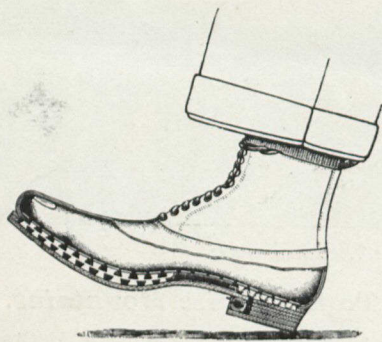


The Aerial Line.

The tall American put his foot up on the car seat and gazed admiringly at the russet shoe which encased it.

"Talk about model modes of travel" said he, "but here's an air line which should satisfy the greatest kicker in the country."



"Innocent looking shoe, isn't it?"

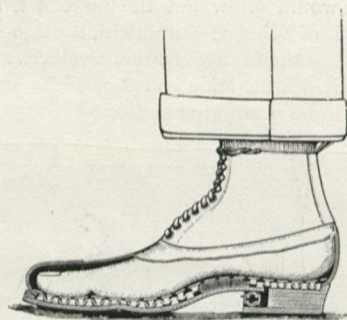
"But there's a trick centresole in it which coaxes air to the foot from without in a surprising manner."

"Perhaps you hav'nt realized the importance of having lungs in your shoes, Mister, but if you'd been with our army at Santiago, you'd have gathered a few pointers from the painful manner in which our men walked and suffered at every step."

"Perspiration absorbed into the linings and filling of their shoes did it."

"Micro-organisms developed from the sweaty moisture, which acted as a poisonous irritant, and not only affected their feet, but their temper, their nerves and general health."

"Oh yes,—pardon me, there is more of the same trouble in civilian life than we hear of!"



"People don't talk about such subjects, as if they had rheumatics or toothache, but most of us have quarrels with our shoes on the question of ventilation, and we'd feel better if we quarelled to more purpose."

"You see the new Chrome tannages of leather are responsible for the growing

nature of this evil, giving us more sightly and durable footwear at the expense of more unsightly and unendurable feet."

"These leathers, now almost universally worn, are not only waterproof, but airproof as well, and that's where the mischief lies."

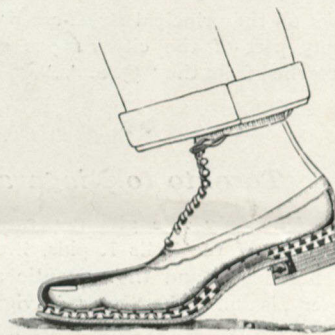
"A rubber overshoe 'draws' and stifles the foot, not because of any chemical action in the rubber, but because it is airproof, and will not permit the feet to evaporate the poisonous moisture of perspiration, developed in a close atmosphere under continuous action in walking."

"Does this shoe prevent sweaty feet?"

"Yes, sir,—it does more than that!"

"See how the sole bends in when I press it with my thumb!"

"Well, the insole under my foot in this shoe, bends under my great toe, ball and heel, just as this outsole does under my thumb, till walking becomes as springy and resilient as riding on a pneumatic bicycle tire."



"Instead of the customary 'filling' of scrap leather, cardboard, or cork and cement, which act as a sort of blotting paper, between outsole and insole, keeping the foot moist by absorbing and retaining the perspiration, there is a collapsible centresole of rubber."

"This centre sole has a series of ribs and grooves, alternating over each other, and when the insole is stepped upon the ribs sink into the grooves, stretching the thin wall of rubber, so as to form a spring under the foot."

"The insole thus conforms to the uneven shape of the foot sole at every step, and springs up again when the pressure is relieved."

"In this way the shoe is actually a size larger inside when the foot sinks into the sole, than when it is lifted."

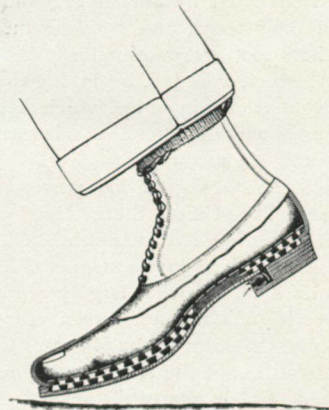
"It thus automatically adapts itself to the increased size of the foot when borne upon, and takes up the slack in the upper of the shoe when lifted."

"Where does the ventilation come in?"

"Oh, through this little aperture in the front of the heel!"

"You see it is a simple valve, which will admit air in, but won't allow it to go out at the same place again."

"When I lift my foot, the centresole of rubber expands the insole away from the



outsole, and in so doing acts as an air pump through the valve, but when I step down again my whole weight in compressing the insole and outsole together, forces the air contained in the cross channels up around my foot, through a row of perforations in the middle of the insole."

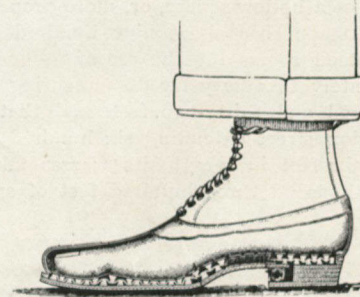
"Yes,—that's the whole process, don't you see how simple and effective it is!"

"Makes a very light shoe too, the collapsible rubber centresole and valve, which replace the usual filling, weighs only one and a half ounces."

"Sold in the United States, you ask?"

Not yet, I believe,—bought these in Canada at one of the smartest stores on this continent.

Oh, if I were to tell you the name you'd think I was advertising their business.



"Want to know it any how, do you?"

Well, I will write it in your note book thus —The Kennedy Company, limited, Montreal, Toronto, and Winnipeg, Canada.

Just then the conductor announced a station, and the tall American walked out with a singularly elastic step and an apparently clear conscience.