

Letters to a Débutante

Married life must necessarily be full of ups and downs. Yet by far the larger proportion of marriages are happy ones. Few are ideal, and the majority may be described as of the jog-trot, kick-by-the-way order. Still, taking the average, not of society, but of our population, it must be confessed that the married state is happier than the single one, and the greater number of married people are reasonably and truly (if not ecstatically) happy. The modern and average man is an iconoclast, as far as woman is concerned. He does not idealise her, he has ceased to worship her, he no longer makes woeful ballad to her eyebrow; and he does not even propose nowadays on his bended knees. He can find it in his irreverent heart to "chaff" the object of his warmest affections. He is seldom sentimental, never romantic; and yet, in spite of all, there still exists a manly, chivalrous love,