Shorter Skirts Bring Higher

By Anne Rittenhouse (Copyright, 1915, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

Boots

VEN at the height of the craze for the imitation of Russian ballet-costumes, there never were such high boots and short skirts as now. Victorlanism allowed the skirts to miss the ground by many inches, in order to show the flesh-colored stockings and flat black slippers of a woman with a well-turned ankle and an arched in-

We will have those two requisites necessary for a short skirt. The American woman has the best looking feet in the world, possibly barring the Spanish woman, among those nations who wear boots. She is conscious of the fact, and the manufacturers cater to it and the rest of the world imitates her. But, even Victorianism at its best, or worst, never allowed women to wear skirts so short as the ones that have come upon us at the coming of

Twelve inches from the ground is

the measurement of a few of the newest. A hem that ripples six and eight inches above the floor is already commonplace in the large centers of fashionable life. The strange part of it is that the critics are silent. Are they stunned, or did the bitter and unsuccessful fight against the hobble skirt and the split skirt leave them too discouraged for further attack? We read no diatribes against the new fashion; we do not listen to sermons attacking it, as we did when the "peck-a-boo" waists became barred from some churches.

The cartoonists are strangel silent about this amazing fashion. And it is feally amazing. We who saw it coming on were prepared for a storm of criticism; yet here the fashion is popularly launched, and the only comment anent is left to the reporters, not the reformers. Between these two classes women's apparel there is a vast guif of difference fixed.

So far the effect of a skirt cut 16 inches from the floor is mitigated by the high boots worn; but what of the effect when the warm weather makes women discard the boots and go in for

pumps? Are we to have the sight of the thick and thin, the curved and the straight, the bowed and the fleshless striding along with no covering but stockings between the heel and the hem? This is not a pleasant thought. The carrying of it out may add to

the beauty of a feminine procession It appears on the surface as though we were to be asked to approve or combat one of the most remarkable fash-ions that has been put over by the dressmakers in decades.

The women have taken to it like fish to water. They leap at the idea of walking about in an untrammeled They have been hobbled so long that they swing like a pendulum to the other extreme. Skirts that are 6 yards wide and 10 inches short delight them. A walk down New York's Fifth avenue at noon makes one rub the eyes and ask if the Russian ballet girls have forsaken the stage and gone on promenade.

Two conditions are responsible for these costumes: The zeal of the bootmaker and the vogue for the wide skirts. Every one found that the latter was hideous, if long; six yards swirling around the insteps or ankles took every particle of grace away from woman's figure, so the hem was drawn higher and higher in order to combine beauty and fashion, and a this juncture the American bootmaker his chance and produced the highlaced shoe and its more dressy companion, the buttoned cloth boot.

But for Grandmother-Taboo!

young woman with a good looking foot and ankle, but for the grandmother, no



The wide girdle laps a chiffon vesting, and bodice of gold lace with short, kimono sleeves.

and women the almost square-toed shoe, laced up the front and made up of a combination of patent leather and tan colored cloth, it was called the Argentine. All the men, except Englishmen, wore this shoe abroad, and, after this example, the women took it up. It scoffed at. Now it is the street shoe of the season, and we look upon it with kindliness and buy a pair ourselves, although we wondered in the beginning of its reign how any one could make

The blocked toe of the French has been changed to the pointed American ergetic lives in the business world retoe, much to the dismay of a large class of young women who like that shortened appearance of the feet which the short vamp and the square toe give. Deep tan cloth, usually with a heavy twill, is used for the upper part and dull or patent for the camp, the heel and the bands up the front.

The fashion for this color has brought back the laced Russian leather shoe in its natural tan. The smartest women are wearing it in the morning, laced high on the leg, with their shortskirted suits of covert cloth, or khakicolored gabardine, or Scotch check in red and brown.

For afternoon wear there are all manner of high boots with colored cloth tops, especially in tan and beige. Some of these are made in the commonplace fashion, with a dull leather bottom and a suede top fastened with small smoked pearl buttons; but the

only the vamp and heel of varnished leather. The bootmakers, and many makes the foot look smaller; and it is hobby. an with a long foot that a break be-neath the instep, between the vamp ways seemingly shortens the foot. However popular these boots are, they

vised. It comes in the most fragile workmanship which makes it suitable

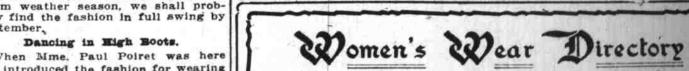
hot day strikes town. It has always been a curious coinci-

There seems something incongruous ably find the fashion in full swing by

When Mme. Paul Poiret was here the regulation high Russian boot in One sees these on the street in the white, red and tan leather. It was

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was introduced at the Paris openings



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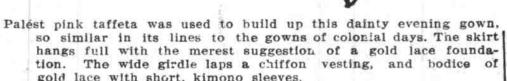
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young women for which some historian o'clock in the morning, and they have should find a name. They are as im- breakfast in bed at 10. portant in their way as were the Am- For them all the fashions in the

liancy and bravado. They are the delight of the dressmakers and the despair of their imitators. They are not French nor English. They owe noth ing to any race, or any land, or any training. They are made in America. Of course, they can wear the short skirt and the high boot, for nature seems to have given every one of them

the possibility of looking fascinating in whatever happens to be the idea of the moment; but how will the tall woman, the short, stout woman, the woman with the long foot and the thin ankle look in these Russian ballet skirts and boots? A card of warning should be put up in every dressmaing house in the country concerning them. Acceptance of the French Boot,

When Paris first took up for men reached America this winter and was

newer ones are far more fanciful.

They are of belge-colored cloth with women claim that this type of shoe a point to be remembered by the womand the heel part, is a trick that allook entirely unfit for the street. They yoke. The collar is blue. the laced shoe, each being in a tone of high satin boots or brocade spats this

for the afternoon dance, but not the morning shopping. Unfortunately, too many women do not discriminate nicely between these occasions Pashions for Spats Continues. The boot fashion which England has brocade.

forced upon the world is the wearing the day. This is an established custom among Englishmen, but it is now up, there seems no place for the un- considered a Poiret fantasy. the most popular fashion among American women. They wear this cloth upper over the most extravagant patent surely change his condition. High mannequins who showed off the new leather pump with high Louis XIV heels.

Women who go in for sensible shoes -and these are also quite fashionable this spring, with their two-layer heel and flat soles-also place the tan and the gray spat above them, One might safely assert that the strong rivalry at the moment is between the spat and

Club for Women in Business

By Jessie Roberts.

Boston has a club that is entirely for business women, and New York is following her. What is more, the two clubs hope to interchange courtesies between the members who may be visiting either of the cities, much as university clubs do.

It is an idea that should be developed in every large sized city on the continent. The Boston club was founder because several women who live enalized that there was too little interchange between women who are work-ing out in the world. As the founder of the Boston club, Mrs. Robert R. Woods, puts it, "There is a substantial group of business women whom people in general do not know, and who do not know each other, yet they are women who know life by actual experience, and who have something to give the community at large. We felt that such women do not meet very much unless by chance, and have no knowledge of the various pursuits in which their fellow workers are engaged. Here they meet on a personal basis. No one has to explain herself,

everyone meets on a common ground. A big part of the club is the restaur ant, where the food is well cooked and tempting, but of moderate price. The lunch hour is the greatest hour, for then the women run in from their different offices, shops, or even farms, or a number are farmers, and have a chance to swap ideas. There are also evening lectures on many topics, business points, art, nature, anything the women may choose as an interest or a

The building is pleasant, central, charmingly but simply furnished. There is also a committee for the exhange of information concerning employment, keeping office hours. It is time for the business women everywhere else to get together and found

This afternoon frock is fashioned of silk in inch-wide stripes, blue and white. The pockets, appear-

ing on everything this year, are outlined in blue, as are also the belt, bands at the sleeves and

in the juxtaposition of a cloth spat September above a Louis XIV patent leather slipper; realizing this, there has come about a fashion for fancy uppers made of corded silk, of thin suede, of heavy she introduced the fashion for wearing

the skirts above them. Summing it far above the hem of her skirt. It was covered ankle in the fashions of this spring, but the warm weather will for these high Russian boots. The hot cloth uppers, will both be fashions in New York wore them, shelved in the closet when the first

we do not feel tempted to dance in new fashion.

Another fashion of the hour which

in February is the high laced satin dence in fashion that new things are boot to be worn in the afternoon and brought out at unsuitable seasons, evening. It has taken the place in The designers advance the high neck smart usage of the satin slipper. The and the long sleeves when spring mannequins in Paris are supposed to comes, and the high boots for dancing introduce the newest footwear along when summer is scheduled, and the with the newest gown, and their high transparent blouse when the snow pe- satin boots made of the gown material gins to fly. Possibly these are just worn at the private openings for advanced runners of the fashion. If American buyers, instantly started a

varied, and so a new placement of the

The top of the sleeve is cut into a

all, this pinching in of the shoulders

Doeiullet tried out this shoulder

The average American tailor is such

It narrows the shoulders and

NEWEST FASHION TOUCHES THAT APPEAL TO MILADY

CIMPLICITY in line is a strong fea- | Although the high collar is reckoned ture, and it shows the straight as a first fashion, the best houses path along which the winds are going. There is no complicated dra-perv or ornamentation. Naturally, the pery or ornamentation. Naturally, the gandie embroidered in colors is a fea-french designer uses more skill in the ture of many gowns. It often extends manipulation of material and effects from the neck to the waist, forming are usually simpler than the methods a vest, a double collar, and also a pair when the American sewing woman of turn-over cuffs.

goes to copy them.

In the minds of all the designers

One of the well known Fifth avenue strong purpose ran to keep the hips importing houses in New York says smooth and the waist trim. The secthat it is no easy matter to rush out ond empire waist line is as frequent new gowns these days. The trick they as the normal line, but the balance of turned in other times of taking an power is toward the latter. Evidently order for a frock on Saturday after-noon and delivering it on Wednesday armhole. The kimono sleeve was not morning is too difficult to contemplate liked; the regulation armhole had to be

The fashion for putting a picot edge sleeve has arisen which might be everywhere has gained in importance, called an adaptation of the ragian idea. and when there are yards and yards of it on one frock time must be allowed deep point, which runs to the collar for such work. And yet this trick of band. putting the tiny pointed edge instead gives a less military took than we were of a hem contributes to the seeming led to expect would prevail. After simplicity of a frock. Jet is used in quantities, as every- is not general, but it is significant.

ne expected. Jenny likes it well and It is strongly 1870. puts it under tulle more than she does over it. There is a strong feeling for line in the winter, so it is not strictly the styles of 1840 and 1870, both of new, but this trick has been vastly which call for quantities of lace and improved upon. It is used more in artificial flowers. Often the latter is coats than in gowns. Its chief disused under the former or to loop it up advantage lies in the fact that it will into the festoons which the Empress be well-nigh impossible to accomplish of France liked. That 1840 pointed at home. basque, with its straight decolletage. also copied by Eugenie to show her an admirable master of cloth and sewlovely neck and shoulders, is used by ing that we may not have any fear of Callot as well as by other houses. its being well handled in a low priced

There is also the medieval decoilet- suit. There are few things that our age, which is cut in a straight line tailors cannot do when they have once across the collar bone and which is seen the model. In this fact lies the bined with the most tailored of street suits, or used to lend a sions in the house or for the motor, festive tone to fancy costumes. This blouse is trimmed with black dots embroidered on white chiffon, and red embroidery.

Itheir own clubs. Boston has proved the rollowers almost discard the sions in the house or for the motor, the success of such an organization, and the speed with any kind of fashionable street suit.

The bronze boot has also been re-business women are keen for the idea.

The bronze boot has also been re-business women are keen for the idea. distressingly ugly. Cheruit and some secret of the excellence of our ready-