

## Devilish Swims Backward.

One of the extraordinary features of devilfish is their method of swimming. Usually the devilfish swims backward, but it can swim forward simply by turning its flexible siphon in the opposite direction.

## Dorothy Dix's Letter Box

**A Protest Against "Hold-Up" Methods of the Modern Girl—The Child Who Is Mothered to Death—Have Business Firms the Right to Dictate Dress Terms to Their Women Employees?**

Dear Miss Dix—What do you think of the grafting spirit of the modern girl?



When a young man goes to see a girl, she meets him with her hat on, ready to be taken to some place of amusement. She frankly tells him that she is no fire-dance companion and has no intention of spending a quiet evening at home. Furthermore, that no cheap man need come around. This is pretty hard on those of us who happen not to have rich fathers, and who are trying to save a little of our small salaries.

Can't you beg the girls to have a heart, and not force us either to eschew their society altogether, or else spend all we make on them?

SIX BROKEN BOOBS.

## Answer:

Right you are, boys. As a hold-up artist the modern girl makes Robin Hood look like a piker. She's a go-getter who is determined to have a good time, and make some man pay for it, and she doesn't care a hoot how much he has to suffer for it. How a young woman who has got one single throb of human compassion about her can adopt her ruthless means of getting what she wants is a mystery never to be solved.

For the girl's calm assumption that every boy who comes to see her is young Mr. Croesus is all tosh, and she knows it. She knows perfectly well that he probably isn't earning a bit more than she is, and she knows to a penny just how far a dollar will go. Nevertheless, when they go to the theatre, nothing but the best seats will do for her. At a restaurant she looks over the menu and selects the most expensive dishes, and she can't dance anywhere except at the smartest places.

And hint! She hasn't the slightest hesitation in letting Tom, Dick and Harry know exactly what she wants and expects for her birthday, and Christmas, and what flowers she will need for certain occasions, and the kind of candy she prefers, and woe to Tom, Dick and Harry if they don't come across!

Of course, men are arrant cowards to stand and deliver at the point of two blue eyes, or brown ones, but there are mighty few men who have any backbone where women are concerned, and a man in love is as spineless as a fishing worm.

A man's vanity won't let him tell a girl that he can't afford taxis and orchids, and so he lets a woman work him for their, even if it sends him to the cheap lunch counter for a week to pay for one dinner for her at the Splendid Cafe.

But in demanding so much of men, girls are foolish. They kill the goose that lays the golden egg. Many a man who would like to take girls to places within his income doesn't take them at all because he can't afford all the splurge they require. And there would be a lot more wedding bells if the high cost of loving didn't take so much money that there is nothing left upon which to get married.

DOROTHY DIX.

Dear Miss Dix—My neighbor is a fine, conscientious woman with one child by whom she is trying so hard to do her duty that she is ruining him. This poor little creature is never permitted to play with other boys for fear he may acquire rude ways, or learn something he shouldn't know. He is made to practice on the piano hours every day, and is tutored within an inch of his life. The result is that he is a pale, anemic little fellow, the butt of all the other children, who call out to him as they pass: "Baby, darling, isn't it time for you to have your bottle?" or "Sweetie-cums, come go to bye-bye land."

There's a society that takes children away from cruel mothers. Let's organize one to rescue the unhappy victims who are being mothered to death.

A LOOKER ON AT MOTHERHOOD.

## Answer:

It takes a wise woman to know where to draw the line between being tender enough to her children, and careful enough of them, and not too tender or too careful of them. And strangely enough, if one must err, it is better to be on the hard side than the soft side. For life is a battle all the way through, and the victory goes to those who can hit the hardest and fight the longest. It is well not by breakings, and those who have been brought up on silken cushions, and protected from every rough contact with the world.

Certainly the cruelest mother who beats and bangs her children about does no such injustice as does the mother who raises up a silly boy, for she gives him a handicap against which he struggles in vain. All the boys of his own age despise him, so he is lonely and forlorn. He is an object of pity and scorn to older people, and his own reaction to the situation is either to make him a womanish man, or else a tough and a hellion.

Instead of trying to keep their darlings unspotted from the world, mothers had far better teach their children how to keep clean in it, and instead of protecting them from life they should fit them to take their part in it.

Motherhood is a great career, but it gives a foolish woman unlimited opportunities for the prosecution of her fads, and a lot of children would be better off with the mother than the overly good one they have got. Too much babying is the vice of the day. What the average child needs is a little wholesome neglect.

DOROTHY DIX.

Dear Dorothy Dix—The firm for which I work has issued an order saying that girls must not come to work in sleeveless gowns, that they must not wear jewelry, nor chiffon stockings, nor dresses that are very low in the neck. Don't you think they have a nerve, telling us how we must dress?

## Answer:

No, I think your firm is exactly right, and that it is a pity that girls haven't got enough good taste and good sense to dress appropriately for work without being compelled to do so by their employers.

I know that working girls defend themselves for going to business dressed as if they were going to a party by saying that they don't go to parties, and that they see more people at work than they do anywhere else, and that their chances of catching a husband are enhanced by their having on good clothes and looking their best.

All of which is open to argument because a woman is never well dressed who is inappropriately dressed. A girl in a ball gown may be a lovely spectacle at 10 o'clock at night, but she looks grotesque when it is at breakfast. Hence a girl in a simple dark frock looks better when she is at work than she would in the most elaborate beaded georgette that ever came out of Paris.

The main thing about a business girl dressing like a business woman is the effect it has on her own psychology. Women's moods always match their clothes, and they simply can't get down to work when they are adorned for fun and flirtation. Nor can anyone take them any more seriously than they would a man if he went to business in his dress suit or his golf clothes. You would know every time what his mind was on.

No, Flapper, dear, you can't climb the ladder of success in chiffon, and before you get anywhere you have got to have on shoes that are big enough to let you think about where you are bound instead of how your feet hurt.

DOROTHY DIX.

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## AUXILIARY ENTERTAINS.

Chatham, Sept. 26.—In compliment to Mrs. Johnson of Barthe street, who is leaving in the near future to reside in California, a social afternoon was given yesterday by the Woman's Auxiliary of Christ Church. The president, Mrs. Perkins, was present, and bright asters of every color were used for decorating. An address of appreciation was given by Mrs. Perkins, and Mrs. Chatterton presented Mrs. Johnson with an ivory clock. Tea was served later.

## HOLDS SUCCESSFUL SALE.

Thamesford, Sept. 26.—The women of the Methodist church held a most successful sale of home cookery in the A. Robins' Hall, Saturday afternoon. Rev. J. Thompson, Dorchester, preached the sermon at the anniversary services of the Methodist church, Sunday, Sept. 23. A decorated church, special musical numbers from the choir and male quartet, and excellent sermons made the services most attractive.

## SOCIETIES and THE HOME

## Social and Personal

Professor J. W. Russell is in New York. Mrs. Sherwood Fox is visiting in Detroit.

Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Jones of Kingston are visiting friends and relatives in the city.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Gale and family are leaving shortly to reside in Stony Creek.

Mrs. E. H. Johnston of Wilton Grove has left on a motor trip to Hamilton and Niagara Falls.

Dr. A. R. Routledge and Mrs. Routledge are visiting at their summer home, Lake Huron Beach.

Miss Laura Wheelahan of Lucan is visiting in the city, the guest of her cousin, Miss Mary Donohue.

Mrs. W. A. Rowland of Winnipeg is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Smith, King street.

Dr. J. McLurg and Mrs. McLurg of Sault Ste. Marie are guests with Mrs. Arthur McLurg of St. James street.

Mr. and Mrs. Wildred Skinner and baby daughter have returned home after visiting friends and relatives in Arlington, Cleveland and Detroit.

Miss Dorothy Murray is leaving this week for New York, where she will resume her studies at Columbia University.

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Smallman and Colonel Morgan and family are attending the races at the Woodbine in Toronto.

Miss A. C. Woodside of New York, who is returning from a visit in Port Arthur, is the guest of Mrs. C. A. Phipps, Lorne avenue.

Mrs. Harold Clarke and small son Martin have returned from Bowmanville, where they were visiting the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin.

Complimenting Miss Ethel Russell, a bride-elect of the month, Mrs. A. H. Driessen was hostess of a miscellaneous shower given at her home in Colborne street.

A charming shower was held recently at the home of Mrs. A. H. Driessen, Adelaide street, when a number of friends entertained in honor of Miss Frances Needham, a bride-elect of this week.

Mrs. Walter Morris of Winnipeg, accompanied by her daughter Barbara, are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. Weir, Matland street north.

Mr. Morris is on a business trip to Chicago.

In honor of Miss Alice Osborne, Miss Madeline Chapman, English street, gave a charming linen shower recently. The gifts were presented to the bride-elect in a gayly-decorated basket.

An enjoyable evening was spent recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Holliday, Grey street, when they entertained in honor of their guests, Mrs. F. Cowling and Miss Ella Cowling.

Miss Nina Leckie, who has been visiting Mr. and Mrs. F. T. Leckie, Oxford street, has returned to Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where she will resume her duties as the staff of the Poughkeepsie Hospital.

A delightful shower was given by the girls of Woolworths and the Metropolitan Stores recently in honor of Miss Phyllis Wilson, a bride-elect of next week. At the tea hour Mrs. Fred Buskard presided over the tea cups, and Miss Wilbert Scott assisted in looking after the guests.

Mrs. F. T. Leckie, Oxford street, and Mrs. J. A. Dallas of Hensall attended the wedding of their niece, Miss Emma Monteth, to Mr. A. Jardine of North Bay at Powness, Ont., Wednesday of last week. They returned the beginning of the week.

Mrs. Charles Ridalff of Dorinda street has arranged a euchre of twelve tables to be given at her home (at the tea hour of the room committee of the Ruth Chapter, O. E. S. bazaar, Mrs. Douglas Allan, the tea room convener, and her committee will assist the hostess.

What promises to be a charming and interesting affair of this afternoon and evening will be the exhibition of pupils' work, and tea, being held in the household science room at the Sacred Heart Convent. The parents and friends of the children have been invited, and the exhibits will include sewing, cooking, writing and art.

Meeting at the home of Mrs. A. Everett Logan, Elmwood Apartments, the Harriett A. Bomer Chapter, I. O. D. E., made plans for a bridge party to be held in October. Mrs. E. F. Bulter and Miss Gertrude Morgan were appointed joint conveners. This was the first meeting of the season, and at the tea hour, Mrs. W. G. Boug, postmistress, and Mrs. Harold Logan assisted. The next meeting

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Miss Mable Case, Inkerman street, was the hostess of a miscellaneous shower given last evening in honor of Miss Kathleen Heard, a popular bride-elect. The dainty gifts were presented to the guest of honor by little Miss Marjorie Hampton, who was dressed like a bride. A buffet supper was served later by the hostess, who was assisted by Mrs. S. Hampton. Among the guests were: Mrs. Ogilvie, Mrs. White, Mrs. Frieda Stevens, Queenie Harris, Nellie Harris, Marguerite Ford, Theresa Oliver, Mrs. Leonard Palmer, Mrs. George Dix, Gladys Burns, Theresa Wallace, Kathleen Donaldson, Miss Wangold Eileen Chown, Leticia York, Gladys Hudson, Lottie Fisher and Violet Ross.

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