

SOCIETY
CHURCHES
CLUBS

THE REALM OF WOMEN

WEDDINGS
STYLES
STORIES

The Query Club

Edited by MARY LEE

RULES.

Letters must be written legibly, on one side of paper only. All letters must be signed with the name and address of the sender, but a pen name may be chosen for publication, and this is desirable. Address all letters to Mary Lee, Query Club, Free Press, London, Ontario.

THE FASHIONABLE FIGURE.

Could I get some advice from you, Miss Lee, like you give to others? I want kind of a dress would look well on a person who is 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 115 pounds? And please tell me some way to make it that will not make her look too tall. I want to buy my little boy, 15 months old, a new coat; he has a white one, but it is so hard to keep clean. What kind do you think would be best? His eyes are brown. I could you get me the same called "A Butcher's Boy" and another, "Wedding Bell"? This last one is about a girl and a man going to be married in the church and in walks the wife of the man. It is a very nice song. 4. And, one more. Can you tell my character by my writing? I hope I have not asked too many questions, and wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

HAPPY EDDYTH.

Answer.—Your friend must be a very thin person, indeed. If she would put on about 20 pounds she would be much easier to dress. A dress with a square effect is best for slight people; that is, with both sides made the same, soft material, with a gathered skirt, and a bloused waist, will fill out the hollows. Panels at the sides or draped sleeves will have a widening effect. If trimming of any kind is used, have it in the center, or at both sides, not at one side or on one shoulder, as that would tend to elongate the figure. Black or dark blue make the wearer look taller and slimmer, while light colors have the opposite effect. 2. Bearcloth, marvella or any soft material is suitable for children's coats; the hard, compact wools are not comfortable. Brown would be most suitable and there are many shades shown this winter. I have never

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heard of these songs, but perhaps some of our readers have. Don't you think you could find something with a more cheerful tone that the one you mention? Your writing is very good, but shows a wavering mind, one easily influenced and easily turned from its purpose. You are inclined to be conceited, but are a hard worker, and do your work well, usually doing the other person's work as well as your own.

HEART PATTERN.

I have asked several times for the heart pattern, but so far have not received it. I wonder if any of the readers could lend it to me. Will you send it to me if you can get it, Miss Lee?

MARGARET.

Answer.—I have asked for it several times, but no one has sent it yet. But I think I will be able to get it for you shortly.

BUTTER AT DINNER.

Just a few questions that I would like to have answered by Wednesday, if possible. Should all kinds of cake be eaten with a fork? When out to dinner, and a butter plate is supplied, which is afterwards to be used as a cake plate, where can the butter be put? I have seen it placed on the butter plate and also on the large plate at a dinner. Which is correct?

BRIGHT EYES.

Answer.—Only a cream cake, or one with a stick filling is eaten with a fork. Cake should be served with tea or coffee, or with the dessert at dinner, and is eaten with the fingers. Butter should not be served at all with dinner, but is frequently used at home or in formal dinners, and it is served on a small plate, for the purpose, and the plate is removed before dessert is brought in. A plate should not be used a second time, but if it is, you would leave what butter you had not eaten on the plate and forget about it. It is very bad management on the part of the hostess to expect her guests to so use a plate, and you would just have to make the best of it.

FLUFFY RUFFLES.

I am a new-comer to the club and, of course, I am coming for advice. I take a great deal of enjoyment in reading the letters that are sent in by the Querists and also the answers. My question is: Can a mother give advice to a daughter when she is of age? I have always heard that when a girl is of age she can do as she likes. I have a recipe for Fluffy Ruffles which might be of use to some of the Querists. Two cups of granulated sugar, quarter cup of water, quarter cup of corn syrup, whites of two eggs, beaten stiff. Put the sugar and water on the stove to boil, then add the syrup and stir until soft when put in water; then stir in the whites of the eggs; lastly, add chopped nut meats. I have always found this a

lovely candy and if the directions are followed closely it will turn out nicely. Hoping that I may come again, and wishing all the Query Club a Happy New Year. R. T. S. SWEETIE.

Answer.—A mother can certainly advise a daughter of any age, and most daughters expect it. But she must be careful to make it advice and not commands. Many mothers make the mistake of trying to manage their families long after they are old enough to look after themselves. If a mother will talk to her daughter as one woman to another she will have little trouble in advising her, and generally supervising her welfare. By all means come again. You cannot be a real Querist with just one letter.

As this is my first letter to the club I will not stay very long. I read it every time it is in the paper and I like it so much. Sometimes I think some of the letters are mushy, but I may be wrong. I am 5 feet 4 inches tall and weigh 136 pounds, and am not yet 17. I think I weigh too much, don't you? Can you tell my character by my writing, and can you tell me what day the 18th of December fell on in 1907? Hoping I will not be asked too much for a newcomer.

Answer.—You do weigh too much now, Lawrence, but you will grow out of it in the next couple of years, and it isn't enough to worry about. Judging from your writing, I am afraid you are rather careless and easy-going and inclined to be deceitful. There is also considerable ability, but lack of ambition to develop it. Your writing is rather unformed for your age. The 18th of December, 1907, was a Wednesday.

May I step in out of the cold, where I have lingered many a day. I have just persuaded my husband to take the paper again, although we are now living in another city. I remember when the editor of The Free Press introduced the writer of the Query Club, he said: "Mary Lee is a real lady."

I have thought of that remark as I read your tactful and helpful answers. I have a four-poster bed upwards of 20 years old. Could I sell it for anything worth while? If so, please let me know where. It is the genuine article, originally a rope bed. It is rather battered up and has at some time been given a coat of shiny varnish; should I sandpaper it before trying to sell it? I value the bed as a dear possession, but I have another possession that is far from dear—a large doctor's bill. I think it is discouraging for a young man to have to pay out all his surplus for months at a time, so I would like to sell the bed if it would help out.

Please let me know if the gold crowns of extracted teeth are worth disposing of, and where they could be sold. Can you tell me which of my many bad characteristics show forth in my handwriting? KRANKY KATIE.

Answer.—I made use of your suggestions some time ago, and now will answer your questions. You were a real help to me and I hope you will call often. The editor must be a very kind person, but I am afraid he can't know "Mary" very well. The bed would be of great value to a collector of antique furniture, and while I cannot tell you what it is actually worth in money, I

"DIFFERENT" CLOAKS



This new cloak, the "latest from Paris," is of deep color tissue trimmed with imitation ermine. French designers say it is destined to be very popular this winter.

know such things bring good prices. It would be best to have it valued and then advertise it for sale. Leave it as it is, an expert can judge of its age and quality no matter how it is camouflaged. But I think you are foolish to sell it if you can raise money in some other way. Your children will value it probably more than you do, and when they are older they may regret the fact that you let it go. You are quite right in trying to help your husband bear the burden of debt, but you are sure he would consent to such a sacrifice? The gold crowns for the value of the gold, but you would not be very wealthy after the transaction. Your handwriting, in contradiction to your name, shows a cheerful, pleasant disposition; inclined to be a bit "heaven" and self-opinionated, but reliable, capable and altogether a very likeable person, so come again as soon as you can, all the Querists will be glad to hear from you.

MARY LEE.

NEW BANDINGS.

Bandings of linen or organdie with appliques of colored leather are featured on some of the new spring dresses.

OXFORD DISDAINS GIRL STUDENTS

Lot of "Undergraduate" Is Not Very Happy One.

U. S. GIRLS ATTENDING

Thirty-Two Have Entered the Courses This Term.

OXFORD, England, Jan. 1.—Thirty-two American girls have this term taken the short gown and attractive mortarboard cap, without the board, that make up the uniform of an Oxford women's student. Only eight are in members of a curious organization, called the Society of Oxford Home Students, which is not a college, although remarkably like one, and not a society of home students. Most of the girls live in the cold and uncomfortable lodgings for which Oxford is famous. The lot of the women students or "undergraduates" in Oxford is not a very happy one. The four women's colleges are all very poor, badly situated and scantily furnished. The Society of Oxford Home Students, poorer still, cannot even afford a college.

The grand old men of the university, the dons, fellows and heads of colleges who lived through the suffragette days, when enthusiastic women poured acid on college laws and corn syrup into college letter boxes, still look upon women students with mistrust and suspicion. While there is not among Oxford undergraduates that feeling of resentment against women students which leads Cambridge men to smash the gates of women's colleges and to stamp and groan when a woman enters a lecture room, yet their regard for the new-comers is far from kindly. At best it may be defined as an uneasy consciousness of unconscious superiority in the university journals women students are fair hosts for much crude humor and harsh criticism, and the average undergrad would no doubt prefer to see them go.

The company of the undergraduate is not greatly desired by the male, and her life is hedged about with the most exacting and harassing restrictions. American girl students are much more popular than their English sisters, partly because they dress more stylishly, and partly because the Oxford man shares with the rest of Europe the pleasing notion that all Americans are millionaires.

MAY BE EXCLUDED.

Any Oxford don or professor who sees fit may exclude women from his lectures. Where they are not excluded they attend with such zeal that men students complain bitterly that they take all the best seats. Women are

admitted only to part of the university libraries. This is no great hardship, for Oxford libraries are notorious for bad cataloguing and lack of heat. It is no uncommon sight in the great Bodleian Library of All Souls College to see a student dressed in overcoat and muffer and fur mittens conning a Greek book of black letter. Aloofness and opposition on the part of the men of the university have driven the women to rely more and more upon themselves, and they are slowly developing a social, academic and athletic world of their own, while the life offered to an American girl student is not an attractive one.

Side Talks

BY RUTH CAMERON.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY AND WHAT THEY MEAN.

Two women whom I know were discussing a third the other day when I was present. I do not know the woman, but the subject took a turn which interested me because it touched on a matter which I have often thought about.

Said one woman: "She says she's very fond of May, but of course that doesn't prove anything."

Said the other: "You mean you think she isn't truthful? Why, I never noticed that."

Said the first woman: "Oh, no, I don't mean exactly that. Not that she is any less truthful than most people, I just mean that I never go wholly by what people say. I don't think you can with anyone."

Said the second woman: "Well, I tell you that pretty cynical. That means you think that no one tells the truth. That's a nice thing to think about people. I didn't know you were such a cynic."

"I don't think I am a cynic," said the other woman. "But I do doubt if anyone tells the whole truth."

"Well, I pride myself on being perfectly truthful," bridled the other. "I don't know about you."

I came away about that time. I thought it was a good time to come away. I didn't want to be appealed to. But if I had been I should have to side with the cynic. Only I don't think she is one. Or if she is, I am, too. And I think anyone who studies character and does any thinking must realize that what people say is only half the truth about themselves—or less than half.

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hans I should say 999,999 people out of 1,000,000.

And then on top of that there are the conscious changes we make, the conscious variations and shadings before we let what we think phrase itself into words.

A man I know is sending his three children through college, making big sacrifices to do it. I believe he would give up anything in the world rather than that. Yet I heard him say the other day: "I often think it might be better for them all to go straight into business instead."

For a minute I was astonished. Then I remembered something. That the men to whom he was talking were neither of them college men. Whether he realized it or not, I fancy that he had put the doubts that sometimes come to any father more strongly than to mine.

What people say is a book of character studies. Their tone, their inflection, their interest, their commentary on the times it is a compass to the meaning.

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