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Features

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Features

Dorothy Dix

Why Excessive Novel Reading is a Vice—The Young Girl Whose Selfish Mother Does Not Want Her to Marry—Must the Girl Terminate an Evening Call or Should the Young Man Be a Self-Starter?

DEAR MISS DIX—Will you please answer these two questions? First, What will be the effect of continuous novel reading where a person neglects home, family, business, church and social duties, to sit and read novels?

Second, How long should a courtship continue where a lady meets a man from another State and knows very little about him?



DOROTHY DIX

ANSWER: Novel reading can become a vice if indulged in to excess. In moderation, it is one of the greatest pleasures and consolations of life.

There are novels that present history in a vivid and dramatic form that makes the past live again for you. There are novels that take you to the far places of the earth and make you acquainted with strange countries. There are novels of adventure that stir your blood and are your imagination; novels of sentiment that touch your heart; novels that educate, that humanize, that preach more powerful sermons than any delivered in any pulpit.

There are times when we are tired and worn, when to read a good novel is the best of all rest cures. There are times when we are lonely and we need the lives of some hero and heroine in a book. So we may well thank God for novels and the men and women who write them for us.

But the novel-reading habit is as great an evil as the dope habit if it makes us subject our real work and live in an unreal instead of a real world.

Also, novels can become a potent source of debauchery if one steps out of the story into the real world. There are novels that teach that men and women have a right to indulge their passions. There are plenty of novels that are nothing but mental garbage cans, and to spend more time reading them is to have one's soul poisoned. I have known more than one woman who wrecked her life by incessant novel reading. These ladies lived so much in the company of beautiful but misadventured heroes that they came finally to believe themselves to be thrown away on their commonplace families, and so they finally went off, like their favorite Lady Gwendolyn, with the men they fancied were their soul mates and who eventually deserted them.

Second, Certainly a woman should be in no hurry to marry a man who is a stranger to her. She should prolong the courtship until she has done a thorough job of detective work about his past life.

DEAR MISS DIX—I am a young woman of 21 and am engaged to be married to a splendid young man. My mother likes and respects him very much, but every time we mention getting married she cries and begs me not to leave her. I have a sister of 19, so that mother would not be left alone. My fiancé has a fine position and can give me a good home, and there is absolutely nothing to prevent our marriage except my mother's not being willing to give me up. What shall I do?

ANSWER: Your mother is a silly, selfish, neurotic woman, and you will be extremely foolish to let her ruin your life. Do not pay the slightest attention to her, but go along and get married, and when it is all over she will be as pleased as Punch and forget that she ever made the slightest objection.

There are many mothers like yours, who have hysterics every time their children mention getting married. They mainly do it because they are egotists, who want to have the centre of the stage with the spotlight turned upon them. Somehow they imagine that they are romantic and interesting, and show deep sentiment and an abnormal love of their children when they protest that it will kill them if they give them up.

In reality they show nothing but how selfish they are, for what has a mother to offer a daughter in comparison with a good husband and a good home and the normal life of a woman?

No matter how much a girl loves her mother, that love isn't going to satisfy her. She is going to want her own home, her own man, her own children. You have a chance at this now. If you stay with your mother until she dies, it will be too late. Your opportunity will have passed you by.

So don't wait. Take your happiness while you can get it. There is reason in all things. When a girl's own judgment tells her that her mother objects to her marriage on valid grounds, then she should be guided by the mother's counsel, but when the mother's objection is only a manifestation of her selfishness, then the girl should refuse to listen to her and use her own good common sense in deciding the matter.

DEAR MISS DIX—When a young man calls on a young lady and the time comes when the call should end, should the young lady suggest to him that it is time for him to go, or should he of his own accord take his departure?

ANSWER: The young man should be a self-starter. No lady should be put to the embarrassment of having to order a man out of her house, or even suggesting to him in the most delicate and tactful way that she is weary of his presence and that he had better take the air.

Believe me, my dear M. F., that if a man wishes to make a hit with women he can acquire no more winning art than that of making a graceful and speedy exit. For there is no man in the world of whom girls have such a horror as the one who stays on and on, until the very clock yawns in his face, and who keeps threatening to go, but never goes until he is put out.

Just remember that a call is agreeable in proportion to the shortness of it. The first half hour is peppy and thrilling. The next half hour may be interesting if the man is a fairly good talker, but by the end of the hour things begin to drag, and before the two-hour limit is reached the girl is shedding secret tears of boredom.

So when you go to see your best girl say your little piece, and make it snappy and cut it short.

And when you start to go, don't linger. Go as if you were shot out of a gun.

Most girls wear shoes three sizes too small for them, and when you keep on standing up and saying "Good-by, good-by" she is enduring untold agonies and wishing that she had a patent bouncer to speed you on your way.

DOROTHY DIX

A Wealth of Flavour of Purity

CREAMY confections which melt in your mouth, crisp centres delightful to crunch, selected nuts in tempting combinations; all coated with rich chocolate, all brilliant with Rowntree's Flavours, quality, purity. Also makers of Rowntree's Cocoa—a rare English flavour, the result of 200 years constant blending and perfecting.

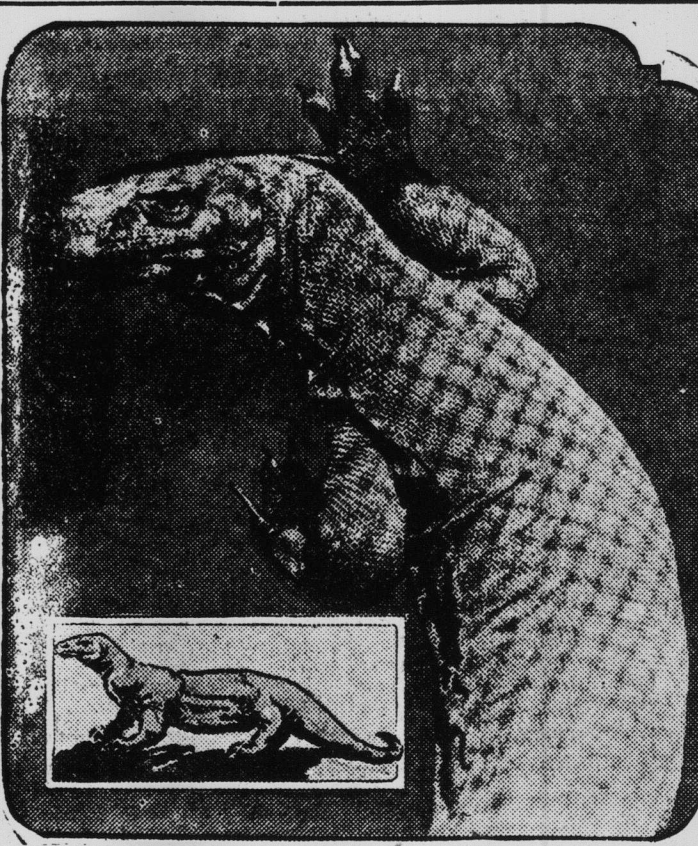
Rowntree's 5¢ Chocolate Specialties

Assorted Cream Tablets

Four different bars. Rich cream centres. Four delicious flavours—orange, raspberry or vanilla, thickly coated with delightful melon chocolate.

Rowntree's—a taste of Old England

Out of Ooze Into Zoos



Well, if here isn't granddaddy Varanus Komodoensis himself, reared up against a wall at the Bronx Zoo, New York, and looking around at the juvenile world!

OUT of a Lost World such as Conan Doyle described into a new world of bars and cages and staring eyes, two great dragons of the South Seas have established themselves here, little caring what happens to them as long as they have their chickens or goats or twenty pounds of round steak daily.

Outside of their cage is a placard announcing that the two forked-tongued monsters are "Varanus Komodoensis." Which is merely the family name of what is probably the oldest pure-blooded race on earth today. For the armored, spike-spined reptiles, according to Dr. Raymond L. Ditmars, curator at the Bronx Zoo, are of a species that is more than one million years old.

The tiny lizard of the woods is a cousin of the new-found dragon, but a cousin far removed. For the Giant Monitor—another name for the newly discovered reptile—grows to a length of eight or nine feet, and has a body thicker than a man's.

And the monitor doesn't crawl, as does his puny relative. He runs on his short, stubby legs and can outdistance a Nurni or a Paddock. And his tail is no useless appendage that is dragged along. He can do all sorts of damage by thrashing it—knock an enemy off its feet or break up a cage, as the case may be. The largest of three of the dragons captured on the island of Komodo, captured by completely wrecking the strong crate in which it was placed.

Douglas Burden, curator of the American Museum of Natural History, organized the expedition to seek the Varanus among the Dutch East Indies, where they had been reported by a Dutch explorer. They took cages from the New York Zoo, and the heaviest of bear traps, and a small arsenal of hunting rifles.

East of Java, they landed with difficulty upon the island. While merrily upon the island, the party found the lost world, and the dinosaurs' inhabitants.

The monitors have great claws instead of webbed feet. Their heads are large and fierce, with jaws of sharp, curved teeth. They do breathe smoke and flame as the story books would have them, but they do make a loud hissing noise as of steam escaping from some infernal region.

The sex of the two dragons has not been determined. Whatever it is, the sex is the same, for it is determined by the width of the skull, and there is no data obtainable on this species. Anyway, until more specimens are captured, at least, there will be no baby dragons in America.

A Thought

Judge not according to the appearance.—John 7:24.

HUMAN judgment is finite, and it ought always to be charitable.—William Winter.

Sea-Sawing Along Broadway

I HAVE been told that insomnia and restless sleepers can chart their whereabouts as surely as a shipper can chart his course. Instead of compass and sextant they depend upon night noises for their sense of place.

Even the frogs, they tell me, have tunes that vary with their geographic residence; the hay fields sigh differently from other fields and there is a dainty about the faint trembling of a giant California redwood immediately recognizable to the sensitive ear.

And so it goes.

INNUMERABLE writers and poets have tried to interpret the "voice of the city." But the night voice of Manhattan I have learned, after several experiments, has nothing to do with traffic, or taxis, or rattling subways and elevated, or whistles of millions of feet along the sidewalk.

Given a fairly central location, the sounds one hears in the faint hours of the morning are, strangely enough, not of the city at all, but of the sea.

It is the boat whistles from the several rivers that come piping in many boys to the restless sleepers, when all other sounds are stilled.

HEALTH SERVICE

Fatigue Remedy Found To Be Mild Laxative

By DR. MORRIS FISHEIN.

ALMOST every soda fountain, and certainly every drug counter, contains some preparation which is alleged to have particular virtues in overcoming that "tired feeling."

Man has constantly sought some panacea that would by a single dose remove the effects of wear and tear just as he has sought some potent remedy to rejuvenate the feebleness of the aged.

A few years ago a German pharmacologist, Embden, started the world with the statement that acid sodium phosphate, given in small doses, would overcome fatigue.

MUSCULAR THEORY.

Based on the view that muscles by their activities use up phosphorus, he decided that an additional supply of phosphorus would prevent the inevitable tiredness that comes with too much work. He gave the workers in a certain mine a drink containing about 75 grams of acid sodium phosphate on the morning of days when they were to undergo hard exertion.

Other workers were given a similar drink without the phosphate. Embden claimed that the workers who received the drink were able to do more work and for longer periods than those who did not receive the acid sodium phosphate.

Unfortunately experiments since made on this subject have failed to substantiate Embden's views. Dr. F. B. Flinn, of the United States Public Health Service, carried out a similar series of experiments on persons engaged in manual labor.

MILD LAXATIVE.

He found that the acid sodium phosphate does not increase muscular efficiency, although persons who took the drink seemed to feel better than those who did not.

Acid sodium phosphate has long been known as a laxative. Although doses recommended by Embden were smaller than the amount usually used for laxative purposes, they were still

Fashion Fancies.

This Black Velvet Evening Wrap Follows the New Silhouette.



The dolman silhouette, much heralded for the winter season, seems more suited to the wrap for evening than to the serviceable daytime model.

For instance, the wide blouse back and rather generous armhole of this velvet wrap make it essentially a cloak to be worn in less active hours.

Supple silver cloth makes the cloak of many folds which extends in a wide band down the closing side of the front, much as the flat fox collars do. An unusual note is seen in the white fox cuffs, used with the contrasting collar.

ON YOUR SLEEVE.

A becoming way to finish the sleeve of an afternoon gown is to use a wide accordion-pleated ruffle.

USE PINK OR ROSE.

On the new shades of blue, particularly the royal and grayish blues, pink or rose is a good contrast color to use for piping and trimmings.

COLORED FURS.

Colored furs are very smart this season, and one finds pink, white and mauve ermine coats, where once all was snowy white.

FOR YOUNG GIRL.

A fanciful frock for a young girl is made of white georgette crepe and trimmed with a flock of blue birds embroidered in blue silk.

WOOLEN FLOWERS.

Woollen flowers in tight little bouquets are used in the buttonholes of the new tailormades.

BEHIND THE SCREEN



Greta Nissen.

WHEN Greta Nissen first came to this country from her native Scandinavia several years ago, and played the role of the Princess on "The Beggar on Horseback," her dancing was the talk of Broadway. Critics prophesied the movies would be seeking her services and a short time later Greta gave up her dancing to sign a contract with Famous Players-Lasky.

Since she wasn't the usual ingenue type they converted her into a vamp. Greta made some pictures for them and in each one she was the wicked siren.

Poor Greta, she hated the parts she was playing and film critics in their reviews commented on her beauty, but all agreed she couldn't act. Yet in the Follies her sunny personality had captivated blasé audiences.

Discouraged by her work and impatient because long hours at the studio gave her no time to practice her dancing, Greta again went to work. He not only gave her a contract but allowed her to arrange her own scene in his revue.

Again Greta proved her ability, all her old sparkle returned, and directors of light comedy began to regard her in a new light. Now Famous Players-Lasky have given her a role in "The Poplar Sin."

Because Greta was a Scandinavian they thought she must be suited to fit a square peg into a round hole to play the role of a queen.

Now it has been recognized that in spite of her ancestry she is well suited to sophisticated comedy and Greta's ready to give the Kings just one more trial to prove that this type of acting is her forte.

The Rhyming Optimist

When I read of ancient sages, men of distant climes and ages, much I marvel at their majesty and might; when I hear their voices thunder down from constarps I wonder at those souls which soared so loftily in flight. I, by contrast, go unlettered, yet serenely, all unfettered by the doubts that dogged the footsteps of the great. I am free from aching yearning, from ambition, ever burning, safe from envy's shafts that splendid lives create. Knowing just life's simple phases, I am humble as the daisies; yet I love, as they, the shade and shower and sun. Though unlettered, all Earth's sweetness comes to me in its completeness, and I joy in all the beauty time has spun.

TWO-COLORED HATS.

The newest felt hats come in two colors, with a darker or contrasting color for the brim. Red and tan, and gray and blue are popular combinations.

SHIRRED VELVET HATS.

Hats made of shirred velvet, using two or three shades, are very soft and flattering, and something of a change.

CIRCULAR INSERTS.

A black lace dinner gown of unusual charm has circular inserts of black satin ribbon perched on the shoulder.

Afternoon pumps are made of black ottoman silk with discreet strappings of silver leather.

It looks creamy
It tastes creamy
It is creamy

Your Girls Deserve Good Candy

I'VE taught my girls to make good candy at home. What fun they have when friends come candy-making night comes round! Carnation Milk takes all worry and uncertainty away from candy-making. One reason why our candy's always good. Good, too, because Carnation adds that rare creamy smoothness and truly delicious flavor.

Carnation is just pure, fresh milk, evaporated to double richness, kept safe by sterilization. Diluted, it takes the place of ordinary milk. As it comes from the can, it takes the place of cream. Order from your grocer several cans or a case of 48 cans.

CREAM TAFFY.—Two cups sugar, 1 cup Carnation Milk, 1 tsp. vanilla, ¼ cup corn syrup (light), ¼ cup water, 1 tbsp. butter. Put sugar, corn syrup and water into a sauce pan, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Cook until 248°F. is reached. Then add the Carnation Milk and butter and cook slowly, stirring constantly until 258°F. is reached. Remove from fire and pour on a greased platter. When cool enough to handle, pour vanilla in center of mass. Pull up the corners, lift from the platter, and pull until light in color and porous. This yields 1 1/5 pounds.

Send for a free copy of Mary Blake's Cook Book. Address: Carnation Milk Products Company, Limited, Aylmer, Ontario.

Two sizes—tall and small. The label is red and white. 20.



Carnation Milk

"From Contented Cows" Produced in Canada