

# PARIS PUTS A STICK IN THE MODE

In the Canes of Yesterday Are Found Inspirations for To-day, and on Sticks Shorter Than Their Ancient Predecessors, Mount Rare and Old or New and Clever Tops



*The ultra-feminist may swagger, if she dares and cares, with that stout cane which long ago was made to thwart a thief*

IT is, considered strictly as a mode—that is to say, adopted and carried by this whole world of fashion without distinction of age or rank—barely three years old. As for its first appearance, however, that is another matter. One hesitates to count even the years which have elapsed since one first met it on the Côte d'Azur in the hands of visiting royalty from either England or Scandinavia.

Of course, it is the can that we are talking about the true, distinctive cane of

man, and in the hand of woman. It is no longer an extravagant whim or a way of being different, this cane, but a simple object of utility, like any umbrella or fan or riding-crop. It has, in fact, become plainly indispensable to woman for various reasons, the chief of which is here recorded.

There are, it will be noted, always women who walk and walk, everywhere, and those who never walk at all, anywhere. The latter have, of course, no need of umbrellas, accustomed as they are to be whisked about in carriages or motors safe from the least danger of having their costumes ruined by inclement weather. Those other women, however, who bravely venture forth in all sorts of weather, have been accustomed to carry an umbrella. And on sunny days when the sun casts golden patterns beneath the trees bordering the highways, all women, *grande dame* and peasant alike, have spread wide their sunshades,—truly a word most precisely used.

Long ago in the Greco-Roman period, these parasols were considered significant of rank. Great dignitaries walked forth sheltered by a brilliant canopy or parasol carried by their slaves. It is most probable that the use of canes had an equally ancient origin. In prehistoric times men carried clubs, although it is not chronicled that women adopted this prudent custom. In more

recent times the bishop's crozier and the king's sceptre appeared, both marks of rank. Might not a cane be some modern descendant of this royal pedigree? It seems quite possible.

At any rate, whatever the origin of the cane may be, it has become, since its entry into the world of fashion, an article indispensable to our need. And it made its entry for the very simple reason that, during the winter, the woman of fashion has now very little use for an umbrella, while even in summer she uses a parasol for decorative purposes only. Instead, she takes the cane which frankly affords her the support formerly furnished by the stick of her umbrella or parasol.

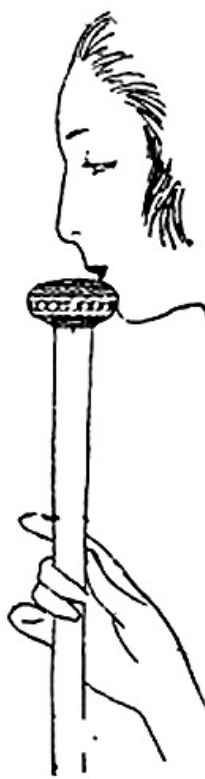
The fashion of carrying canes has thus increased as the use of umbrellas and parasols has been lessened. For those who walk about smartly attired in raincoats and rain-proof hats to match, umbrellas are not always necessary. And in sum-



*Recalling the rich canes of the Directoire period is this stick of ebony topped with panels of pearl in white and black*

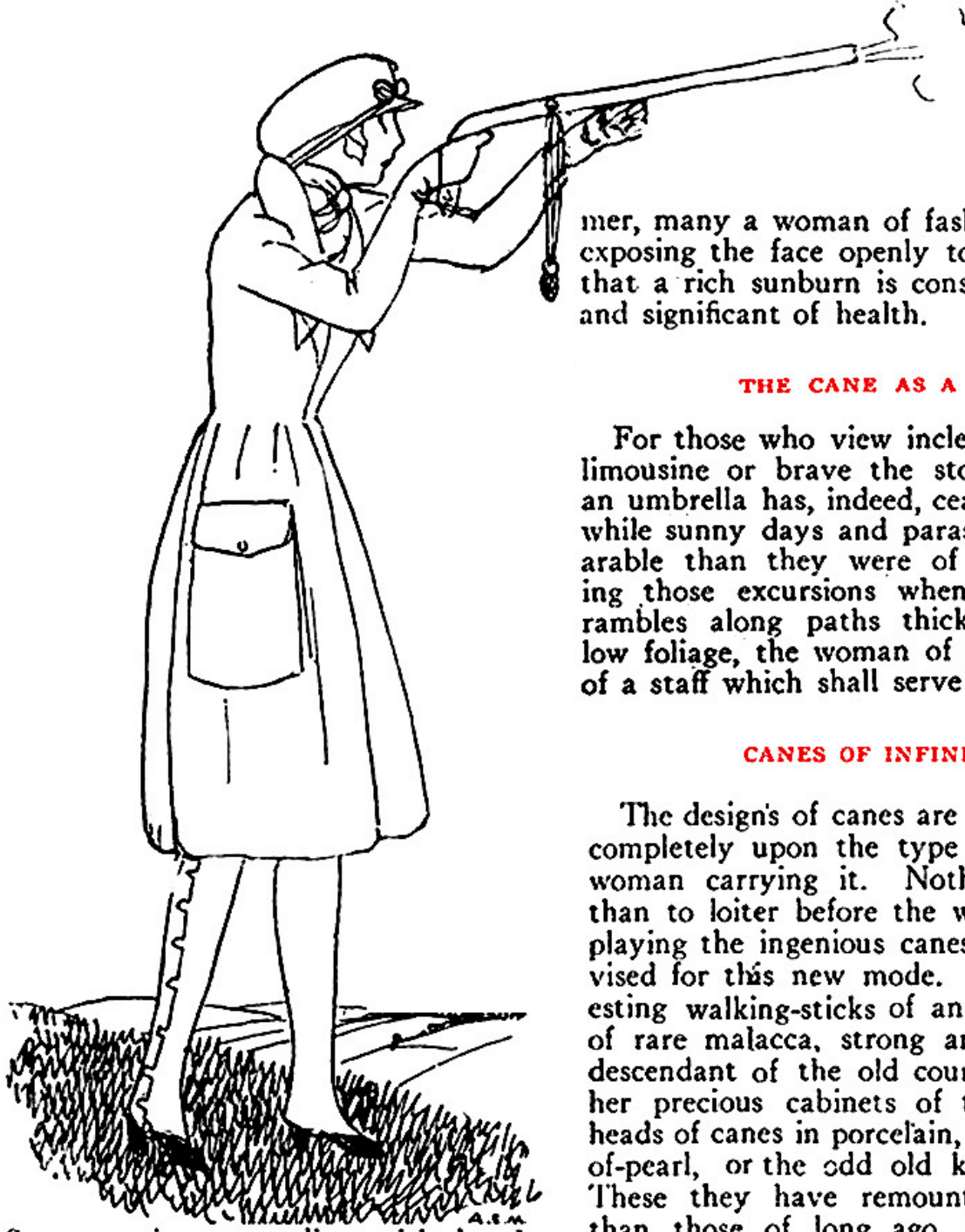


*In this ivory stick, behind a lens, is a wee miniature of Louis XVI. That's why the lady squints*



*Carved ivory on malacca may delicately suggest the beau's pet affection; from Lafarge*





mer, many a woman of fashion defies the sun by exposing the face openly to its rays, well aware that a rich sunburn is considered both becoming and significant of health.

#### THE CANE AS A NECESSITY

For those who view inclement weather from a limousine or brave the storm suitably arrayed, an umbrella has, indeed, ceased to be a requisite, while sunny days and parasols are far less inseparable than they were of old. However, during those excursions when she climbs hills or rambles along paths thick with brambles and low foliage, the woman of fashion feels the need of a staff which shall serve to help her across in-

#### CANES OF INFINITE VARIETY

The designs of canes are infinite. Each depends completely upon the type and the taste of the woman carrying it. Nothing is more amusing than to loiter before the windows of a shop displaying the ingenious canes which have been devised for this new mode. There one sees interesting walking-sticks of an ancient design, made of rare malacca, strong and pleasing. Many a descendant of the old court nobility has opened her precious cabinets of treasures to take out heads of canes in porcelain, of Saxony, in mother-of-pearl, or the odd old knobs of dog-fish skin. These they have remounted on canes, shorter than those of long ago, but equally effective. There also are the heads which found favour with the dandies and the beaux, finely and carefully executed as a miniature. These are mounted on canes rather more slender than those of the eighteenth century, yet withal so supple and resistant that they may really offer some assistance.

Canes of natural wood are the latest in design, as well as the most practical. Many of these were originally fashioned to afford protection during those dark nights when lights were extinguished or dimmed as protection against air-raids. Beech stripped of the bark, hazel wood, strong malacca, or the horns of rhinoceros or ram represent each in their way the latest extravagance of the mode.

To complete the smartest walking-sticks, a band of gold is placed around the top just below the knob. On this band a motto or emblem is engraved, and some of these are truly charming. They express all sorts of amusing and appropriate thoughts such as,—

- "I like what I dare, and I dare what I like."
- "Neither quite the same, nor wholly different."
- "It is no use to run."
- "Margot forever."
- "Help yourself and heaven will help you."

These add to that newly smart accessory, the cane, something of the quaintness and romance of certain costly trifles and tokens of the picturesque age of powder and of patches.

*It now only remains to choose which cane one will carry—verily a pitfall for those of indecision. Many an eye has been lost in wonder at the great variety of sticks, some topped in tortoise-shell, others in rhinoceros horn; from Lafarge*

*Some cautious masculine spirit has been known to remark that a shotgun is no plaything for a woman. He had never seen the Parisienne's gun-cane, for brave spirits, feminine, have discovered that a cane may be a gun and vice versa*

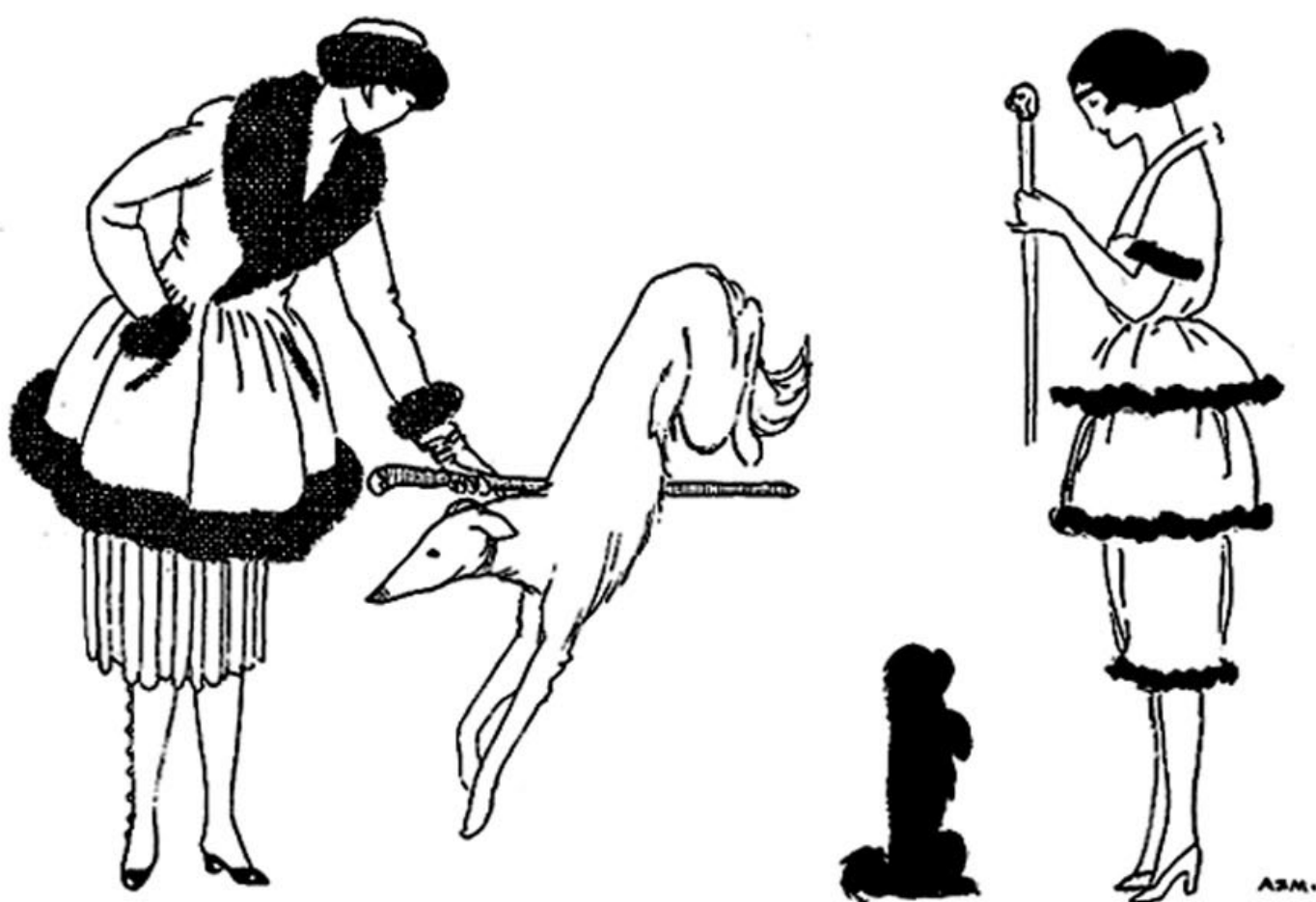






Against the deep blue sky of the Côte d'Azur are patterns and poses for the proper use of canes, offered by visiting

royal princesses. Thus one attains conviction that walking-sticks are not only useful, but very desirable



Obviously this cane is useful, and this, after all, was the original purpose of a

cane. This walking-stick is stoutly made of beech wood topped with ivory; from Lafarge

Vogue: April 15, 1919  
page 72