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Billie Burke

ON THE STAGE AS VOCATION.
By Billie Burke

FIRST WORD—For the girl who has talent, the stage offers a splendid opportunity.

A number of young persons, both men and women, have written me asking for advice about going on the stage. While I cannot answer these letters except in a general way through the papers, I would like to say that for the young woman who has talent, the stage today offers great possibilities; but here's the rub. One must be sure one has talent.

The path to stardom is strewn with blighted ambition and broken hearts. A girl sees her favorite actress on the stage wearing beautiful clothes, having a nice part, and gaining vociferous applause, and it is very natural that she should think that she would like to have such an easy place in life. She cannot know of the discouragements that this actress has gone through before she reached her place.

Every year thousands of girls go on the stage in the different companies in England and in America, and out of the thousands probably one will reach the top. If you have health, energy and the right kind of stamina to withstand not only the temptations that comes to every woman who goes out in the world to work, but the discouragements that come perhaps thicker and faster to the would-be actress than to the girl in any other employment, then I for one would not discourage you. If, however, you think only of the adulation, the lights, the flowers, and the notoriety which may come to you, you had better stay away.

A famous actress, when asked what success in her profession meant, said: "Hard work, and many tears." It is the one profession where the thing that you succeed in counts little.

An actor friend of mine said to me recently—and he is a man well up in his profession—"I sometimes think I will hire out in a butcher shop. After learning once to cut beef well, I would probably be able to cut it well ever after. But having acted one part successfully. I must begin a totally different manner on the next part which I secure—and there is always the dreadful feeling on first night that the dear public will turn down its thumbs."

However, the stage is the only place where a woman can get the same amount of money for the same kind of work in the field of business or art today. Indeed, a leading woman in a high-class company today gets more money than the leading man of that company.

I always feel, though, when any one comes to me and asks how they shall go on the stage that they will not succeed, because the temperament which asks advice in this matter is not the temperament that is independent enough to work out its own success.

Sincerity is perhaps the greatest asset of the actor, and after that comes observation. But one must add to

MISS BILLIE BURKE

these splendid health and unbounded energy. It does not matter so much if one have beauty; in fact, I am not sure that great beauty is not a detriment. The greatest actresses upon the stage today are not beautiful women.

JUST ONE LAST WORD—To you who are thinking of going on the stage, let Billie Burke whisper: "An actress' life is not all cakes and ale." And please don't write me personal letters asking advice on stage ambitions.

Ask Your Doctor

And why not? Yet some people act as if a medicine could take the place of a doctor! The best medicine in the world cannot do this. If we did not believe doctors endorsed Ayer's Cherry Pectoral for coughs and colds, we would not offer it to you.

J. C. Ayer Co., Montreal, Canada.

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"I owe my life and my baby's good health to your Compound."—Mrs. W. O. Spencer, R. F. D., No. 2, Troy, Alabama.

"I have three children and took your Compound each time."—Mrs. John Howard, Wilmington, Vermont.

"I have a lovely baby boy and you can tell every one that he is a 'Pinkham' baby."—Mrs. Louis Fischer, 32 Munroe St., Carlstadt, N. J.

"We are at last blessed with a sweet little baby girl."—Mrs. G. A. Laperouse, Montegut, La.

"I have one of the finest baby girls you ever saw."—Mrs. C. E. Goodwin, 1012 S. 6th St., Wilmington, N.C.

"My husband is the happiest man alive today."—Mrs. Clara Darbrake, 397 Marilla St., Buffalo, N.Y.

"Now I have a nice baby girl, the joy of our home."—Mrs. Dosylva Cote, No. 117 So. Gate St., Worcester, Mass.

"I have a fine strong baby daughter now."—Mrs. A. A. Giles, Dewittville, N. Y., Route 44.

"I have a big, fat, healthy boy."—Mrs. A. A. Balenger, R.F.D No.1, Baltimore, Ohio.

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What Good Form Demands

BECAUSE Patty was Patty and very sweet and pretty, the Real Man became a constant visitor at the Livingstone home; there were other reasons, as well, that made it an attractive haunt for the various young men of Patty's circle. As the Real Man told his sister, it was the "homiest" home that he knew of, and she, with a woman's insight, soon saw that this pleasing atmosphere was due to the fact that the Livingstone family was so well bred.

In many homes there are company manners, put on like one's best clothes when there are visitors, and discarded at other times. Mrs. Livingstone, however, had always felt that good manners are as requisite within the home privacy as in public, and it was this daily practice in the courtesies of life that made her family so attractive to outsiders.

In the first place, Mr. and Mrs. Livingstone set an example to their children by always appearing in perfect agreement before them. No matter how they differed on a subject, any discussion took place only behind closed doors, and before the children they appeared in perfect accord. Whatever Father told one of the children to do was always seconded by Mother, and vice versa; so the children knowing there was no court of appeal, yielded their parents a cheerful and respectful obedience. If one of the children had to be corrected for a fault, it was never done before the others, nor before the servants, and the children never heard themselves discussed before visitors, upon any occasion.

Cheerfulness was exacted. After all, it is nothing but a habit and one of those habits which sweeten life and show perfect breeding. When a business deal went against him, Herbert Livingstone, Sr. did not retire behind the morning paper in savage gloom. When he lost his marbles on the way home from school, Herbert Livingstone, Jr., a faithful counterpart of his father, smiled and pretended that he did not care. Petty ailments were never complained about at the family gatherings, bad colds and headaches being tabooed subjects. Family interests were frequently discussed in family gatherings at which all were present, thus giving even the youngest child a sense of responsibility, but these discussions never took place at meal-time when the servants were present. Indeed, the conversation at a family dinner among the Livingstones was just what it would have been had their most distinguished acquaintance been present, a bright and pleasing discussion of general topics.

Another point in family courtesy is that the various members should be taught to respect each other's privacy. Each child, even the youngest, has a right to open his own letters and should be taught never to read the letters of others except by special permission.

There are times, also, when one wishes to be alone, and such times should be respected. If Patty received a disappointing letter, and ran to her room for a good cry, she knew gratefully that no one would disturb her, and that there would be no impertinent questions from anybody as to the redness of her eyes when she reappeared.

"Politeness is an attitude of heart," some one has wisely said, and, in a well-red family, consideration for all must be shown. Of course, there was good-natured teasing among the Livingstones, but it ceased when the victim began to grow sensitive and the children's mistakes and weaknesses were never told outside the family. On that point, indeed, Mrs. Livingstone was most particular, for any disloyalty to the family is the height of ill breeding. You may feel that your brother is making a mistake, you may know that he is imposing upon you, but in the same self-respect and courtesy, settle the matter with him alone, and do no tell he neighbors abou it. The motto of every family should be; "Keep Faith." Line up together proudly, and present an unbroken front to the outside world.

—McCall's Magazine

IN THE big, roomy house or in the small cottage there is always some cold corner where extra heat is needed.

PERFECTION SMOKELESS OIL HEATER

Solid Comfort in Cold Weather

gives you heat, where and when you want it. The new model Perfection Heater, just on the market, has improvements that make it the best heater ever made. No smoke—automatic-locking flame-spreader. No smell. Flat font insures steady heat. Indicator in sight. Burns nine hours on a gallon of oil. Finished with blue enamel or plain steel drums; nickel-plated. Stock at all chief points.

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Beauty Hints

SO far has the hustle and bustle atmosphere of the present day invaded our homes that we are constantly hearing women complain that they have no time to take care of themselves. Look at the average woman in the home—nails neglected, hair badly in need of care, heavy lines in her face, scraggy eyebrows and a figure way behind the times—a woman old beyond her years.

Ask that same woman why she has let herself go to seed, and nine cases out of ten the answer will be, 'I know it is true but I have no time." If you happen to be a good friend you should tell her that it behooves her to take a little time to keep herself up, even if she has to let the dust gather on the living-room furniture, or the silver becomes discolored in the dining room. And if this busy, tired little woman will take time to think things over she will find that there are dozens of ready-made helps that will take very little time to apply, but which will aid her in a very commendable effort to keep herself up to the mark.

To begin right at the break of day, half the women do not take proper care of their teeth. A dentist told me that many of he cases which come to him for attention, are caused purely and simply by the fact that women do not take time enough to clean their teeth properly. We all brush our teeth to be sure, but do we get every particle of food out morning and night? Did you know that you should brush up and down, with a brush that will fit the shape of the mouth and get into all the infinitesimal corners? Did you know that such a brush may be purchased in almost any drug store for a very little money? It might save you many a very uncomfortable trip to the dreaded dentist's chair, for a really clean tooth will seldom decay. In connection with a good brush you should select a prepared tooth paste, powder or lotion that agrees with the condition of your mouth.

Have you ever stopped think what a great help a bottle of vaseline will be to you? For instance, dandruff is a very common complaint among women who spend little time in caring for their hair, and yet nothing will detract more from a woman than an ill-kept head of hair. One of the simplest cures for dandruff is to apply vaseline to the scalp with the tips of the fingers every night for a week, and then shampoo the hair, drying in the open air and sunlight. Repeat this for several weeks, and the dandruff will disappear and your hair will be soft and fluffy. There is a vaseline which comes for just this purpose, combined with quinine, which acts as a tonic as well as a cleaner. Vaseline rubbed into the nails at night will keep them soft and prevent heir breaking; rubbed into the feet it will keep callous spots away and will nourish the flesh. It also has many useful medicinal qualities.

Shampooing the hair is very necessary, but no specific law can be laid down covering all cases. generally speaking, once a month is often enough, but there are cases of ery oily heads which should be shampooed every week. Blondes, as a rule, shampoo more often, as it tends to keep the hair light. Neither could one shampoo preparation fit all cases. There is a splendid shampoo already prepared for dry hair and still another for oily hair, and fair honest trials will tell you which suits you best. These prepared lotions will save you best. These prepared lotions will save you all the trouble of mixing them for yourself and do away with that old-fashioned and dangerous method to which some women still adhere—that of using washing soda, or a strong solution of borax in the shampoo water.

The woman does not live who can afford to neglect her hands and her nails. Yet stop and look at yours as you read that statement. Perhaps you, too, will argue that it takes so much time to keep them looking nicely; but this is not true if you will supply your dressing table with proper instruments and ready-made preparations to keep them up. It is impossible to think of a dainty woman with grimy, broken nails, and just a very few minutes every day will keep them shining and well-groomed as they should be. You must have the proper tools, and you will find already prepared such helps as a cuticle softener, a cuticle ice, a nail bleach, a rose-colored tint, and a good polish. In addition to this you can have, just for the asking, a little booklet giving in detail all the proper instructions for caring for the nails, written by a professional manicure, and if you will follow those instructions for just a few minutes every day, you will soon have a transformed hand.

WHITE MOUNTAIN CREAM.

This frosting is soft inside and has a glossy surface. It may be used for the base of numerous cake fillings.

Ingredients: 1 cup sugar; ½ cup boiling water; white of 1 egg; 1 teaspoon of vanilla or ½ teaspoon of lemon juice.

Combine the sugar and water, and place over a slow fire so that the sugar may be dissolved before the syrup begins to boil. When the sugar is dissolved, wash from the sides of the saucepan any granulations. This is nicely done by the use of a fork wound with a clean wet cloth. Cook rapidly. Do not stir or jar while boiling or it may grain. When cooked to 238 degrees by the sugar thermometer, or when it will spin a thread one inch long when dropped from the tines of a fork, pour in a fine steram over the stiffly beaten egg white. Beat constantly and continue beating until of the right consistency to spread on the cake and not run off.

The cooling process may be hastened by setting the dish containing the frosting in a dish of cold water. Beat occasionally while cooling.

If the frosting is not cooked long enough, it will run from the cake. This may be overcome by setting the dish containing the frosting in a dish of boiling water over the fire and beat while it cooks more. Remove to cool. If cooked too long it will become too hard to spread. This may be remedied by the addition of a few drops of lemon juice or a little cream of tartar, or a teaspoonful of boiling water. A little experience even without the sugar thermometer will give perfect results—Heart of the House, in Woman's World for February.

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You save money by using flour that bears this name. And you get better bread.

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