In the Matter of Shoes

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.

By Julia Bottomley.

American-made shoes have out-distanced those made anywhere else in the world in the race for excellence. This has been true so long that the American shoe in American shoe shops is sold everywhere. In points of style, finish and variety the American shoe is first and so far in the lead that there is no second. Even the French shoes strike the educated taste of our country-women as unshapely and uninteresting, almost wholly lacking in style.

Women have grown more fastidious in the matter of shoes and the advance of the manufacturers in variety of models produced, meets with a demand so ready that our mind is in doubt as to whether this demand was in existence before it was met, or not. At any rate, each season brings forth numbers of new models, and the styles in shoes are getting about as much attention these days as the styles in millinery.

Women have out-grown the foolish practice of pinching the feet, or wearing shoes unsuited to their individual needs. Such is the variety of lasts made that there is one for almost every foot. There are several "types" which are understood, and shoes are so cleverly cut by the manufacturers, so well thought out, that shapeliness is the effect in all the different models

"Mannish" shoes are chosen for walking, having good substantial soles, heels moderately high and very strong and a general appearance of strength and durability in the entire make-up. For such shoes, tans and blacks are naturally most popular. One may get them in brown, gun metal, ox blood and probably a similar shoe in other colors. Kid and calfskin furnish the materials of the greatest number of models in street shoes. In Fig. 1 an ideal shoe for general wear is shown. It is as trim and sensible looking as the plain and handsome tailored gown, with which it is intended to be worn, and shows the same beauty and simplicity in cut, the same care in its finish. Such a pair of shoes, it goes without saying, almost, is the first essential in any woman's shoe-outfitting. These she must have—be she poor or rich. Happily, the price is not above the reach of any one. Two pairs of walking shoes, in good condition should be always on hand and worn alternately. One should keep the pair not in use, on shoetrees and in good shape as to cleanliness. Occasional attention to the heels, where there is a tendency to wear them off at one side, will prolong the life and keep the shape of the shoe. It is a good idea to have one pair with high tops so that the ankles will be protected in wet weather. Nothing repays care better than shoes. A shabby appearance is the fault of the wearer, and any shoe man will tell us that proper care in keeping up the good appearance of shoes lengthens their term of service by half the usual time of wearing.

Street shoes are distinctly not for the house. A pair of slippers or a softer, dressier boot, should replace them indoors. This change is good for the shoe, for the wearer and for the floors. If one lives in a house with a summer atmosphere all winter, there is no reason why slippers should not be worn. A lovely slipper is shown in Fig. 2. Every woman should provide herself with such a pair. Most of all, the business woman, who is apt to come home fatigued from a trying or a monotonous day. A simple toilet finished with a dainty and comfortable pair of slippers. The "feel" of the light, flexible and womanish slipper seems to pervade one. It shows in the carriage and amounts to a positive refreshment. A little gown for evening wear at home should be of the same characteristics as this slipper, simple, pretty and most easily taken off and put on.

A dress shoe, is another essential to the wardrobe. This is lighter in make than a street shoe and a great variety of styles is shown to select from. Where the purse allows only one pair a fine, plain, well-made kid boot, like that shown in Fig. 3, is the happiest choice. This model is cut on beautiful "classy" lines. One may buy it with patent leather tip or vamp, or in dull-finished kid. The moderate French heel is graceful and redeems the model from too severe lines, with just a hint of the frivolous in shoes. The cloth top shoe shown in Fig. 4 is for those who require a little more elaboration in a dress shoe, or for those who wish to match a costume. It is very quiet by comparison with the footwear of those ultra fashionables who can indulge themselves in luxuries in shoes as well as other things. The cloth top has a velvet collar and is finished with a silk cord and tassels. The Cuban heel brings the design down to earth, as it were, so that milady may wear this boot on a clear day with a visiting gown, when she goes to pay her calls or to attend some of those gatherings for which she must "dress up" a bit. This beautiful boot is dressy enough for any occasion, and appropriate for any, except, perhaps, for dancing.

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DRESS FOR GIRL.

Cashmere, veiling or fine serge might be used for this simple little dress, which has one deep tuck at the foot of skirt, and slight fullness at the waist, fulled to a little band, to which the bodice is also joined. The prettily shaped bertha surrounds a yoke of tucked silk, it is edged with plaited silk, and has silk covered buttons sewn in the corners.

Hat of straw trimmed with a wreath of roses.

Materials required: Four yards 42 inches wide, two yards silk, 20 buttons.

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