

Mother's Section

THE IDEAL WIFE

By R. C. Woodbury

MEN and women, both old and young, are with few exceptions, interested in the subject of marriage, because we all desire to be happy, and if living in a natural state with a congenial partner and comrade of the opposite sex is not happiness personified, pray then, what is?

The inimitable Max O'Rell says that "in choosing their partners for life people should be as careful as in choosing their ancestors;" Ovid in his "Art of Love" advises to

"Make choice of one who suits your
[humor best;
And such a damsel drops not from the
[sky;
She must be sought for with curious
[eye."

However, the Ideal is an abstraction, and so has no real existence, but only in seeking for it is the best and most suitable to be found. It is, therefore, something mysterious and elusive, like woman herself.

On the subject of marriage and the ideal wife we all have different ideas, tastes, and opinions, but upon one point we all agree, and that is she must of necessity be a "good" woman, a definition for which would require a small book wherein to express it, but within the narrow limits at my disposal I shall attempt to give some idea of my meaning.

A "good" woman must necessarily be virtuous, the best aid to which in woman is independence. Then she will be free to marry him who pleases her best and choose him just because she loves him, and not for the sake of a home, or position, or influence.

She must be intelligent and broad-minded, which are, of course, relative terms, but they cover much ground. They include the beginnings of an education, which is first shown by a desire for knowledge, a knowledge of herself and husband, of their standing in human society, of the ills with which society is afflicted, and of the cure for those ills. A "good" woman, then, must be virtuous, broad-minded, and intelligent. She alone would make the ideal wife.

Beauty of face and form are not essential, for beauty is merely that which pleases the eye, beauty or congeniality of the mind being much more desirable, because it will not fade away, for character remains as long as life.

An open, unaffected manner and disposition are important considerations, while the color of hair and eyes does not matter. Good health and good nature are often found combined, and along with an affectionate disposition, would be indispensable.

False modesty and prudery are to be abhorred; deceitfulness to be detested; slovenliness never to be admired; while extravagance, which means living beyond one's income, is atrocious.

The average man wishes for a wife and comrade—for companionship is the principal part of married life—and not just someone to be his housekeeper. One of the principal enjoyments of life would be walking and talking, reading and studying together, which help to prevent monotony and serve to keep up the interest in one another.

As regards children, they are desirable, for a childless home is no home, but quality rather than quantity should be aimed at and due preparation made for their arrival. Then they will prove a blessing and not a curse, to be fondly loved and brought up with the advantages which should be their birthright. And then they will also serve to make greater the love between husband and wife.

Housekeeping and childbearing are both truly noble professions, but the woman whose whole time is taken up with them to the exclusion of taking an intelligent interest in the happenings and affairs of the world about her, will not only miss much in life, but will become prematurely old and uninteresting.

ing. However, in order to properly perform her duties in the home, it would be impossible for her to work outside it, and fondness for home life is a necessity to happiness in marriage.

As regards age, that is obvious, for too great a disparity is contrary to nature's laws, whereas, when the wife is just a few years younger than the husband, there will be enough difference in tastes, ideas, and opinions to give a spice to life.

I give Max O'Rell's advice for what it is worth. He says:—"As peace and security are the guarantee of happiness in matrimony, a man should not choose a lovely rose who will attract the attention of all men, but look for a modest violet in some retired, shady spot. The violet is the emblem of peaceful and lasting love." This applies to the beautiful woman, as well as to the one who is married to a profession.

If true love exists, divorce will be unthought of and unthinkable, but for two persons who are uncongenial, to live together, is nothing more or less than a crime.

After a true marriage, a union of souls as well as of hands, the word "we" will always be used instead of "I," for according to biology man and woman are complementary portions of the human organism, each incomplete without the other, or as poetry has it,

"As unto the cord the bow is,
So is man unto the woman,
Useless each without the other."

In the happy home, the result of the true marriage, which is the most sacred contract that human beings can make, there are two things which are unthinkable and unthought of. They are unfaithfulness and jealousy.

In such a home, with such a wife and comrade as I have feebly attempted to describe, the happiness and contentment will be reflected in the countenances of its inmates and life a paradise upon earth.

THE MOTHER

By Grace G. Bostwick

Washing the dishes and making beds
And getting meals three times a day
It seems such a drearish round of toil
That I almost think the skies are gray

But at night when I take my mending up
And sit with a tiny sock in hand
'Tis a prayer of thanks I raise to God
For the strength to work for my little [band

And so the weariness goes away
And the happiness comes and I smile [again
As I think of my wonderful chance to do
For my future women and men!

TRAINING THE FAMILY

Patriotic Games

By Mrs. Nestor Noel

It is so hard to get children to save, and, above all, to economize in the matter of food, that I think a few suggestions on the subject will not be amiss now.

First of all, we will do well to remember that healthy, growing children must have plenty of good, strong food, and when they come to the table with big appetites we should be rather pleased than otherwise. We do not want to stint our little ones in food. What we do want to do is, to see that they do not take too much on their plates to be thrown away to the cat or the dog.

I know a family where there is always so much left over from each meal it would feed a starving man. This family is by no means rich. Nor am I surprised, for they have not learnt the first lessons in economy. In this family of which I speak, there are two boys, and, just before the end of each meal, both boys always pass their plates up to be refilled; then they taste a little, toy with

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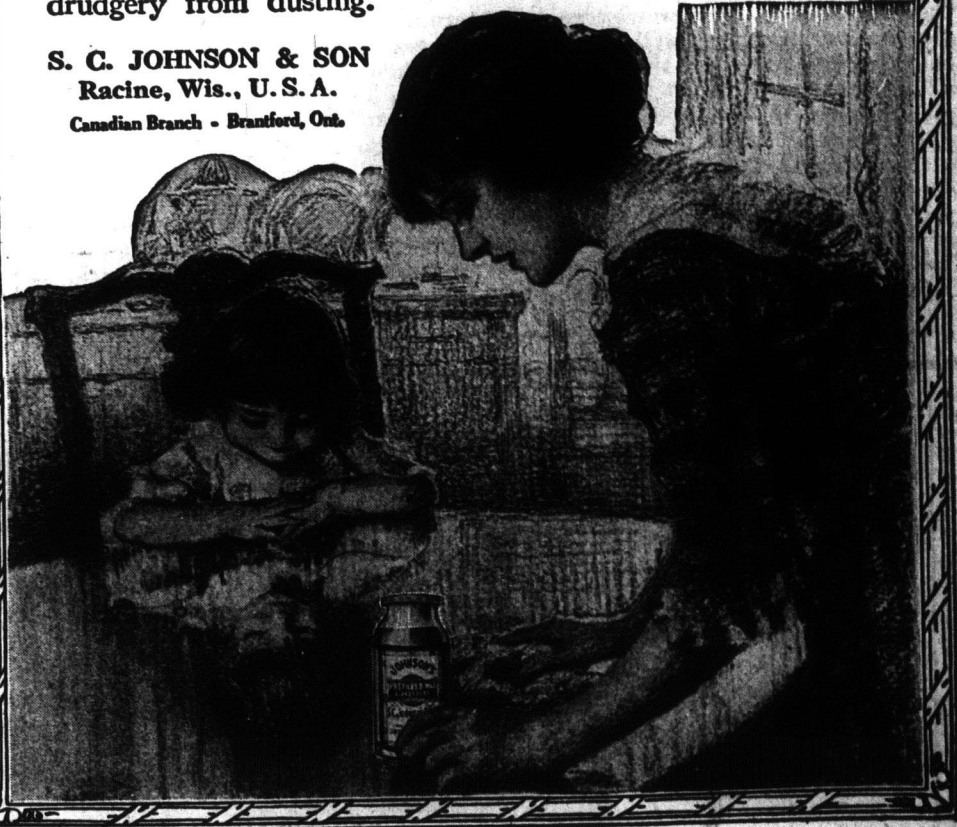
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