

Slippers Are the Latest Whim of Dame Fashion

COURTESY in footwear has been on the increase for several seasons, but a running survey of the season's supply of evening slippers and house shoes would lead one to believe that the tendency had reached high water mark.

Never before within the memory of this generation has there been such variety and extravagance in dress slippers and shoes, and though the average woman goes on wearing her practical and economical patent leather or black kid slipper for ordinary occasions and dons a light plain satin slipper when she really needs to be grand, a surprising number of women plunge into starting extravagance in the matter of footwear.

Take, for example, the evening slippers of the fashionable woman. She must have a pair to match every evening frock and it is quite possible that she will need more than one pair to accompany a single frock through a season's wear.

Even were these slippers all in plain satin they would represent a considerable outlay of money, but she does not content herself with plain slippers. By no means. She desires originality in slippers as in frocks, and she may perhaps have slippers especially made and embroidered for her, or she may find something to match her frock among the beautiful embroidered satin slippers or the embroidered slipper designs not yet made up.

She will pay anything from \$15 to \$20 for satisfying her hobby; but that is a secondary consideration; and the shoe-makers say that women will now pay without a murmur prices that would have startled even the most lavish of stage beauties a few years ago. These same stage beauties are, of course, among the best patrons of the maker of costly slippers and shoes, but the smart society woman now rivals the actress in the matter of unusual and beautiful slippers, and the fashionable shoe-makers are straining every nerve to satisfy the demand for originality and beauty in their wares.

Hand embroidery is a fad in the realm of evening slippers as in all the province of dress, and in any of the first-class shoe shops one may now see slipper designs in all fashionable colorings and exquisitely embroidered in silks, paillettes, beads and even jewels. The satin is cut in slipper shape and embroidered on the toe, but not made up until sold, when, of course, it is made to fit the purchaser.

Often the back of the slipper is embroidered, too, though not so elaborately as the toe, and in some instances the heel itself is embroidered. There are supplied, too, overheels of gold in a graceful open design which fit over the satin heel, the color of the satin showing through the design of the gold work.

These are really gold-not silver gilt-and may be used again and again upon various slippers. One New York woman found among her Christmas presents this

year a pair of white satin slippers whose toes were embroidered in gold thread designs set with little opals, while the heels were overlaid with gold metal in an open design matching the embroidery of the toe. The slippers were in an embroidered satin slipper bag and the present represented \$75 in money.

Many gray slippers have been sold this winter as a result of the popularity of that color, and one firm of shoemakers has an exceptionally large assortment of unique slippers in gray-gray satin, gray velvet, but most often gray suede.

Some of the prettiest of these gray slippers are elaborately embroidered in tiny steel beads, while others are embroidered in silver and gold, or in shades of gray silk, merely touched with glints of silver or of steel. What looks like a gray pearl is also used for embroidering the gray materials. One very pretty and not particularly expensive gray slipper is of gray suede, with a small once-tied bow of the same bordered by a double line of little gray pearls.

Velvet slippers in all the popular shades, light and dark, and a plain velvet slipper, with no trimming save a tiny jeweled buckle or single large rhinestone at the toe, is extremely smart. Such a slipper in black is much worn, and the deep violets in this model are particularly attractive.

A firm noted for its evening slippers has been showing some velvet slippers which are rather too radical to suit the conservative, but are much less startling than one would imagine from the description, and are really beautiful. They are quite plain save for a large single rhinestone at the toe and for ornamental heels, which are the amazing feature of the model.

These heels are covered with the velvet, but set in them so that their surfaces are on a level with the velvet surface are rhinestones, which twinkle merrily in the somber setting. Most poetic dancing slippers, assuredly, but as we have said before, a trifle too unusual for the conservatives.

There are charming things in cut work kid slippers, embroidered along the edges of the open work design in little beads-gold, silver, steel or crystal, and some of the black suede, velvet or satin slippers are very effectively embroidered in brilliant cut jet.

Plain gold, or, rather, gilded, heels are put upon many of the evening slippers in white or delicate color, the tone of the slipper being embroidered in gold or finished with a little gold buckle or ornament.

There are, too, a large number of gold slippers, made of kid, or of cloth or of gold, and these have been quite popular for evening wear with frocks embroidered in gold or made of gold cloth or tissue.

Cloth of gold may be used for the body of the slipper, with an inch wide border and little bow of gold kid for finish, and there are white, black and colored slippers which have similar lines of gold leather at

the tops and little gold bows. Silver slippers are also worn, though they tarnish so readily that a slipper matching a frock trimmed in silver is usually preferred to an all silver slipper for wear with a frock trimmed in silver.

There are many little novelties in toe ornaments for slippers, but none is particularly surprising and the novelty usually consists in a new buckle design or some slight variation in the tying of a little knot of satin or leather or chiffon. A single rose made of satin is a pretty finish for the toe of the slipper in the same satin, and a small cluster of satin roses or other artificial flowers is as well liked as ever.

The small chou of chiffon matching the slipper and with a little brilliant ornament at its heart does not go out of fashion, and stunning big buckles of brass or of metal and jewels are provided for the embellishment of slippers and house shoes made with high tongues. A particularly smart pair of slippers were of black velvet, perfectly plain and made with high pointed tongue piece. Big round buckles of brass decorated the somber but beautifully cut slippers.

High boots in white and light colors, especially gray, have been worn more than ever before off the stage this season, and patent leather or kid boots with very light colored uppers have been popular, though not practical. One sees occasionally boots with black wamps and checked uppers, but these are more bizarre than admirable, save perhaps where the check matches the costume.

A new boot advanced by some of the good makers lace up the inside instead of up the front. The boot top is made in very soft, flexible kid and molds attractively to a pretty foot and ankle, but there is little chance of any wide acceptance for this model.

There is, too, a modernized congress gaiter with elastic in the sides, but this is another idea not likely to make much impression. Shaded pearl shoe buttons, harmonizing with the colored cloth uppers of certain boots, are pretty, and even upon black boots one sees sometimes a pearl button, black at the edges, but shading to an iridescent gray at the center.

Velvet continues in favor; but the shoemakers have altered the cut so that being higher and more closely fitted at the

back of the heel, the pumps stay on the foot better than they originally did. Unfortunately many of these high back models, unless extremely well made, cut into the heel and are far from comfortable.

Patent leather low shoes on the order of pumps but finished around the tops with bands of stitched cloth matching the costume are considered very chic, and there are low shoes with low wamps and blucher-like fronts fastening over an inner top of colored cloth or suede matching the hose.

As a general thing the vamps are shorter and lower than they have been in recent years, but such a cut is not becoming to many feet, and it will not be universally adopted. The high brown boots which have been worn this winter promise to stay in favor throughout the summer, and the makers are preparing for a big brown leather season.

Last summer word had gone out that brown shoes would not be fashionable, and no one had large stocks of them; but the women would have them, and there was trouble in shoemaking quarters. This season the makers will be prepared, but it remains to be seen how the woman will again clamor for brown leather.

MADAME MELBA RETURNS TO AMERICA



After an absence all too long to please American lovers of music, Madame Melba made her re-appearance recently in New York at the Manhattan Opera House in "Traviata." As in former years she aroused tremendous enthusiasm by the dazzling beauty of her voice. The charming prima-donna was not only in remarkable vocal form, but her acting was a delight.

Melba's return was particularly pleasing to the American representative of ED. PINAUD, to whom she sent the following letter shortly after her arrival in New York:

Hotel St. Regis, New York, January 4, 1907.
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Woman in Home Life and Business World

Babies Save Homes. THAT childless marriage creates discord between husband and wife and is one of the most prolific causes for divorce, is the conclusion reached by Judge McEwen of Chicago, who supports his conclusion with statistics. Judge McEwen is one of the judges of the superior court of Cook county and hears more tales of domestic woe in one month than all other judges of that court.

Figures compiled by the jurist show that out of 100 applications for decrees passed were presented since November 15, in 123 cases conjugal unhappiness was the outcome of a childless home.

Following up this line of investigation, the judge has observed that the childless home also is responsible for drunkenness in the wife, and that in many instances where the childless wife sought divorce from her husband she has accused the defendant of habitual drunkenness.

A table kept by Judge McEwen during the last two months shows the following to be the causes for the decrees which he has granted to the 200 persons who have appeared before him:

No children and drunkenness.....	115
No children and cruelty.....	10
Another woman and desertion.....	30
Religious conflict.....	10
Fidelity.....	9
Lazy husband.....	15
Dubious past.....	12

The list shows also that of 90 complainants more than 60 per cent were women, but the judge explains that this does not indicate that the man usually is the offender. When, for one reason or another, a husband and wife separate, he says, the husband usually will allow his wife to get the divorce, and in these cases the charge as a general rule is based on desertion.

Incompatibility of temper, Judge McEwen declares, is a misnomer. "There is no such thing," he says, "and when this explanation is given the couple separate, and in these cases there is another woman or another man in the case."

The subject of ages also is gone into by Judge McEwen in his investigation and the figures kept by him show that persons between thirty and forty years of age are more likely to seek divorce than are those who are older or others who have not reached the age of thirty years.

Taking the 200 cases upon which the figures were computed, the judge finds

that more than two-thirds of the complainants and defendants in those suits were between thirty and forty years old. Ages of the others ranged between twenty and thirty years, and there were very few who had passed the forty mark to seek a dissolution of the marital bonds.

Why Girl Help Is Scarce. A New York paper recently contained an article upon the growing difficulty of securing help for the large department stores. Hotels are complaining about the scarcity of maids and of waiters, and there is the everlasting wail about the lack of household servants. Do they vanish into thin air? Not at all. The secret of their mysterious and steadily increasing disappearance is solved, writes Harriet Quinley in *Ladies Weekly*. They go on the stage.

The hundreds of musical comedies playing in New York and throughout the country swallow up these girls and men by the thousands. There are at present being produced in New York alone twelve musical plays, in which from 100 to 200 girls are employed in the chorus, and at the Hippodrome 400 or 500 girls and several hundred men find constant employment.

One reason of this stampede to the footlights is that it means more money. Few girls in shops earn more than \$10 a week and the great majority earn considerably less, while the homeliest kind of chorus girl commands at least \$15 a week, with costumes furnished. If she happens to be pretty and is a good dancer she earns at first \$20 or \$25, and often more. From the writer's point of view, the shop work, even with its low wages, is preferable to the life of the chorus girl, which is anything but beer and skittles; but to those who only see the glare of the footlights and hear the music of stage life, the chorus opens up a sort of perpetual fairyland to their mental vision. Despite the hard work and the hardships which form a part of the life of the chorus girl, which is anything but a fascinating life, it and for that have once entered upon it care to desert it for other work.

Training of Parents. It has been a long time since the National Congress of Mothers has contributed anything to the gaiety of the nation, and it is refreshing to note that that organization has resumed operations on a highly promising scale. The proceedings of the congress are always full of interest, says the *Kansas City Journal*, not only from the standpoint of the delegates themselves, but also from the irreverent public's point of view. To be sure, most of the merriment arises from that portion of the congress unkindly referred to by some outsiders as men and women who never had any children, yet there are actual fathers and mothers in the organization who should know what they are talking about.

But the incidental fact that a bachelor claims expert knowledge of the science of raising children should not be a cause for derisive comment. Perhaps there isn't a dyed-in-the-wool, hopeless, confirmed and incurable bachelor living but is positive he knows more about children than all the fathers and mothers put together. Therefore, when he condescends to give others the benefit of his store of information it pays the world to stop and listen.

It will be gratifying to the army of bachelorhood to learn that the National Congress of Mothers is about to establish a department for the education of parents. For years it has been a painful reflection of bachelors and spinsters that few parents know how to bring up a family of children. The deficiencies and shortcomings

of those entrusted with the privilege and responsibilities of giving hostages to fortune are deplorable, and when one thinks of the absolute ignorance of parents as compared with the ripe erudition of bachelors regarding children, it is a wonder that any children develop into healthful maturity at all.

Qualified experts agree that there is a field for a department devoted to the education of parents. Even the parents themselves will not deny that they know dozens of other parents who have failed miserably in rearing their own perfect children. Of course there will always be those old-fashioned mothers and fathers who feel themselves fully competent to take care of their own children and allow other parents to do the same. These have no sympathy with congresses and would resent specialized instruction from childless theorists. But this class, predominating though it be, can have little, if any, effect upon that small but enthusiastic coterie of specialists in child training who prefer to have to experiment on other people's youngsters.

Women in Science. It is only within the last century, and very near the end of it, too, that women have made any great record for scientific discovery, relates the *St. Louis Globe Democrat*. The greatest work done by a woman in chemistry is, of course, the discovery of radium by Mme. Curie in conjunction with her husband. New England has found itself called upon to recognize the work of a woman, the Royal Society having awarded the Hughes medal to Mrs. Ayrton for her work in the investigation of the electric arc and sand ripples. Mrs. Ayrton is the only woman member of the Institute of electrical engineers and her work in electricity has been of such a nature that it was impossible not to recognize it. Mrs. Ayrton is the wife of an electrical engineer, but she has much to thank her mother for in the making of her scientific career. As a girl of 16 she left school and became a teacher in Girton college. Her marriage was due to an affinity of interest, and it was while pursuing investigations for her husband that she came in contact with electrical phenomena that gave her such insight into the subject. It is evident that women should make much progress along scientific lines of work, for it is very well known that most of the discoveries are due to careful attention to detail and thorough mastery of the subject rather than the outcome of unusual powers of reasoning. The chemist especially must just watch and wait for the processes that will give to the world something new.

The woman is eminently fitted to carry out the long, patient course of investigation that most of the sciences require. She may never be able to evolve the principles of physical phenomena after the manner of Sir William Thompson and other logical thinkers of the age, but she can prove the theories, verify that certain principles are responsible for certain phenomena. The present century is to be the woman's century, and great are the expectations. It is not surprising that she has made a beginning in chemistry, physics and astronomy, through Mme. Curie, Mary Ayrton and Mrs. Fleming.

A Wife's Strategy. As a married couple were walking down one of the main thoroughfares of a city, relates the *Ladies Home Journal*, the husband noted the attention which other women bestowed upon his wife, and remarked to his better half: "Folks never look at you. I wish I had married some one better looking."

The woman tartly replied: "It's your fault. Do you think a man will stare at me when you're walking with me? You step behind me and see whether men don't look at me."

The husband hung back about a dozen yards, and for the length of the street was surprised to see every man his wife passed stare hard at her and even turn around and look after her.

"Sure, lassie!" he exclaimed as he rejoined her, "I was wrong and take it back. I'll never say aught about your looks again."

The wife had made a face at every man she met.

Art of Enameling. Enameling has been called "the poetry of art." The transmutation of metals into the tints of the rainbow is an alchemy that has always appealed to art lovers and art workers. Recently, and chiefly through the growing interest in the arts and crafts, especially when expressed in jewelry, it has been taken up by women, and is even studied in the girls' schools.

There are women, however, who have equipped themselves to carry this work further and more seriously by attempting large pieces, similar to those we know as Limoges enamels, and who after a protracted course of study abroad have returned here and set up their own studios and forges, for an enameeler's studio means a room for design and display of the finished pieces, similar to another (a workshop) with furnace and forge, blowpipes and pitch bowls, pestle and mortar, hammer and tongs, work aprons and soiled hands.

Japanese Wives and Mothers. Japanese life has suffered a transition during the last decade, but it needs more than a change in outward forms to change the spirit of the nation. A touching incident showing the old spirit is contained in an article, "Japanese Wives and Mothers," by Marian Bonsall in the *Housekeeper*.

The daughters of Japan have not lost nor do they lose their old samurai spirit, which is the spirit of Japan, and with the stoicism and the courage and the patriotism which is that spirit they are cultivating as much

of the occidentalism as seems to them good.

Some of the demands of Japanese etiquette seem from our standpoint to be very cruel. It is considered very rude and very vulgar to show one's grief. According to the sternly grand idea of Japanese courtesy one owes it to one's fellows to show him only a happy, smiling face. If the heart is breaking-let no man see.

A Japanese woman whose little son, an only child, had recently died called on an errand at the home of an American family living in Tokio. The American woman asked for the health of the boy and the mother answered with a smile that he had died several days before. A number of questions followed concerning his sickness and the time of his death, to all of which the mother answered cheerfully and smilingly. After a few apparently happy remarks on different subjects she departed to her home. The American woman was angry and horrified at what she deemed the woman's callousness and lack of maternal feeling. The husband knew more of Japanese character and had made two observations that the handkerchief the woman carried had been torn into tiny bits during the conversation and that as she left her lower lip was bleeding.

A Japanese friend, small and dainty and in appearance almost childlike, was one time very ill and suffered the most intense physical pain that it is possible to suffer. Her mother was not living, her husband was away at the time and she had been quite alone. "I should have screamed with the agony," I cried involuntarily when I heard of the terrible suffering.

"It is a shame for a Japanese woman to cry out in pain," she answered simply.

Leaves from Fashion's Notebook. The millinery of the moment is surprising in its variety. You see the wide tulle crown hat with a side by side tulle feather-crowned hat side by side with the jaunty French toque, and in their company you may find a thoroughly practical felt hat beside the damkest misanthrope.

An empire negligee in crepe de chine over china silk is stunning, made of a dainty tulle crown hat with a side by side tulle feather-crowned hat side by side with the jaunty French toque, and in their company you may find a thoroughly practical felt hat beside the damkest misanthrope.



SHOES OF SUEDE, KID AND VELVET, EMBROIDERED AND WITH BEADS AND STONES; THREE WITH FANCY HEELS.

and glove kid are vying with satin. Black is always allowable, but fashion demands that hosiery, slippers and gowns shall match, and, barring that, shall harmonize. Even the embroidery, if there is any, on the slipper toes must follow out the design shown in the gown.

Among the fads of the season are visiting cards from Japan. There is a chance that the orientals may create a charming revolution in the jazz of engraved business-boards. The visiting cards Japan is sending over show a perfection of the simple. They are somewhat smaller than those which fashion has demanded over here. They are peculiarly white in hue. In the left-hand corner is an exquisite little painting, executed with much skill, of quaint, idyllic pictures of birds, animals and flowers, and the cards have the supreme merit in many society women's eyes-they are expensive.

Chat About Women. Wilbur Nesbit, the author, received recently a list of questions from a woman who was arranging a symposium for publication. Among the questions was: "Who, in your estimation, was or is the greatest woman in the world?" Mr. Nesbit replied: "The unknown woman who invented apple pie. She was and is and ever will be the woman who has done more than any other to gladden the heart of man."

Mme. Camille Thelmer, a Viennese novelist and warm advocate of woman's advancement, had an interview with the pope recently. The pope is reported to have said to her: "It is well that women are freeing themselves from the yoke of the centuries. Feminine liberation can but ennoble her soul, in developing in her the taste for work and study and in banishing from her mind her atavistic leaning toward idle pleasures."

Mrs. W. E. Ayrton, wife of Prof. Ayrton, the famous English electrical engineer, has lately written a book on the life of her husband. She has been making up her own account some important experimental investigations on the electric arc and also on sand ripples. The results of these were so valuable that the Royal Society has conferred on her the "David Henry Huxley" gold medal for useful research. She is the only woman who has ever been so honored by this learned organization.

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