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Side Talks by Ruth Cameron

ON COMPLAINING TOO LITTLE.



RUTH CAMERON

A letter friend wants to pick a bone with me. He says I've been singing the praises of the person who never says that he doesn't feel well, and he says there is another side to that. If you never say that you feel rotten, people don't give you your share of sympathy and consideration. They think you're lazy when you don't work as well as usual, and cranky or sulky if you are quiet. Whereas, if they knew you were under the weather, they would understand and things would go much more easily. "I can't stand a person," he goes on, "who doesn't say when he or she is not feeling well until afterwards, and then blames you for not knowing."

Used to Be One of His Wife's Habits.

"As long as I'm not going to sign this letter, I don't mind telling you that that used to be one of my wife's tricks. She'd look kind of miserable the morning and I'd say 'What's the matter?' and then she would dig up a smile and say 'Nothing, dear. That made you think there was anything the matter?' And, being green, I then, I would say, 'Oh, I don't know,' and forget about it. "Well, that night would be sure to be the night I'd have something I especially wanted to read, and I couldn't help her with the dishes as usual. Or there would be something I wanted mended and I could find it wasn't done and would make a little fuss about it. And then some kind of a show-down would come, and she would say, 'I've had a pretty terrible headache all day,' and I'd say 'Why didn't you tell me about it?' You know I wouldn't have said that about my coat if I'd known," and she would say, 'Oh, I don't believe in talking about how you feel all the time.'"

Can't You Carry It Too Far. "Well, that was one of the things she had to get adjusted—I suppose every couple has them. Now, when she gets up with that look on her face and I say, 'What's the matter?' I insist on her telling me the truth and I act accordingly. She is pretty reasonable, as women go, and she has the sense to fit herself. "Of course it sounds fine to talk

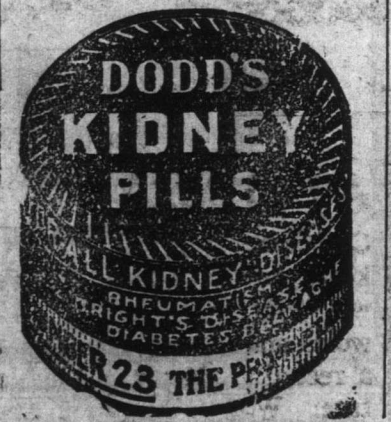
about keeping your feelings to yourself and never complaining, but can't you carry it too far? Isn't it fairer to the other fellow, as well as to yourself, to let him know how things stand. And can't you do that without whining or complaining?"

The Type is Rarer Than the Person Who Compains Too Much.

If you put it that way, I don't really see why you can't. And I do recognize the type my correspondent describes, but it is so much rarer than the person who talks too much about his symptoms and his general bad feelings that I have overlooked it before. Doubtless that was a mistake and I'm glad to have it rectified.

Froth and Substance.

London Daily Express.—The Cork verdict of wilful murder against David Lloyd George, Lord French, Ian Macpherson, etc., etc., is an extravaganza. It illustrates the pathetic divorce between reality and sentiment in the Irish mind. It is meant to be impressive. It will, in the midst of tragedy, cause a sane world to rock with laughter. There is, however, nothing in this nonsensical froth, nothing even in the tragedy that lies behind it, which should cause sincerity to despair. The right attitude is that of Sir Hamar Greenwood, who clings with undimmed zeal to all his hopes for Ireland, to all his confidence in Home Rule, as the clue to all new responsibilities as Chief Secretary. To give confidence to men of good sense and good will in Ireland may be, with their help, to make an end of horrors that disgrace civilization, and to find at last the way of peace. Sir Hamar Greenwood has sincere convictions, and we do not think that he will be accused of weakness. We find in his appointment new cause for hope.



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Just Folks

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MOTHER'S DAY.

Let every day be Mother's Day! Make roses grow along her way And beauty everywhere. Oh, never let her eyes be wet With tears of sorrow or regret. And never cease to care! Come, grown up children, and rejoice That you can hear your mother's voice!

A day for her! For you she gave Long years of love and service brave. For you her youth was spent; There was no weight of hurt or care Too heavy for her strength to bear. She followed where you went; Her courage and her love sublime You could depend on all the time.

No day or night she set apart On which to open wide her heart And welcome you within; There was no hour you would not be First in her thought and memory, Though you were black as sin! Though skies were gray or skies were blue Not once has she forgotten you.

Let every day be Mother's Day! With love and roses strewn her way, And smiles of joy and pride! Come, grown up children, to the knee Where long ago you used to be And never turn aside; Or never let her eyes grow wet With tears, because her babes forget.

From the Exchanges.

During the war the British and Foreign Bible Society distributed more than 9,000,000 Bibles, in 80 languages, among combatants, both friends and foes.

The sale of the British Government's motor depot at Slough, G.B., to a private syndicate completes a great motor transport deal, involving a sum of 14,000,000 pounds. The deal began with the purchase of the whole of the American transport in France, 15,000 cars and wagons, for 7,000,000 pounds.

Alcoholic wards in New York city hospitals are filling up because of the disregard of the Prohibition Law. Birds S. Coler, city Commissioner of Charities, declared recently. Mr. Coler said that if conditions did not improve within the next months he would send out his inspectors "to uncover the real facts" and aid in a more rigid enforcement of the dry law.

A determined effort on the part of the staff and student body of the St. Thomas, Ont., Collegiate Institute, is being made to deter all students who are cigarette users from participating in the sports of the College. A series of meetings has been arranged, when the advisability of amending the school rules in connection with this matter will be discussed.

Magistrate Ritchie, of St. John, had 11 drunks brought before him last Monday morning and expressed the disgust with conditions prevailing. On Sunday afternoon, at 5.30 o'clock, he affirmed, that he met no less than

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seven drunks on the north side of King Square. He declared without any exaggeration that he never saw anything worse in St. John.

Cost of living figures in 14 American cities, obtained by the Department of Labor for December, 1919, as compared with December, 1914, put Detroit at the top of the list, with an increase of 108 per cent. Norfolk, Va., ranked second with 107 per cent., while Portland, Me., took first honors by trailing the list with a percentage of 91½. Boston was next to the lowest with 92. Increases for other cities were: New York, 103; Buffalo, 102; Jacksonville, Fla., 102; Houston, Tex., 101; Chicago, 100; Baltimore, 98; Savannah, 98; Philadelphia, 96; Cleveland, 95; Mobile, Ala., 94.

A vivid light is thrown upon the sad state of housing conditions in a large part of rural England by Sir William Beach Thomas in a recent article in the London Mail. A woman, evicted from her house in a Northamptonshire village, is now living with six of her eighteen children in a cottage of two rooms—one upstairs and one down. In this village there are many cottages crumbling into ruin, and this state of affairs is reproduced, in greater or lesser degrees, over a very large area of this country. The secret is, of course, that no repairs were done to such places during the war, and the cost of putting them in order is now prohibitive. Sir William Beach Thomas instances one case in which eight cottages, all capable of repair, were sold for 150 pounds, though it would cost from 6,000 to 8,000 pounds to build new ones. In a village within 50 miles of London, four cottages were recently offered for 60 pounds, for the simple reason that they had become an eyesore to their owner, who could not face the cost of putting them into habitable condition at present prices.

Fashions and Fads.

Coats have high collars. Large hats are flower-laden. The waist line varies greatly. The fur choker is still popular. Bright plaid tunics are in vogue. Tunics are scalloped and pointed. Sailor hats are trimmed with wools. Sleeves are short and bodices are long.

Most sweaters are made very low in front. Novel pockets, and rakes are seen on skirts. The vogue for shiny trimmings continues. The silk skirt is simply made, but very colorful. Some fashion houses show tight frilled sleeves. Tunics are wide and narrow, long and short. The hat and the purse often match in color. Black taffeta is very smart for afternoon wear.

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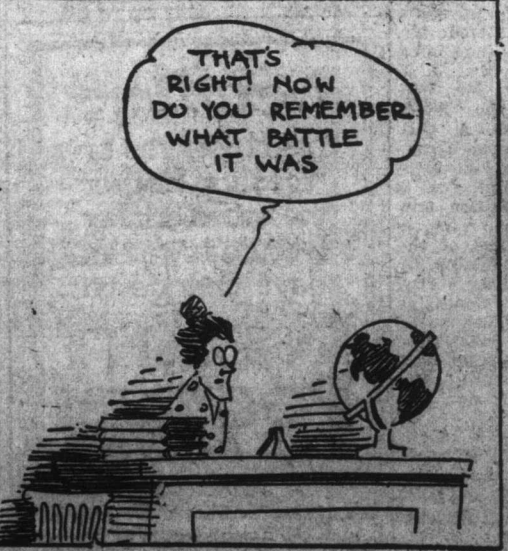
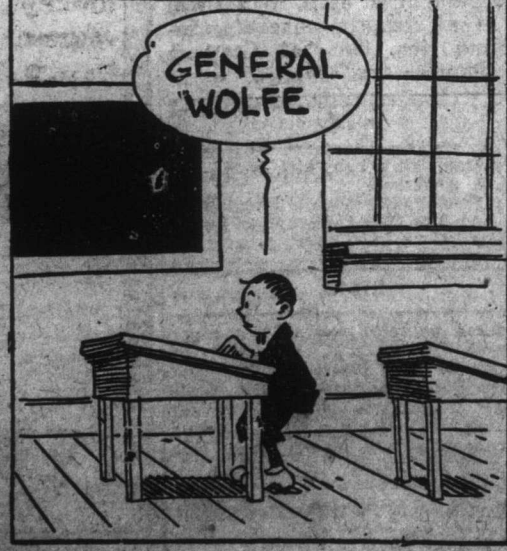
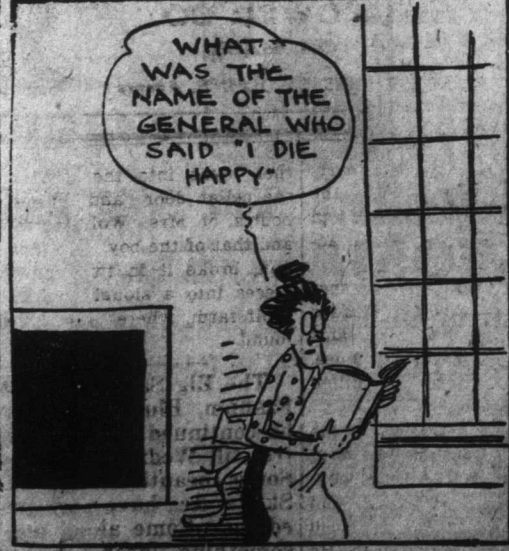
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