

Youth Glories In Short Skirt

One refers, of course, to skirts. Already they have reached the knees, and nobody can say where they will stop.

Why the popularity of this very "youth" fashion?

Conservative folks cry out against the "immodesty" of it. They say that its motive is to attract the attention of the men.

Doubtless that is so, in some cases. But generally speaking, the short skirts find favor because they give an effect of youthfulness.

It is the fashion just now to be, or to appear, very youthful. If you will glance the street costumes of the women of today, you will find that they are dressed in imitation of children.

If you would be further convinced on this point, take a look at the fashion plates and fashion designs in the magazines and newspapers. And within very recent years the fashion plates represented grown women—young, of course, but mature. Today they are mere children, never older than sixteen.

Sixteen The Desirable Age.

At the present time, apparently every woman, no matter what her age, wishes to look sixteen.

When, in addition to the items of costume above mentioned, she wears a skirt nearly or quite up to her knees, the general effect is one of youthfulness. Often, of course, it looks absurd, but that has nothing to do with the argument.

An effect of the new fashion has been the bestowal of an unprecedented amount of attention upon the dressing of the feet and lower limbs. Among women today there is much rivalry in respect to shapeliness of legs and ankles. They must have a special pair of shoes to go with every frock, paying extravagant prices for them, and their silk stockings must be of fancy weaves with lacework or embroidery. Some of the more expensive stockings are so fine that their textures are almost invisible, and the embroidery on them looks like the elaborate drawings which adorn the legs of a native belle of Normandy.

Judging The Toe Line.

The University of Oregon has recently undertaken to put its "code" through a course of sprouts in reference to their feet, which are subjected to critical examination when they enter. So far, the tootsies of only one girl in every nine have obtained the rating of "good," while in not a single instance have they shown a perfect "toe line."

The idea of the University authorities is to correct imperfect feet, so far as it may be possible, by prescribing proper shoes. But the girls seem to feel no enthusiasm about it. "Proper" shoes with broad toes are rather becoming nor fashionable, and they think that the shape of their feet is of small importance so long as they look pretty when shod.

It seems a great pity that man should be a plantigrade animal—that, in other words, he should walk flat-footed. A bear walks in that fashion, and how clumsy is his locomotion!

The horse, the deer and the antelope walk on their toenails. How light and graceful are their movements!

The ballet girl, to achieve gracefulness.

Overtaxed.

What's the matter with this gentleman who is being placed in an ambulance?

He's a tired business man who was prostrated in the front row.

How?

He was induced to attend what was supposed to be a conventional girl and music show, but it turned out to be a musical comedy with quite a complicated plot.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

near, dances on the tips of her toes. She is enabled to do this by long practice and exercise which strengthens certain muscles.

Why High Heels Help.

Did it ever occur to you to think how wretchedly inferior as a runner man is to nearly every other living creature? A dog runs or walks on his toes; so does a cat. The flat-footedness of man is ugly and awkward.

It is to remedy this flatfooted effect that women wear high French heels. Shoes thus made lift their heels well of the ground, so that they walk on their toes. Incidentally they make the feet look smaller.

It is, however, an artificial posture; and it tends to jam the feet down into the toes of the shoes, which, if they be narrow, cramp the woman's toes most painfully.

Within the last few years many bootmakers have undertaken to turn out shoes that fit men's feet—shoes that allow the toes to spread naturally. The war gave a strong impulse to this new departure, because no American soldier was allowed to wear any other kind of footwear.

But the women will have none of it. Beauty—or, at all events, fashion and becomingness—first, where they are concerned. Prettily-shod feet are today considered of such absolute importance that women's shoes are made with less regard for

the comfort and welfare of their feet than ever before.

Chiropractors say that their business within the last few years has doubled. Feminine vanity is making them rich.

Most women wear shoes at least half a size smaller than they ought. The fashionable foot is long and narrow; therefore women with broad feet must wear long and narrow shoes. Shoes-ties must be pointed even though they cramp and deform the toes of the wearer.

Sufferings That Follow.

Hence corns, also bunions, which are right serious afflictions (usually caused by shoes that are too short), and ingrowing toe-nails, which sometimes engender distressing inflammations or even blood-poisoning. A common kind of so-called "rheumatism," with severe pains in the ankles, feet and calves, is attributed to unsuitable shoes.

Little girls are kept in flat shoes until almost grown-up. Then they are put into shoes with high French heels, for which their feet have not been educated. Muscles are thereby brought into play which have not previously been called on for hard and continuous work. The result is fatigue, with possibly permanent injury.

Age Of The Feet.

A woman's feet grow old sooner and faster than any other parts of her body, except her hands. Like the latter, with the passing of years they lose their plumpness and firmness of flesh, becoming bony or else flabby, with a less shapely appearance.

Poor Little Toe.

Your little toe is a poor thing. Well might it cry, "Wee wee, wee!" all the way home. It seems to be undergoing a progressive degeneration. You can see for yourself that it is poorly developed and so far from

need muscularly as to have small power of movement. One might imagine this to be due to modern shoes were it not that the same condition is observed in the little toes of Malays and other barfoot races. A few women have perfect feet. A perfect figure is rather rare. It would be absurd, then, to expect to find perfection in the generality of legs.

Hitherto this last has not been a matter of much concern to women. If their lower limbs were not beyond criticism, they were, at all events, not exposed to view. Now, however, it is different.

To be beautiful, there must, of course, be an adequate muscular development, giving to the calves a proper contour. The legs should not be too bulky, and they should taper gracefully to slender ankles. Needless to say, they should offer no suggestion of a "bow." On the contrary a well-made woman is perceptibly "knock-kneed." Any sculptor will tell you that.

From every-day observation on the street, it seems safe to say that nearly every woman is confident that she possesses pretty legs, no matter how bowed, thick-ankled, or otherwise beautiful, they may really be.

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THE IDEAL FOOT

THE FOOT SHOULD BE ALIGNED ABOVE THE TOES

PRINT OF A NORMAL FOOT

BONES OF FOOT SEPARATED

LEGS OF THE BEAUTY AT THE GATES OF PARADISE - A FAMOUS SCULPTURE

A bony foot, needless to say, is never beautiful unaided. The feet of a plump woman are more apt to be pretty because well-fleshed. In particular there should be just above the toes a little cushion of fat which is attractively displayed by a neat slipper.

Psychologists say that a long, narrow tapering foot, with slender toes and almond-shaped nails, is indicative of an emotional, impractical, luxury-loving sensitive nature. Actors, singers, and artists have such feet. On the other hand, a square and solid foot carries the steady-going, unimaginative, persevering sort of person who gets ahead in the world.

The human foot is really a very wonderful organ. It has twenty-six bones—seven form the heel and back of the foot, and are so arranged as to make an arch of the foot. Further forward, five parallel bones, to the front ends of which the toes are attached. There are two bones in the big toes and three in each of the others. A complex arrangement of muscles and tendons keeps this framework together and operates it.

In walking, the big toe acts as a leader, the other toes being bent and pressed firmly against the ground. The smaller toes give lateral support when standing.

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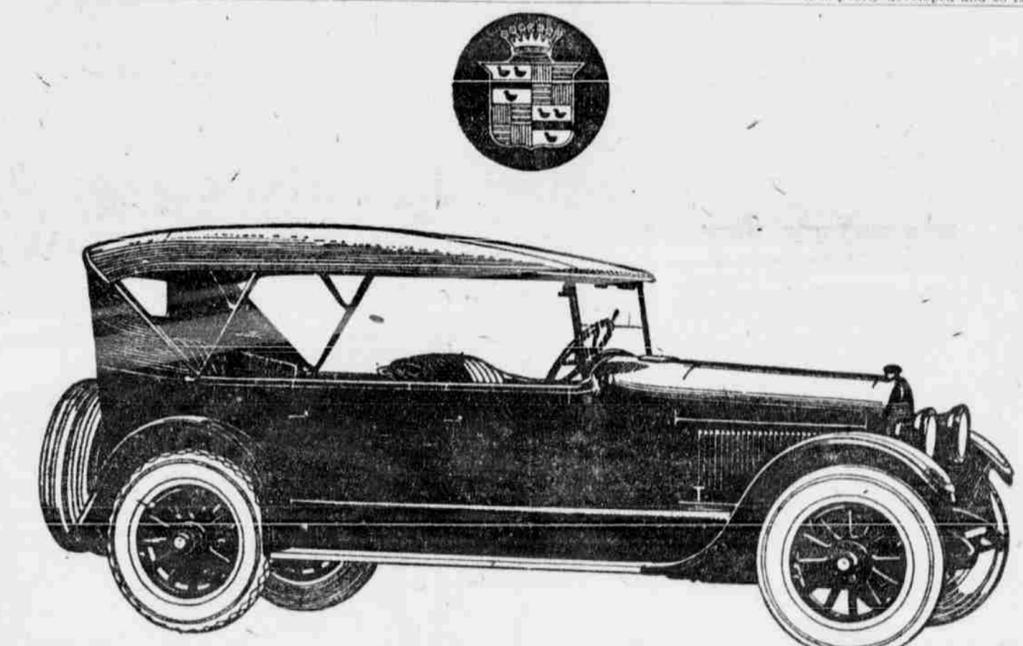
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