

Dorothy Dix

Why Second Marriages are Desirable and Successful—A Plea for Protection Against Letters of Introduction—Should a Baby Girl be Named for Her Grandmother, Regardless of the Ugliness of Family Name?

DEAR MISS DIX—What are your views in regard to second marriage? Do you think it is possible to love the second husband or the second wife as well as the first? BETTY.



DOROTHY DIX

ANSWER:

I am an enthusiastic advocate of second marriage, provided a man or woman marries in his or her own age class, and uses a reasonable amount of discretion in his or her selection of a mate.

A second marriage is bound to prove disastrous when an old widower selects for a wife, he so often does, a girl young enough to be his daughter, and puts her to be stepmother over his half-grown children.

And it is a still worse tragedy when a middle-aged widow lets some adventurer marry her for her husband's insurance money just because she is lonesome, and it sounds so good to her famished ears to listen to some man making love to her again.

But this extreme of matrimonial folly is one thing, and marrying a nice, suitable companion is something else again. And I think the men and women are wise who try to rebuild their houses of happiness that have been shattered by death.

For there is one curious thing about marriage. Even when it isn't wholly successful it seems to unfit men and women for the single life.

A man's wife may bore him and get on his nerves. She may nag him. She may have a hundred faults that jar him; but when she is gone and her voice is silenced; when he is free to go and come, and live at the whim for which he yearned while she was alive, he finds that he has lost his taste for them.

He finds that club bawls are even more boring than domestic ones. He misses home cooking and home comforts. He gets sick and tired of having to order every meal, and remember to send things to the presser and the laundry.

The woman is in even a worse fix. She may have had a husband who was grouchy and unpleasant enough to live with. She may have had to haggle with him over every penny, but when he is gone and she has her own money and nobody to tell her of her faults, she finds that her freedom is dust and ashes on her lips.

No woman who has run her own home is ever happy or satisfied in anybody else's home. No woman can put any pep into keeping house just for herself. No woman's life has any meaning to it if it has no service in it, and if she feels that nobody needs her.

Furthermore, the older we get, the more need we have of companionship in our own homes, for in age we must find our entertainment at our own firesides.

And so I think that the middle-aged men and women who have lost their old partners are well advised to secure to themselves new ones with whom to make the last lap of the journey of life.

As to whether a man or woman loves the second wife or husband as well as she did the first, that depends upon the individual case. Possibly nobody brings to a second marriage the same romantic illusions with which he or she approached the altar the first time, but in many cases the second marriage is far happier than the first, and the husband and wife feel a devotion to their second mates that the first were incapable of inspiring.

And nearly always second marriages are happy and peaceful because the widow and the widower have learned about men and women from their first venture, and know better how to treat their husbands and wives.

DOROTHY DIX

DEAR MISS DIX—What do you think about the promiscuous giving of letters of introduction? I live in a large city and am a man of some prominence, with a wide acquaintance all over the country.

I have dozens of friends who like very much to let me vouch for them by giving letters of introduction to me to all of their friends and acquaintances who visit my city. There is hardly a day that some man doesn't bob in with a letter of introduction from dear old Tom, Dick or Harry, asking me to show this perfect stranger some attention while he is in my town. I find this an intolerable tax on my time and purse. How can this nuisance be abated? X. Y. Z.

ANSWER:

Shake, Mr. X. Y. Z., I belong to your lodge of sorrow. Indeed, I dare say my sufferings are greater than yours, because women are more fluent letter writers than men, and even more gifted at passing the buck than men are.

Perhaps no one escapes, for it is such a nice, easy, cheap way to do somebody a favor. It takes the price of a postage stamp to give John Jones or Mary Smith a letter of introduction to somebody in New York or Philadelphia or Squeedon, to which they are going, and the writer should worry about somebody else having to invite John Jones out to lunch, or put him up at a club, or take Mary Smith out riding, or to see the sights, or go shopping with her.

And if you don't do it, you make a mortal enemy of John Jones and Mary Smith, who consider that they have been snubbed, and your friend never forgives you for turning down his friend.

Apparently it never occurs to those who give letters of introduction that we all have just about as many friends of our own as we can manage to keep up with, or as many calls upon our time and money as we can respond to, or that we are not running free employment agencies.

There is no greater pest than the letter of introduction, but I know of no way to stop it. When there always be those free-hearted, spontaneous enthusiasts who, when they hear that you are going to Rabbit Track or Paris will say: "Oh, my old chum Bob Robinson or Sally Snooks lives there, and you must meet him or her. I will just give you a letter of introduction."

And that puts it up to Bob and Sally to do his entertaining for him. Whereas Bob Robinson and Sally Snooks say things that no perfect gentleman or lady should say.

DOROTHY DIX

DEAR MISS DIX—Do you think that a baby girl should be named after her grandmother, if grandmother happens to have a perfectly hideous and horrible name?

ANSWER:

Indeed I don't, and I wouldn't afflict my poor little babe with an ugly name just to please a vain old woman. Why perpetuate an ugly family name any more than you would any other family affliction? You wouldn't wish the family gout, or the family dyspepsia, or the family deafness, on a child if you could help it. Why, then, handicap it with the blight of an ugly family name?

A girl's name makes a lot of difference to her because she has to be called by it as long as she lives, so give your baby a monicker that will come trippingly to the tongue and sound pleasing to the ear, and she will arise and bless you in after years.

DOROTHY DIX

FINE ETHICALLY WRONG BUT—

NEW YORK—Faced with a fine of \$3 because the rear license plate of his car was obstructed, Joseph LaRusso, a student at New York University, endeavored to prove to Magistrate Macready that ethically a fine was all wrong. He spoke with so much heat and tongue that the magistrate began to waver, and finally convinced, he told LaRusso that he had decided not to fine him but would send him to jail for three days instead. The student pleaded that a jail sentence would interfere with his studies and so the sentence was changed to the fine again. This time LaRusso paid.

The total number of deaths in the British air force in eleven months was 73. The Air Ministry attributes most of them to errors of judgment by pilots.

Col. J. M. Mitchell, secretary of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, says there is a larger demand in the countryside for literature of every kind than there is in the cities.

Little Joe

IN MARRIAGE, YOU PAY AS YOU ENTER.

AND AS YOU ENTER, YOU PAY AS YOU ENTER.

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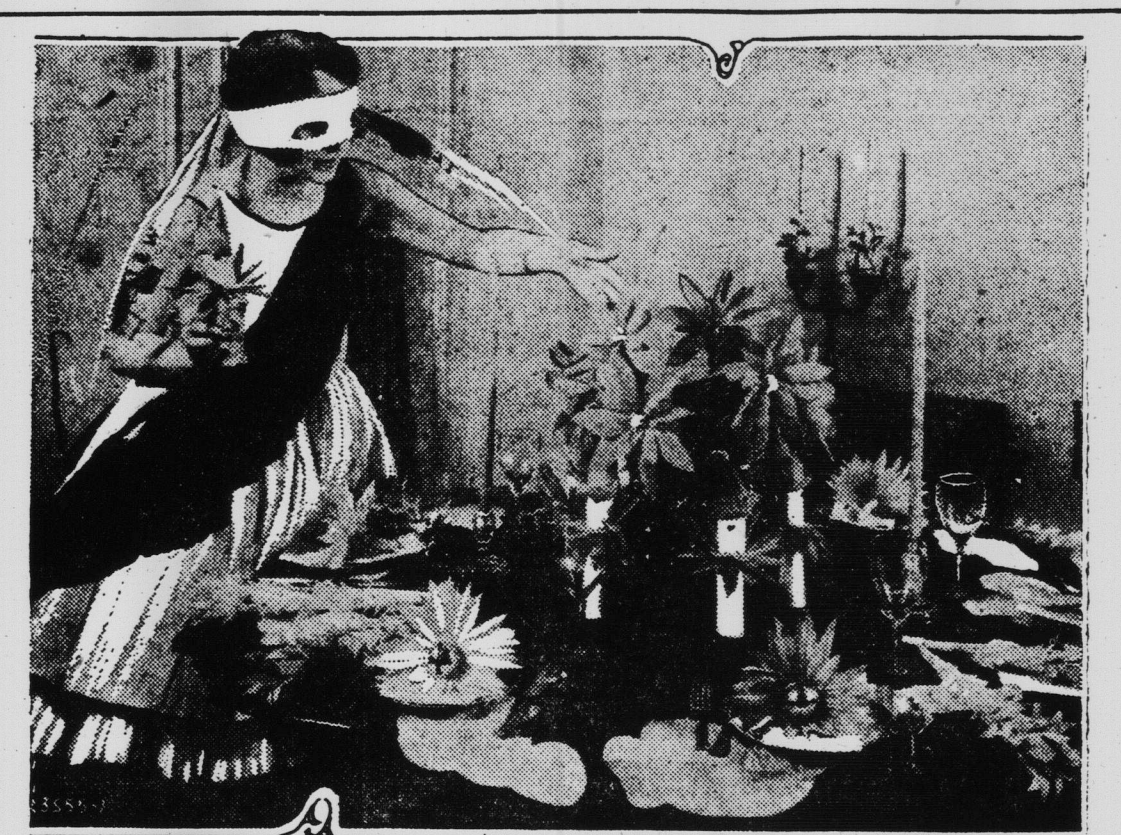
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New Year Hostess Makes Use of Bells For Decoration



By MRS. MARY MORTON.

HOW to decorate her table in an original and attractive manner is always the hostess' problem. It is more of a question than the menu. The hostess above solved the question. Bells are not new in New Year's decorations, but used as above they are unique. The centrepiece is polka-dot, either real or made of paper. A circle of favors made by taking tubes of con-

See-Sawing On Broadway

OF such fabrics as these was the Manhattan of O. Henry:

Just three doors from my third-floor-back a promising young poet works as janitor. A university graduate, he soon found that ethics did not bring bread. From time to time he sells poems to so-called "highbrow" publications. He gets \$5 or thereabouts.

By staking the furnace and sweeping out the hallways of an apartment house he gets his rent free and a modest income besides. When he is most porting, he has leisure hours, and then, in his suit-blackened overalls, he writes his sonnets and his songs.

JUST one block down the street there lives a man considered by many as eccentric. He lives alone, about six flights up, and there for many years he has worked upon drawings of those wild and primitive horses that once loped the desert wastes. In the course of time he will have reconstructed, from an anatomical detail for the American Museum, such an animal and, in a sense, this will have been his life work.

This man is very fond of cats. In summer he buys cheap canned fish by the case and feeds the hungry cats of the neighborhood. Winter is a precarious season for the cats of New York. They disappear into every available hole to creep out at nightfall and scavenge among the garbage cans that line the sidewalks at the end of the block.

Recently complaints were heard in the neighborhood that someone was removing the lids of garbage cans. The garbage men pointed out that the foraging cats would litter the street with debris.

A watch was set and, just about sundown, they caught the "old horse" going about taking the tops off garbage cans. He had no intention of letting his "alley friends" go hungry in winter.

THEN, in a prosperous corner grocery, a portly, a portly Greek, his pretty daughter has waited on me during the last year or more.

Into this store come all the "free thinkers" of the celebrated "Greenwich Village." I have seen her talking with them time and again. Young artists would order bills of goods and tell her of paintings just sold. She has seen at least five years of "modern" life.

The other morning she was smiling quizzically when I came in.

"I'm going to be married soon," she told me when I asked her what her secret might be.

"Some young poet?" I asked, looking about at the prosperous store.

"No—I don't know who it is."

"You mean you haven't met him?" I asked.

"No, you see my father has picked him out. Of course you don't understand, but we still do things that way. We still marry the man selected by our parents. I think it's really the best way after all."

I walked away. So, was Greenwich Village, land of "free love" and what have you!

GILBERT SWAN.

PARDONED BY PRESIDENT.

PARIS, Dec. 26—President Doumergue of France has pardoned the six German civilians who were convicted last week by French court martial at Landau, Germany, on the charge of attacking Lieut. Rouvier. Two of the Germans were given jail sentences while the four others having managed to flee into territory not occupied by French troops, were convicted in default.

Approximately 600 lions in California kill 30,000 deer yearly, or twice the number killed by hunters. Extinction of the animal is difficult because it cannot be trapped or poisoned.

A church building where prisoners may worship in accordance with their religious beliefs stands alone within the great enclosure at the Indiana state prison.

SHE was a strawberry blonde—but she gave me the raspberry.

Fashion Fancies

Nutria Makes an Unusual Trimming on Tan and Brown Cashmere.



Soft cashmere woolen cloth of tan, on which narrow brown lines make a cross-bar design, is the material used for this smart coat sketched above.

The nutria makes a shallow yoke which extends into sleeves, and also into a slender line at the front, which narrow as it reaches the border of the coat. Unlike many coats of the season, this border is placed several inches above the hem line.

This trim trimming would also be effective on a jacket of shorter length worn with a cloth skirt to match.

A Thought

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?—Jeremiah 8:22.

AH! Thank Heaven, travelers find Samaritans, as well as Levites on life's hard way.—Thackeray.

Bald men are brainier than those with luxuriant hair, according to a noted scientist who believes that the growth of hair absorbs a large quantity of energy.

"HER HEALTH EXCEEDS THAT OF THE AVERAGE GIRL"

Father John's Medicine has helped to bring up this entire family

What a satisfaction it is to fathers and mothers to know of such a remedy as Father John's Medicine when any of the children become pale and thin, or develop that distressing, hacking cough which saps the strength. Parents who are worried over their children's health will find comfort in this letter of Mr. Wm. F. Trask, 28 Hamilton St., Orono, Maine.

"My oldest daughter was in a steady decline. She was very thin. We worried over her constantly and feared she would not live as her condition was anything but encouraging. We had strong faith in Father John's Medicine, however, and continued giving it to her, increasing the amount each month. She kept right on improving and now I will venture to say her health exceeds that of the average girl."

Having only a pure, health-building food content, Father John's Medicine has been proven time and time again to be beneficial in just such cases. It supplies, in easily digested form, the food elements which pale, listless, blood-less children need to steadily increase in health and vitality. Father John's Medicine is safe because it is free from alcohol and every kind of dangerous drug, and has been successfully used for more than 70 years.

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The Rhyming Optimist

On a bright and windy morning when the tree-tops sing the sea, there seems no lack in all the world to mar its bliss for me, for sunlight sends its messengers of cheer that cannot fall and all day's care is blown away upon the lusty gale. Oh, who could count the little griefs that sometimes vex the day, when all the leaves on all the trees are singing as they sway? And who could harbor weariness or any thought of dread when all the winds of Heaven sing their anthems overhead? It's joy enough to know the spell their potent song invokes; and there's no death in all the earth to blight its bloom for me on a bright and windy morning when the tree-tops sing the sea!

BEHIND THE SCREEN

By GILBERT PICKARD.

CHARLES MAGUIRE, assistant director of the First National picture tentatively titled "The Song of the Dragon," argues that an assistant motion picture director can replace the Book of Knowledge, the Encyclopedia Britannica and the World's Almanac. It's his business to know the name of every man, woman and child who ever acted on the screen, and he is supposed to be a combination of diplomat, office boy, commissary, doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief, actor, make-up artist, architect and interior decorator.

Nadia, an American dancer, is gaining applause from Parisian audiences with her Spanish and Oriental dances at the Theatre Esotique. Her partner is Vicente Escudero, a Spaniard.

Here are some of the orders which come to an assistant director in an average day:

"Get me a man with a bald head and a beard by three o'clock."

"There are sixty extras working today; get me sixty lunch boxes and sixty picks like ditch diggers use."

"Gotta have a woman weighing four hundred pounds in half an hour."

The assistant may not have an idea in the world as to where the several articles may be obtained, nevertheless he goes out and gets them, and what more—he gets them on time, for time means money in the movies.

So it goes, if the director wants an unusual 1918 Cadillac, a jazz band, four Russian waiters, a dozen Charleston

dancers, an airplane, ermine coat or the crown jewels of the Romanoffs, the assistant goes out and procures them.

"Yes men," there are sometimes called, but where would a motion picture be without them?

William Nigh, directing Lon Chaney's new starring vehicle, "Mr. Wu," has as consultant the first Chinese screen writer in the history of the American studios. He is Moon Quan, Chinese poet and playwright.

John Gilbert's next starring vehicle, "Twelve Miles Out," deals with bootlegging and boot-lugging.

"Button," a story of the sea, will be Jackie Coogan's first starring vehicle under his new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer contract. With this picture he becomes an honest-to-goodness star and it is the first of a new type of story being developed for the youngster.

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A Baby Is to Be Born

ADVICE ON EXERCISE

This is the fourth of a series of articles on motherhood.

By DR. MORRIS FISHBEN.

THE amount and kind of exercise that an expectant mother should take depends to a certain extent on her previous habits.

She never should exercise to the point of fatigue, but always stop as soon as she feels tired. The nearer the day when the child is to be born, the more likely she is to become tired soon and require more rest.

Walking is the best exercise available. It should be taken out doors, except during extremely bad weather. The shoes should be broad, with low heels and wide toes, because high-heeled shoes make it difficult to walk, and slip more easily, with the possibility of accident.

SUNLIGHT A BENEFIT.

The sun's rays are beneficial, but too much sunlight produces sunburn and exhaustion.

Violent exercise in any form should be avoided. This includes running, tennis, golf, swimming, bicycling, skating, and horseback riding. Dancing may be indulged in occasionally, but only for short periods of time.

Obviously, the expectant mother should not expose herself to the action of the screen, and he is supposed to be a combination of diplomat, office boy, commissary, doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief, actor, make-up artist, architect and interior decorator.

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