men's dress to *The Daily Mail*. His ideal man was garbed in a soft hat, which in appearance somewhat resembled the steel helmet of the war: below it appeared a coatee of quite original cut, and below that again a somewhat exiguous straw kilt of something the same kind as that worn by kanakas at Hawaii, while the legs were bare and the feet adorned with sandals. It was an excellent scheme of decoration, but the average man is so constituted that he would sooner be seen dead than be observed wearing it in Piccadilly; nor are we ourselves certain that, with Buchan cold periods and other disagreeable phenomena of our climate, it is entirely suited to the weather of the normal English summer.

"After all, men's clothes as they are to-day have the merit of longevity and of relative cheapness."