

son," he stooped and gave her a resounding kiss.

Agatha won the prize, and not I! I became engaged to Martin on a Thursday at four o'clock in the afternoon, Agatha to Mike at two o'clock of the same day. She beat me by a couple of hours, and I think I was more pleased than she.

When Uncle Tom handed a cheque to her for £1,000 we all clustered about her like bees, and hummed. Agatha! A thousand pounds! Mike! A rich husband! And she patched

nightgowns! One was rolled in a bundle in her arms now! She stood, a grey-clad modest figure, a smile on her sweet face, happiness in her eyes. "You don't mind, Peronelle?" she whispered.

"Mind!" I replied, as I nearly hugged the breath out of her body. "I mind nothing on earth now I've got Martin."

"I think," said she, "I hear him coming. Mike, too, will be here for dinner."

They came into the house together. (THE END.)

DESIGNING YOUR SHOES

Fashions in women's shoes now are quite as important as dress and millinery fashions, for since the arrival of the short skirt practically all women are well shod.

Before submitting his range of samples to the buyers a designer must carefully consider the following details:—1. What shape and length of toe will women prefer this summer—long and pointed, medium length and rounded, or short and stumpy? 2. What height of heel will be most fashionable, and also what shape—Cuban, Louis, or Württemberg? 3. The shapes of tabs, ornaments, and trimmings. 4. Will symmetrical curves and graceful lines or blunt and contrasting lines be the vogue?

All these things having been carefully considered, the designer gets his designs and patterns prepared, and usually has trial shoes made, seeing that all the operations incidental to the manufacture are carefully done.

When these shoes are finished a number of shoe experts usually meet and discuss them, suggesting alterations, modifications, and colours, until all are agreed as to what each sample shoe shall be in shape of toe, heel, design, and colour.

Then the designer gets out a complete range of samples ready for the travellers, who will place them before the buyers.

These buyers, being footwear experts and able to anticipate changes of fashion, may buy from only four or five samples out of a range of perhaps forty or fifty, the remainder, representing weeks—perhaps months—of careful study, then being worthless.

A successful designer of footwear must therefore be not only an artist in his designing, but also a thoroughly practical shoemaker, for no matter how carefully a shoe is designed, if it is not made and finished as the designer wishes, it is, in most cases, time and material wasted.

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