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Side Talks by Ruth Cameron

WHY WOMEN CONCEAL THEIR AGE.



RUTH CAMERON

Someone asked the question, the other evening, why it is that a woman minds telling her age so much more than a man?

It seems to me the answer is almost too obvious to make—because advancing years make so much more difference in her attractiveness to the other sex than they do in the case of a man.

Perhaps you will not instantly accede to that, but look about you and notice what 50 years means to a man and what it means to a woman, and see if you do not agree.

Take a woman of 50. She is probably matronly looking; if her hair is grey, young men in the street cars give her a seat! She probably wears glasses, and I never yet saw a man who looked as well in glasses as she does without them; she may be very likable and companionable, but unless she is the one woman in a thousand, there is no suggestion of romance about her.

A Man's Grey Hairs Are no Draw Back.

Now take a man of 50. Let him have hair greying at the temples, or even all grey—that takes away none of his charm in the eyes even of a younger woman (I can remember when I wrote my first story at the age of 12 or thereabouts, my hero had iron grey hair); the years have given him features strength, and as strength is one of man's prime charms to woman, that is no drawback; if he wears glasses that makes the difference, for glasses are never noticeable on a man as on a woman. It would be perfectly natural and easy for a woman of 30 or even 40 to fall in love with such a man if he has a pleasing personality.

It Can Be Done.

But a woman of 50 must have an extraordinary personality for a man of 30 to find a suggestion of romance in her, to say nothing of actually falling in love with her.

Of course the thing has happened. Know of two very happy marriages where the woman was 50 or over and the man 30, but these were extraordinary cases—the women were remarkable women, one in ten thousand.

To be sure, all the interest of life does not consist in keeping one's at-

tractiveness to the other sex, and advancing years do not mean the restrictions they used to mean in our great grandmother's day, when women put on caps after the first grandchild was born. But they do mean more restriction and more loss to a man than to a woman.

The Measure of a Woman's Age.

There is a very familiar saying that a man is as old as he feels and a woman is as old as she looks. One must add to that, however, "and as old as her friends know her to be."

What's the use of looking 40 if some old friend who knows your age goes about telling people that you are wonderfully young for your age and asking them if they would ever realize you are 50?

No, if a woman can conceal her age, I can't say I really wonder that she does.

A Brooklyn, N.Y., resident, seeking a flat has had circulars printed saying his family of four was a quiet one; that they did not jazz and keep the house vibrating with a piano; that they did not have a mob of company, and that the rent was ready on the first.

THERE IS ONLY ONE GENUINE ASPIRIN

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During the war, acid imitations were sold as Aspirin in pill boxes and various other containers. But now you can get genuine Aspirin, plainly stamped with the safety "Bayer Cross." Aspirin proved safe by millions for Headache, Toothache, Earache, Rheumatism, Lumbago, Colds, Neuritis, and Pain generally.

Handy tin boxes of 12 tablets—also larger "Bayer" packages.

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UPS AND DOWNS.



WILL MASON

All mortals have their ups and downs, in all the modern styles; one day they will 'neath Fortune's frowns, the next enjoy her smiles. I gambol when I have an up, and when a down appears, I try to drink my bitter cup without unmanly tears.

Some men put up a gorgeous front when all things come their way; they blithely tackle every stunt, their curves are glad and gay. They move with an elastic step, the bluff they make is tall; we say, "These men are full of pep, they're winners, one and all." We've only seen them when the ups have filled their money vats, and they're as chipper as the pups that chase the village cats. But with the dismal downs on deck, they show up cheap and stale, and they invoke the name of Heck, and raise a plaintive wail. And we, who wondered and admired when they pawed up the dirt, confess that people make us tired who shrivel when they're hurt. Sane people calmly take their joys, and do not tear their gowns, or make a woful, sobbing noise, when ups give way to downs.

To clean ribbon, sponge with alcohol and rub over the spot with clean white soap, holding the ribbon straight.

Just Folks by Edgar A. Guest

THE KICK UNDER THE TABLE.

After a man has been married awhile And his wife has grown used to his manner and style, When she knows from the twinkle that lights up his eye The thoughts he is thinking, the wherefore and why, And just what he'll say, and just what he'll do, And is sure that he'll make a bad break ere he's through, She has one little trick that she'll work when she's able.

He may fancy the story he's telling is true, Or he's doing the thing which is proper to do, He may fancy he's holding his own with the rest, The life of the party and right at his best, When quickly he learns to his utter dismay, That he mustn't say what he's started to say, By his wife, who has taken a kick at his skin.

If he picks the wrong fork for the salad, he knows That fact by the feel of his wife's slippery toes. If he's started a bit of untellable news, On the calf of his leg there is planted a bruise.

Oh, I wonder sometimes what would happen to me If the wife were not seated just where she could be On guard every minute to watch every trick, And keep me in line all the time with her kick.

A Strange Invention.

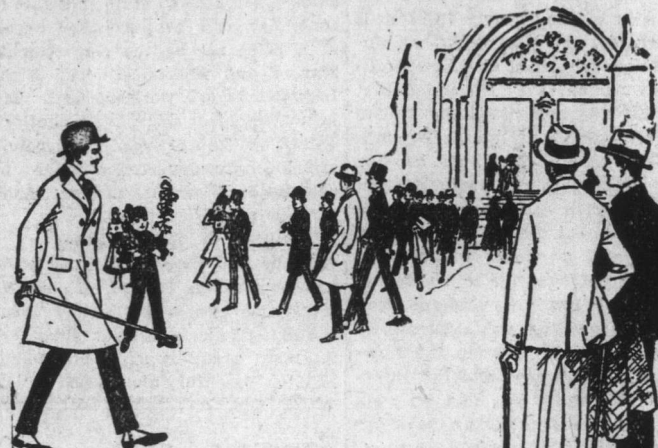
Boring a square hole has been called "a mechanical impossibility," but a mechanic of Peoria, Ill., after fourteen years of effort, has finally succeeded in inventing a machine which will bore not only square holes, but stars, crosses, hexagons, triangles, ovals and holes of many other shapes.

"Phoratone."

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My list includes several up-to-date fishing vessels, also schooners suitable for freighting purposes.

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mar20,31

Eugene Louis Deschanel, President of France, was born in poverty, the son of an exile, at Brussels in 1856. His parents were forced to leave France by "Napoleon le Petit" in 1850. In 1859 the three were allowed to return, when the father, Emile Deschanel, senator and professor at the College de France, resumed his political and academic work, and, incidentally, his flings at the Emperor. The new President fought a duel with Clemenceau 26 years ago and was wounded by him.

Caught by Ink.

FRAUDS DISCOVERED BY WRITING FLUID.

In a recent case, Mr. Charles Mitchell, the famous expert on inks, gave evidence regarding pension papers which were alleged to have been forged. Although the ink used throughout looked exactly the same to the ordinary eye, the expert showed that a number of different inks had actually been used.

Few people know that practically every kind of ink is different from every other kind used at the present day, and that any ink used now can easily be detected from ink used, say, a hundred or two hundred years ago. The forger has not only nowadays to imitate his victim's handwriting, but he has got to be careful to use his victim's actual ink unless he wants to be bowled out.

In a case a short time ago, for example, Mr. Mitchell showed that a will which was dated and had the appearance of being written in 1898 had actually been written ten years later, and from that very fact alone was proved to be a forgery!

The Cline of the Red Ink.

Dozens of cases of forgery for old age pensions have been proved by Mr. Mitchell. Evidence of age in many cases had been accepted from entries in the family Bible, and the ink expert showed that many of these entries, though dated seventy years before, had actually been written a few months before the pension was claimed!

One of the most remarkable trials in which the whole case turned on the question of ink was that of Humphreys in Edinburgh. Humphreys claimed to be the Earl of Stirling, and in support of his claim he produced a number of documents supposed to date back to the seventeenth century and early eighteenth century. One of these documents was dated 1639, and had comments on it in red ink by the supposed Chancellor of that day. Red ink wasn't invented till 1780, a hundred and forty years after the document was supposed to have been written!

Brinkley, the Croydon poisoner, was brought to the scaffold largely on the evidence of the ink expert, who showed that the will of Brinkley's intended victim was signed with no fewer than three different inks, showing that it had been signed and witnessed at three different times instead of all together, as the law demands.

Old Ink is Best.

Nearly all modern inks are made from a mixture of galls and coppers, which combine to form a kind of iron. It is this combination which gives the black appearance to ink. This mixture in the first place is almost colourless, only turning black after the writing has been exposed to the air for some time. To make it appear at once upon the paper, therefore, the mixture is coloured in various ways, making the famous blue-black inks now used everywhere. Nearly every manufacturer uses a different kind of colouring matter, and this is one of the ways in which the inks differ, and can be detected by the expert.

In the old days ink used to be boiled steadily for a long time to make it black, but in those days ink was made by the housewife as part of her ordinary duties, and many quaint ink recipes can be found in old cookery books.

The best inks in the world are the oldest. They were chiefly made of lampblack, like the present Indian and Chinese inks. Many ancient Roman documents which are preserved in museums, though two thousand years old, have the writing on them as black as the day when it was written.—Pearson's Weekly.

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"Reg'lar Fellers"

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By Gene Byrnes

