

Y.W.C.A. URGES SHOE REFORM

Asks Manufacturers to Give Women Comfortable Footwear.

To make the woman of today both healthful and beautiful the Young Woman's Christian Association says she must have the proper kind of shoe, and she will not wear that kind unless it is as good to look at as it is comfortable. It is up to the shoe manufacturers to make such a shoe, the association has decided, and to see if it can be done there was a conference of the members of its Social Hygiene Department and medical examiners with representatives of twenty well-known shoe firms last Wednesday. The shoe men were interested in the proposition put before them, and said that they would report to their firms. One firm announced that a shoe on the order desired would be on the market in about two weeks.

"The shoes must be made attractive," the Y. W. C. A. representatives told the shoe men, "for the women wish their feet to look pretty, and to do it now they must have backaches, headaches, broken arches, and tired limbs from wearing any of the smart shoes. A prescription shoe no one wishes, as it emphasizes deformities, and a modified shoe does not fill the requirements."

Dr. Anna L. Brown, head of the Department of Social Hygiene; Mrs. Belle Andrews, and Dr. Florence L. Meradith were among the women who spoke on the subject.

A proper shoe, they said, should have a straight inner border, because the foot is by nature straight on the inner side; there must be a curved line on the outside following the line of the toes; a broad, low heel to support the weight; a flexible shank, to allow the muscles of the arch to become strong through use, and the shoe should be low to strengthen the ankles. Besides various aches and pains, a wrinkled brow, and bad posture and walk are caused by the wrong kind of shoes, it was said. Mrs. Andrews suggested a national shoe week, when the dealers and manufacturers and the Y. W. C. A., with its 400,000 members, should get together and put over the idea of a proper shoe in the interest of the health and beauty of the American woman.