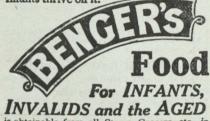
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# AT HER FAVORITE

Perhaps the happiest day in the home is that on which the young husband brings his bride there. It is a day set apart. Just the two of them, the best of life in the hollow of their hand, and the world—such a glowing world—before them!

#### By JEAN BLEWETT

JILL we be as happy as this always?" is the question in her eyes.
"Forever and a day!" is the answer in his. "There will be no change."

There will be change, of course, but they do not realize it, consequently the fine edge of their happiness is not dulled. "Forever and a day" is a phrase coined for the use of lovers the world over.

While the arrival of the wife marks the gladdest

day, the arrival of the while marks the gladdest the proudest. A small personage, not much to look at—that is for the world at large to look at—a pink-faced, wrinkled, helpless bit of a mortal, but oh! the stir his coming creates in that well-ordered household. No one waits on the master of the house, no one pays any attention to person, place, nor thing, save that ten pound parcel just

place, nor thing, save that ten pound parcel just to hand.

On that home-coming day the husband was master of ceremonies. Under his pride of possession and his love lurked a delicious sense of importance. He had stood up tall and handsome and—we hate to tell on him, but truth is truth—with a full sense of being the chief character in the drama. He was the male, tender, protective, but down.

tective, but domi-nant to a degree. It was his bride, his house-it was his

day.
This is different.
He has somehow,
somewhere, lost his
self-confidence, his
stride—his air of being master of cere-monies. Meekly he advances in the guardianship of a prim nurse; meekly, one might say peni-tently, kisses the dear woman on the bed. She is every-thing to him, not a thing to him, not a thought does he spare to the new arrival. The night's agony has shaken him, he is tremb-ling, and there are tears in his eyes. An overwhelming wave of tenderness and contrition sweeps over him. He is conscious of a humility new and strange. Leading character! Why he hasn't even a speak-

ing part!

The pink person is introduced. They look him over to-gether. "Was there

gether. "Was there ever such another baby?" is the question in her eyes. He answers the challenge with a "Never" which carries conviction. "His head is shaped like yours," she says, "and his little finger has a crook in it exactly like your own. Oh, he is his Daddy over again!" "But I hope he will have your eyes," protests the husband. He does not mean it. The pride of parenthood has gripped him. In his heart of hearts he wants the baby to be a fac-simile of himself. Of course if it were a common baby he would not care, but a boy, such a boy! Leave him to his exaltation, leave them sharing the exquisite joy of possession. This is the proudest day of all.

day of all.

Yet, what comes as a blessing may prove something less than a blessing. The child may grow to be what it should never grow to be—the person

of paramount interest in the house.

It is a mistake for any woman to be a better mother than she is a wife. We see it done every day—also we see the effects of it. She is so taken up with the baby she has little time for the father of the baby-who, after all, is a baby himself. Concentrating on her new duties she lets a lot of the old ones slip. She does not give herself the same amount of attention she used to, and she does not give her husband any at all. shows on her. The sheen goes from her brown braids, her complexion loses its fineness, her figure—well, she should take physical culture, but cannot bring herself to steal the time for it.

The blessed baby must not be neglected.

It shows on the man too. He has some lone The woman who promised to be his companion for life has become a mere mother. He is a social person, a creature of habit as are most men. Invitations from old friends come pouring in, invitations to pleasant houses. He hates going to things without his wife—he can do it if he has to, of course, a man can get used to anything. So he can, and in such short order. Presently he leaves her behind as a matter of the course. By the sixty of the realize the order. Presently he leaves her behind as a mat-ter of course. Before either of them realize the fact they have learned a thing alien to the "for

ever and a day" policy they began with—learned to be happy apart. The consequences are wide-spread. Oftener than not the man is censured, but in common fairness we must say that it is the woman's own fault. She chose wifehood as her life work. Motherhood is a tender, holy thing, but it forms one postion rolls of her hands and the statement of t but it forms one portion only of her busy sphere. Let her keep herself a wife first, last and always,

Let her keep herself a wife first, last and always, if she intends making a success of family life.

With offspring in the home child training becomes the question of the hour. Of paramount importance this question, since it deals not only with the child's success or failure later on in life, but with the parents' peace of mind, and the happiness of home at all times. No child is born an angel, but he, or she, can be led, reasoned, and, yes, coerced into something better for everyday purposes, a wholesome, happy, high-minded youngster, who, if nothing untoward happens, is bound ster, who, if nothing untoward happens, is bound to grow into the sort of man, or woman, whom

people love and trust.

Yet this matter is a prolific cause of discord between husband and wife. There is in human nature a vein of contrariness which makes us all like to get our own way. What is merely a "difference of opinion" in the beginning is magnified into "the principle at stake" before we

end. Parents can-not see eye to eye always. This is quite natural, and no harm is done un-less they allow this difference of opinion to become apparent to the child. And they will need to be most secretive about it if they escape the quick eye and the unspoiled instinct of a child. So little esa child. So little es-capes him, he knows almost all that goes on. Call to mind his facility for ac-quiring knowledge and you will realize that little will escape him of matters relating particularly to

Child training calls for co-operation. To make a child weigh in his little mind the wisdom of father and mother, to make him judge the points, and, whether he says so or not, make choice between the two he loves, is to minimize the effect An overwhelming wave of tenderness and contrition sweeps over him. He is conscious of a humility new and strange. Leading character! Why, he hasn't even a speaking part! of any training they can give.

Professor Herbert, considered an authority on the question, asserts that the wife, having full authority in all that lies within her kingdom—the home—is the natural guardian of her offspring and should have the

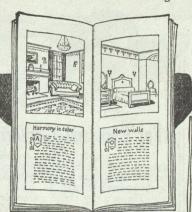
ural guardian of her offspring and should have the last word in everything which concerns them.

If children stayedkin the home all their lives this would be feasible, but they grow up and go out in the world, and while it is desirable that they carry with them the tender influence of the woman, they should also have, stored in their hearts, the lessons that only a man can teach. While the children are young the wife has things largely in her own hands. It is not so much a question of superiority as of propinquity. She may not be the highest authority, but she is the nearest. The man of the house has, perforce, to be out of the home a considerable portion of the to be out of the home a considerable portion of the time—the wife of his bosom is right there. It is to her the little ones come with their needs and desires. It is she who reads their dispositions, sees their gifts and failings, she who laughs at their jokes, makes peace when they quarrel, kisses the hurt place to make it well, sings them to sleep, cuddles and caresses them. They turn their dear hearts inside out for her—she is the wise and wonderful one. She is all the beneficent

providence they wot of.

But for all this the co-operative training is in evidence. Back of her is the father to whom they owe not only obedience, but allegiance. And allegiance means a lot. Loyalty is an instinct, a child has it or has it not. Obedience can be exacted, allegiance never. The wise wife instilled. instils into the minds of her boys and girls that much is due to the father's tenderness and power. She cultivates their love for him, and if she mingles with it a spice of fear, it is a wholesome compound. She does not threaten "I will tell your Father" on the occasion of each offence, because she has already taught them that whatever she knows their father knows. There are no secrets where Father is concerned. She is never foolish enough to pass over disrespect,

(Concluded on page 38.)



### Going to Decorate?

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