

Lay the High Heel Low.

The high-heeled shoe has at last got what was coming to it. At a recent meeting of the Housekeepers' Alliance a crowded audience of 300 women heard it receive a fearful excoriation at the hands of one of the best known surgeons in Washington. Animated with a holy zeal for the preservation of both health and morality, he denounced the vile thing in every mood and tense. It was, he said, impossible for the wearer of such a contraption to take proper exercise, and hence she prematurely lost her lissome and graceful figure by taking on undue accretions of adipose tissue. She also lost her sweetness of disposition and developed an acidulous temper, and was therefore more likely to sue or be sued for divorce. Weakened arches, sprained ankles, corns, bunions, overlapping toes, awkwardness of gait, poor circulation, rheumatism, stomach trouble and fatty degeneration were a few of the accusations brought in this philippic against the offending high-heeled shoe. No wonder the assembled women, in a panic of repentance, came to a unanimous resolution decreeing the permanent abolition of so terrible an instrument of torture.

Transferring his attack from the inanimate object to its maker, the distinguished surgeon went on record as being wishful to send to the penitentiary all manufacturers of high heels on the ground of mayhem and mutilation. In his professional practice he had, he averred, been sometimes obliged to perform on toes and even on whole feet amputatory operations rendered necessary by the prolonged use of high-heeled, narrow shoes. What a comment on feminine vanity!

All the testimony is doubtless true. Any one who has ever walked behind a girl or woman with high heels will certainly corroborate that part of it which refers to awkwardness of gait. At every step the ankles wobble, the knees knock and the hips roll, and if the wearer be somewhat stout, the observer is in constant dread lest she topple over. A thing of beauty is a joy forever, but a female pedestrian struggling along in spiky high-heeled shoes by no means comes up to the specification.