

DOROTHY DIX'S TALKS

ADOPTING A BABY

By DOROTHY DIX
The World's Highest Paid Woman Writer.

I have received a letter in which a woman writes: "My husband and I are a middle-aged couple. We have been thinking of adopting a baby, but our friends warn us against it, and tell us of the dangers of heredity, and of the possibility that the child of unknown parentage may have some day bring sorrow and disaster upon us, because the child brought into the world by a woman who has had blood in her veins does him to wrong doing. What do you think about this? What do you advise us to do?"

Adopt your baby. Don't listen to the croakers. Don't be afraid of their prophecies. What if an occasional adopted child has turned out badly? Millions of our children have developed into wayward sons and daughters who have brought their parents' grey heads in sorrow to the grave.

Of course one would like to know that the child one adopts comes of a good, clean, honest stock, but after all, we do not know very much about how far blood tells in a human being, nor how far certain traits and qualities are bequeathed by parents to their offspring.

Scientists generally hold that environment is of far more importance than heredity in forming character, and that the reason that the children of criminals are so often criminals is mainly because they are brought up in a vicious atmosphere, and have no early training in the moralities.

Don't be scared off from adopting a baby by the heredity bug-a-boo. Pick out a child with a good, well-developed head, and clean, intelligent eyes, and trust to the environment that you can give him to overcome any taint in his blood.

Furthermore, as for heredity—well, when it comes down to brass tacks, there are mighty few of us who have got such a flawless family record, either physical, mental or moral, that we do not take after some of our ancestors.

Of all noble acts in the world I can think of none that is finer than the adoption of a child. It is a noble act, a noble deed, a noble sacrifice, and a noble way of life.

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world. You are the magician that releases an imprisoned soul. You endow for success, for achieving things, and it is as worthy an act as it is to endow a hospital or library or any other public institution.

And it is a good deed whose rewards you reap a thousand fold. Every time around your baby's soft little arms to the clasp of his helpless little hands, think of the good you are doing.

And as for amusement and interest—why, there is nothing else in the world so fascinating as watching a child's life unfold, and getting his own viewpoint on life. The things that you see when you have a little child for company in doing them. Old fairy tales, old songs, old games—what you thought of as the things of the past, now you are singing them and playing them with the child of your own adoption.

Then again a child will make your very house sing with joy. What music in all the world is like the patter of little feet running to welcome home, face watching at the window, penitence for the babe of a little voice that stumbles over the words "What's that?"

What is so enchanting as the smart things that a baby says? In all the world there is no such remedy for the most fatal complaint of domesticity—boredom, as a baby's company.

One of the disadvantages that attend growing old is that as time goes by we lose interest in ourselves, and every year we have fewer personal desires that we enjoy gratifying. By the time we are middle-aged we are pretty well satisfied with ourselves.

We have had most that we want. We have achieved our ambitions, and our ambitions are blunted. After that, we must take our pleasure in the company of others. We must invest our hopes in the future of others.

If there were no other reason for adopting a child than this, it would be enough. The childless man and woman who take out an insurance policy against old age and death, and who give him a home, a father and a mother, you give him a chance in the world.

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CANADIAN CLUB

HAS CELEBRATION

Seven Hundred at New York
Observe Signing of
Armistice.

New York, Nov. 11.—Notwithstanding the unexpected conditions that arose tonight, the date set for the annual reunion of the Canadian Club of New York, several hundred natives of the Dominion held a meeting at the Hotel Biltmore. The waiters' strike prevented them from holding their usual repast before speeches.

Most of the members dined at the various hotels in the neighborhood, but all met to celebrate the great victory and talk over news of the events vital to the business and social life of their home territory. More than 700 Canadians and their guests were present when the meeting opened.

By the time President Neeland called the meeting to order, the big ballroom was well filled with men from Canada and the United States. An added feature last night was four British war planes, two on each side of the American flag over the speakers' table.

The speakers for the evening, Hugh Guthrie, solicitor-general of Canada; the Hon. Henry Y. Braddon, commissioner from Australia to the United States; and John Grier Hibben of Princeton University, and the Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, of Brooklyn.

President Neeland read a telegram from R. R. Maitland, president of the Vancouver Society, felicitating the society on its Liberty Loan work recently. He said that the war could be a day that would be celebrated a thousand years from now as it is being celebrated today.

There is a deep sense of regret, however, he said, that the war could not have been carried into the hands of the country. Even now it is being whispered in the United States that Germany, coerced by her allies, while still on the soil of France yielded in the name of humanity.

Dr. Hillis introduced as the first speaker. He said that it must be recorded that to England and her colonies belong the chief honors of this war. His words went into financial details of what Canada had done. The question of the future relations of the mother country and her colonies was a question which would engage the attention of generations to come. He then paid an eloquent tribute to the work done by the women in the work of the war.

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PEACE LEAGUE CALLED

TO CONSIDER CHANGES

New York, Nov. 11.—William H. Taft, president of the League to Enforce Peace, tonight called a meeting of the national executive committee of the organization, to consider changes in the work of the organization, necessitated by the surrender of Germany.

Most of the members dined at the various hotels in the neighborhood, but all met to celebrate the great victory and talk over news of the events vital to the business and social life of their home territory. More than 700 Canadians and their guests were present when the meeting opened.

By the time President Neeland called the meeting to order, the big ballroom was well filled with men from Canada and the United States. An added feature last night was four British war planes, two on each side of the American flag over the speakers' table.

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SOCIETY

Conducted by Mrs. Edmund Phillips.

Dr. James Robertson, who is accompanying Sir Robert Borden to England, had the honor of taking tea with Their Excellencies the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Government House last week.

The Ladies Dorothy and Blanche Cavendish, accompanied by Miss Saunders, Captain Ridley and Captain Clive, spent last week at Blue Sea Lake.

Lady Hughes and Miss Allen Hughes were at the King Edward yesterday from Lindsay. Miss Hughes had been transferred from the Davila-Holmes, through Ottawa and had been on leave. Gen. Sir Sam Hughes is in Ottawa.

The Empire Club luncheon of \$50 took place at the King Edward yesterday when Vilhjalmur Stefansson spoke to the members; also one for the American Marine Band under Sousa in the Louis XIV. room.

Col. Perrault, Royal Military College, Kingston, has been spending a few days at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa.

Mrs. E. H. Foster sailed for England yesterday from New York, and will go to her house, Deador Prior, Salcombe House, Devon, on her arrival. She much regretted not being able to answer all the kind letters received from Toronto, but will do so at the earliest moment possible after reaching England.

Mrs. Frank Kenrick has taken Miss Randall's house at Niagara-on-the-Lake for the winter.

Mr. Brooks Gossage, 66th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gossage, Elgin avenue, has won the Military Cross during the late drive on Amiens.

Mr. and Mrs. Meredith and Miss Meredith, London, Ont., arrived at the King Edward yesterday for the Stefansson lecture last night.

Mrs. Pettit has returned from a visit to the United States, and will be of some length to relations in Cornwall, Ont.

Madame Gall-Curel will arrive in town today and will be at the King Edward for the concert at Massey Hall on Wednesday.

Mr. Boris Hambroff has returned from a very successful tour of the United States, and will be at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, for a few days.