

PUZZLED OVER WOMEN

FEMALE SEX A MYSTERY TO THE HEBREW SAGES.

Classed With Fools as Subjects Beyond Comprehension—Remarks Made by Author of the Book of Ecclesiasticus.

Two subjects seem to have occupied the attention of the Hebrew sages to a marked degree. They are always recurring to them. In the midst of maxims about the conduct of life the sage cannot forbear to take a side swipe at fools and women. He finds them both beyond comprehension.

To get his point of view it is necessary to remember that there were no asylums in the Orient. Every village had its imbeciles, who were a feature of the town life. The village fool was a far more prominent person in the ancient East, and forced himself much more on public attention than the feeble-minded person of today, who usually is kept in the background.

As for women? Well, the ancient world never was able to make them out any way. Their incessant chattering was evidently a great annoyance to the solemn, white-bearded patriarchs.

One of the most human of the ancient sages was the author of the Book of Ecclesiasticus in the Apocrypha, Jesus, the son of Sirach. His book has a distinct flavor, a quality that makes it entertaining reading. The imagination pictures him a man of gracious dignity, reserved, serious, taking his obligations with the gravity of his race. Experience has disclosed to him most of the mysteries of the world—except women.

"A daughter," he confesses, "is a secret cause of wakefulness to a father, and the care of her putteth away sleep." That seems to have been the general attitude of the sages toward the female aspect of affairs. He enlarges on the subject in another place:

"I will rather dwell with a lion and a dragon than keep house with a wicked woman. The wickedness of a woman changeth the look and darkeneth her countenance as a bear doth. Her husband shall sit at meat among his neighbors, and when he heareth it he sighth bitterly. All malice is but little to the malice of a woman; let the portion of a sinner fall on her. As the going up a sandy way is to the feet of the aged, so is a wife full of words to a quiet man. A wicked woman is abasement of heart, and sadness of countenance, and a wounded heart. A woman that will not make her husband happy is as hands that hang down, and palsied knees. From a woman was the beginning of sin, and because of her we all die. A silent woman is a gift of the Lord."

The "wickedness" to which so much exception was taken seems to have been contentiousness. The wise man of the East, desirous of leading a contemplative life, was simply worn to death by an ill-tempered, talkative wife. That was why a silent woman—was a gift of the Lord. The only bit of conversation on the part of Socrates with Xantippe that is recalled is the word, "Hush!"

Fat Woman Has Light Fingers.
Step lively. Watch your step. Also keep your eye on any fat woman riding in the subway. To add to the variety and extensive difficulties of subway travel there has appeared over the underground horizon within the last three weeks a very stout woman with big and light hands who is collecting pocketbooks. She is very quick, very crafty in her general conduct and has been very successful. Last night while one of the woman passengers was absorbed in reading the back of a newspaper which belonged to a man across the aisle, the door opened, many left and as it was about to shut again the stout woman leaped up, hit the tired-looking man on the hat and fled, announcing that it was their station. Everyone present smiled, and so did the woman, who was reading the other man's newspaper, until she looked for her pocketbook, which had been on her lap. The train had left the station and there was nothing to be done. Scores of complaints have been recorded, and unless the stout woman exercises with frightful energy to disguise herself business is going to slow up abruptly. —New York Times.

Couldn't Feaze Fat Man.
One of those post-Christmas stories that are told. Bene Zene.
"On a Payne avenue car, Christmas eve, a meek-looking man occupied a front cross seat in the back end of the car. (It can be done. Ed.) A 250-pounder came in and slammed himself down upon the vacant end of the seat. The meek-looker fidgeted, showed signs of distress, rose and crawled out, and as he went he said: 'You can have it. Help yourself. This is Christmas.' He took a side seat and said to a passenger, 'He wanted my seat. He got it. Take a squint at him—looks like a funny picture in a paper.' Some of the passengers smiled, some guffawed, but it didn't feaze the big fellow. When a few blocks further on the meek-looker got off, the fat man gave him a generous grin, waved his hand and shouted, 'Merry Christmas!'" —Cleveland Leader.

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LEAVENED BREAD A MENACE

Italian Hygienist Recommends the Substitution of Whole Wheat With Minimum Amount of Yeast.

Leavened bread has been declared a menace to health as well as a national economic loss by Prof. A. Romano, a distinguished Italian hygienist. Professor Romano's statement came as a result of the study of Italian scientists and medical men of the bread and wheat situation to forestall the threatened shortage of wheat and consequently bread. The professor urges in substitution of the leavened bread a bread made from whole wheat and, at the most, from the minimum of yeast.

The Italian expert declares that the process of leavening makes bread too soft and renders it liable to be badly masticated and imperfectly mixed with saliva, especially when taken in milk or soup or dipped into various liquids according to prevailing Italian custom, when it is apt to be rapidly swallowed. The digestion of bread under these conditions is more or less imperfect, even though it does not necessarily reach the point of causing dyspeptic symptoms, and it is assimilated in less proportion to what it would be in normal circumstances.

Moreover, the added yeast preserves part of its activity even after baking, and continues to ferment in the stomach, giving rise to the production of acetic and lactic acids, among other substances, which are harmful to the subject to an irritable state of the mucous membrane. Professor Romano insists, therefore, that the use of white leavened bread is a serious error in alimentary hygiene, while it also constitutes an enormous loss in domestic and national economy. He advises that bread should not only be made with whole wheat, but that it should not be subjected to the process of leavening.

Let it should be thought impossible to manufacture a wholemeal bread without leavening which would satisfy the taste, he mentions that such bread has been for some time on the market abroad, and in regard to flavor has met with entire approbation.

No Cure for Grippe.
There is no use worrying about the weather, about the war, about unpleasant neighbors, about pressing necessities and about everything, but one. Go out and get the grippe. When you get that all your other troubles will be trivial. The doctors tell of many ways to prevent the grippe, but not one has discovered a cure. Put sulphur in your shoes, advises one physician, as a preventive. Another says tie some asafetida around your neck; that will keep the grippe germs away and your friends also. A third suggests eating saltine crackers and going to bed, while another says soap is a hereditary enemy of la grippe. Lather yourself with it and then go to bed. A Brooklyn physician advises grippe patients to wait into some hospital and have that sinister thyroid gland cut away from its lair. Then you will be immune. "Don't smoke, don't drink, don't indulge in kissing, and above all taboo eating as much as possible," says the health department, then you escape the ka-choo. The foregoing are only a few ways to prevent grippe. If you carefully follow all these insinuations what is left of you will not have the grippe.

Metals and Munitions.
Some remarkable facts about the metal required to fill the orders for shrapnel and other shells that Europe has placed in the United States were given recently by the Mining and Engineering World. A British 3.3-inch shrapnel shell requires 6 pounds 15 1/2 ounces of steel, and 5 pounds 9 1/2 ounces of brass that contains from 66 to 70 per cent of copper, or about 3 1/2 pounds; and round the shell is a small copper band that weighs 4 1/2 ounces. A shell of that size requires 1.87 pounds of spelter. Its contents consist of 7.93 pounds of bullets, composed of seven parts of lead and one part of antimony. Now, Europe has ordered not less than 25,000,000 shells of all kinds. To make them will use up 101,000,000 pounds of copper, 46,750,000 pounds of spelter and 173,250,000 pounds of lead.

Witnessed Stirring Sights.
The last of the women who went to the Crimea with the Highland regiments died recently in Dundee, Scotland. Her husband was a sergeant. She possessed a remarkable memory, and could give a vivid description of her experiences. She kept the hut in which Sir Colin Campbell resided. From a distance she witnessed the storming of the heights of Alma on 20th of September, 1854, and was present at Balaklava with two other women belonging to the regiment. They were a little behind the spot occupied by Sir Colin Campbell and his staff, and in front of them was the famous "thin red line." She could recall the pleasure with which the soldiers regarded the coming of Miss Florence Nightingale and her nurses, and was herself for a time engaged in tending the wounded.

Nobody Home.
Cholly—Do you know, sometimes I think my mind is going.
Miss Keen—Really? Why, I didn't know it had come.—Boston Evening Transcript.

Now All Shut Up.
Wife—Have you shut up everything for the night?
Husband (meekly)—I'm sorry to say, dear, that I haven't.—New York Sun.


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