

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N.B., TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1926

INTERESTING

## A Feature Page of Interest to Everyone

INSTRUCTIVE

### Dorothy Dix

The Problem of the Wife Who is a Poor Housekeeper—Who Should Hold the Household Purse, Husband or Wife?—The Ideal Marrying Age for a Man.

DEAR DOROTHY DIX—I have been married more than a quarter of a century to a woman who is above the average mentally and is all right morally, but she is not a housewife. During all of this time there has never been a meal ready on time. More often than not, I have had to go to work without any breakfast, not even a cup of coffee unless I made it myself, and when I would come home after a ten-hour day's hard work I would find that dinner had not even been started nor planned for. Always I have lived in a house with a sink full of dirty dishes, beds unmade, floors unswept, everything higgledy-piggledy.

I have tried to bear this with patience, but falling health, largely due to the way I have been fed, has sapped my courage and I do not feel that I can endure it much longer.

There are two children, one is now making his own way with a good education back of him, and I am willing to skip to get the other through college. Life is too short to waste in quarrelling, so we have never quarrelled over these matters. But I have become desperate and I ask you, What would you do?

ANSWER: You are just twenty-five years too late at tackling your problem, my friend. You should have begun it in your honeymoon days. The first time your bride set you down to a meal that was first aid to the Corcoran.

There is nothing like getting off on the right foot, you know, and if you had made your wife understand at the very beginning that she had to toe the mark and hold up her end of the partnership just as well as you held up yours, and that you wouldn't put up with any slackness, you could have reformed her. Taking it by and large, the wife job is a pretty good one. At any rate, it is one that women desire to hold down, and if they thought that they would get fired if they didn't give good service, why, they'd give good service. That's all.

The woman who works outside of her home knows that she must be prompt and punch the time clock on the dot, and she does it. She knows that she can't loaf and idle and spend her days in work hours running the streets or lounging around reading novels and she doesn't attempt it, because if she did her employer would dismiss her.

But because a husband can't get rid of her, no matter how trifling and lazy she is, she goes back on her job if she is that kind of a woman, which is about the lower half of a woman can play on a man who is good and kind and generous to her.

As for a woman excusing herself by saying that she is not domestic, that is all foolery. Even an idiot can be taught to sweep a floor and make a bed and wash dishes, and there is no excuse for any woman on earth who can read but who is a good cook.

The courts grant women divorces from husbands for "failure to support." Failure to make a comfortable home should be equal grounds for divorce for a man from his wife.

And, believe me, many a shiftless housekeeper would get busy if she knew that her husband and pie and photographs of her kitchen sink and silverware would be Exhibits A and B and C and D in her husband's divorce suit.

When a man marries he should demand good housekeeping of his wife. If she refuses to make a comfortable home for him, he is perfectly justified in leaving her. If he doesn't care to do this, he should break up housekeeping and go to board with some woman who does know how to cook and keep things clean. This is the only way he can save his digestion and his nerves and his soul, and I advise you, Mr. X. Y. Z., to try it, even at this late date.

There is peace in family, in just accepting a thing and making it of it on that basis. Then you quit worrying over the impossible, over the things that make people do what they ought to and will not do, and that can never make them do.

And perhaps your wife has qualities of head and heart that alone for her not being a good housekeeper, and that you could appreciate if you were properly fed and not continually aggravated by her shiftless ways.

So my remedy for your trouble is a good boarding house or family hotel.

DEAR MISS DIX—Should the husband or the wife hold the household purse? And why?

ANSWER: Both. Considering that both put into it, neither one should have a monopoly of it.

Of course, the man earns the visible money, so to speak, but the money the wife earns by her actual labor as cook and housemaid and laundress and baby-tender and seamstress and scrubber and so on makes her contribution to the family exchequer of real monetary value. For if the wife did not do these things the husband would have to hire some other woman to do them.

Statistics estimate that it would cost \$40 a week to pay for the services that the average woman performs for her family. And such being the case, the wife has a tangible as well as a moral right to assist in the purse-bearing.

I believe that financial independence is the basis of all self-respect and happiness, and that neither husband nor wife has the right to enslave the other. Therefore a woman should not expect her husband to turn over all his earnings to her, nor should a man refuse to give his wife a fair proportion of his income as her own personal allowance.

The only happy couples are those who go fifty-fifty on the income proposition.

DEAR MISS DIX—What do you consider the best age for a young man to marry?

ANSWER: Around 30.

It is dangerous for a boy to marry before he is 25 because up to that time he is unformed, his tastes are shifting, his ideals are chaotic and he does not know what he himself wants in a wife.

Nearly every man who marries before 25 outgrows his wife and grows tired of her.

It is disastrous for the average man to marry very young for financial reasons, for matrimony shuts many doors of opportunity in his face. As a married man he cannot go to many places that would be advantageous to him and to which he could have gone as a single man.

Women who count on their fortune less interest in him once he has a wife. He can take no chances with a family hanging around his neck, and with wife and babies to support he can save no money to launch out for himself.

All of this bars the early marriage.

Against the late marriage in the forties is the fact that by then a man has grown old and wise, romance is dead in his heart. He has become selfish and wedded to his ways and lacks the ability to adapt himself to the give and take of married life.

But around 30 a man is at his prime. He has generally got sufficiently well established to afford a family. And above all, he is still young enough to be ardent and romantic, and old enough to have learned self-control and wisdom in dealing with women.

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Kellogg's ALL-BRAN

### Negligees and Undies Show Novel Features



By M. LISBETH.

THERE is no lack of originality in the garments designed for midday's boudoir. The richest and most colorful of materials are used, and if often the effect is a bit bizarre it is none the less interesting and suggestive of new ideas.

And speaking of things a bit bizarre, look at the exotic negligee (left). Heavy silver lace forms the upper part which is cut off in front just below the hips. Behind it spreads out into a long train which is edged with black fox fur. The neck is also finished with the fur. Black princess lace covers the wearer's legs below the cutaway section. Vivian Winston posed.

A much more dignified negligee with long flowing lines (centre) is fashioned of heavy shaded crepe. The sleeves are exceedingly wide and finished with tassels. Bands of silver braid form the girdle and edgings on the sleeves and train. The flower posed on the shoulder is transparent wax. Anna Q. Nilsson is designer and model.

A novel set of "undies" of black and white georgette (right) is cut into points at the bottom and trimmed with a large embroidered rose at one side. The upper part of the chemise is shaped in a deep V, laced down the back and tied with a tiny black bow.

Other lingerie of interest seen in recent showings may be summarized as follows: Palmettes, some mostly in printed silks. Black also is featured almost invariably trimmed with some bright color. Black trousers and tunic are trimmed with black, worn under a three-quarter length coat of printed silks with moderate tendencies and banded with black silk.

Pattern shades are favored in lingerie models with an occasional black of white. A lovely tulleous set was made of ivory satin with elaborate lace trimming. The number of lace-trimmed pieces is noticeable. Two-piece sets, chemise and step-in drawers, and combinations are shown in about equal numbers. Fullness and brevity are features of the smartest pieces.

THE budding beauty often turns out to be the wall flower of the family. ANOTHER sign of age is for people to begin telling you how young you look.

WHEN Paramount put Louise Brooks, of the Follies, under contract they also got a lot of fire. Louise may be young, but she has a lot of determination stored in the back of her head.

Recently Paramount announced she was to have the female lead opposite W. C. Fields, also late of the Follies, in "The Old Army Game."

When interviewed, Louise flashed these eyes of hers and said, "They may think I'm going to do the part, but I won't. I'm not going to play around with a funny man." So that's that!

The outcome remains to be seen. When, if ever, Pola Negri, Lya de Putti, from Hungary, exploited as "the rage of Europe," and the exotic Louise to work on the same lot three ought to be no dearth of excitement around the Famous Players' studio.

Before Miss Brooks broke into the movies, she was a Danish dancer, and for two years toured the country with the troupe. She joined the "Follies" for a short time, then went to Paris as a dancer in a cafe. Upon her return to this country Flo Ziegfeld signed her up for his "Follies."

Louise began to make folks sit up and take notice and she was given a specialty dance in "Louise the 14th," Leon Errol's show.

One day she dropped into the Paramount studio and got a small part in "The Street of Forgotten Men." Then came "The American Venus." When the filming of Adolphe Menjou's picture, "A Social Celebrity," began, Louise was cast as a manicurist. Somehow Greta Nissen left Famous Players and Louise, still a manicurist, was given the lead and her part rewritten.

For all her sophistication Louise is still very much thrilled with life (she's only 19) and she's getting a big kick out of her cinema success.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE STARS. April Fool's day seems to be popular with the movie stars, and they don't seem to mind the fact that they made their appearance on the funniest day of the year.

Is this your BIRTHDAY? MARCH 30—You are too much inclined to search for motive underlying other people's acts, and there is danger of unhappiness coming into your life through it. You should excel in a professional career. Beware of jealousy, and cultivate contentment and hopefulness. You should be happy in your married life if you "give and take." Your birthstone is a bloodstone, which means presence of mind. Your favorite color is white.

A Thought Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.—Gal. 6:9.

FOR his bounty, there was no winter in it; an autumn 'twas that grew the more by reaping.—Shakespeare.

A MADE opportunity is better than a found one.

### IN NEW YORK SEE SAWING UP and DOWN BROADWAY

ABOUT once a season something happens that reveals the "small town" that lies even within the great city of the world.

This "something" is generally an attraction—dramatic, artistic or musical—the first performance of which absolutely MUST be attended whatever the cost. It's absolutely heartbreaking if one can't crash in, somehow or other, and what it adds to one's prestige to be there! Timon. Every body important is always at such things. One simply can't afford to be left out.

The very qualities that Broadway laughs at in Main street come glaringly out at such times. And what a Roman holiday it is for the "scalpers" and the get-rich-quick ticket agencies.

ONE YEAR it is the Moscow Arts Theatre, and then, again, it is the Chauve Souris—and this season it is Raquel Meller, the Spanish artist.

I saw a great throng standing in front of the box office which bore a sign reading "Seats \$25."

Of course it is ridiculous to think decent seats could actually be had at that figure. Those who really cared to attend the opening night in "up" would pay a scalper at least \$100 a seat and figure at getting off rather cheaply at that.

New York managers have long since learned that one of the best methods of putting over a European star is to announce \$25 seats at the opening night.

However, if one is to believe the European reports, La Meller is worth \$200 a seat, if you can afford it.

HARRY THAW'S visits to Broadway "needed rests" from the effort of writing "the story of his life" which is reported going gallantly on in Philadelphia, "Hitting, or 'Somewhere in Pennsylvania'."

Harry, I am told, has at least five newspapermen on his payroll, some of whom act in the editorial capacity of running down "loose ends" while others write, edit and so on.

NOW that the various signs of spring have become commonplace, the signs of summer begin to loom: "Hitting, or 'Somewhere in Pennsylvania'."

So he rang Mike's doorbell, and pretty soon a voice called out sleepily: "Who's there?"

"It's me," called Mike. "I'm on my way to Scrub-Up Land to go spring-cleaning. I'll ride you over if you like."

"Oh, all right!" called Mike. "I never refuse a joy ride. Besides I can't see so very well and I'll be sure to get there."

So he climbed on too. The next place Mosey passed was the stone pile under which Chirk Chipmunk lived.

And he rang Chirk's doorbell. "Who's there and what do you want?" called Chirk by and by.

"I'm me!" called Mosey. "Spring's nearly here and you'd better be getting around, hadn't you? I'm on my way to Scrub-Up Land."

"Is buckwheat ripe yet, and are the corn cobs up?" asked Chirk.

GILBERT SWAN

### Menus for the Family

MENU HINT. Breakfast. Oranges. Rolled Oats with Cream. Corn Meal Cakes. Coffee.

Luncheon. Bacon Sandwiches. Jelly. Ginger Cakes. Apple Bananas.

Dinner. Veal and Pork Pie. Mashed Potatoes. Squash. Pen and Beet Salad with French Dressing.

Baked Apple Sauce. Plain Ginger Cakes. Coffee.

TODAY'S RECIPES. Veal and Pork Pie—One pound of veal, one-half pound of fresh pork, cut up small, put in stew until very tender and falling apart; then thicken the liquid, season with salt and pepper. Pour into a baking dish, with inverted cup in the centre. Cover the top with small baking powder biscuits and bake until golden brown.

Bacon Sandwiches—Crush crisp bacon and moisten with catsup. Spread on slices of white bread that are spread with peanut butter.

Plain Ginger Cakes—Stir one teaspoon of soda into one-half cup molasses. Add one-quarter cup of shortening in one-quarter cup of boiling water. Mix the molasses and soda with shortening and hot water. Then, add two cups of flour, sifted with one-half teaspoon of salt, one-half tablespoon ginger, one-half teaspoon cinnamon. Keep the dough soft but add more flour, if necessary, to roll well. Roll three-eighths inches in thickness. Dredge with granulated sugar and place a pecan on each.

Helpful Hints The proper care of house cleaning tools is true economy. If we neglect them it means constant outlay of new ones or the use of imperfect ones. To those of us who use carpet sweepers there is the right and wrong way to clean them. When the collected dirt is emptied from the pans, the brush should be slipped out and cleaned. To do this properly there is a little steel claw-like tool that removes all threads of hair and bits of string that wrap tightly around the tufts. This must be done gently and carefully. After the brush is carefully cleaned it may be put into lukewarm, soapy water and washed, rinsed and placed in the sunlight to dry. When dry, it may be slipped back in place.

If your kitchenette has no drawer space a knife box will take care of the cooking spoons and knives. For its food chopper, fruit press, potato masher and various other utensils, follow this procedure: On the inside of the lower cupboard door place a strong wooden box supported by shelf brackets far enough below the cupboard shelf so that when the door is closed the box clears it nicely. All you have to do is swing the door out and everything is right before you. It is easily kept clean with one of the vacuum cleaner attachments.

### ADVENTURES of the TWINS

by OLIVE ROBERTS BARTON

Mosey Mud Turtle opened his eyes at last. "My gracious goodness, so!" exclaimed Mosey. "Neither are the flies nor mosquitoes nor skippers here yet. But they'll all come in good time. You'd better come along before the March Hare gets after you. He's putting black marks after everybody's name who doesn't go to get spring-cleaned and the Fairy Queen will find it out."

"I'm coming! I'm coming!" said Chirk hastily, for he didn't want a black mark. All the wood and meadow people liked the Fairy Queen. She was the best friend they had.

Out came Chirk, and he got on Mosey's back, too. Then Mosey gathered up Tommy Toad and Frop Field Mouse and about six others, and off he went to Scrub-Up Land by the path that turned off at the little secret bush.

There he met the March Hare and the Twins almost flying in their haste to get away and find out what was wrong. The burglar alarm over Rubadub's wash-tub had been ringing like everything.

"Oh, so you're the burglar!" cried Nick as they all stopped.

"Yes, I'm the burglar," grinned Mosey. "I think I look more like a burglar than you."

To Be Continued

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