

THE VALLEY OF FORTITUDE

By FANNIE HURST

(By McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

WHEN misfortune came to Edna Oliver, it struck her, out of a clear sky, to the flat of her back.

And there she was to remain, literally, for a period of fifteen stricken years, encased, as a mummy might be encased, in a plaster cast that held her body rigid.

As the star woman reporter on the biggest metropolitan daily, Edna Oliver, rushing down the corridor of an office building on a scout for a "big story," had stepped into an elevator shaft, thinking the cage awaited her.

The result had been devastating and had resulted in a partial paralysis. The Edna Oliver of fifteen years after this calamity was scarcely to be recognized as the alert, vivacious and talented young woman who had skyrocketed to a position of importance on the reporter staff of a gigantic newspaper. Pain, mental anguish and unutterable fatigue of spirit had told their story in the face of Edna Oliver, and yet, as is so often the case with the afflicted in body, she had come through the trial-by-fire with a special and rather magnificent kind of triumph.

With the fifteen years spent on the flat of her back, strange wisdoms had come to Edna Oliver. Those brilliant, comprehending eyes of hers had looked inward, so to speak. Out of the solitude, out of the pain, out of the contacts on the sun parlor with other souls as stricken as hers, had come a new, tolerant, spiritual Edna.

The friends who had stood by her in all these years, who had visited her religiously, cared for her creature needs, noted with a certain kind of awe this change.

Toward the end of the fifteen years the spirit of rebellion in Edna had died down. There apparently had come to her in the watches of those long nights, some of the secrets of the spiritual.

To visit with Edna Oliver was to leave her bedside feeling chastened, humbled, and a little reverent. To sit in her presence was not only to leave it grateful for the benediction of your own health, but grateful for the benediction of a soul like Edna Oliver's upon this earth.

Lying on her back, gazing out of a window at a rectangle of sky, had sweetened this woman with what seemed almost a knowledge of the infinite. A spray of lilac in a vase could be her universe. Some one had given her a radio, and the voice of the world outside filled up her little hospital room and kept her in warm sympathetic touch with the great milling scenes of the metropolis with which she was so physically out of contact.

During her years in that hospital Edna had formed friendships with the afflicted ones around her as well as with the physicians and nurses who served her. She had come to learn the strange, thwarted psychology of the lame, the halt, the blind; and at the same time the incredible mental and spiritual triumphs that they could accomplish over physical defeat.

It was a little ironic, as her submission to her destiny ripened and grew into the something that was spiritual, that the poor twisted spine of Edna Oliver should begin to gather strength. There came a day when her physician could hold out to the stricken girl promise of a partial, if not a complete recovery.

Curious, but the old Edna, at the prospect of that, leaped into harness like a fire horse at the call of a bell. Old ambitions came flowing back. As she told her favorite physician, Doctor Alonysious, who had served her well, crying upon the back of his hand, something that she had thought dead within herself had lifted its head.

In the months that followed, it is more than probable that sheer grit, determination and rehabilitated hopes in Edna Oliver accomplished at least two-thirds toward her miraculous recovery.

Sixteen years to the day from the horrible one when she had hurried down an elevator shaft, Edna Oliver walked out of the hospital.

Her return to the newspaper was an occasion for festivity long to be remembered even in the feverish annals of journalistic New York.

Edna returned to her work with the prestige, the acclaim, and the honor of a general returning from a successful battle. Her colleagues rallied around her to the man. Every hand was held out to give her a fresh start in the work that had been so cruelly interrupted. There were flowers on her desk from every department in the organization; from old and less fortunate friends still lying prone on their back in the hospital; from Doctor Alonysious and his entire staff.

The return of Edna Oliver to the busy, equipping, struggling world was the return of a conqueror. But right here the advancement of this story of her progress misses a cog, so to speak.

The Edna Oliver who had returned to her work with thanksgiving in her heart, enthusiasm in her spirit, felt

herself appalled at the very threshold. Somehow, in some way, the new Edna asked herself almost immediately, questions that had never occurred to the old Edna. The years of meditation in the cloistered reaches of the long days and the long nights had awakened new channels of thought in her mind. It was impossible to find herself in this elbowing, pushing, showing, unthinking, relentless world and not ask herself questions that were minted out of the new wisdoms that the fifteen years had given her.

Whither? Why this rush? What mattered this day-by-day struggle for the creature things, if in their attainment one had not time for the beautiful leisure for thought and communion? What was it they were struggling for, scratching for, throttling for? What availed a roof over the head, if beneath that roof there were neither leisure, wisdom, contentment, beauty?

It was impossible for Edna Oliver to rush about the city, hither, thither, here, there; up, down; in, under; and not feel herself tormented by a sense of futility. Life on the surface was so evasive; life beneath the surface, in the quiet, somber, profound reaches of the soul had taught her that.

The world which had taken her back so eagerly no longer satisfied Edna Oliver. Her heart and mind were filled with pity toward it. Her one desire was to find a way to instill into these hurried, harried, comrades of hers some of her new, strange wisdoms of the deeper values of life.

And yet, of course you did not mount a soap box and query: "Listen, folks! Where are you hurrying? What do you do with the seconds and minutes so frantically saved? Of what significance is this vast, strange, beautiful world in which you find yourselves, if you have neither the peace, the leisure, nor the wisdom to enjoy it?"

"Where is this leisure for which you are rushing? I see it nowhere. Where do you keep it? In a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow? Why, you cannot even see the rainbows for the cluttered, noisy horizon."

"When do you think, people, you, out there, in the maelstrom? What do you think? Do you think at all? Have you ever withdrawn into the convent of your own souls and learned some of the strange wisdoms that lurk in contemplation?" No, one certainly did not give one's self away by preaching that sort of gospel to a busy, heedless world.

There must be more subtle ways to disseminate some of her secrets. It was the sort of wisdom you had to dole out to an unsuspecting world in sugar pills. The men and women who milled about her in her daily work would have tapped their brows over her, had they suspected the vast, strange doubts that her return to the maelstrom was awakening in Edna. She did not propose to have them tap their brows over her.

But slowly and surely was borne in upon her the need to save herself. The need to find her way back into the peaceful meadows of soul and spirit where she had rested during the long years of her slow and painful convalescence.

It might offhand seem ungrateful to win back her world only to surrender it again, but more and more poignantly it was borne in upon Edna that she had not won back her world; she had lost her world. The one back there in the calm, cloistered reaches of the mind and spirit which her bed of pain had created for her.

It was inevitable that the new Edna should find her way back to the companionship of the stricken ones in the hospital; to those whose baptism of fire had made them wiser, more tolerant, more chastened. It was further inevitable that the new Edna should ultimately drift into the companionship of marriage with her erstwhile physician, Dr. Edward Alonysious, who also had looked into the vale of the resurrected in spirit, and had there found the wisdom and the beauty.

Not at Home

Two old cronies met one day and they had not met for some time.

"How are you gettin' on w' yer hens, Johnnie?" asked one, remembering that rearing poultry had always been a strong suit with him.

"Oh," said Johnnie. "I've stopped the hen business entirely. I'm raisin' pigs now, and if you would like to see the best litter in Lanarkshire, just tak' a step down our way any time you like!"

As luck would have it, Johnnie's friend was down in his district the very next day and called upon him. His wife came to the door. "I would like to see the wee swine, Mrs. Broon," said the visitor.

"He'll not be back 'til six o'clock!" promptly said the lady.—Vancouver Province.

Sky Rockets Into Unknown

For many years Dr. Robert H. Goddard of Clark university has been studying the subject of skyrockets; now a liberal gift from Daniel Guggenheim insures more ambitious research.

There is a limit to the height to which balloons and airplanes can rise because of the rarity of the atmosphere, but the rocket, propelled by the recoil of gases, might travel in the thinnest medium. Fuel must be powerful, but not heavy; the mixture of liquid hydrogen and oxygen seems the most promising at present.

The scientists hope to send up rockets with instruments which will solve many problems to a height of twenty-five or even fifty miles.—World's Work.

Kill Perennial Weeds in Fall

Much Easier Job Than in Spring After the Garden Has Been Planted.

It is not too late to rid small garden areas of such persistent weed pests as the wild morning glory and the poverty weed. It is announced by Walter Ball of the botany department of the Colorado Agricultural college. Eradication of such pests now will not only stamp them out, but prevent their spreading.

Weeds Can Be Killed.

Experimental work carried on by the department recently has demonstrated that these weeds can be killed by treating the infested ground with carbon disulphide. This treatment is not practical for large pieces of ground as it is too expensive, but for small areas in gardens it is practical, and it pays. These perennial weeds not only trouble the gardener, but rob plants and flowers of food and water, thus preventing their proper growth.

Detailed information as to the use of carbon disulphide may be obtained without cost from the botany department of the college. Generally speaking, one gallon of the chemical is required for treating the average square rod of ground.

When the infested soil is right—neither too wet nor too dry and hard—the fluid is poured into holes 18 inches deep, dug in the ground at two-foot intervals. The holes may be made by driving down an iron pipe about one inch in diameter, and about two feet long. About two ounces of the chemical should be poured into each hole, and the hole immediately filled in, so that the fumes of the fluid may effectively kill the weed roots.

Disulphide Evaporates Rapidly.

Carbon disulphide evaporates very rapidly, and therefore only small amounts should be taken from the container at a time, and used quickly. The container cap should be kept tight at all times. This chemical is also highly explosive so it should be kept away from fire. Especially should workers refrain from smoking while using it.

Killing the weeds in the fall is much easier than in the spring after the garden is planted, for every time the plow or cultivator is run through the infested area, parts of the weed roots are carried along, and the spread is quite rapid. Then, too, in the fall there is no danger of injuring plant growth, since almost everything has been taken from the garden.

Not Possible to Cross

Gherkins and Cucumbers

Gherkins and cucumbers contrary to the general belief do not cross; neither do watermelons and muskmelons. In fact true pumpkin and true squash crosses are rare even under controlled conditions where every effort is made to artificially produce a hybrid. Even though fruits result from such a cross they either produce no seeds or sterile seeds so that the crossed progenies will eventually perish. It is, therefore, safe to conclude that pumpkin and squash crosses do not exist although it is possible to secure an occasional fruit which is the result of a cross. Different varieties of pumpkins, however, cross readily as do also different varieties of squashes.

Farm Machines Better

Than Those Years Ago

Occasionally we still hear the remark that the farm machines of today are not so well built nor of as good material as they used to be years ago, but this idea only raises a laugh among the men who know. To be sure the quantity of material used is far less, but the quality and strength of material is far greater; and the machines of today are stronger and more durable, lighter in weight and draft, more convenient and reliable in operation, and repair costs are far less. The improvement in quality and reliability in farm machines has almost kept pace with that of automobiles.

Fall Plowing Prevents

Erosion During Winter

In fall plowing it is important to consider the lay of the ground in laying out the lands, so that erosion may be avoided to the utmost during the late winter and spring months, when the ground begins to thaw out and become mellow. It is hard to realize just what an enormous loss of soil occurs by washing away during this time, even when precaution is taken to prevent it. This is especially true on ground which is plowed very late, and, on which no cover crop of volunteer grains or grasses had time to spring up. Out stubble plowed reasonably early will develop a root crop of volunteer oats that protects the soil greatly.

Tree Fertilizing

Apple and cherry trees need fertilizers as well as corn and potatoes. Our best fruit growers are applying sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of soda every spring, but on the dairy farm where many fruit trees are grown, the fertilizer problem is an easy one. Manure can be put on now; during the winter months.

Spread the manure under the branches. If piled up under the branches mice may get in.

Moving Large Trees Done Successfully

Proper Attention to Details Is Quite Essential.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Moving large trees was once regarded as being so difficult that it was seldom attempted, but by the use of modern equipment and the exercise of care, it can be done successfully, says the United States Department of Agriculture. The same attention to details is required as is needed in moving smaller plants, but because of the greater weight to be moved and the longer time required, both in preparation and moving, much greater attention to details is necessary.

Among the essentials for successful transplanting are a good tree, including a well-developed root system and a healthy top; moving at the proper season: Deciduous trees while dormant, evergreens when the ground is sufficiently warm and moist to stimulate the plant to the immediate formation of roots; properly dug trees with the roots well protected from the time the soil is first removed until replanted; an adequate hole; the tree properly set and the soil sufficiently firmed; the top properly pruned; and the soil properly watered until the tree is re-established.

With the use of derricks, trucks, and an abundance of protection for the bark and roots, the mechanical difficulties of moving large trees have been greatly reduced.

Excellent Practice in

Winter Care of Manure

The best practice in handling manure is to haul it out and distribute it on the fields every day. The attempt should be made to cover the more level and rolling fields as there is more of a tendency for the manure to wash and leach away on the hill-sides.

There will doubtless be some days when it will be impossible to get into the field with the spreader, and it will then be desirable to pile the manure until it can be handled and drawn out. In building the pile, it is well to separate it from the regular barnyard so that it can be built up in much the same manner as a stack of hay or straw. If spread out and improperly cared for, it will result in a very large loss of fertility, due to leaching and loss by fermentation.

Fall Plowing Has Many

Advantages to Farmer

Fall plowing of land is advisable in many instances as it is more economical and not because it will increase the yield of corn in every case, according to D. H. Hughes of Iowa State college.

There are a number of factors in favor of fall plowing such as the teams are more able to do the work than as they are used to doing heavy work; there is more time in the fall as the pressure of the other work is less and greater destruction of weeds and insects is secured by fall plowing.

The character of soil is a factor to consider in fall plowing, some soils run together in the winter and others wash badly. Other soils are heavy and wet and one cannot be sure of getting to plow them in the spring.

Agricultural Squibs

Shavings are superior to all other materials for hen's nests.

Do not worm a dog that you suspect has distemper. It may kill the dog.

Honey ranks high in energy value; the calorie value to the pound is 1485.

Well-matured, strong, one-year-old scion wood should be used for grafting.

The earlier lime is applied the sooner it begins to correct acidity for next year's clover.

Live stock and live stock products furnish 80 per cent of Ireland's return from agriculture.

Under average conditions, alfalfa will give good stands if seeded at the rate of about 12 to 20 pounds per acre.

Silage is a great cattle feed, and is useful in feeding some other stock, but as ordinarily made it is far from a balanced feed.

Paint protects wood by retarding gain or loss of moisture, so that the sudden swelling and shrinkage of the surface that causes weathering does not occur.

Alfalfa should never be sown in wet, poorly-drained ground. It cannot stand "wet feet." Likewise, there will be only disappointment if alfalfa is sown on soil that is markedly acid.

Fourteen hundred and nineteen New York dairymen know their cows. They own the 35,267 cows in the advanced registry, in dairy herd improvement associations, and in dairy record clubs.

Silage costs may be made unnecessarily high by attempting to produce milk or to finish beef cattle on a straight silage diet. It is the combination of silage, some hay and a concentrate that generally gives most economical results.

ASPIRIN

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DEMAND this package

Genuine Bayer Aspirin has been proved safe by millions of users for over thirty years. Thousands of doctors prescribe it. It does not depress the heart. Promptly relieves

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SAFE

Leaves no harmful after-effects. For your own protection insist on the package with the name Bayer and the word genuine as pictured above.

Aspirin is the trade-mark of Bayer Manufacture of Monosaccharide of Salicylic Acid

Wind Unjustly Blamed

Poison of poison ivy and poison oak is sticky and is not distributed by the wind as was once believed.

One Reason

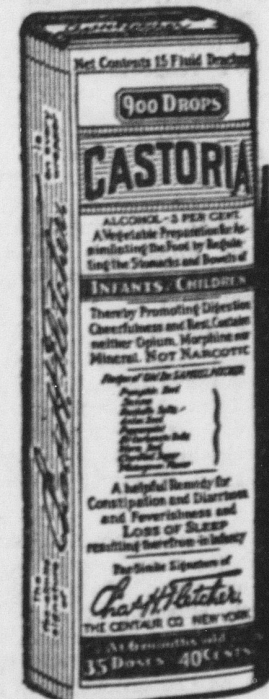
Hard times: A period when people quit feeding the cow and wonder why she gives less milk.

For TEETHING troubles

FUSSY, fretful . . . of course babies are uncomfortable at teething time! And mothers are worried because of the little upsets which come so suddenly then. But there's one sure way to comfort a restless, teething child. Castoria—made especially for babies and children! It's perfectly harmless, as the formula on the wrapper tells you. It's mild in taste and action. Yet it rights little upsets with a never-failing effectiveness.

That's the beauty of this special children's remedy! It may be given to tiny infants—as often as there is need. In cases of colic and similar disturbances, it is invaluable. But it has every-day uses all mothers should understand. A coated tongue

calls for a few drops to ward off constipation; so does any suggestion of bad breath. Whenever older children don't eat well, don't rest well, or have any little upset, a more liberal dose of this pure vegetable preparation is usually all that's needed. Genuine Castoria has Chas. H. Fletcher's signature on the wrapper. Doctors prescribe it.



For Housekeepers



LYDIA ORLOSKI
425 So. Washington Ave., Scranton, Pa.
"I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for run-down condition before my baby was born. Now I eat better, have gained in weight and have more strength to take care of my four children. I can do my housework and not get a bit tired. My mother and my sister, also several of my women friends are taking your medicine now, because I believe that this medicine will help any woman that will take it regularly."—Mrs. Lydia Orloski.



MINNIE E. HICKS
R.R. #2, Rushville, Indiana
"When I started taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I could hardly do my housework. I was so nervous and weak from Change of Life that I had to lie down very often. I heard about the Vegetable Compound through a pamphlet which was left at my door. I am doing all the housework for a family of four and it keeps me on my feet. I have taken six bottles and I have gained strength and flesh."—Minnie E. Hicks.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass.



Shampoo Regularly with

Cuticura Soap

Precede by applications of

Cuticura Ointment

This treatment will keep the scalp in a healthy condition and the hair thick and lustrous.

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