

(continued from previous page)

seems to have been done in the way of providing opportunities for girls of this age to meet members of the opposite sex in a healthy atmosphere. So Sally and Mary go out for their amusement, because there is no community gathering-ground, and consequently are not able to concentrate on their school work and good behaviour as well as they might otherwise. Boys of this age are easier to handle, because there are plenty of sports clubs which they can join, but it is more difficult to arouse an interest in sport in the mind of a wayward young miss of 13 or 14 who regards herself as being above childish things.

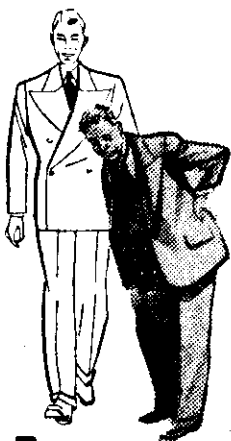
Give Them Something To Do

This finding out where the child's main interest lies is one of the main points stressed by the visiting teachers. Once they have set up a bond between themselves and the children, the path is much easier. Then the teacher is regarded as a friend, to whom any proofs of achievement are of the greatest interest. Good school work, flowers or vegetables cultivated in their own plots, or anything which they have made themselves are brought by the children to the teacher. She encourages them, and incidentally brings them round to see that pride in personal appearance, work, and behaviour in and out of school is very desirable. Every effort is made by the teachers to persuade the children to join outside clubs in their after-school hours, because it is the children who have nothing to do who are a potential nuisance to the community.

This work has proved its success in the United States, and the year's experiment in New Zealand carried out on the same lines has proved how eager members of the staffs of primary schools are for visiting teachers to help them to understand their "problem" children. In her book, *The Problem Child in School*, Mary Sayles writes: "With her training and experience both as a teacher and a social case worker, and with her special knowledge of the behaviour and personality problems of the children, the visiting teacher has the equipment needed for this work, and thus represents one of the most interesting and promising of the recent efforts which the school is making to understand the pupil as a child and to meet his individual needs with high professional skill."

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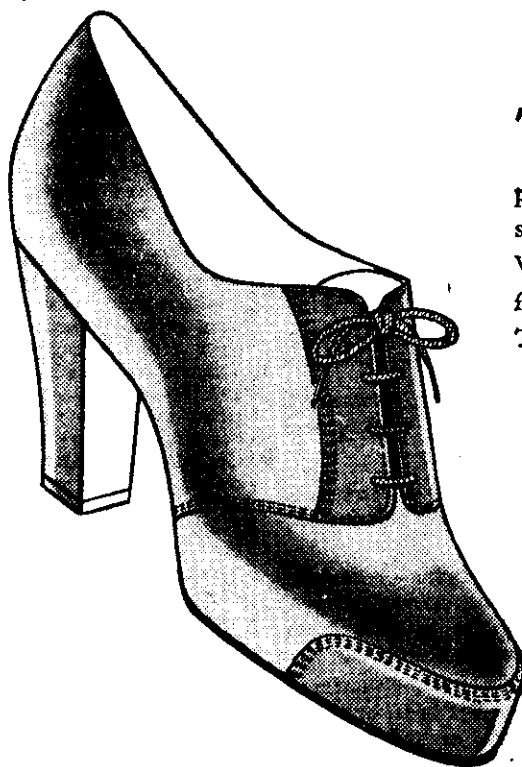


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