

as our "very own," felt much sympathy for the little embryo market gardeners. Cress and radishes grow so much more quickly than flower seeds. The sense of proportion would come to them as we fondly believed it had come to us in the course of life's long journey; at present, they could afford to wait. Just then the door opened, and the women from British Columbia, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, etc., etc., walked into the large six-roomed, well-ventilated and perfectly-equipped building, to which 160 children are brought from their scattered homes to be classified and instructed upon every subject likely to be helpful to them in their future careers. To this end special provision we found was made for manual training and domestic science, whilst the kindergarten, with its many pretty surprises, was already a little paradise to be desired of the Tinies who lived within a radius of four and a half miles, from which the vans fetched them; not to school! Oh, no! It was to play, beautiful play, but play with a meaning, play which slipped so gradually

into lessons, that the "lessons didn't bother you one bit." Then there was the fun of the ride in good comradeship. Perhaps that had something to do, just at first, with the immense increase in the number of pupils who now came to school so gladly, whereas they had not gone at all under the previous condition of things. The long distances, the one teacher for children of all ages and sizes, the necessarily more meagre equipment of the small, scattered school-houses, and the non-enforcement of the Provincial law for compulsory attendance, had kept many at home who now rejoice to go, and wait with fun and frolic at the entrance to their home fields for the coming of the vans, space being allotted them according to age and distance—all little ones under seven years old being taken in the vans the whole way, as a matter of course.

And here, to my regret, I must make another break, leaving the remainder of my story, once more, to "another time."

H. A. B.



No doubt, the result of the "Ingle-nook" competition has been eagerly looked forward to, particularly by those who have taken part in it, for where your work and thought is there is your interest also. Many sent creditable essays in response to the question: "At What Age Should a Girl Marry?" and beside the three whose letters we publish, we must congratulate these upon their letters, and give honorable mention: Fraulieu, York Co.; Busybody, Chatsworth, Grey Co.; Alegra; Mrs. S. E. L., Hastings Co.; Miss R. J., Hamilton; Mrs. W. B., Grey Co.; D. B., Bruce Co.; Miss A. R. M., Waterloo Co.

Depends Upon the Girl.

Dear Dame Durden,—I was delighted on seeing the announcement of your new competition, as, even when not competing, I am always interested in these contests. This time, the subject seemed peculiarly attractive, as I know all the girls will be interested, and feel certain also that the boys will be no less concerned as to their (the girls') opinion on this matter.

At what age should a girl marry? This may be differently and correctly answered by different people, as much depends upon the character of the girl. Some are developed, both mentally and physically, at a much earlier period than others, and, certainly, all require as much growth as possible in both these lines before that important event. But as we must decide upon a particular age, I consider that twenty-three should fill all the requirements.

Before marriage, every girl should have as liberal an education as possible, and at the age stated, she may have attended school until eighteen, taught, if she desired, for three years, and still have two years in which to learn the mysteries of housekeeping. And in these varied experiences she had a better chance to choose a suitable companion. Again, since a girl is not physically developed until she reaches the age of twenty, and so not fitted for matrimony, she has had, during the three following years, both time and opportunity to ascertain just the qualities she would desire in her husband, and also to make herself worthy of the best man living.

Wishing the competitors every success in their letters, and in their marriages, I remain,

OLIVIA.

An "O'd Maid's" (?) Opinion.

Dear Dame Durden,—So the girls want to know at what age to marry, eh? Bless their hearts, I wonder if that is to decoy the old maids into airing their views? If so, it has succeeded in one case, at least, for this old maid, beaming benignly at you through her "specs," is trying to get a word or two in edge-

wise among the learned comments of a host of chatterers.

Now, I think a girl of seventeen is quite as marriageable as one of thirty-seven, if she is prepared to undertake the duties of her new life. If she is not, that's a different story. Love, no doubt, is very nice, but you can neither eat nor wear it.

But, girls, see the happy girlhood years which are forfeited by an early marriage. Yesterday, I heard a girl say that there is never any fun after marriage, you become old at once. That's exaggerated, but, like coffee, it has grounds. Honestly, I would wait till twenty-five, at least, before enrolling among those who sign their names with a "Mrs."

When the great event occurs, if you send me an "invite," I'll help wash the dishes after you have gone on your honeymoon, followed by the best wishes

AUNT JUDY.

Not Under One Hundred Years.

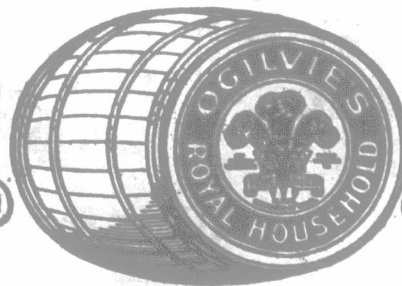
So many things enter into the question of the age at which a girl should marry, it is very hard to decide. Health, capability, knowledge, and the girl's circumstances, are all factors in the case. No sickly girl should get married before the age of one hundred years, at least; but a healthy, capable girl, with sensible ideas of the duties of a homemaker and willing to make allowances—at times—for the inherent crankiness of man, such a girl at twenty-four should make some deserving man happy. Now, my reasons for thinking twenty-four the best age for a girl to marry are:

In the first place her silly giggling stage (if I may so express it) is over, and she has attained the more sensible, but none the less happy, part of her girlhood. Young enough to be pleasing and bright, still ready for fun, but with a great many new ideas, and very different and much-improved ones in comparison with the stock she had on hand at twenty. Secondly, a girl of twenty-four has got over her first little love (?) affairs, which last, on an average, about six months each. She has probably rejected a few callow youths, who didn't know whether they needed a wife or a prolonged dose of early-to-bed and early-to-rise, and when a real man asks her, she knows how much love she has for him, and whether she can be happy putting in a "life sentence" with him or not.

I have other reasons, but two hundred and fifty words is the limit.

CANADA FIRST.

Particular mention must be made of the very interesting and readable letter received from "Sunlight," but, unfortunately, too late for the competition. Not having forgotten the charming description of "Sunlight's" lakeside garden, given some time ago, we can only hope to hear from her again soon.



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