

Features

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Features

Dorothy Dix

Settling Fairly Between a Family of Grown Children the Question, "Who Shall Care for Mother?"—Sharp Rejoinder to a Husband Who Begrudges His Wife Treats and Gifts—Is the World Growing Better?

DEAR MISS DIX—I am the youngest of a large family, and since my father's death my mother has made her home with me. She is an invalid and the greater part of my time is taken up with caring for her. I love her and am glad to do everything possible for her, but my husband is not able to make quite enough for our needs, although we live economically. I am a graduate of a large university, and could add much to our income if I did not have to take care of my mother. Now my brothers are rich men, but they consider that they have done their duty by paying me \$20 a month for my mother's board and the care I give her. Do you not think that they should give more?

ANSWER: Why, you can hardly board a canary bird for \$20 a month in these days of the high cost of living, and it is ridiculous to expect anybody to feed and house and nurse a sick person for a measly little dollar a day. Your brothers must be headliners in the Tightwad Fraternity not to voluntarily give you a fair price for taking care of your mother, but since they are of that kind the only thing for you to do is to trace up and tell them that you are tired of being the family post, and have decided to let some one else take a turn at being offered up on the sacrificial altar.

Make them thoroughly understand that you have decided that you will be unable to take care of your mother any longer because you are going back to earning money again as a teacher. When they shop around a little, and find out how much it will cost to put mother in a sanitarium, and hire a trained nurse for her, they will be glad enough to increase the allowance that they are making you for taking care of mother to a figure that will enable you to live decently and compensate you in some degree for the sacrifices you are making in being a slave to an invalid.

Personally, I think there is no meaner trait in human nature than the callous selfishness which makes so many men and women duck their responsibility to their parents, and wish them off on some sister or brother who is kinder-hearted than they are, or who has a higher sense of duty.

If all the children in a family took their turn in caring for father and mother when they get old, if all clipped in to help support them, the burden would rest lightly upon every one. But this rarely happens. Some particular John or Martha finds that he or she is unanimously elected by the other children to stay at home and support the old people, while Tom and Mary and Sam fare forth to enjoy themselves and spend their money upon themselves.

And the only remedy is to hold up these quitters and shirkers and force them to pay the debt that they have not the sense of honor voluntarily to pay.

DEAR DOROTHY DIX—When a wife receives her stipulated allowance upon which to run the house, and for her personal spending money, is she still entitled to expect treats and gifts from her husband, just as if she did not receive an allowance?

ANSWER: Certainly. A man who cares anything at all for his wife and who has one spark of sentiment and romance left in his heart will want to give his wife little treats and gifts. It isn't a question of her rights at all. It is a matter of feeling on his part, for the greatest happiness we ever get we find in giving pleasures to those who are dear to us.

If you begrudge your wife every cent you spend upon her; if you count every penny you spend upon her; if you get no kick out of seeing her eyes light up with joy over some little longed-for present; if your own heart does not warm with pleasure at giving her some unexpected treat, then, my dear sir, you may be very sure that your affection for her is as dead as a door nail.

Everything that is beautiful and sacred and worth while has gone out of your relationship, and she is, in reality, not your wife, but a hired woman with whom you are driving a hard bargain as you can make. Perhaps under the conditions she is not entitled to expect gifts and treats, but she has a moral right in the circumstances to strike for higher wages that will enable her to buy herself whatever she wants.

You do not seem to understand just what giving a wife an allowance means. The money you allow her for running the house is merely a convenient and economical way of paying for the house you live in and its upkeep and the food you eat. It is no matter of individual profit to your wife. Her personal allowance is the smallest possible return you can make for her services in running your home for you. Wife labor is scab labor. You couldn't begin to hire any other woman to do the work that your wife does for you for the same amount of money.

Evidently you should have married a cash register instead of a woman if you are "disillusioned" because she has to have food and clothes, and would like to go to the movies occasionally and have her birthday remembered.

DEAR DOROTHY DIX—Do you think the world is growing better? ONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW.

ANSWER: Oh, undoubtedly. I am an incurable optimist, and in spite of all the crime waves of which we hear so much, and the fast pace at which so many of our young people seem hurtling down the road to destruction, I believe that the world is slowly and surely moving on to better things.

I think that we grow kinder. A few months ago I was in the torture chamber in a medieval castle in Europe. There was the "iron maiden," figure in the shape of a woman, but studded with steel spikes on the inside that pierced the eyes and impaled the poor victim who was placed in it in a thousand places. There was a chair in which human beings were slowly roasted to death. There was a wheel on which bodies were broken, and racks on which they were torn limb from limb. There were instruments for pulling out the nails from hands and feet and snatching out the tongues, and every device that ingenuity could invent for the infliction of agony. It makes us shudder to even look at such things now. Yet men used to torture each other with these fiendish devices because they differed in their theological beliefs, or because in a war they fell, as political prisoners, into each other's hands.

Contrast that with the Kaiser, living in luxury in Holland, and the French sending the defeated Abd-el-Krim to a lovely tropical island with his forty wives and half a shipload of personal belongings. We are more merciful to each other now than people used to be. We are less harsh in our judgments. We do not shut our doors in the faces of our weak and erring children. We pick them up and give them another chance. We have a greater sense of the brotherhood of man. Look how when any disaster comes to any part of the world all the balance of the world rushes to help it.

Yes, in every way the world grows better every day.

DOROTHY DIX

Advanced Fashions Are Heralding Gladsome Spring



By MME. LISBETH. SPRING may not seem very near to those who inhabit the northern part of our vast country, but the ever alert fashionists are heralding it in their advanced showings. A spring suit in ensemble effect is pictured (left). It is a navy blue char-reen with vest of blue and white check char-reen. The coat is made with a cape which is lined with the check. And there is a glimpse of the check in the front of the skirt where an inverted box pleat makes a bit of fullness. With this suit Barbara Worth, the model, wears a matching navy hat of hatter's plush trimmed with a band of grosgrain and a touch of check to match the suit. The fad for scarfs promises to continue into the spring, for which we should rejoice, for many are concealing lovely silk sashes under heavy coats. One pictured (center) is a novelty—

printed satin with long black silk fringe. Crepe in bols de rose makes the pretty dress (right). Its lines are simple, the severity of the gown being relieved by accented plaits which are used as trimming for cuffs and skirt. Tan shoes and hose are worn by Barbara Worth and she carries a tan kid bag trimmed with baby calf and tan gloves, while her hat is a bols de rose velour.

See-Sawing On Broadway

THERE is any number of famous "stage families" wherein those who made fame and fortune rear children to the tradition of the theatre. Thus Eddie Foy and his youngsters, the famous Coburns, Fred Stone and his daughter, and many others. On the other hand there are scores who make every effort to protect their offspring from foot-lights. ONE of Broadway's most amusing tales concerns a celebrated "boom shouter," whose acquaintance with hard-boiled and sentimental balladry has more than mere national recognition. She is one of the old-fashioned show-women, and has been in every angle of the "racket" from vaudeville to night club proprietress. She was exceedingly eager that her son turn his mind to things other than the theatre. She sent him away to school and was careful that he get hold of none of her popular songs when he was home. As though her songs and reputation would not penetrate the walls of the school! The years went on and the lad grew up and it seemed that she had achieved her wish. Last summer she went to Europe. While she was away the son came home from school, set himself down at the family piano, ran through a few of her numbers and, in idle moments, created a number of his own. When she returned she found him a fat salaried hit at one of the leading night clubs. "Well, folks," she had to admit, with just a suggestion of mist in eyes that have seen a great deal of the world, "I guess you might as well meet my baby. But you seem to know him in spite of me."

THERE is any number of instances of success achieved by the offspring of stage notables. One of Henry Miller's sons already figures as a producer of real promise. William A. Brady, Jr., will put on at least three or four plays this season and is just getting his stride. Lew Fields, veteran comedian, has a little boy, Herbie, who has written the books for two or three outstanding musical hits. The little Foyes do everything from vaudeville sketches to movies and the daughters of Channing Pollock, playwright, are popular and charming actresses. Otis Skinner's daughter, Cornelia, has been variously a playwright and actress.

GILBERT SWAN. DRYING WET SHOES. The shoes that you have worn out in slush or rain should be put away on shoe trees and kept from artificial heat while drying.

NOT TOO BROWN. If the meat you are roasting appears to be too brown before it is thoroughly cooked, place a pan of water in the oven and the steam will prevent scorching.

DREDGE RAISINS. Dredge raisins and currants with flour to keep them from sinking to the bottom of the cake.

CORN SYRUPS. A small amount of corn syrup will keep fondant from turning to sugar.

Clear The Pores Of Impurities With Cuticura Soap. Soap, Ointment, Tablets sold everywhere.

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BEHIND THE SCREEN

By GILBERT PICKARD. IS GEORGE BERNARD SHAW really contemplating appearing in a movie of his "Saint Joan," or is the playwright having a little fun at the expense of the public? For years he has scored the offers of motion picture producers and laughed at their efforts to purchase film rights to his plays. Shaw explains that he isn't interested in making more money—wouldn't know what to do with more if he had it. So there's no incentive to sell. Now comes word that he is considering appearing in a "talking movie" of his play, "Saint Joan," with Sybil Thorndike in the role of Joan. She scored a success on the London stage in this role. Should G. B. S. decide to take part in the film he probably will give a short introductory address to the film after the manner of the famous prefaces to his plays which are as delightful as the plays themselves. But it won't be as long.

Today the publicity man tells us that Victor McLaglen, the Captain Flagg of "What Price Glory," forfeits \$25,000 if he gets his face beautified while under contract to Fox Films.

Natalie Barrach, Russian stage and screen star, has adopted a new name for use in this country—Natti Barr.

John Gilbert's next picture will be "The Prodigal Son." Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has purchased the screen rights from Sir Hall Caine.

A change of plans places George O'Brien in the leading role of "Is Zat" in place of Victor McLaglen. It concerns a prize fighter.

Mack Sennett has reopened his studios on the west coast which have been closed since the first of September. "Hey! Hey! Hey! Cowboy" is the title of Hoot Gibson's next picture.

Norma Talmadge recently had a luncheon at her studio for pioneer Vitaphone players. Among those present were Flora Finch, Mabel Normand, Conna Talmadge, Leah Baird, Florence Turner, Anna Brody, Anna Schaffer, Maurice Costello, George Cooper and Antonio Moreno.

Twenty racing drivers with their speed cars appear in Reginald Denny's "Slow Down."

HINT FOR MONDAY.

A soap solution that is very convenient on wash day is made by shaving a large bar of soap and simmering it in three quarts of boiling water until the soap is completely dissolved.

SCISSORS FOR CHICKEN.

When cutting up chicken for a salad, use a knife instead of putting it in a chopping bowl. A pair of shears will do the work effectively, too.

METAL MESH CLEANER.

A cleaner of metal mesh is a good investment, as it cleans and polishes pans and pots much more efficiently than scraping with a knife.

TO REMOVE COLOR.

A spoonful of vinegar to each quart of rinsing water often will revive faded colors in wash goods.

TO DRY LETTUCE.

Dry lettuce in paper toweling if you must use it immediately after washing it.

THE RHYMING OPTIMIST

By ALINE MICHAELIS. "Buttercup, answer me, do you know where is my faith of the Long Ago? Where are the dreams that I wove of old, dreams which were fair as your own bright gold? Book, as you run that I seek today: where are the echoes by laughter flung in the old sweet days when the heart was young? 'Fair are the meadows of each man's youth, touched with a glory none else can see, ringed with the halo of memory.'"

Little Joe

BEING A SUCCESS AT DODGING WORK MEANS FAILURE.

Usually it takes a dressing down to make a man dress up.

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