WHILE THE KETTLE BOILS

Dear Friends,

There are two classes of women in the world - the shoppers and, well, those that don't!

I've been trying to classify myself, and I'm afraid I occupy some nebulous class between. I like shopping, when I've plenty of money in my purse, and no nagging conscience on guard over my spending. But unfortunately those occasions are few.

Still, this is a business world, and we poor "wimmen" make up the shopping bulk of it. So we might as well do it as pleasantly and remuneratively as possible.

Here are a few shopping hints that will bear thinking about:

To begin with, a good shopper must be a born diplomat, a shrewd economist, and a bit of a conjurer. A successful shopper gets what she wants-but only because she knows what she wants. It is such a temptation to dither round.

There is more to it than even that. The good shopper treats all shopkeepers and assistants with courtesy and tact, and she gets that back-and a little more. Above all, she must keep a clear mind about a bargain, and weigh the pros and cons before temptation overtakes her. The problem is to know just when it costs less to spend more. The secret is to shop with a system, which mean-a shopping list.

If women took the trouble to know a little more about the goods they buy, there would be less waste and more auccess in purchasing.

The next important thing is to allow yourself plenty of time. You can't expect to come out on top if you dash in to make an important purchase a few minutes before closing time. You'll probably find when you get home that it isn't what you wanted at all. The pitfall is that so many of us are impulsive and stubborn. We set our hearts on getting a certain thing-on a certain day-and we get it, if it kills us. Then we wonder why we're dissatisfied, and we blame the goods, or the shop, or anything

The shops are there at your service always, remember that. When we come to think how shopping has been simplified these last few years, we wonder how ever we got on when we were left to our own devices.

We have only to look at the readymade frock departments in our various stores. Many of us can walk into these to-day and walk out again with a new frock on our backs.

To sum it up, the essence of a good shopper is to know when to distinguish between what is good enough and what is merely extravagant. If you mark all these points, you will go a long way towards saving your feet - and avoiding a headache.

Yours Cordially.



Books Are Friends

(Continued from previous page)

"Of course, we encourage it - and along the right lines, but that occupies a very small part of their time." "What other duties have they?"

Mending and Washing

"Well, they start work at nine o'clock, and till ten o'clock they dust the rooms, prepare the counters, lay out stock, and get things in general readiness for the day. Then there are such duties as bookkeeping, filing, mending, and washing books.

"How do you do that?"

"With vinegar and water. It's a job I like. It takes off all grease marks and brings the colour up beautifully. Then there is the task of re-shelving books, clearing tables, counter duty - issuing books, taking in returns, etc."
"It sounds like a good day's work."

"It is," she laughed. "Six of them! Then there is the cataloguing department, which is really a specialised work and calls for a knowledge of languages."

Pleasing the Public

"It must be difficult to get into the way of knowing what everyone wants?"

"Not really; you'd be surprised to see how quickly the girls learn to know the different types of people and what particular literature they favour. For example, I'll say to one of the girls -

'Go and find Mrs. So-and-So a nice human love-story' --- or --- 'Mr. So-and-So wants something on architecture." There, of course, the Reference Room comes in."

"The different types of people who frequent the library must interest you. I was doing a bit of private snooping when I came in. They would make marvellous extras for a movie crowd scene."

She laughed at that.

Special "Types"

"I wish you could see some of our special types-particularly amongst the men. One we christened Bill Sikes as we had a sneaking suspicion he served regular periods under lock and key. He would come and collect a big parcel of books and then disappear mysteriously for a couple of months. But he would always turn up again and willingly pay the outstanding fines. We all liked him-despite our suspicions as to his integrity."

I thanked the Librarian for the interview and the privileged glimpse she had given me behind the shrine.

She gave me a merry smile.

"That is part of my job-to dispense trade secrets."

An elderly spinster who had been hovering near appealed to the Librarian.

"I simply can't choose a book, I wonder if you would help me?"

I left them-deep in discussion as to the relative merits of Mary Mitchell and Francis Brett Young.



-So Meat needs Mustard

Let mother leave baby for even a minute and he's sure to get into trouble! And there will be trouble too if meat has no Mustard with it-digestion upset and howls of protest from the inner man.

Yes, Mustard makes meat digestible, and what is more, it adds zest and flavour to meat and makes you really enjoy your meal. So suspend the meal until the Mustard appears!







