

## SIDETALKS.

By Ruth Cameron.

### THE OFFENSIVE DEFENSIVE.

A great many times when you think your partner in the great game of marriage is attacking you, he is really defending himself. A general once said in war the best defence is a good attack. A marriage is nothing like that. I think that there are married couples who do not, to a certain extent, use just these tactics. A husband has forgotten to do an errand, he comes home fearing to do so about it and, in order to ward off an attack, he begins a counter-attack, when his wife is so busy, for her to ask him to do errands. She will wear him out if she isn't careful and then where will she be? If he goes at it with sufficient violence, he probably has his wife apologizing for asking him to do an errand instead of blaming him for not having done it.

**The Wife's Counter Attack.**

The wife goes to a bridge party and is late home and has to throw together an unsatisfactory dinner. Fearing she will be attacked on this ground, she hastily begins a counter attack based on the fact that all the other women at the club have maids and she is the only one who has to hurry home.

It is much harder to put this thing over on a husband, but she may manage it if she hasn't let him get the upper hand.

But it is more often the husband

who employs the defensive offense. And the wife who smarts with a sense of injustice that he should go at her like that, when she is the injured one. If she understood that it was a sense of guilt rather than a sense of injury (as he pretends) that animates him, she might understand him and be able to handle him better.

### Easier To Forgive.

You can forgive a person if you know he has a guilty conscience much better than if you feel he has no sense of having offended.

Over the desire married folks have to make each other feel guilty. "To marry," says Stevenson, "is to domesticate the recording angel."

And a very clever short story writer has this illuminating paragraph about a divorced couple:

"Alta, in common with so many wives, had always possessed the power of making her husband feel guilty. In old times with just a glance or an infection of the voice she could make him feel the lowest of criminals. And rage as he might, he found this power had persisted. Love may not always endure until death do them part, but the ability of married people to



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make each other feel guilty endures to the grave, and possibly beyond."

### He Is Saying It.

A woman once said to me, "If my husband would ever say to me that he was wrong in anything it seems to me I should be perfectly happy. But we have been married nine years and as far as I can see he has never been wrong in anything. He will be awfully nice sometimes after we have had any trouble, but he never says he is sorry or that he was to blame. I expect I shall die without ever hearing him admit that he is wrong."

I expect she will—and a good many other women, too. But if it's any comfort, they can know that his most bullying manner is often tacit admission of that sense of guilt they long to know exists.

### Concerning Golf Balls.

The fisherman who has been the butt of the humorists for years past with his tall story of "the big fellow that just got away," told in a thousand different forms and guises, may soon be deposed from the seat of honor in the club smoking room and the parlor car of the "Special" by the golfer. Not that tales of infinite adventure and unbounded imagination are new to golfers. At the nineteenth hole the eight foot putt will gradually expand under the mellowing influence of the libations poured in honor of "The Colonel" until the shades of night begin to fall they are like the serpent of Mendes Plato's "infinite not heard of the man whose ball was 'quite hidden in the rough' from his drive at the long hole and yet "the best shot I ever made" landed it right in the hole.

The fisherman has grown more disgusted as his Munchausen tales of the ten-pounder are ridiculed and they compare their own fisher-craft with the "depressing spectacle of two normal men poking at a stationary ball into a comparatively large pot."

So the battle wages and the devotees of the art and the calling (for "golf" is now a profession, it's called) as the Baillie said) invent new stories and romantic writers arise to uphold their respective causes. The latest arrival is the story of the crow who pounced on the golf ball after the drive magnificent had carried it into a bunker. How like a crow. There indeed is a touch of reality. A dove would have tucked it under its wing and laid it gently on the soft and verdant green near the pin. But a crow never. He sees the crow and, being a crow, he knows the sort of language your every-day golfer uses when he lands there, so he drops it in the sand and flies off with a few hoarse croakings by way of giving the golfer a bit of a lead in the language test.

The story has great possibilities in it. A gun loaded with bird shot may in future be carried in the golf bag and with a little ingenuity a combination Schmeckady putter and double barreled breech-loader might be devised. Of course there is a little difficulty that may be apparent to your real golfer—as opposed to the nineteenth hole variety. It is not every crow that can get a whole golf ball in its mouth. It is the only hitherto recorded case the crow held "the fragment of the cover," indeed. Go tell it at St. Andrews. Balls have been sliced and cut, bruised and battered by beginners, but what sort of a player can so assault his ball with driver, brassie or niblick that a crow can pick his ball up by the cover?

Shades of Tom Morris, man, "this is no govt."

**Church Gains in Canada.**

Nine Canadian Church divisions have gone above the \$50,000 mark in increased membership, according to the sixth religious census, taken in 1921 and recently made public. The figures for the larger denominations are: Roman Catholics, 3,383,663; Presbyterians, 1,408,812; Anglicans, 1,407,950; Methodists, 1,188,744; Baptists, 421,750; Lutherans, 287,494; Greek Church, 169,822; Jews, 125,190; Mennonites, 53,797. The census report is this summarized by the Pittsburgh Christian Advocate (Methodist) from The Christian Guardian, organ of the Methodist Church of Canada:

"Of the larger denominations, the Anglicans have made the largest percentage of gain during the decade, having grown from 14.47 per cent. of the population to 16.02 per cent. The Presbyterians also have gained ground, increasing from 15.45 per

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