

SHOP TALK—BY AMY ARMSTRONG

QUACKY DOODLES—have you one? If not, you are not in the running. This may not sound like a shop talk introduction but it is—in the lighter vein of things which the shops are showing. We have come to the time of year when everybody is beginning to feel lazy and rather like taking life as a joke or nothing at all, so why be deep and weighty, ponderous and super-serious even in a perfectly good story about what our local shops are giving us for news of the week.

Back to the "Quacky Doodles." There was a time when young female America had the craze for teddy bears. She carried one in her arms to afternoon teas, another sat beside her on the seat of the electric. A little later came dolls. Dogs have always been considered good. Bilikins and Susie Dam's have had their day in the way of popular novelties. But the up-to-the-minute favorite is the "Quacky Doodle" and the Danny Daddles families. Everyone seems to be interested in them although they were perhaps originally designed for children. Go to see them in one of the shops. They will make you laugh and make you want to nod their heads and play with them just as if you were back again below your teens.

The original intention of this week's shop talk was to consider the summer suits and dresses, chiefly street costumes, which are beginning to replace spring suits and the heavier weight sport costumes. Somehow or other we got side-tracked by the Quacky Doodles. The buyer in one of the shops tells me that linen suits are not to be so good this summer as ratines, crashes, pongees and the like. There will be some linens of course, there always are, but for variety they will be given second place only at best. The ratines are particularly pretty and come in many colors. Some of the dresses are decidedly odd, but very attractive, the newest ones being sort of smock effect, the waist extending a little below the hips, tail outside, caught in by a belt going either all the way round or from a front panel. This kind of blouse or whatever you want to call it offers a splendid opportunity for variety of design. The coat dresses are also good, fashioned of the pongees of Jap crepes. These can be worn without a separate blouse underneath or as a slip-on coat making a little warmer costume for the street. Some have plain colored tops with white skirt or plain top with striped skirt.

Just a word as to hiking costumes. Sport suits have been the craze this season, but many of them were so pretty that the owners have hesitated to wear them except for real dressy occasions. It seemed rather a pity to put on a delicate rose or blue silk suit and go for a walk or ride in the dusty canyons. One of the stores is making it a point to carry costumes, good looking, but at the same time intensely practical, for wear on real outing trips. These are designed from the viewpoint of the practical, the attractive and durable, fashioned also with the end in view for the purpose they are to serve. If you are going yachting, drop in here and see what is offered for water costumes, if your summer vacation trip is to include mountain climbing, you will have serviceable garments here provided of such pattern that they will be found

just the thing for the difficulties which will present themselves.

It is the idea of this department to have experts design the costumes for these various forms of outings, persons who have studied just what is best and most practical for each different kind of a "stunt." Unless one has had the actual experience it is not an easy matter to know what will best serve the different purposes. When planning your summer vacation trip a few minutes spent in this department will be a great help and will perhaps save much inconvenience later. But it is not only for vacation trips away from here, at the beaches, lakes or elsewhere, that this department will be a help. Right here at home there are so many forms of outings, so many kinds of trips possible that such an opportunity for advice and suggestions should prove most popular.

The warm days of this week so far have brought the porches into great favor for those who are staying at home. Be they big or little, wide, roomy verandas or little two by four apartment house cubby holes, flower boxes are beginning to appear, rugs are unrolled, swings sway with the breeze. If you have one of these porches, large or small, you will be interested in the special display of garden novelties at one of the shops. Here are to be found the most attractive things you could ever imagine. Not useless things, either, but only just pretty useful ones. There are decorated flowerpots which have been mentioned before and unless you see them you can have no conception of how attractive they are and how wonderfully they show off the flowers which are put into them. There is the pot and the saucer in which to stand it, from 50 cents to \$1.50. These are painted in different designs with bright colors, but are not the least bit gaudy.

The flower pots, though, are only a beginning. Other things are painted boxes in any number of different sizes and patterns, for plants or starting seeds. Words simply cannot do them justice, for they are unique and differ-

ent from anything ever before put on the market. There are trellises at \$1.25 up to \$1.85, there are garden sticks and fancy sprinkling pots. Some of these are a bit expensive, but one could well afford to spare the little extra money for the added charm given to a porch if it is to be an attractive spot in the hot days which are to come. Another thing is the lemonade tray. These come from \$1.85 up to \$2.25. If you once take a look at one of them you will never be happy until you have one and then you will immediately invite some one over so that you may show it off.

Not just in this same line but in the same department, hence I speak of it, are some vases fashioned of copper, inlaid with silver. For a gift nothing could be more suitable and beyond a doubt nothing could be found which would please the recipient more. They are of antique design, hand etched. They are really copper, too, at least 85 per cent, as the law requires that for anything which is labeled copper. These are guaranteed to be this and more, and the etching is with solid silver. One of the best looking is \$21, but there are others much less expensive and mighty good to look at. They cannot be broken, the worst that can happen to them is a dent in the side, and that it is pretty difficult to make.

At one place in the lingerie department I found a lot of new ideas. One was the redingote. Did you know that was lingerie? Well, it is, and something entirely new. It is on the order of the envelope chemise and is designed to serve the same purpose, but is constructed along the lines of the regular old-fashioned redingote. The garments come in silk at \$4.95 and in cotton at \$2.75 and \$2.50. They are especially good for certain kinds of figures, but individuals will have to find out for themselves which kinds as this article will be censored and the explanation would be blue pen-

ciled. A camisole I saw just plain beggars description. It is a crepe de chene lower with Georgette top, the shoulders coming together in a point. This style was mentioned last week and is proving the most satisfactory design yet discovered as it comes high under the arm and is particularly good with the very sheer blouses. This one is only \$5.

Here is something at which every woman should catch as a drowning man for a straw, now that hot weather is coming on. It is called the "shadow-proof" silk skirt and is lined front and back so that the one garment is all that is necessary even with thin material skirts. It is of such fabric that it is as light weight almost as an ordinary silk skirt, but prevents the uncomfortable feeling that one dare not stand between a friend and the sun when out on a bright midsummer day. These come at two prices, \$2.95 and \$5. Another new silk skirt has a panel front and wired ruffles at the hips on either side, made to hold out in soft folds the gowns of the designs of our great grandmothers. Still others are just the thing for thin summer togs, having net ruffles faced with silk in place of a heavier bottom. And there is the boot top skirt which is very short, plain and splendid for short sport skirts.

There is nothing especially new in the line of shoes although as the season advances it seems more and more sure that white will be the accepted thing for summer. There are both pumps and high shoes although so far the latter are chosen by most. The hose to go with these are a decided feature of any costume when carefully chosen, not for display, but for harmony.

One shop is having a sale of neckwear, dainty designs and materials at extraordinarily low prices. For wash suits there is nothing prettier and

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