

ARE MARRIED PEOPLE HAPPY?

In Canada, as in the United States, the decrease in the number of marriages and the increase in the number of divorces has given rise to serious consideration. The following letter recently sent out, as an experiment, to a list of selected names equally apportioned as to sex, brought forth some interesting results.

If married people would tell honestly and frankly exactly what their experience has been, and open up the side of their natures never shown, even to their best friends, a wealth of valuable material could be collected.

The following plan was evolved, which completely obviates any objections which might be proposed: A selection of 1,000 names has been made of married men and women, envelopes have been addressed to these persons and the list destroyed. The letters are now placed in envelopes and mailed.

There is absolutely no record of the persons to whom these requests have gone. In reply, DO NOT SIGN YOUR NAME. As the replies are received the envelopes showing postmarks will be burned and all letters copied in typewriting and the originals destroyed, so that ABSOLUTELY NO INDEX TO THE AUTHORSHIP WILL REMAIN.

It is suggested that you answer the following questions:

1. Age of yourself and spouse; how long married?

2. How long had you known your spouse before marriage?

3. Number of children, if any, and ages.

4. Has marriage fully come up to your expectations? (Please particularize fully.)

5. If you had it to do over again, would you marry?

6. What, in your opinion, has made your married life happy or unhappy?

7. What advice would you give to a young man or woman about to marry?

8. In all 125 replies were received. While only a small proportion of the 1,000 people to whom the letters were sent answered at all, the result was satisfactory, considering the confidential nature of the inquiry. Seventy-six answered all the questions; of these 62 found happiness in marriage, 14 unhappiness. In none of the replies was a middle course taken. It would seem that married people must either love or hate, and that an attitude of neutral indifference is impossible to maintain. This accords with the opinion of one of the ancients, who said: "Marriage is a desperate thing." How desperate it has been for some who have essayed it, we are soon to see.

Of the 14 persons whose married life was unhappy, 11 were men and three were women. And of the 76 who made complete replies, 52 were men and 24 women. In other words, 32 per cent of the replies were from women, while the feminine contingent furnished only 22 per cent of the unhappiness. However, this does not signify anything. Some people would maintain that women are less anxious than men to tell their troubles; others would stoutly declare the opposite. Again, men would be likely to draw the conclusion from these facts that if the women have found a better average of happiness than the men, it is because husbands are easier to get along with than wives; while the women might reply that it takes two to make a quarrel, and the one who reports the affair to the police usually started the row and got the worst of it. So it is futile to attempt conclusions on such dangerous ground as a comparison of the sexes.

But in passing, it might be mentioned that of the 14 unhappy marriages, five, or almost one-third, were authors; and seven, or one-half, were teachers. Are authors so highly strung that the sap of inspiration freezes at the first cry of the baby? Are teachers prone to carry the blackboard home at night, and require their spouses either to do the sum or go stand in the corner? It is significant that the remaining two unhappy marriages were scattered among the 17 other occupations represented in the replies received, no occupation other than authors and teachers being represented twice.

Ten correspondents had no children; yet, contrary to what we might expect, were happy. Four women, whose letters bore unmistakable signs of the contentment of their writers, announced their life work to consist in being mothers.

The following different reasons were given for nuptial unhappiness.

"Myself."

"All my illusions were dispelled."

"Mistakes—we admire but don't love."

"Incompatibility."

"Outright cruelty."

"Forced by parents to marry against my will."

"No children."

"Discordant temperaments."

"Different outlook toward life."

"For four years, while working, struggling and economizing, the preparations of myself and husband for big results kept us in harmony. But there comes a time when a woman loses her grip if her husband fails to grasp opportunities and make good. What she does happily in the beginning to help get a start becomes a monotonous grind when it develops into a continuous performance."

Five of the 14 unhappy couples had known each other one year or less before marriage, one three months, one a single month and another a week. On the other hand, a woman who had known her husband ten hours before he led her to the altar—or, as some would have it, the altar—was one of those who described her occupation as "mother," and after speaking of marriage in the highest terms, ended with advice sounding like an excerpt from the Connecticut Blue Laws:

"Marry a man you are sure yet will obey

—the man you cannot trust yourself to obey you do not love." Perhaps more unusual still was the report of a woman 52 years old, whose husband was 33. They were married ten years ago, after knowing each other 28 years, and she naively suggested in her letter that couples should have had opportunity to study each other's characters for several months before taking the decisive step!

As causes—or excuses—for unhappiness in marriage, the following arguments were advanced. It will be observed that the first three of these have been advanced as causes of unhappiness also:

"No children."

"Different outlook toward life."

"Diversity of temperaments."

"Similarity of tastes."

"Common sense."

"Congeniality."

"Love and loyalty."

"Never smoked cigarettes."

"Willingness to overlook each other's weaknesses."

"Unselfishness."

"Industry."

"Keeping up courting."

"No effort on either side to conquer or dominate."

"Good health, good habits, good cooking."

"Had no fool notions of bliss."

"Mutual concessions and compromises."

"Even temper."

"Mutual tolerance."

"Mother and father of seven healthy children."

"Each ready to sacrifice to make the other happy."

"Early poverty."

"Sympathy, appreciation, companionship."

"A gentle courtesy of deportment."

"Striving to bring comfort and enjoyment to others, instead of seeking it for one's self."

The other reasons assigned were merely variations of these. Twenty of the 62 happy replies, 20 of the rest attributed the result to unselfishness or sacrifice in one form or another.

We come now to the answers to the question, "What advice would you give to a young man or woman about to marry?" On this point letters were not lacking. Everybody, happy or unhappy, gave advice and plenty of it, and all seemed to know just what a young person should do to attain the utmost felicity in married life. Some of the suggestions were quite pithy.

"Do not let too much modesty or too great reticence keep couples from a full understanding before marriage."

"Give and forgive; bear and forbear."

"Curb your temper; suppress your vanity."

"Avoid the first quarrel."

"Don't marry before 30."

"Read romantic novels less, study the cook book more."

"Marry as soon as the man can earn \$15 a week."

Horse That Relishes An Ice Cream Cone

By C. L. A.

He is a big iron gray chap, with a broad chest, an honest, although mischievous eye, and an upper lip that curls gracefully over the lower one. I had seen horses that liked apples and candies, and I had even fed bananas to a monster Clydesdale at a county fair on one occasion. Never, however, had I seen a horse smack his lips over ice cream.

It was during one of the hottest days we have had this warm delightful summer. I was mopping the perspiration from my manly brow and trying to convince myself, for the sake of my digestion, that ice cream sodas and allied temptations are snares and delusions, when I saw a pretty girl patting this iron gray, broad chested equine that was tied to a post before the door of one of Victoria's dairy headquarters. The horse shook his great head gracefully and gave evidence of appreciating the stroking.

"Oh, I know what you would like," the girl said to the big horse. "I know what you would like, you old rascal. You want some ice cream."

More head shakings and nuzzling from Iron Grey.

Presently the girl, who had entered the dairy, returned with a heaped ice cream cone, of a contour and oozy coolness to make the mouth of any small boy irrigate that sweaty afternoon. "Surely," thought I to myself, "she will never force that stuff on the poor animal." I was wondering whether or no such an attempt might not come within the purview of the agents of the society with the long name, when the big horse sighted the sweet meat in the hand of the girl. Immediately he evinced alarming signs. He reached out his head to the full length of his neck, and then drew it suddenly back; he shook his head up and down; he stamped and whinnied a low soft whinny; he moved his long upper lip about and nickered away down in his throat. These were unmistakable signs of pleasurable anticipation.

The girl reached forth her hand with the cone in it. A red-veined muzzle examined it, a long upper lip curled about to receive it, and then the head was quickly withdrawn. Vexation and disappointment showed in Iron

"Purchase advice from honest physicians acquainted with both parties, and follow it." "Make the wife the head of the house." (A man made this suggestion.)

"Do not try to change your partner's character, but pay all attention to perfecting your own."

"Do not expect perfection."

"Love and be tolerant."

"Don't take life too seriously."

"Do not abandon all reserves."

"Selfishness is the bane of married life."

"Funch's advice—'Don't.'"

"Never spend a dollar until you have earned it."

"If there be both esteem and love, marry by all means."

"Don't marry until you are sure you can love another better than yourself."

One of the leading lawyers of New York city, whose note paper carried his name, wrote as follows:

"I would advise young people not to marry if too nearly the same age. My experience as a man and lawyer is that most unhappiness and most divorces occur between young people who have not sufficient difference of age between them. A man should, in my opinion, be at least 15 years older than his wife. I am 10 years older than my wife, but in my family are examples of happiness where a greater difference of age exists. My oldest brother is 30 years older than his wife and they are exceptionally happy. A woman who is much younger than her husband looks up to him more as her friend and guide than if she were the same age or older."

Among others, the following suggestions are noteworthy:

"Don't regard words said by your wife in haste when she may be suffering as if they were spoken by a strong man. Be careful that your own words are not such as to lead to misunderstanding. If you have differences—and few have not—do not allow them to grow into estrangement, whether you are in the wrong or not. Remember, you asked her to marry you; she did not ask you to marry her."

"The most important thing is that there should be absolute harmony in the home. Love and be tolerant. This is all. Sympathize, even try to make the other see things as you see them; persuade lovingly, if it seems best; but if that fails recognize the sovereignty of the individual and quietly desist. Above all, don't expect an angel for a partner; the angels are all in Heaven. We are all faulty, and beyond right here on earth. When you begin to see faults, remember how many you have yourself, and treat his or her faults as you would like your own treated. Cultivate cheerfulness, tolerance, temperance, tenderness and love, love, love, through everything."

"I advise young people to marry, and not to defer marriage too long. I would discourage

age hasty or inconsiderate marriages, but I believe in the sharing of sacrifices. If two young people reasonably well adapted to each other agree on their fundamental aims and purposes, very nearly everything else can be overcome. (He is a minister, not a Mormon) and believe nothing else so important as unity of purpose in the making of a happy home."

"The best advice that I can give to a young man or woman about to marry is never to go to sleep without kissing each other goodnight. Little frictions are inevitable, and one may wait a sleepy hour trying to force the other to make up first, but under no circumstances shut your eyes until that goodnight kiss has passed."

"Before marriage test the temperament and disposition, using such methods as circumstances will warrant to demonstrate temper, jealousy, penuriousness and other qualities, and to determine whether discussions of differences in opinion result pleasantly. If young men and women about to marry cannot reason with their never will. Men and women have their opinions, and they differ many times, but mutual discussion brings out the best solution, and results in the preservation of harmony. I have found, many times, that the opinion of my wife was much better than my own and have not hesitated to say so. The man and the woman should be companions. My home is the most delightful place I can find, and nothing ever takes me away from my family in the evening."

"Keep alive every bit of sentiment and renewal, from time to time, the little courtesies that make betrothal so sweet. Continue playing the little tricks, planning the nice surprises and keeping yourself always attractive for your husband. Don't let anything in married life become commonplace. Develop the romance."

"Before marriage go much in the society of the one whose nature seems to respond to your own. You will know it, not by the act or spoken word, as much as by the response of heart to heart, which none but the giver and receiver can detect. Leave the rest to fate—Cupid will appear at the proper time."

"Marry by all means, but do not expect perfection in the one you marry. Love through thick and thin, particularly through thin. Never criticize your husband or wife to other person, and not too often to themselves. Take care of your happiness as you would take care of a beautiful plant, a precious or delicate child, or any other valuable and somewhat frail possession. Each of the contracting parties should be careful to observe all the politeness, self-control, self-restraint, and general sympathy employed during courtship."

"As life unfolds, and we pass on from stage to stage, many things differ from our early vague expectations, marriage with the

How Uncle Sam Buys His Coal

The United States buys about seven million dollars worth of coal every year for use in the navy, in the public buildings in Washington and other cities and for other purposes, about one-third of it—mainly coal used in public buildings—on specifications under which prices are fixed according to the value or quality of the coal delivered by the successful bidder. A definite standard of quality for the coal thus purchased is specified by each bidder and this standard is considered in awarding the contract. If the value of the coal furnished is below the standard fixed, a discount is made from the standard price; if its value is above the standard an allowance is made for the excess of value and a proper sum is paid in addition to the contract price. The value is determined by tests and analyses made by the Geological Survey on samples taken from the coal furnished by the contractor. These analyses and tests show the quality of the coal in terms of fixed carbon, volatile matter, sulphur, ash, and moisture, and especially its heating value in British thermal units, as determined by calorimetric tests.

Until within a few years the agents of the government, in buying coal, relied upon the integrity of the dealer and the reputation of the mine or district from which the coal was obtained, and these formed the only possible assurance that the coal was equal in quality to the grade to be furnished. The new method has been so successful that it will probably be gradually extended to cover a larger share of the government's fuel supply.

A full statement of this method of buying coal is contained in a recent bulletin of the United States Geological Survey (Bulletin 428), entitled "The purchase of coal by the government under specifications, with analyses of coal delivered for the fiscal year 1908-9," by George S. Pope.

The bulletin includes a statement of the factors affecting the value of coal, a description of the methods adopted for sampling and testing, a form of specifications used under the new plan, a list of government contracts for coal for the fiscal year 1908-9, and a table of analyses of coal furnished for the fiscal

rest. I can say that in broad sense marriage has fully met my expectations, even more than the man I would say: Marry with no frivolous or belittling desire for personal happiness, but with a deep sense of consecration to the real ends of wedlock—home and family. And to the woman: Never forget that your own destiny, your husband's and those of souls as yet unborn lies chiefly in your hands.

"To those about to marry I can give no advice. Like Nathaniel Hawthorne, I can see almost as many reasons why one should do a thing as why he should not."

"Keep all the sentiment possible, and no not abandon all reserves, nor relax for a moment the same attempt to make yourself attractive that you exercised in the prismatic days of courtship. My husband's recipe for wedded happiness is, 'Add your mate and keep on loving.' Mine is, 'Let your mate find you—and keep on loving.'"

"Be sure that the person you propose to marry has the qualities that you really prefer in a life companion, the qualities that will permanently satisfy you in your home. Choosing a mother for your children is a very different thing from choosing a partner for a dance."

"Marry early, not rashly, nor before having reasonable expectations for support. Life is not a picnic, nor marriage a frolic. No marriage can result happily which the judgment condemns."

A woman who said: "I write—and besides, when I have time I am a woman," announced, "I wouldn't give advice to anyone about getting married—it's wasting breath." Perhaps this is the best advice of all.

But there is another side to the story—a darker side. Some of the following letters may disturb for a moment our conception of ideal love, but every word of them rings true:

"I am 34 years old; I married at 20 to a prosperous young physician, who beat and battered and starved me, gave me jewels to other women, deceived me on every occasion and finally heaped upon me the grossest of all troubles—a garrulous mother-in-law, who took her cue from him; and abused me in a hundred ways. With all this I loved him and freely forgave every heartache he caused me, and bore him babies, and believed in his heart that marriage was a great institution and not a barbarism. When I had no shoes, and had worn my elaborate trousseau to a thread, and had given up to him the last dollar of a generous marriage settlement my father made me, I decided I must go out into the world I knew not of and make an effort to earn my bread. I began by canvassing, then writing. After two years of desperate struggle, with bitter experiences of having no roof over my head during cold winter nights, with no friendly hand to protect me, I still loved my husband and to me marriage was not a failure. Then he met another woman he wanted to starve and beat, so he got a divorce from me on the ground of desertion, and I was left free to starve. I met a good man and married him and he was kind to me. We starved together for a while. When he could not work I worked, and gradually the light of success dawned upon us, and life began to be beautiful. Today we have a beautiful home and travel side by side, hand in hand together through life, with a full recognition of the great blessings that have come to us and the full enjoyment of each other's love and comfort."

"I was a farmer's wife for 20 years. Occupation, household drudgery for two decades of hard, dreary, unpaid servitude and enforced maternity. I knew my husband before marriage intermittently for three months, and married him because it was the custom—no other career was open to a girl of the border country 50 years ago. I would most emphatically not marry again. Under present conditions the husband and wife are one, and the husband is that one. We did not live unhappily, at least the husband did not—and he was both of us. To any young woman who is not willing to submerge herself, I would say: Remain unmarried until equal marriage laws cease to handicap the wife. Otherwise, thank God and man for the divorce courts, if you cannot endure to the end, as I did."

Life is not all beer and skittles, neither is it all thorns and brambles. Perhaps, if one possesses fortitude and gentleness enough, he can change the course of a tempestuous matrimonial stream into a broader and less precipitous channel. "Marrying at eighteen," writes a woman, "I had no expectations or theories; fell in love at 16 and was engaged two years. We grew accustomed to each other, my husband and I, but the honeymoon was the least happy part of my married life. I was sensitive and high-tempered and lacked self-control, but principle as much as love carried us through those trying days. As years went on and children came, our only troubles were the deaths of three babies and reverses of fortune which, in comparison with death, should not be called troubles. We have grown older together and are still in the home to which our scattered birdings come often, and we quietly await the inevitable."

Field

THE INFINITE VARIETY

Those who take their pleasure in the sports of the field, or strenuously at the idea that field sports are all the same brush—deadly in their object on humanitarian lines, Froude, what amusement there is in them. Yet it is the sportsing more than they, marvels to count his pastime monotonous hunting days ever quite alike? semblance between shooting from a butt and walking up the stalking of a chalk-cream tit of a standup fight with a

Even were these sports all endless changes in the face of the depth of winter, when the indoor life pull down the bluntness of the weather, smiles for those who seek their pleasure in their transient beauty during glare of summer. At the mer, when the citizen covers buildings, panting in vain for the despised fisherman is filled well as his basket and resting water, watching the moving flowers and finding enjoyment innocent sensations, in which of trout has no place.

There is another variety—pure and success—which plays part in the sportsman's life. Sweet is pleasure if success were assured with when following hounds, then outdoor life might have better charge of monotony. There letter days to contrast with the A blank day on the river may big fish or heavy catch the swiftness you got just as the light was not have been so welcome had one earlier in the afternoon. A gamble, and gambling and compatible. Then there is the cident. How can sport be called when at any moment you may be down, or be removed from the Directory by the bursting of a ment of danger, indeed, must we would redeem sport from casuation. There is perhaps, in perfected arms and ammunition fetched in the illustration of an ultimate possibility. But what shooting accidents, or what of lesser dangers of the hunting field sticking to tobogganing on the door sport offers innumerable den death; and if this is monotony in the name of an English sum

The alleged monotony is the when we recollect that one-sport Even if the sportsman has but one for winter and for other months—he rarely contents himself. The choice between such rivalries and shooting is based on a variety of reasons, and it may perhaps compare the two in order to arrive at a conclusion as to which should be able for different tastes.

There is this in common to and shooting—that in both the his strength, skill, or cunning creature on the defensive. It is seen that hunting occupies a distinct hunting field even the finemely a witness of the work of under the guidance of the Ma man. Moreover, hunting claims legation of its followers. At them to enjoy a week's fishing when the foxes are resting, an day's shooting in winter when unit for the hunting field.

Fishing, which has a class considered the contemplative n has, in fact, usually appealed more than the others to men of the guished from men of action. "Life and Labour," compares shooting and, while he pronounces the most thoroughly resting of a he also admits it to be "a very sl to persons of active habits." In the famous "Anatomy of Me comed it as quiet and free fro which accompany the sports of hunting. As he lifted the pass Julian Berners, the sentiment iginal. The worthy dame put quantly:

"He seeth the yonge swa dukes, cotes, and many other brodes whyche me symeth bet noyse of hounds, the blastes of serve of foulis that hunters, foulers can make."

Thus the "Bok of St. Al comparison would hold good to by the author of its followers course, immeasurably the mere two, but this may in great mea to the greater facilities for any rate in this country, which of modest means. Eacham, o sports in his "Complait Gentle shooting, hawking, and hunting for nobleman and gentlemen, v the recreation of the honest an

What, after all, is this "pat so much is made in fishing? The sport has no attraction of when asked the reason, that th