

"OVER THE TOP"

By An American **Arthur Guy Empey**
Soldier Who Went **Machine Gunner, Serving in France**

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EMPEY GIVES A DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK ON OBSERVATION POST DUTY.

Synopsis.—Fired by the sinking of the Lusitania, with the loss of American lives, Arthur Guy Empey, an American living in Jersey City, goes to England and enlists as a private in the British army. After a short experience as a recruiting officer in London, he is sent to training quarters in France, where he first hears the sound of big guns and makes the acquaintance of "cooties." After a brief period of training Empey's company is sent into the front-line trenches, where he takes his first turn on the fire step while the bullets whiz overhead. Empey learns, as comrade falls, that death lurks always in the trenches. Chaplain distinguishes himself by rescuing wounded men under hot fire. With pick and shovel Empey has experience as a trench digger in No Man's Land. Exciting experience on listening post detail.

CHAPTER XVI—Continued.

"I came out with the first expeditionary force, and, like all the rest, thought we would have the enemy licked in jig time, and be able to eat Christmas dinner at home. Well, so far, I have eaten two Christmas dinners in the trenches, and am liable to eat two more, the way things are pointing. That is, if Fritz don't drop a 'whizz-bang' on me, and send me to Blighty. Sometimes I wish I would get hit, because it's no great picnic out here, and twenty-two months of it makes you fed up.

"It's fairly cushy now compared to what it used to be, although I admit this trench is a trifle rough. Now we send over five shells to their one. We are getting our own back, but in the early days it was different. Then you had to take everything without reply. In fact, we would get twenty shells in return for every one we sent over. Fritz seemed to enjoy it, but we British didn't; we were the sufferers. Just one casualty after another. Sometimes whole platoons would disappear, especially when a 'Jack Johnson' plunked into their middle. It got so bad that a fellow, when writing home, wouldn't ask for any cigarettes to be sent out, because he was afraid he wouldn't be there to receive them.

"After the drive to Paris was turned back, trench warfare started. Our general grabbed a map, drew a pencil across it, and said, 'Dig here.' Then he went back to his tea, and Tommy armed himself with a pick and shovel and started digging. He's been digging ever since.

"Of course we dug those trenches at night, but it was hot work, what with the rifle and machine-gun fire. The stretcher bearers worked harder than the diggers.

"Those trenches, bloomin' ditches, I call them, were nightmares. They were only about five feet deep, and you used to get the backache from bending down. It wasn't exactly safe to stand upright, either, because as soon as your napper showed over the top a bullet would bounce off it, or else come so close it would make your hair stand.

"We used to fill sandbags and stick them on top of the parapet to make it higher, but no use; they would be there about an hour and then Fritz would turn loose and blow them to bits. My neck used to be sore from ducking shells and bullets.

"Where my battery was stationed a hasty trench had been dug, which the boys nicknamed 'Suicide ditch,' and, believe me, Yank, this was the original 'Suicide ditch.' All the others are imitations.

"When a fellow went into that trench it was an even gamble that he would come out on a stretcher. At one time a Scotch battalion held it, and when they heard the betting was even money that they'd come out on stretchers, they grabbed all the bets in sight. Like a lot of bally idiots, several of the battery men fell for their

game, and put up real money. The 'Jocks' suffered a lot of casualties, and the prospects looked bright for the battery men to collect some easy money. So when the battalion was relieved the gamblers lined up. Several 'Jocks' got their money for emerging safely, but the ones who clicked it weren't there to pay. The artillerymen had never thought it out that way. Those Scotties were bound to be sure winners, no matter how the wind blew. So take a tip from me, never bet with a Scottie, 'cause you'll lose money.

"At one part of our trench where a communication trench joined the front line a Tommy had stuck up a wooden signpost with three hands or arms on it. One of the hands, pointing to the German lines, read, 'To Berlin'; the one pointing down the communication trench read, 'To Blighty'; while the other said, 'Suicide Ditch, Change Here for Stretchers.'

"Farther down from this guide post the trench ran through an old orchard. On the edge of this orchard our battery had constructed an advanced observation post. The trees screened it from the enemy airmen and the roof was turfed. It wasn't cushy like ours, no timber or concrete re-enforcements, just walls of sandbags. From it a splendid view of the German lines could be obtained. This post wasn't exactly safe. It was a hot corner, shells plunking all around, and the bullets cutting leaves off the trees. Many a time when relieving the signaler at the 'phone, I had to crawl on my belly like a worm to keep from being hit.

"It was an observation post sure enough. That's all the use it was. Just observe all day, but never a message back for our battery to open up. You see, at this point of the line there were strict orders not to fire a shell, unless specially ordered to do so from brigade headquarters. Blime me, if anyone disobeyed that command, our general—yes, it was Old Pepper—would have court-martialed the whole expeditionary force. Nobody went out of their way to disobey Old Pepper in those days, because he couldn't be called a parson; he was more like a pirate. If at any time the devil should feel lonely and sigh for a proper mate, Old Pepper would get the first call. Facing the Germans wasn't half bad compared with an interview with that old firebrand.

"If a company or battalion should give way a few yards against a superior force of Boches, Old Pepper would send for the commanding officer. In about half an hour the officer would come back with his face the color of a brick, and in a few hours what was left of his command would be holding their original position.

"I have seen an officer who wouldn't say d—n for a thousand quid spend five minutes with the old boy, and when he returned the flow of language from his lips would make a navy blush for shame.

"What I am going to tell you is how two of us put it over on the old scamp, and got away with it. It was a risky thing, too, because Old Pepper wouldn't have been exactly mild with us if he had got next to the game.

"Me and my mate, a lad named Harry Cassell, a bombardier in D 238 battery, or lance corporal, as you call it in the infantry, used to relieve the telephonists. We would do two hours on and four off. I would be on duty in the advanced observation post, while he would be at the other end of the wire in the battery dugout signaling station. We were supposed to send through orders for the battery to fire when ordered to do so by the observation officer in the advanced post. But very few messages were sent. It was only in case of an actual attack that we would get a chance to earn our 'two and six' a day. You see, Old Pepper had issued orders not to fire except when the orders came from him. And with Old Pepper orders is orders, and made to obey.

"The Germans must have known about these orders, for even in the day their transports and troops used to expose themselves as if they were on parade. This sure got up our nose, sitting there day after day, with fine targets in front of us but unable to send over a shell. We heartily cursed Old Pepper, his orders, the government, the people at home, and everything in general. But the Boches didn't mind cussing, and got very careless. Blime me, they were bally insulting. Used to, when using a certain word, throw their caps into the air as a taunt at our helplessness.

"Cassell had been a telegrapher in civil life and joined up when war was declared. As for me, I knew Morse, learned it at the signalers' school back in 1910. With an officer in the observation post, we could not carry on the kind of conversation that's usual between two mates, so we used the Morse code. To send, one of us would tap the transmitter with his finger nails, and the one on the other end would get it through the receiver. Many an hour was whiled away in this manner passing compliments back and forth.

"In the observation post the officer used to sit for hours with a powerful pair of field glasses to his eyes. Through a cleverly concealed loophole he would scan the ground behind the German trenches, looking for targets and finding many. This officer, Captain A— by name, had a habit of talking out loud to himself. Sometimes he would vent his opinion, same as a common private does when he's wrought up. Once upon a time the captain had been on Old Pepper's staff, so he could cuss and blind in the most approved style. Got to be sort of a habit with him.

"About six thousand yards from us, behind the German lines, was a road in plain view of our post. For the last three days Fritz had brought companies of troops down this road in broad daylight. They were never shelled. Whenever this happened the captain would froth at the mouth and let out a volume of Old Pepper's religion which used to make me love him.

"Every battery has a range chart on which distinctive landmarks are noted, with the range for each. These landmarks are called targets, and are numbered. On our battery's chart, that road was called 'Target 17, Range 6000, 3 degrees 30 minutes left.' D 238 battery consisted of four '4.5' howitzers, and fired a 35-pound H. E. shell. As you know, H. E. means 'high explosive.' I don't like bumming up my own battery, but we had a record in the division for direct hits, and our boys were just pining away for a chance to exhibit their skill in the eyes of Fritz.

"On the afternoon of the fourth day of Fritz' contemptuous use of the road mentioned the captain and I were at our posts as usual. Fritz was strafing us pretty rough, just like he's doing now. The shells were playing leapfrog all through that orchard.

"I was carrying on a conversation in our 'tap' code with Cassell at the other end. It ran something like this: 'Say, Cassell, how would you like to be in the saloon bar of the King's Arms down Rye lane with a bottle of Bass in front of you, and that blonde barmaid waiting to fill 'em up again?'

The next installment relates how two artillerymen "put one over" on Old Pepper.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Use for Clothespins.

Clothespins make an excellent plaything for babies. They can be used for babies or soldiers, or to make fences, trees, log houses and many other interesting things. Playthings that can be taken apart and put together again are good to have; also blocks with which the child can build all kinds of engines that he can push along the floor, balls to bounce and throw, doll carriages, washing sets, etc. Dolls with clothes that button and unbutton and come off may be used to teach the child how to dress and undress themselves.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR MAY 5

JESUS SETS NEW STANDARDS OF LIVING.

LESSON TEXT—Mark 10:1-31.
GOLDEN TEXT—Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.—Matthew 6:33.
DEVOTIONAL READING—Ephesians 6:10-20.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR TEACHERS—Genesis 1:27; 2:18-25; Exodus 20:2-17; Matthew 18:1-14; 19:16-30; Luke 18:15-23.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Jesus and the children.

LESSON MATERIAL—Mark 10:13-16.
MEMORY VERSE—Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not.—Mark 10:14.

JUNIOR TOPIC—How God would have us live.
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Exodus 20:2-17; Leviticus 19:11-18; Matthew 22:34-40.

I. Regarding Marriage (vv. 1-12).
The question touching divorce, which the Pharisees temptingly put to Christ, brought forth teaching which exhibits marriage in its true light.

1. Should not be degraded by divorce (vv. 1-6).

Divorce was not instituted by God. The marriage relationship is indissoluble. Moses suffered divorce, limited and regulated it. Its existence, its practice, is indicative of the coarseness and perverseness of man. Sin is its real cause.

2. Marriage is God's primal law (vv. 6-9).

The ideal law of life for the subjects of the kingdom of marriage. This is proven by the fundamental fact of sex. The union of the male and female natures is physical, mental and spiritual. In marriage, the male and female natures are mutually complemented. God's intention is that man should not be without the woman, nor the woman without the man (1 Cor. 11:11).

3. Remarriage of the divorcer is adultery (vv. 10-12).

The marriage relationship can only be broken by death and sin. In view of the fact that marriage is for life, men and women should not enter this relationship without very serious consideration. Divorce for other than marital infidelity does not give the right to remarriage.

II. Regarding Children (vv. 13-16).

The union of the male and female natures, according to God's purpose, lays the foundation for family life. The issue of such union is children. In connection with the divine law of marriage, it is fitting that Jesus should set forth his estimate of children and interest in them. The disciples considered it beneath the dignity of the Master to spend time with the children. Those who think it beneath their dignity to give attention to children should ponder well the words of Jesus. This will give the disciples proper consideration for work among children, and also to the nurture and discipline of their own children. Christian men and women will regard children as the property of the Lord, and will esteem it a high and holy privilege to train them for him. Due attention to Christ's teaching regarding children would transform the home life of society.

III. Regarding Riches (vv. 17-31).

1. The young ruler's question (v. 17).
This question reveals a void in his heart. He was a young man with a lovable character. The Savior's affections were enraptured by him. He was moral, honest, earnest and courageous. He had a wrong conception of eternal life. He thought that eternal life could be obtained by good works. Though he claimed to have kept the law, he was conscious of something lacking. He was willing to do something to fill up that which was lacking; therefore he came to Jesus making inquiry as to that lack.

2. Jesus' reply (vv. 18, 19).

He knew the young man's heart, and put his finger on the weak spot. When it came to parting with his possessions in order to help his neighbor he parted with the Lord, going away sorrowful. This revealed the fact that he was a covetous man, a violator of the tenth commandment.

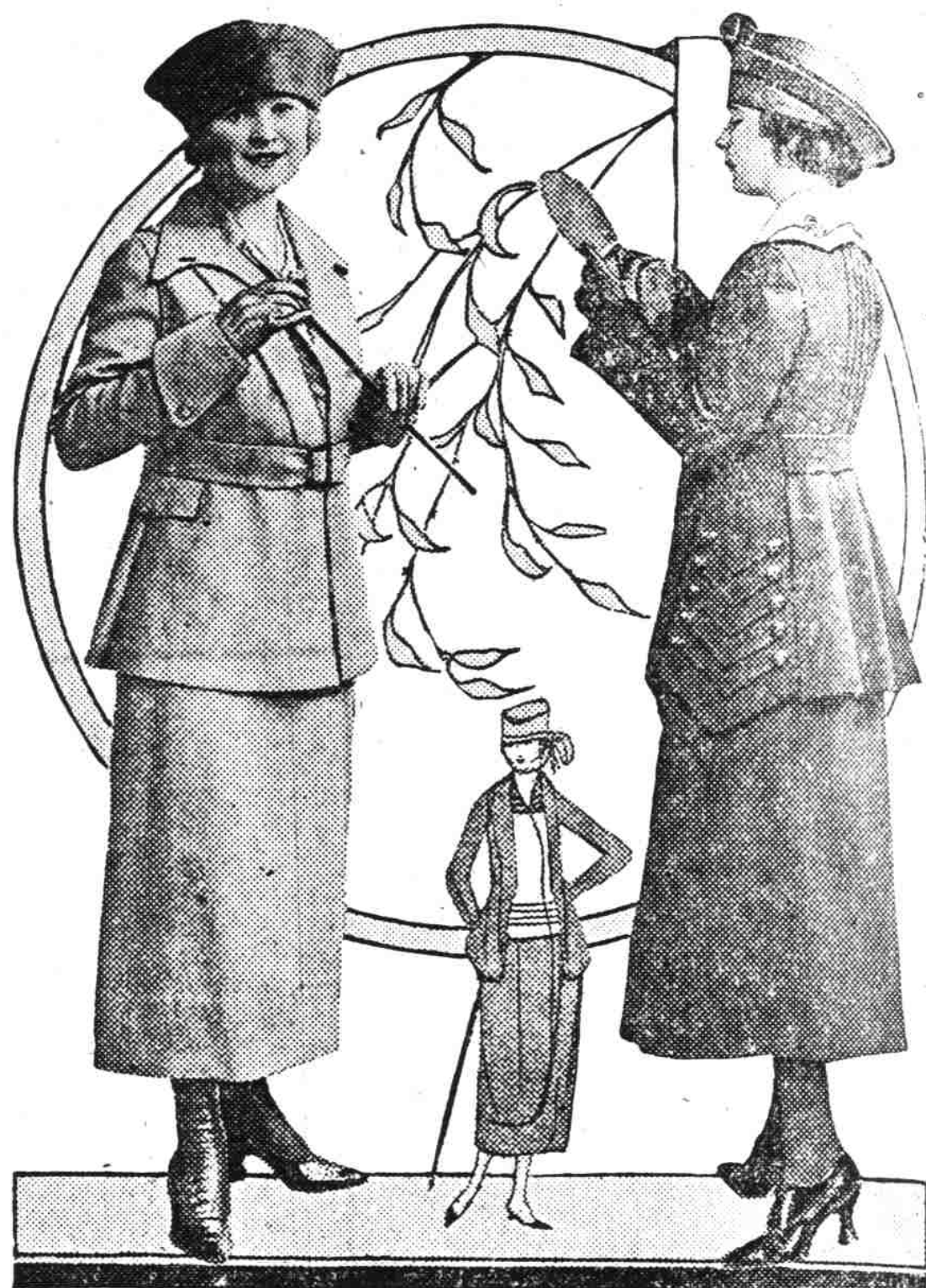
3. Lacking one thing and yet lost (vv. 21, 22).

When the Lord pointed out to him that the defect in his life was the love of his money, he was unwilling to pay the price. When the time came in his life to choose between eternal life and riches, he chose wealth and parted company with Christ, perhaps, forever.

4. The peril of riches (vv. 23-31)

The difficulty does not lie in the fact that a man possesses riches, for a man may possess great riches and still be an heir of the kingdom. Wealth is a mighty power. In itself it is good. It will provide bread for the widow and orphan, amelioration for the suffering, and send the Gospel of Christ to the ends of the earth. The step from possessing riches to trusting in them is a very short one. The tendency of growing wealth is to destroy the nobler life of the soul. Many of the most useful men in ancient and modern times have been men of wealth; but they, like Abraham, chose to live in tents, looking to the heavenly city which hath foundations. As long as a man possesses riches he is safe, but as soon as riches possess the man he is in deadly peril.

What Well Dressed Women Will Wear



ON BEING CORRECTLY SUITED.

The vagaries of spring suits are many—as suits go. Heretofore it has been left to afternoon and other dresses to give us unlimited variety to choose from while the tailored suit appeared true to form, in a few very well defined styles. This season the tailored suit is indulging many fancies of its own. There are suits with very short coats, suits with Eton jackets, many suits with waistcoats and a good many eccentricities in coats. Skirts are nearly always plain, but a few exceptions to this rule appear in skirts to be worn with coats that are high at the back—an echo of the bustle dress of last winter.

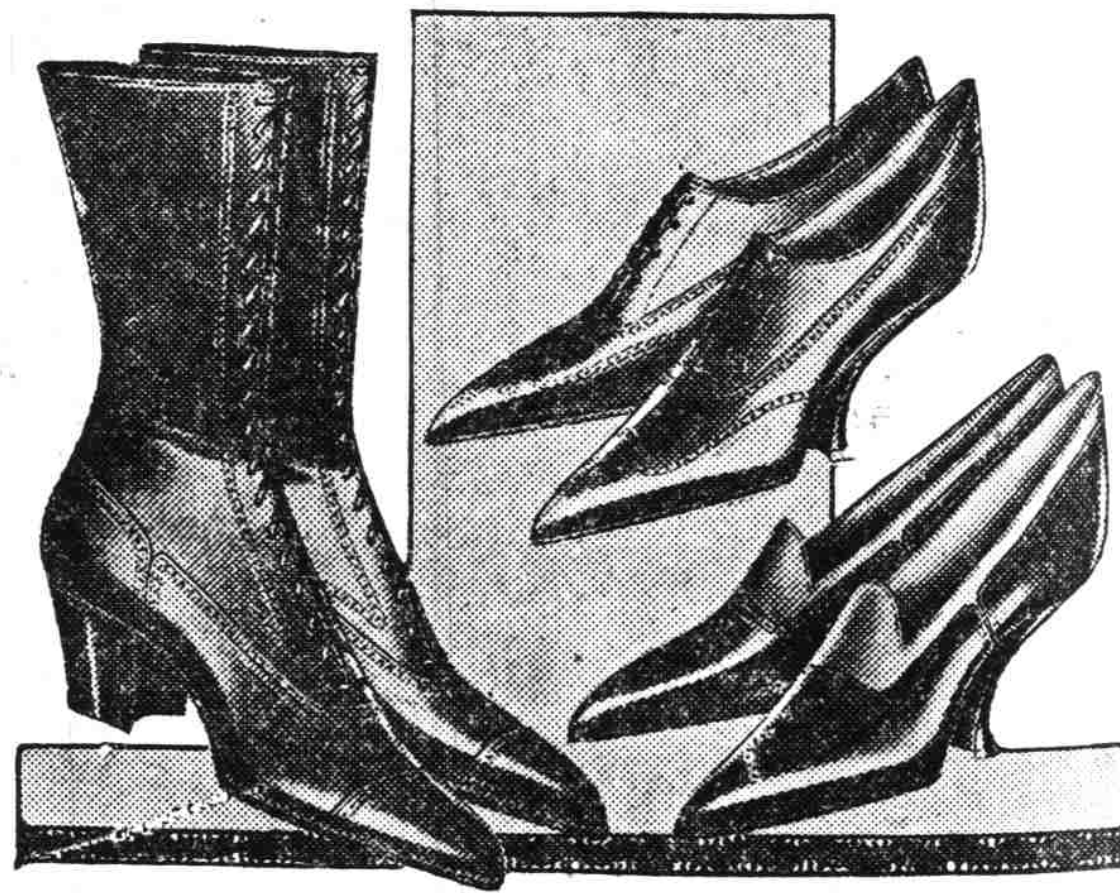
With this variety in styles to choose from, it becomes easy to be correctly and becomingly suited. The waistcoat, which is the most interesting feature in the new suit styles, is made in as many ways as suits themselves and is becoming to almost everybody, but if it proves unbecoming or unpractical we can center attention on other new features in the styles, as the uneven length of coats at the bottom and the abundance of braid trimming.

Two very conservative suits shown in the picture will appeal to the woman whose taste cannot be diverted from plain and practical ideas in tailored clothes. At the right there is blue serge—which we have always with us, whatever else may come and go—trimmed with silk braid and buttons. The coat is longer in the front

Other features of the new styles that can be gathered from any representative showing, reveal that high shoes continue to be very high as compared to high shoes of a few seasons ago. The fact that skirts have been lengthened a little has made no difference. The very high shoe is more trim than the moderately high shoe and more practical. The uppers in these shoes are of cloth just as often as of kid. As fine kid is not the sort of leather that is needed in the army there is no reason why the very high shoe should not be worn with a clear conscience. But cloth tops are just as attractive and just as desirable as the kid and maybe a little easier to keep clean.

Oxfords and slippers will divide honors with high shoes for street and sports wear this summer. In all of them toes are somewhat pointed but not to the length of discomfort. Considerable decoration in perforations appears on all styles of shoes as may be gathered from the group pictured here which includes a high walking shoe, oxfords and a dress slipper. The high shoes are in black kid with common-sense Cuban heel. Wherever a seam is required for joining the different parts of the shoe, there perforations occur. And the toes have a small pattern that is purely decorative.

The oxfords are in tan leather, finished in much the same way as the



SUMMER STYLES IN SHOES.

and sides than at the back, being cut with a point in front and at each side in deference to present-day style. The salt at the left has only one feature that distinguishes it as distinctly of this season, and that is the manner in which it is left open at the front to the waistline. It is of beige gaberdine and has a military suggestion in its pockets with flap and belt fastened with a small buckle. It will be noticed that collars on the new suits are usually high in the back and this one follows this rule. Below there is a small sketch of a jersey suit with a real waistcoat—which leads to the confession that there is much camouflage in this matter of waistcoats—they are usually merely front and nothing more.

Just a glance over the displays of footwear for summer brings home the fact that women have taken more than kindly to colored shoes. In fact it appears that color in footwear promises to become a permanent thing, as in gloves—and that the same colors are to be used. Many shades of tan and gray, often in combination with white, russet and white shoes, if counted would sum up as many pairs as there are in black shoes.

Julia Bottanley

New Linens.

The new linens for household use show a great deal more lace trimming than has been the fashion in some time, and the favored lace seems to be fllet. Handsome towels of linen and above the fllet a delicate hand embroidered pattern. Tea cloths show a fllet edge with a line of hand stitching an inch above, and a fllet square in one corner with hand embroidery trailing about it. An interesting card table cover is of white linen with a fllet border and fllet squares at each corner showing the card symbols—heart, diamond, club and spade—each worked delicately into the fllet mesh. Lovely dresser sets have fllet trimming in butterfly pattern, and to match these there are guestroom towels trimmed with the butterfly fllet.



One of the Big Guns Barking.