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Features

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Features

Dorothy Dix

Wives, Don't Let Motherhood Crowd Out Your Love for Your Husband, for Nothing Will Separate Him From You More Quickly Than to Regard Him Merely as "The Children's Father."



DOROTHY DIX

WE HAVE a theory that children form the strongest tie that binds a married couple together. Sometimes this is true physically, for many a man and woman endure the misery of an unhappy marriage for the sake of the helpless young creatures that they have brought into the world.

BUT children separate their parents just as often as they unite them, and if the true co-repondent in many a divorce case was named, it would be neither a vamp in silky clothes and long jade earrings, nor a vanished, haired jazz band, but a bald-headed, pink infant with its fist in its mouth, and whose seductions were carried on by means of gurgles and goes and other inarticulate sounds.

For in many a marriage the first rift within the love comes with the first baby. The first cloud on many a domestic horizon is the size and shape of a feeding bottle. Many a man finds in the cradle the fatal rival who steals his wife's heart from him. Many a man is driven away from his own fireside and is driven away from his own humanity that who always sides with the child.

UP TO the time of the baby's arrival, everything had been happy and peaceful and joyous. The man had been cock of the walk, with the household revolving around him. He had been the centre of the universe to his wife. She had dressed herself to look beautiful in his eyes. She had striven to please him. She had been his pal and lover to him.

But with the advent of the baby all was changed. The man found himself deposed as king, with none so poor as to do him reverence. His wife no longer considered his taste, or his happiness, or his pleasure. The baby was her sole thought.

She no longer doted herself up, because baby tore at her chiffons. She was never willing to go anywhere of an evening because she couldn't leave her baby. She answered at random when he talked to her because she was listening for baby's cry, and she was frankly glad when he would go out by himself because that left her free to indulge in her child worship.

WHAT wonder that a man so circumstanced takes his hurt vanity for consolation to some woman who lets him see that she considers his conversation more interesting than the babbling of a babe? What wonder that he finds other playmates when his wife prefers nursery games to going to places of amusement with him? How inevitable that he should grow indifferent to a wife who shows him every day in every way what a secondary place he occupies in her heart!

THOUSANDS of men who would have been good, loving, faithful husbands to the end are alienated from their wives and literally pushed into other women's arms by their wives' discussing passion for motherhood.

FOR to many women their husbands are merely their children's father. They do not exist as either men or husbands, with any rights as such. Still less do their wives feel that there is any necessity of cajoling, charming, amusing or considering them.

THEIR business in life is to work and provide the children with food and clothes and college educations and automobiles and whatever else their extravagant youthful fancy may take them to in their demands. They are pitiless in the sacrifices they exact.

Because fresh country air is good for children, thousands of women shut up their homes every summer and take their broods of youngsters to the mountains or sea, leaving husbands to toil through a hot summer alone in the city, with no comfortable home to come to at night, no good dinner awaiting him. Because the children want fine clothes, and to go to fashionable schools, and live in a smarter neighborhood, many a woman works her husband to death.

CRUELEST of all the wrongs that these women, who are all mother and no wife, do their husbands is the way that they monopolize their children, and make a sort of close corporation which excludes their father from them. In some indefinable way it is always mother and the children against father. Mother, who is always trying to get things done for her children. Mother, who always sides with them against father. Often mother criticizes father to the children and cheapens him in their eyes.

SURELY life holds no bitterer situation for a man than this: To have toiled like a slave for his family; to have worked while they played; to have gone shabby while they were resplendent, and then to be robbed of his wife's affection by his children and defrauded of his children's love by his wife. To get neither love, nor gratitude, nor appreciation. To be just the human cash register that they punch for all they can get.

IT IS a wicked thing that a woman does when she permits herself to love her children more than she does her husband, and to put them above him. She cheats him when she does it and falls in her duty as a wife. And it is a foolish thing she does and shortsighted, because in a little while her children grow up and marry and go about their business, and then she is left desolate if she has lost her husband's love.

DOROTHY DIX

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Feminist Movement Extends Even To Walking Sticks



By MME. LISBETH
WOMEN have had the vote for several years and they are quickly assimilating the knowledge and adroitness necessary to rival men in the business world. They have learned to smoke the cigarette with class. And now they have taken another of men's treasured possessions and are using it in a feminine form. That is the walking stick. Swagger sticks they have carried for some time, but the idea seems to grow and elaborate.

For instance, in the sketch to the right above is a walking stick which has attached to it a vanity case, rouge container, flaconette cigarette case and a match safe. All this is topped by a Dresden china doll as a handle for the cane. It is a far cry from the gentlemanly walking stick or even from the swagger stick which so recently satisfied "the fair."

At the left of the picture is sketched a pretty little dinner frock that is made elaborate by the trimmings. The frock was developed in a soft shade of green and the bodice and girdle are of crystal beads with a wide fringe of ostrich feathers forming a deeply scalloped hem on the skirt.

STYLE WHIMISIES

Garter watches have been introduced in Mayfair. They are about one-half inch in diameter and are set in jeweled garters about three-quarters of an inch in width. The garters have a buckle and strap, like an ordinary wrist watch and fasten just below the wearer's right knee. The watch face appears on the left-hand side.

Silk and wool combinations are mentioned as sponsored by style experts abroad. The skirt of silk is worn with a woolen jacket trimmed with the silk of the skirt.

MENUS For the Family

SUGGESTION.

If you have an old-fashioned range with no thermometer, here are some ways of managing it: If the oven becomes too hot place a basin of cold water in it. If "broiling" fails to take place a few sugar lumps placed on the oven shelf will turn the trick. If you wish to test the heat of the oven a white unglazed bit of paper will brown in three minutes in a quick oven, in 15 minutes in a moderate oven, and not at all in a slow oven.

WINTER SALADS.

The value of salads, especially during the winter months when they are so scarce, has long been appreciated. Salad plants have occupied a prominent place on the menu since the earliest times, although the ancients served them as a first course, or appetizer, and not with the meal, as the practice now is. The leading dietitians have said that a salad made from fruits or vegetables should be a daily feature on the table of every well-regulated household for the reason that they are very palatable and have a high nutritive worth.

PINEAPPLE SALAD.—One cup cubed pineapple, one-half cup halved grapes, one-quarter cup chopped marshmallows, salad dressing, head lettuce.

Combine pineapple, grapes and marshmallows; add the creamy salad dressing and mix lightly. Serve on lettuce leaf, allowing two heaping tablespoons for each individual.

Flapper Fanny Says



Silly questions are the ones your kid sister asks you, and you can't answer.

NEW FLOWERS.

Velvet and metal cloth are used to make most exotic looking flowers that give a note of interest to evening gowns of colored velvet or chiffon.

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Fashion Fancies

Is Combined With Crystals



What could be more flattering to a pretty complexion than blonde chiffon, with bands of crystals? The dress above makes the most of this delightful combination, using only slender bands of crystals to lighten the charm of the soft chiffon. The short bolero jacket is an interesting note, also the fullness of the graceful skirt, concentrated at four points.

A Thought

Be not wise in your own conceits.—Romans, 22:16.

THE cuckoo drinks the celestial juice of one mango tree, and is not proud; the frog drinks swamp water and quacks with conceit.—Varuki.

USE FEATHERS.

Chiffon evening frocks are a bit more sophisticated than they were last season, and often are given an unusual effect by the use of ostrich feathers shaded from light to dark in the color of the frock.

NO BACKS.

Attractive combinations of silk and lace to be worn under evening gowns are made without backs, so that they may do service under the most low cut evening gown.

POPULAR COLORS.

Yellow and green are being promoted as the most popular colors for winter resort costumes.

Stop that Howl!

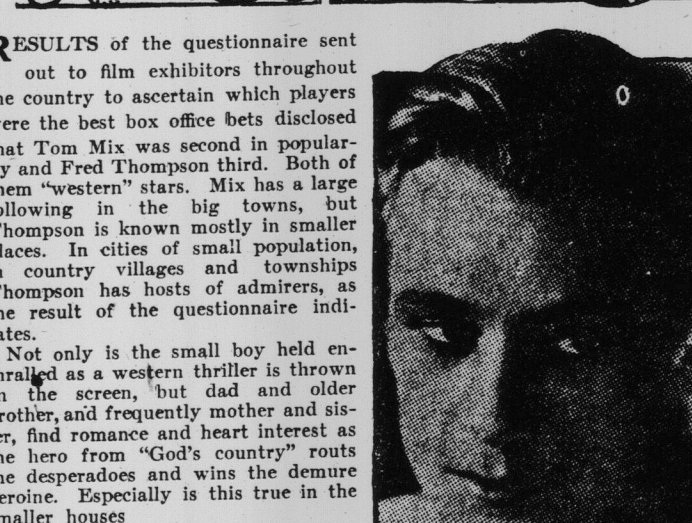
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BEHIND THE SCREEN



Gary Cooper

RESULTS of the questionnaire sent out to film exhibitors throughout the country to ascertain which players were the best box office bets disclosed that Tom Mix was second in popularity and Fred Thompson third. Both of them "western" stars. Mix has a large following in the big towns, but Thompson is known mostly in smaller places. In cities of small population, in country villages and townships Thompson has hosts of admirers, as the result of the questionnaire indicates.

Not only is the small boy held enthralled as a western thriller is thrown on the screen, but dad and older brother, and frequently mother and sister, find romance and heart interest as the hero from "God's country" routs the desperados and wins the demure heroine. Especially is this true in the smaller houses.

Tom Mix is the best known exponent of this type of acting. First National has Ken Maynard, and F. B. O. has Fred Thompson. Now Paramount has launched a new "western" star on the road to film fame. He is Gary Cooper and is to become a star in his own name. Only 25, Cooper lived on a Montana ranch until eight years ago, when he left home to complete his schooling. He is now working opposite Clara Bow in "It." Immediately after its completion he will star in "The Last Outlaw" and later "Arizona Bound."

A survey carried on by a motion picture exhibitors' magazine in California disclosed the fact that Colleen Moore ranks as the best offer bet in pictures. A list of 240 names of screen players was submitted to 2,471 exhibitors and Colleen Moore led with 28 more votes than Tom Mix. Fred Thompson, Western star, was one of the surprises of the poll, coming in with three votes behind Mix. Harold Lloyd ranked fourth and Hoot Gibson fifth.

Thus far Hollywood has discovered no arbitrary preparatory school for directors. One of its most successful directors is said to have been a barber. George Archambault was a civil engineer and, Clarence Brown, an automobile salesman.

THE second woman on the list and sixth in rating was Norma Talmadge. Mary Pickford was seventh, just six votes ahead of her husband, Douglas Fairbanks. Next in order were Thomas Meighan, Reginald Denny, Milton Sills, Richard Dix, Lon Chaney, Buck Jones, Norma Shearer, Gloria Swanson, Wallace Berry, Bebe Daniels, Corinne Griffith, Jack Holt, Constance Talmadge, Rin Tin Tin, Jackie Coogan, Marion Davies, Charles Chaplin and Richard Barthelmess.

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See-Sawing On Broadway

No custom of the rural districts has lost itself so to many comic cracks as that of "going down to see the train come in."

I have no doubt that, with the age of autos and radios, this charming old pastime went out.

But in New York it remains a pathetic and popular sport.

I know a man who goes to Grand Central Station at least twice a week to meet the incoming train from Indiana. Catching him at it recently he said, rather wistfully:

"Well, you see I almost always see somebody I used to know, and in a place like New York it's certainly grand to meet somebody from home and hear all the home news. Then, too, the train brings the most recent newspapers. I buy them from the news butcher and go to my office and read them."

There is another man I know who, every few months, goes into the New York depot just to read the big train schedules. On this schedule is the name of his home town and he likes to convince himself that trains still run there in case he decides to take one.

It is not likely that either will ever go back, but there are innumerable thousands who yearn for the "old home" but who admit they wouldn't know just what to do if they went back. They haven't enough money to retire and they feel they couldn't hold just an "ordinary job" or undertake a business venture all over again.

And so they just go along yearning, never seeming to be able completely to adjust themselves to the complex social life of the great city. Their inclinations are to be chummy and friendly and neighborly and these desires are not so easily realized in the larger cities.

MUCH has been written of this loneliness in the midst of millions of people. It will always seem to me that these very lonely ones, never have learned how to lean on themselves and have too long found it necessary to restrict their lives to minor social contacts.

Somewhat, in spite of my sympathy for them, I have felt that their predicament was largely due to their own limitations and that New York was not entirely to blame.

After all there is no place beneath the globe where more distractions are open to those who seek them and when opportunities for colorful and unpremeditated adventure are greater. An imaginative and pliant nature can be diverted in endless ways.

But, comes the answer, this does not take the place of contentment and companionship, but not, of course, those so close and chummy as in the home town. One must adjust oneself to the sort offered.

I take the liberty, for these few paragraphs, of argument and philosophy, not because it is the province of such a daily letter as this, but because the reader may be considering coming to New York and can take stock of his attitudes.

There are quite enough people in New York now who go down to meet the trains from Indiana and way points.

GILBERT SWAN.

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