

THE TIMES-STAR FEATURE PAGE

Lorothy Dix

Because Most Women Look to Some Man for a Living and Because All Women Look to Men for Their Good Times, Women Must Continue to Please Men, Whereas a Man Can Please Himself.

A GIRLS' club asks me this question:

"Which sex has the greater influence over the other?"

THAT is easy to answer. Men have a million times more influence over women than women have over men. Men discourse long and ardently and eloquently about woman's sacred influence over them, and it flatters the vanity of women to believe them and to think that men are in their hands that they may mold as they will.



DOROTHY DIX

When we come down to realities, however, we find that woman's influence over a man is purely theoretical, while a man's influence over woman is practical. A woman can only influence a man to do what he wants to do, but a man can make a woman do what she doesn't want to do. Comparing the two, I should say that a woman's influence over a man is about three-fifths power, while a man's influence over a woman is a thousand horsepower.

WOMAN'S influence consists principally in speeding a man up along the road he is already going. If he is a man of a fine and noble and generous nature, a good woman can help him develop those qualities to the greatest achievements of which he is capable. If he is thrifty and industrious, she can make of him a go-getter, but she cannot change common clay to Sevres porcelain. She cannot put a backbone in a weakling, nor sew up the holes in a spendthrift's pocket, nor galvanize a lazy man into action.

And, doubtless because it is easier to slide downhill than it is to climb to the heights, bad women have far more influence over men than good women. A hundred evil women ruin men where one good woman saves a man.

Of course, the paramount proof of man's influence over woman being greater than hers over him is that men have succeeded in holding women to a higher standard of morality than women have held men. There are just as many women with unbridled passions, with a craving for drink, with the love of gambling, as there are men, but because men will not marry drunken, immoral, loose women, women, as a sex, have kept sober and decent.

THERE are just as many wives who fall out of love with their husbands as there are husbands who fall out of love with their wives. There are just as many married women who would like to leave their husbands as there are married men who would like to leave their wives. But the husband's influence is at strong enough to make the wife suppress her cravings for the gay life, because well she knows that if she did any sidestepping she would be met by a summons to the divorce court and there would be no condemnation of her sin. But the wife's influence is not strong enough to restrain the husband from following where his pleasure leads him, because so often it is diluted with forgiveness.

Multitudes of men have told multitudes of women that they only needed their sacred influence to reform them, and multitudes of women have believed them and have married drunkards and rakes and shiftless ne'er-do-wells in the fond and foolish faith that they could turn them into men.

The proportion of those who have worked this miracle has been infinitesimally small.

THE girl who thought her sacred influence would be a Keely cure sinks down into the squalor of the drunkard's wife. The philanthropist grows weary of family life and retires to his rooming. The wife of the no-account man, who was born too tired to work, takes in washing to support him.

On the other hand, men can make of women virtually what they will. They have made them keep themselves pure because they demanded that their wives should be beyond reproach. They make women beautiful because they will have nothing to do with homely women.

Why do women suffer the tortures of the inquisition to have their hair curled, instead of letting it stay straight and lanky as nature made it? Because men prefer wavy tresses.

Why do women plaster their faces with cosmetics? Because men admire peaches-and-cream complexions.

Why do women endure the agonies of semi-starvation? Because no man loves a fat woman. Why do women spend three-fourths of their time and energy and money on clothes? Simply and solely to enhance their looks in men's eyes. Why do women squeeze their feet into shoes three sizes too small for them? Because men admire tiny feet.

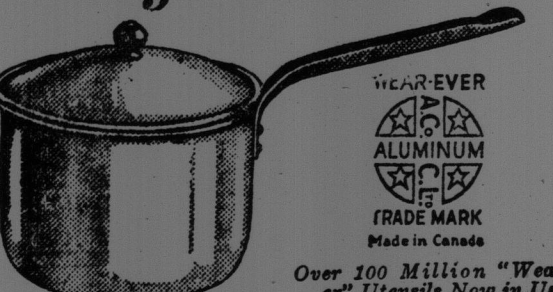
BUT a woman's influence will never induce man to change the ugly tubular garments he wears. And in many cases the wife's influence over the husband isn't strong to even make him shave every day, although he forces her to do it under penalty of losing him.

It is perfectly logical that men should have more influence over women than women have over men because women are dependent on men. Most women look to some man for their living. All of them look to men for their good times. Hence women must always break their necks to please men, whereas a man can please himself.

DOROTHY DIX.

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News Notes From Movie Land

CAROL DEMPSTER, D. W. Griffith's protegee, seems to get more wifely and appealing every day. In her new picture, "That Boy's Girl," Carol appears even smaller than usual when contrasted with James Kirkwood's six feet.

Miss Dempster used to be a Dentist-haw dancer and toured the country with the troupe. Then she met D. W. Griffith and decided to try her luck in pictures. She has never appeared in the films of any other director. Some of her recent productions are "America," "Isn't Life Wonderful?" and "Bally of the Sawdust."

To mark back to "That Boy's Girl" Carol plays the part of Daisy Royce, the daughter of a man who likes the "fowling bowl" a bit too well. "Daddy" role is filled by W. C. Fields, whom Paramount has given a five-year contract. He is now in the "Follies," but when we talked to him a short time ago he had decided to begin work on another picture, "The Old Army Game," in January. We were so busy laughing at his jokes that we forgot to ask him if Miss Dempster was to be included in the cast.

Carmel Myers received a letter the other day containing a dollar which requested a lock of her hair in return. Miss Myers has a luxuriant head of hair which at a dollar a lock would net her several hundred dollars. She is not considering the sale.

Your Birthday

DECEMBER 9—You do not always look upon the bright side of things. You possess a quick insight that often saves you and your friends from disaster. You are quick of action, clever, and always on the look-out for information, but somewhat sensitive. You work to make your home more beautiful, and take a great joy in it. Cherish those who love you.

Your birth-stone is the turquoise, which means prosperity.

Your flower is holly.

Your lucky color is pink.

A Thought

He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

THE elephant is never won by anger, nor must the man who would reclaim a lion take him by the teeth.

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Under the most trying hygienic handicap is assured this new way

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Persons We Envy



SEE-SAWING ON BROADWAY

FOOD, shelter and warmth! These are man's primal needs. Shelter has always seemed the simplest. Primitive man could twist branches and leaves into some sort of covering. In New York scarcely a week passes but some poor devil is found using a subway station to escape the storm. And there is always a jail.

Food caused man to use his thinking apparatus. This and that weapon was chipped from stone or beaten out of metal. But it was fire, most of all, that made possible man's progress up to the depths.

I WAS watching the crowds troop into Tex Rickard's new auditorium for the six-day bicycle races. Workmen, pushing the building, had left planks and sand and concrete lying about. As I passed I noticed, back in the shadows, one of those funny little stoves they call salamanders. Possibly the workers had used it to heat their coffee and beans.

Then, suddenly, out of the lights of 45th street I saw the first of three strange musketeers, drawn to this spot by the promise of temporary warmth. He was an aged Jew, wearing a shiny coat with a worn imitation chinchilla collar. He wore his whiskers after the fashion of the patriarchs. He was chanting softly as he passed. His path was hewn straight for the salamander. He picked up an empty box and sitting down, he rubbed the little stove, rubbed his hands.

While I was watching a second figure came out of the lights and disappeared in the shadows. It was a boy about 18 years of age. What caught my eye was his hair. It was snow-white. He, too, went straight to the fire. Undoubtedly they had been there before.

Curious, I left the milling crowd and stood behind the two. The boy was saying something to the patriarch and was receiving no reply. Turning, he saw me.

"My brother was killed in the Argentine," he said. And that was all. This is not an uncommon plea for alms, but he did not ask for money.

"My brother was killed in the Argentine," he repeated. "What division?" I asked. "My brother was killed in the Argentine," he said. And that was all.

At intervals of a few moments he repeated this statement. The light of the little fire showed me his eyes. The lad was, I decided, unbalanced. Had his brother been killed in the Argentine and had the shock whitened his hair and turned him blind?

My next question was interrupted by the arrival of the third musketeer. A huge hulking negro with half a loaf of bread under his arm. Without a word he sat down and began taking huge bites out of the bread. Not one of the three said a word of greeting to the other. Only the boy spoke from time to time and then only to repeat his strange chant.

I walked away just as a watchman came by. "The poor devil," he said, with a brogue. "They've bin comin' here these several nights now—the poor devil, just to keep warm."

Back on 45th street, with the crowds rushing to the races the whole thing seemed incredible. It still does. Shelter—heat—food—I thought—Man's most primal needs.

BLACKHEADS

Don't squeeze blackheads—dissolve them. Get two ounces of peroxide powder from any drug store and rub with hot, wet cloth over the blackheads. They simply dissolve and disappear by this safe and sure method.

A GOOD PAL is a person who will never interrupt you while you are talking about yourself.

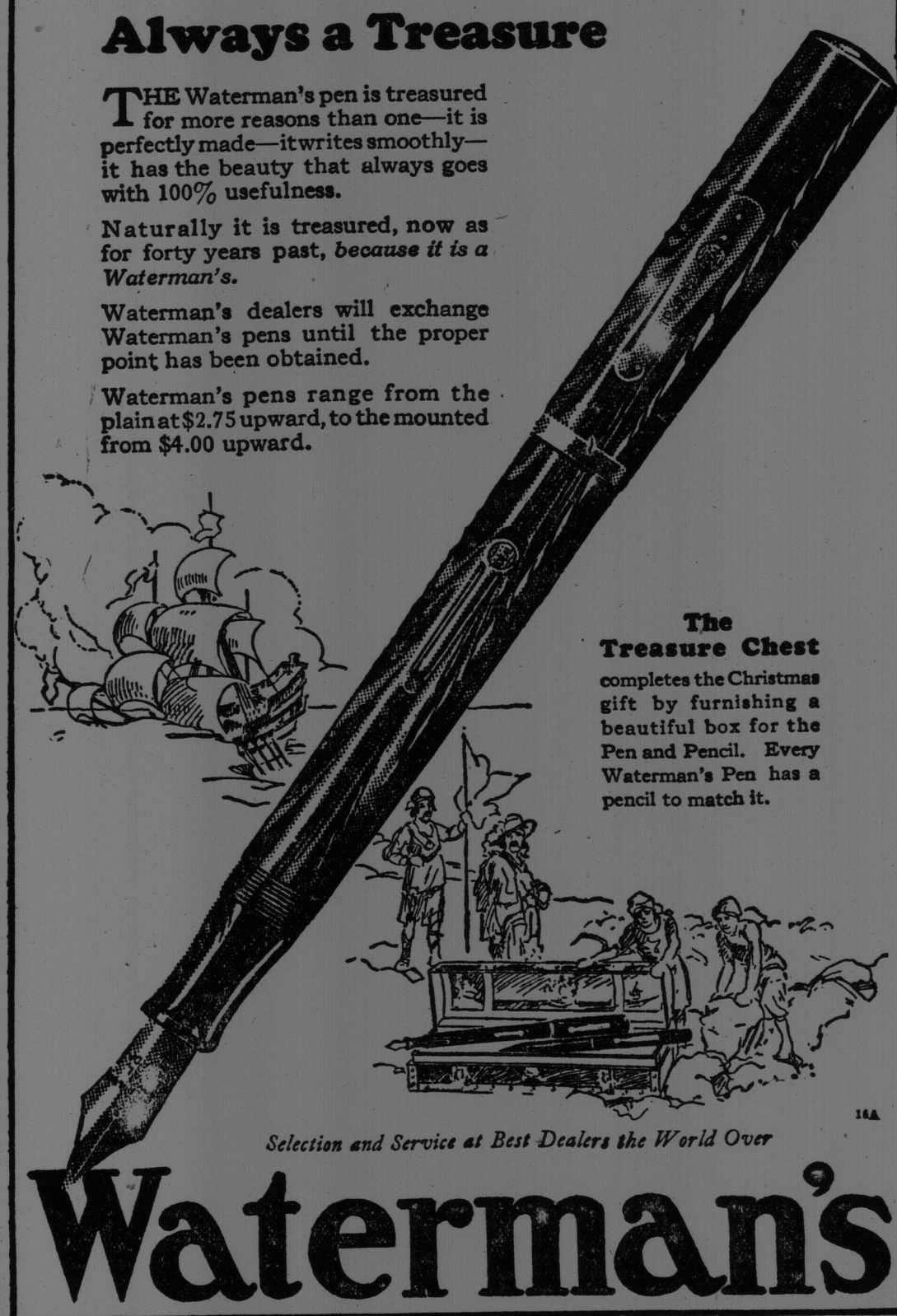
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