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INTERESTING

A Feature Page of Interest to Everyone

INSTRUCTIVE

Dorothy Dix

By Law the Man is Head of the House, But Too Often the Husband Defts His Authority at His Own Doorstep When He Should Bring His Business Talents to Bear on Home Problems.

A CORRESPONDENT asks: "Which should be the head of the house, the husband or the wife?" The law settles this question. The man is the official head of the house. He is the one who is held responsible for its upkeep. The wife takes the husband's name. He is liable for her sins and accountable for her conduct to a certain degree, and he legally dominates the home.

That is the theory. In actual fact, in this country, it is nearly always the wife who rules the roost. She elects her husband by her unanimous vote to the sinecure of being head of the household, while she runs the business.

In nine families out of ten it is the wife who picks out the home and decides in what style the family shall live; who establishes the family social status; who brings up the children according to her own plans and specifications; who picks out their schools, their religions, their clothes, their associates for them and settles every question concerning their welfare.

IN NINE homes out of ten the husband and father is little more than a figurehead, whose sole function is paying the bills. In the outer world he may be a man of great importance, a man whose words are pearls of wisdom, a man of whom other men stand in awe and respect.

But he defts his authority at his own doorstep and becomes a person of no importance in his own home, with none so poor as to do him reverence. Many a man who has led an army into battle and whose chest is covered with medals for bravery quakes in terror before the little two-by-four woman to whom he is married. Many a man who runs a trust can't make his little 15-year-old daughter hitch up her stockings and wash the paint off her face.

AND so, after one or two abortive efforts to assert his authority as head of the house, the average man saves his face by stepping quietly down and out and turning over the job to his wife.

This is a pity. And it may go a long way toward explaining what's the matter with the home and what's the matter with the present generation of youngsters.

Perhaps if the men who have the constructive genius that enables them to build up great enterprises would devote some of their time and talents to building up their own homes we should have better homes and fewer that are wrecked by divorce.

Perhaps if the men who have the skill and strength and firmness to guide and control hundreds of employes would apply some of their skill in handling men to their own children, we should not have so many girls and boys who are running wild, beyond all control.

OF COURSE, nobody wants any return to the old-fashioned head of the house, when the man did the heavy father stuff and turned his children out of his door into the cold and snows night if they dared to differ with him or resist his tyranny. That kind of autocracy is as dead as the divine right of kings.

Because a man stands in the relationship of husband and father to a woman and children, it gives him no right to oppress and suppress them, but it does lay upon him an obligation to be their friend, counselor and guide—to give them the benefit of the wider experience of life he has had, to supplement their weakness with his strength and to save them from the pits that he can see that they are digging for themselves.

Therefore I think it is a misfortune to the family for a man to resign his position as head of the house to his wife and to give her an absolutely free hand, with no interference, in rearing the children. For very often a mother is so blinded by her love that she is incapable of seeing what is best for her children and the ruin them by her tenderness.

I HAVE heard more than one father say of a weak, drunken wastrel son: "I knew he was bound to turn out as he has, because his mother spoiled him to death. She never controlled him. She never made him do anything he didn't want to do. She let him stop school whenever he got tired and she would always get the money for him to throw away, even if she had to pick the housekeeping allowance or do without things herself."

Such a situation could not occur where the man was the head of the house. The wise father would give the boy the discipline that the overindulgent and foolish mother could not give. He could hold the lad steady at the formative time of his life, and if all else failed he could send the boy away to school, away from the corrupting influence of the mother who was ruining him.

JUST because, as a general thing, men have had a wider contact with the world than women have, because they have been disciplined and taught self-control in business and because they have a broader outlook than most women, the husband is usually better fitted to be the head of the house than the wife is. But this is not always the case. Very often the woman is more intelligent than the man, has better judgment, a stronger character and would rule the family more justly and wisely than he.

The ideal condition would be for the head of the house to be the one who is best qualified for the position, and for the home to be dominated by the one who is most fitted to rule it.

BUT, alas, this seldom happens. When we look about us we see that in almost every home it is the weak who dominate the strong, the unfit who rule the fit.

We see homes in which a howling infant tyrannizes over a household of grown persons and destroys all of their happiness and comfort. We see silly, hysterical women ruling their families with a rod of iron through their fear of scenes. We see narrow-minded, ignorant, bigoted, fool men crushing the life and joy out of their wives and children by their tempers. We see querulous, senile old persons blighting their children's ambitions and ruining their chances in life by imposing their old-fogy ideas on them.

AND it makes us wonder if, after all, any one has the right to be the head of the house, and if the home should not be a democracy directed by an autocracy.

DOROTHY DIX
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Fashion Fancies.

VELVET RIBBON FOR THE COSTUME SLIP



By Marie Belmont

Have you seen the new velvet ribbon trimming on underwear? At first glance, one might be inclined to think the slip was an ultra short evening frock, so decorative is its new trimming.

Shadow grey crepe de chine is the material of the slip which is designed for wear beneath a sheer summer frock. Coral ribbon velvet is applied over the set-in motifs of dyed grey lace and tiny silk roses. In various shades of pink and red, climb over the trellis of lace and velvet. Scalloped gossamer of grey silk add width to the bottom of this costume slip.

Flapper Fanny Says



Some people who think they look simply out of sight would be better if they were.

A Thought

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting, get understanding.—Prov. 4:7.

WISDOM is rare, Lorenzo! Wit abounds.—Young

BEHIND THE SCREEN

By JACK JUNGMEYER.

SCREEN comics, maintains Charley Chase, are very decidedly changing the American idea and standard of humor. And Chase, producer of the two-reelers, speaks as an accomplished member of the film-making profession whose observations range far beyond the studio borders.

Since comedy on the screen has had to meet the test of naturalness," says Chase, "there has been a noticeable welding together of a public good naturedly enjoying this mirror of themselves which slight none of the foibles or weaknesses, we all are heir to."

"A decided element of heart appeal has entered film comedies, with sympathy established at the outset for the hero. The figures of comedy have become human beings where once they were hastily creatures having little if anything in common with the normal man."

"Up to the present generation most parents tried to suppress comedy expression in their children as something that smacked of ill-manner or abominable taste. The youthful clown was perhaps tolerated, but usually set aside as rather undesirable."

"So, too, 'respectable' people resented comedy pointed at themselves, their class, their race and so on, as an insulting intrusion of a smart aleck. Only the yokel, the fool, could be the butt of ridicule."

Lately there has been an amazing change in all this, and I consider the

Little Joe

ONE PEOPLE'S NOSES ARE ABOUT THE ONLY THING THEY HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO



Is this your BIRTHDAY

JUNE 22—June 22 people are generally fond of art in some form or other, and sometimes have marked dramatic ability. Good judgment. Deep affections. You learn languages easily, or could if it were necessary, and if you took the trouble. If the arrangement and furnishing of a house were left to you, you should be able to make it very charming and comfortable. Many June 22 people have exceptional opportunities of foreign travel, and see something of life under many different skies. Whether you do or do not depend on the environment in which your life happens to be cast. Sympathetic, but you don't get on with some people. Try to be generous in thought and action.

Your birthstone is a pearl, which means health and long life. Your flower is the honeysuckle. Your lucky colors are light blue and white.

More passengers passed through Southampton than through Liverpool last year.

Menus for the Family

MENU HINT

Breakfast: Stewed Rhubarb. Wheat with Hot Milk. Raisin Toast. Coffee. Home-made Doughnuts. Milk.

Luncheon: Salmon Sandwiches with Lettuce and Mayonnaise. Baked Apples with Raisin Centres and Brown Sugar. Milk. Dinner: Cookies.

Oven-roasted Potatoes. Round Steak with Onions and Casserole. New Carrots buttered. Spinach Salad. Whipped Strawberry Shortcake.

TODAY'S RECIPES

Spinach Salad—Boil spinach with no water until tender, cool, chop fine and add a little French dressing or vinegar. Have some hard boiled eggs ready, slice with egg slicer and place around the mound of spinach. Place one tender stalk of celery at the side of salad.

Oven-Browned Potatoes—Slice potatoes lengthwise into eights and place in shallow baking pan, add one cup of hot water, and one tablespoon each of butter and other shortening. Season well and bake in oven until brown and tender.

Doughnuts—Cream one tablespoon of butter, one cup sugar, one egg, one cup of sour milk, one teaspoon soda; flour to make a soft batter. Flavor with one-half teaspoon of cinnamon or nutmeg. Mix like cake but keep the batter soft when rolling out and

cutting. Too much flour or handling makes them tough. Drop into hot fat after testing it by dropping in a bit of dough. If it bubbles and browns quickly, it is ready to use. Fry a golden brown and drain on absorbent paper.

Whipped Strawberry Shortcake—One quart berries, one and one-third cup flour, two teaspoons baking powder, two tablespoons butter, one tablespoon sugar, little water. Mix and sift dry ingredients; rub in butter, cut water in with a knife, giving flour time to absorb the moisture, before adding more. Use just enough water

to make a soft dough. Water and butter are supposed to make it more tender than lard and milk. Do not roll but put in a buttered pie dish and bake fifteen minutes in hot oven. Split and spread with butter. Can also be made in individual rounds. Take strawberries and reserving a cup of nice whole berries, mash the remainder with one-half cup of sugar and then add the sugar and one egg unbeaten. Beat all together in large pan until it is stiff like whipped cream. Then pour over biscuits around which have been arranged some whole berries. Do not add berries until ready to serve.

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ADVENTURES of the TWINS

OLIVE ROBERTS BARTON

THE STRETCHY POLICEMAN

"Did you see any sign of a china elephant and a toy clown?" Nick asked the corner policeman in the city of "Any Place At All."

The policeman started to answer, but as his voice began to get farther and farther away, the Twins looked quickly to see what had happened.

And there, if you please, was his head about half a mile up in the air, and keeping on going. At last there was no head to be seen at all—nothing but a long, long neck.

Then, as they looked, his head started to come down again, and finally it settled back where it belonged, on his shoulders.

"I beg your pardon," he remarked, "but I had to speak to a friend of mine on Jupiter. Now, what did you ask me, please?"

"We're looking for Inco, our china elephant, and a toy clown called Flops," said Nick. "We were told that he came to Droway Land on the Moon. Did you see him?"

"What did he look like?" asked the policeman. But at that his head was gone again and his voice trailed off in the distance. Not up this time, but sideways, his long neck stretching down the street and around a corner.

And then as the Twins watched, one of his arms stretched after his neck, and it, too, disappeared around the corner.

By and by the policeman's head and arm appeared again, and in a minute he was as good as new. But he had tight hold of an automobile which he pulled around in front of him.

"I'll not arrest you for speeding this time," he said to the driver, "but you mustn't do it again. Remember if you

do, I'll see you. I see everything, for I can stretch my neck over house-tops and trees and around all the corners. Now go, but remember what I told you. You are not allowed to drive over 100 miles a minute on the moon. Do you promise?"

"I promise," said the man, so the policeman let the poor trembling fellow go and he disappeared around the corner again like a flash.

"Now please tell me your troubles all over again," said the policeman to the Twins. "It was something about an elephant and a—"

But away went his head again, this time around another corner. His head kept disappearing and coming back until finally Nick said to Nancy, "Come on. Let's go. We'll never find out about Inco and Flops this way."

Nancy laughed. "Wouldn't it be great to have a stretchy neck like that," she said. "We could stand still and let our necks do all the running around for us."

"I should say not," said Nick. "It's more fun to have all of you go on an adventure instead of just your head."

"That's right," nodded Nancy. "But this city of Any Place At All keeps you on the jump too much. I don't think we'll find Inco and Flops here anywhere. We'd better go on to the next place, Goodness! Here comes that giant boy again. If we don't run, he'll pick us up again and squeeze us like he did before. And—"

But the giant boy had spotted them and it was too late to run. He picked them up, but this time he did not squeeze them. He whirled them around over his head three times and then threw them across a moon mountain. They did not know it, but they were in a place quite as queer as they had left.

To Be Continued

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