

## CHRONICLES OF JOYOUS JANE

By Dorothy L. Warne

### Jane gives advice to those afflicted with Writers' Rash

Dear Fellow Sufferers:—

Paper is scarce these days, it therefore behoves one never to wantonly waste. Don't begin to scribble without an idea, and don't begin to unravel ideas unless you are on intimate terms with the subject in hand. You probably are not, so leave well alone.

Appended are a few golden rules.

#### Poetry

1. There are two kinds of metre, Iambic and Trochaic. This class must not be confused with another species of *meter*, though both may contain much gas.
2. A stanza is what a poet calls a verse when his hair becomes overgrown. It may be long or short—the shorter the better.
3. Explain false rhymes to your critics by Poetic License. So far, this has not been taxed.
4. In composing a lyric for a patriotic song take any idea that has established its durability by having been used some umpteen times, revise the words as far as the International Laws of Copyright will allow, including as rhymes wherever convenient: flag, wag, blue, true, foam and home. For songs of a more amorous nature the following are recommended, skies, eyes, grace, face, bliss, kiss, spoon and moon. In Rag-time jingles don't bother about the connecting sense of the words; nobody else will.

When writing comic ditties avoid such subjects as "When Father tried to Cook the Baby's Food." It may possibly be funny but Father will likely miss the point.

#### Story Writing

For short story writing, variations of the following recipe has been tested and approved.

1. Take one ordinary, common or garden girl, either divinely fair or wickedly blonde. Procure a hero with flashing eyes and a captivating smile. Add slowly a pound of villany; spice with a few compromising situations and an odd murder or two, sweeten with love passages to taste. Bring slowly to the boil and serve with confetti and orange blossom.
2. When on the market pay your reviewers to criticise its morals, then the editions will advance by leaps and bounds.
3. We give below a list of original titles that may give the enterprising producer new fields for thought.

"How Corporal Brown didn't win the V.C." (Original and topical; sure to sell well.)

"Lord Gaydog's Past." (Certify your characters as imaginary or you may be called to the Libel Court.)

"The Wheat Harvest" (This is best published as a cereal.)