

INTERESTING

# A Feature Page of Interest to Everyone

INSTRUCTIVE

## Dorothy Dix

Concerning Custom of Wearing Mourning — Shouldn't the Wife Have "Evenings Off," Too—Twice Engaged, Should She Return Her First Sweetheart's Diamond Ring or Keep It?

DEAR MISS DIX—What do you think about wearing mourning? My brother has just died, after a long and expensive illness. He had no money, so my sisters and I had to deny ourselves many things we really needed to pay for his doctors, medicines and the funeral expenses. We cannot afford to throw away all of our old clothes and buy new black ones, yet some of our friends criticize us for not putting on mourning and think that we are lacking in respect to the dead. What do you think about it?

ANSWER: I think, Henry, that the wearing of mourning is a wicked and a foolish custom that works great harm to the living and does the dead no honor. One of the few benefits of the war was that it ended the tyranny of crepe.

When the Dark Angel was a visitor in so many homes, it was soon perceived that the universal wearing of black broke down the public morale by keeping the symbol of death continually before everybody's eyes, so the putting on of mourning for the loss of a member of one's family was temporarily abolished and the custom will never be wholly revived again.

There is nothing to be said in favor of wearing mourning. On the face of it, there is something indicative in advertising our grief and calling upon every passerby to notice that we have suffered a bereavement.

The heart that is really bowed down in sorrow does not need to be swathed in funeral garments to indicate its woe. And when this is not the case, when death, as is often the case, brings relief and is a cause of joy instead of regret, what a mockery then to dress it up in the habiliments of grief!

Furthermore, it takes no psychologist to teach us how great an effect our surroundings have upon us and how inevitably we react to them, and this is a clinching argument against the wearing of mourning.

For at the very time when we need most to be cheered and have our thoughts most taken away from our grief we have them centered upon our bitter misfortune if every member of the household is garbed in black. Every glance at our own garments, every sight of mother or sister or wife stabs us with the memory of the loved one who has gone from us and thrills us with the fear that we may also lose these other dear ones.

And when we go upon the street we carry with us our depressing aura and bring to every passerby a futile pang, as our mourning garments recall old sorrows back to them. This tearing open of old wounds, this keeping of our own wounds fresh and bleeding does no good. It cannot bring the dead back to us.

Also there is this further objection to the putting on of mourning, that it imposes a heavy expense on those who often can ill afford it. Many a family, having spent all their savings on taking care of an invalid and his funeral expenses, are plunged hopelessly into debt by having to buy new expensive clothes.

They know that they cannot afford it, but they cannot bear that any one should think them wanting in respect to their dead, and they are too cowardly to defy their little world and wear their mourning in their hearts instead of on their backs.

But, as I said in the beginning, no one need fear criticism any longer because they do not put on black. The war has changed all of that, and now whether one wears crepe or not it doesn't matter; it is just a matter of one's preference.

DEAR MISS DIX—I have a husband whom I love dearly and want to be with every minute when he is not at work, but he insists that he should have at least one evening a week just for himself with his men friends.

But he is not willing when he goes out that I should go out with my friends. He wants me to stay at home alone or else go to my mother's, and it worries me that he doesn't give me the liberty that I should have under these conditions. How should I dispose of my off-evenings under these conditions?

ANSWER: I think your husband is very unfair to you. What is sauce for the gander is also sauce for the goose, and if he wants to spend one evening a week with his men friends, he should be fair enough not to raise any objection to your spending that evening with your girl friends.

Certainly the society of your girl friends will do you no more harm than the society of his men friends will harm him, and you are quite as likely to pass an innocent and blameless evening with your companions as he with his.

I think that both husband and wife who take an evening off every week will find it a most admirable arrangement, and one that is calculated to keep the home fires burning instead of putting them out. For the sake of most marriages it is better to put them out than to let them burn too much of each other and too little of other people, and that is why they are reduced to quarreling to put some pep into the conversation.

But if they go their different ways to a certain extent they come back with fresh ideas and a new budget of gossip to talk over and with which to amuse each other.

If your husband knew what was good for him, he would urge you to go out with your girl friends instead of sitting alone at home waiting for him, thinking up certain lectures to deliver to him upon his return.

Tell him that if he isn't willing for you to amuse yourself by visiting your friends, the least he can do is to stay at home and entertain you himself. That should fetch him!

DEAR DOROTHY DIX—I was engaged to a young man who gave me a diamond ring. We broke up, but I did not return his ring. I am now engaged to another man and he has given me another diamond ring. Now my mother thinks I should return the first ring, but I want to keep both. What should I do?

ANSWER: If you are an honest girl, you will return the first young man's ring. It was given to you on the understanding that you were to marry him, and when you refused to do this you lost all right to the ring, and every consideration of honor and honesty require you to give it back. I shouldn't think that your present young man would particularly enjoy your wearing another man's love token, anyway.

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## New Costumes Show More Material Is Being Used



By MME. LISBETH

THERE is a general tendency to use more material in the new dresses than has been the custom for some time. The new fashions are long and skirts are wider and there is also a decided popularity for capes and scarfs—all of which helps the fabric manufacturers to sell more cloth per garment.

A unique little dance frock (left) shows the material of the skirt gathered into a puffed and draped effect with a long sash end hanging below the hem of the skirt. The drapery is apparently fastened with huge purple and red flowers.

A charming hat accompanies this frock. It is a black pearly straw turned sharply up on one side and down on the other with a cascade of black grapes on the upturned brim from the top of the crown to the wearer's shoulder.

The beautiful dance frock which takes center, it has a modeled bodice of silver cloth with a cape back that is fastened to the bodice in front and forms an elbow length sleeve. The full skirt droops at the back, being shirred and corded at the place where it joins the bodice section. The skirt and cape are of gray silk lace embroidered with silver thread. A flower design of green and silver sequins is placed at the waist.

The chic little dance hat matches the frock. It has a cloth of silver crown and the small brim is of silver horse-hair. The same flowers of silver and green sequins as on the dress trim the hat.

The fairly voluminous cape also takes center. The cape ensemble in black and white (right) consists of a one piece dress and the cape which hooks on to the shoulders. The dress is shirred and hemmed in black and has a white silk vest which continues up ward to a high neckline. The ends are brought around and hang to the waist.

The sleeves are of the white silk, long and close fitting and decorated at the wrist with a row of black buttons.

The snug-fitting little hat is of white silk cloth and black beading. The cape is lined with white.

and the small brim is of silver horse-hair. The same flowers of silver and green sequins as on the dress trim the hat.

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## Menus for the Family

MENU HINTS  
Breakfast  
Fruit  
Scrambled Eggs  
Milk or Cocoa  
Luncheon  
Oxtail Soup with Vegetables  
Cheese Crackers  
Canned Peaches  
Dinner  
Kidney Roast Veal  
Bread  
Cherry Slump

TODAY'S RECIPES  
Oxtail Soup—Cover an oxtail with cold water (about a gallon) and cook slowly for several hours until the meat drops from the bones. Let stand over night in a cold place until the fat can be skimmed from the top in a cake. The kidney, brown in a quick oven, add one cup of rice (more or less, according to the size of the family and roast). Pour the rice, season with salt, pepper and onion (if desired). Cook covered in a slow oven until meat is done, at least 20 minutes to a pound of meat. This is an excellent company dish. If your guests are tardy the roast and rice will not suffer if you keep the rice sufficiently moist. Moreover, there are no potatoes to mash or gravy to make, for the rice and gravy have been combined in the roast.

Kidney Roast of Veal With Rice—Select a roast of veal containing the kidney. Brown in a quick oven, add one cup of rice (more or less, according to the size of the family and roast). Pour the rice, season with salt, pepper and onion (if desired). Cook covered in a slow oven until meat is done, at least 20 minutes to a pound of meat. This is an excellent company dish. If your guests are tardy the roast and rice will not suffer if you keep the rice sufficiently moist. Moreover, there are no potatoes to mash or gravy to make, for the rice and gravy have been combined in the roast.

Cherry Slump—Cover bottom of a well buttered baking dish with a can of tart cherries drained of the juice. Pour over the cherries the following batter: One cup flour, one-half cup sugar, one teaspoon baking powder, one cup milk, three tablespoons melted butter. Bake one hour in a slow oven. The batter may seem thin, but it will thicken in the oven. Serve warm with cream or hard sauce. Tart apples may be substituted for the cherries.

## Is this your BIRTHDAY?

FEBRUARY 16—Be ever ready to lead others. It is yours by right of birth. You cherish above all else your character, and are careful and conscientious in all you do. You are fond of art and the best things of life, and your love is wholehearted and enduring. Be more hopeful, and be ever ready to do a kind action. Your birth-stone is an amethyst, which means sincerity. Your flower is a primrose. Your lucky colors are light blue and yellow.

In Ecuador there is grown a fruit, the cherimoya, which tastes like ice cream.

The usual life of an airplane engine is estimated at from 400 to 800 hours.

Scotland Yard is protesting the "help yourself" fashion of wearing pearl and diamond necklaces with strings down the back, now the craze in London.

## ADVENTURES of the TWINS

THE DOLLS GO HOME  
When Mister Snoopy, the Shadow Man, rushed out of Hidy Go Land, the sun was shining brightly. But when Mister Sprinkle Blow, the weather man, looked down and saw what was going on, he rolled a cloud over the sun and put Mister Snoopy out for good and all!  
"Yes, sir!" That was the end of him, so Mister Havalook saved his pennies after all, and I hope he built his nice new laundry and is living peacefully with Sniff Whisker, the mayor of Ash Can Town.  
As for the umbrella that Mister Sprinkle Blow threw up at the moon with all the dolls and other Hidy Go people tied up in it, including the Twins—well! Instead of going to the moon, the umbrella was heading straight for the sun, because the moon was in China at that minute.  
But the big umbrella never got to the sun because Mister Sprinkle Blow's man was just about to fill up his barrel marked "Regular Poundage" when the pop! The big umbrella came bursting through the cloud and landed right at Mister Sprinkle Blow's feet.  
"By all the little rain-tods on a tree-tods and hop-tods!" he cried. "Such a big fat umbrella! Really I never saw a fat umbrella in my life! It's even bigger than the big umbrella I ride down to the earth on when I go on my travels!"  
Just then he heard voices crying faintly, "Help! Help!"  
"Why it's a talking umbrella!" said Mister Sprinkle Blow. "It must have a radio in it!"  
So he untied the string at the top and out rolled Nancy and Nick and all the dolls. The Gingerbread Man was nothing but crumple, alas!  
"What's all this?" cried the jolly old weatherman fairy. "Where have you been and where are you going, my dears?"  
"Don't you know us?" cried the Twins. "We're Nancy and Nick and we've been down to the Land of Hidy Go helping poor Mister Havalook. These are his subjects, the Rag Doll, the Crinoline Doll, Black Dinah, Calamity Jane, Miss Tootsie Bob, Beldina, Mrs. Jiggs and Miss Fithers. Also Sailor Sam, the Tin Soldier, Teddy Bear, Limber Long Legs, Jack-in-the-Box and what is left of the Gingerbread Man."  
"How do you do," said Mister Sprinkle Blow.  
"How do you do," said all the dolls solemnly.  
"Won't you sit down?" said Mister Sprinkle Blow.  
"No thank you. We must be going," said Miss Crinoline.  
"Back to Hidy Go Land?" said Mister Sprinkle Blow in surprise.  
"No," said Miss Crinoline. "Back to home in the first place. Say," she said, turning to the Rag Doll, "How did it turn out with that big skirt on the wash-line after I distinctly saw you walking off with it?"  
"It was only trying it on for fun to see how I looked in hoops," said the Rag Doll. "I took it back and hung it up again."  
"Then you're forgiven," said Miss Crinoline kindly. "I forgive everybody," and with that she jumped off the edge of the cloud, her hoopskirt spreading out like a parachute.  
That gave the dolls an idea, and holding tight to the big umbrella they had arrived in, they sailed gently down to the earth. And they all went straight back to their homes and have been living happily ever since.  
"Tingling!" went Mister Sprinkle Blow's telephone.  
"It was the Fairy-Queen calling the Twins."  
To Be Continued

A Washington, N. J., man recently unearthed a century-old pot of coins dated from 1782 to 1786.

## CHILDREN CRY FOR



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## Hungry as a hunter

A good appetite usually denotes good health, yet how often you hear people say that the sight of food sickens them or complain of indigestion or gas after eating. These symptoms are often Nature's warnings that the body is in a run down condition.

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