

"Oh, my, yes," exclaimed the doctor. "Bad temper is really responsible for more old maids than a lack of desire on the part of man to marry."

This remark was too much for the bad-tempered girl. She forgot her grievance and said: "Why, what do you mean? I thought men, that is, men with any go about them, admired girls who when they feel they have been wronged resent it. I didn't know that the modern man cared for these meek, amiable, sweet-tempered women who never resent anything."

"A woman who is truly amiable, meek, and sweet-tempered rarely has any cause for resentment," answered the doctor. "If she is a strong woman with her amiability, both men and women have so much respect for her that they would do her no wrong. The woman who governs her temper is the woman who wins out in this life. As a rule she makes the best match. She is certainly the most successful woman in business and society, and where is the person who will deny that she is the best wife, mother, and friend? Experience has taught me that the average woman with a naturally irritable temper cultivates it, encourages it, fosters it. This is as true of those in high life as it is of the woman in low life. Indeed, very rich and idle women generally luxuriate in their tempers. Perhaps they wouldn't if they knew that anger curdles the blood, hinders circulation, and consequently makes the complexion bad and dulls the eyes. It also weakens a woman's wits, making her less attractive physically and mentally. Bad temper does not destroy the mind, but it renders one unable to work mentally. It controls the whole system and throws it out of sorts. It renders one utterly unfit to receive truths. Then indigestion is sure to follow. If you go to a woman who is under the influence of anger, who is burning from head to foot as you were when I came in," turning to the bad-tempered girl,

"whatever you can say that runs with her desire she will listen to, and nothing more. If you undertake to expostulate with her, to convince her that she weakens her cause by losing her temper, she will not hear. She regards you as being opposed to her, and opposition, real or fancied, only adds fuel to the flame. The way to help a woman to learn to govern her temper is not to talk to her about the evil effects of anger when she is in a rage. That's where the average husband makes a mistake. If, when the wife allowed ill temper to dominate her, he would only preserve a gentle silence, she would soon get over it, and a sense of mortification, a realization that she had made a show of herself would come over her, and then, if he were only clever enough to tell her that he didn't want her to spoil her pretty face by getting angry again, she would think twice before giving way again."

"But you said something about temper and old maids," interrupted the amiable girl, with a malicious smile at the other.

"Yes, I did," he answered promptly, "and I meant it too. Many a man has been scared off from asking a woman to become his wife by the assertion from her lip that she has a bad temper and is proud of it. Men are selfish creatures, and above all things like physical and mental comfort. Perhaps the average man does not hope to attain happiness in this world, though in truth he never ceases to seek it, but he does believe that there is such a thing as harmony, and he knows that a bad-tempered woman and harmony don't go hand in hand. Amiability is power, if only women knew it. By being always cheerful and amiable she can get a hold on men that the bad-tempered woman, no matter how beautiful, rich and alluring she is, never dreamed of in her philosophy. Amiability is not only power; it is health; it is mental progression; it is long life to one's self and to others."