

HAPPINESS AND THE COMMONPLACE; THE GIFT OF BEING ORDINARY

Moodiness and Periods of Depression Are Often the Portion of the Genius—The Ordinary Girl's Life Flows in Smoother Channels.

By ELLEN ADAIR

I AM so disappointed that I can't do anything really brilliant," wrote a play-at-home girl to me recently. "I have always wanted to be clever and interesting, and have people point me out as different from the commonplace girls one meets every day. But after trying to excel in a whole lot of different ways and failing miserably, I have at last come to the conclusion that I am very ordinary!"

The letter goes on in a somewhat regretful and anxious strain. The writer feels that life has dealt unjustly with her in failing to bestow qualities and gifts above the average. "I can't even play the piano," she laments, "although I have spent a great deal of time in practicing. There really doesn't seem any particular thing I can do well, and it does seem hard!"

This maiden, all forlorn, quite overlooks the fact that, after all, the world is pretty largely made up of "ordinary" people, and that the ordinary people manage to have a very good time, too. It is the ordinary men and women who attend to the small but necessary business that goes to make up the great mass total of our lives and the world's affairs generally. The geniuses are too busy to look after small things—and then geniuses are so few!

"If I were only passably good-looking I should at least have something to compensate," continues the writer of the letter, but that consolation has been denied me also! "Although I have studied quite hard and read all sorts of books with a view to improving my mind, my conversation is far from being either witty or entertaining."

But the "ordinary" girl has several consolations, if she only knows it. Pretty and witty girls with any amount of admiration—loudly expressed; but who goes out of his way to praise the ordinary girl? All the same, she wins just as much love as her brilliant sisters, and sometimes even more.

For many people that shy of the beautiful or clever girl. They fear that she is out of reach; that she will not condescend to their level. And so they turn to the girl who has no wonderful gifts to make their own feel small in comparison.

feel small. And this is precisely the effect which many brilliant people have on others. The light which beats on their brilliance is strong, but it tends to be reflected on those around. Instead, it merely serves to show up their particular lack.

A great deal of quiet happiness is to be found in the commonplace. Life may not be so very dazzling to the ordinary girl, but it may be very satisfying and very delightful. She is spared many of the ups and downs of her more gifted sisters. Little is expected of her, and little, therefore, will be demanded. But the girl who is considered "unusual" has set up a standard for herself, to which she must rigorously adhere, and by that will she be judged.

The brilliant girl must live up to her character. She cannot afford to descend from her pedestal, as it were. There is a constant demand on her time, her intellect. And if she lapses from the high standard set up for her, she will be unpleasantly criticized and censured. Moodiness and many periods of utter depression fall to the lot of those gifted with the artistic temperament. They don't seem able to escape from these attacks.

The ordinary girl is differently constituted. She is of a more placid disposition, less liable to moods and sudden changes of "temperature." The standard set up for her makes no stringencies for her, and she is not troubled on her temper. Life flows along in smooth and easy channels.

A great deal of quiet happiness lies in the commonplace. The average girl in her career of which one seldom hears is frequently filled with a deeper joy than the one which its every movement recorded in the columns of newspapers.

The writer of the letter previously quoted deprecates the fact that she is not endowed with good looks. But let her listen to the words of a certain beautiful woman on this very subject. "Good looks are more of a trial than a blessing," declares the latter stoutly. "From my childhood I have always been considered a beauty. And what an incessant nuisance it has been! I couldn't do this and I couldn't do that, I couldn't eat this and I couldn't eat that, all because care of my looks had to be considered first and foremost. And I have few real friends. Women do not trust me. They fear that I shall steal their sweethearts or their husbands from them. Men are nearly as bad. 'She is too pretty to consider seriously,' they declare. 'She never would be contented to give up her social life and settle down.' So, I have grown to hate my own good looks!"

IN SODALITY LAWN PARTY AT CLIFTON HEIGHTS



ALL ROADS LEAD TO CLIFTON HEIGHTS

Lawn Party of St. Charles' Church, Oakview, the Attraction For Joyous Throng.

Just as surely as all roads lead to Rome in ancient times, just as surely will every road in the vicinity of Clifton Heights lead directly to the public school lawn of that borough tonight, tomorrow night and Saturday.

The occasion for this joyous exodus from happy homes is to be the lawn party of St. Charles' Church, of Oakview, and held on the public school lawn at Baltimore avenue and Diamond street, Clifton Heights, the purpose of the affair being to raise funds for the new parochial school and parish hall.

ELLEN ADAIR CALLS ON A WOUNDED SOLDIER

Continued from Page One arrived from Berlin and passed through Paris. Whether the war will be over in October or not, England is certainly putting her best foot foremost in the matter of recruiting.

very happy and bright—but then there is something exhilarating about the wonderful air of Epping Forest. Few of these men have been to the front, and, therefore, all are eager to get there. "Just to have a shot at the Germans!" is their one, all-consuming desire—a desire which later will be fully realized!

At length the beautiful little village of Saffron Walden was reached, and we arrived at the Red Cross Hospital. It was a wonderfully equipped place, and every care and every medical invention and device for the benefit of the poor soldiers were all in full play.

Some of the poor fellows looked desperately shattered in health. Their nerves had all gone to pieces, and one young man who had been walking about the grounds without the assistance of a nurse or even a walking stick suddenly burst into tears and cried like a baby.

A SIMPLE GOWN WHICH COULD BE MADE BY THE HOME DRESSMAKER

A GREAT deal of unnecessary space is given to the going-away girl every summer. Fashion artists design elaborate traveling costumes and automobile coats and outing clothes and evening gowns and all sorts of elaborate paraphernalia which goes to make up the triumph of the real summer girl. But what about the little girl who stays at home?

clouds of poisonous gas which was pumped right over the French trenches by the aid of cylinders. This, of course, was done when the wind was favorable, and the French, unable to stand the tortures of the gas, had to retire. The line was thus left open for the Germans to advance through, and two British divisions were exposed to fire.

"At 10:30 p. m. my regiment, the 16th Battalion of the Canadian Scottish, and the 16th Battalion of Canadian Infantry were ordered to retake the trench lost by the French and to drive the enemy out of the wood. The charge took place at midnight and the trench was retaken but at a terrible loss. With 2200 men we held the trench against 8000 Prussian Guards and 35,000 cavalry. But when all was over and victory won there were only a very few hundred of us left."

HAND TO HAND IN THE DARK

"That wild charge in the dark was a thrilling affair. A dozen times I tripped and fell over the bodies of dead and wounded Germans, and came face to face with living ones in hand-to-hand battles. It's a queer feeling fighting a man for your life, but when your blood is up you don't care what you do. You feel quite mad—you have to feel mad or you couldn't run cold steel through every man you meet!"

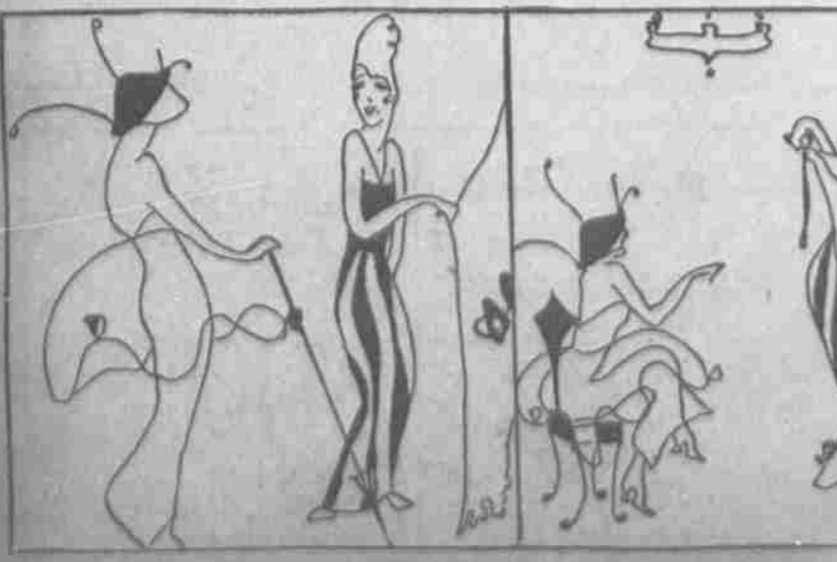
TORTURED BY WOUNDS

"Did you suffer much pain with your three separate wounds?" inquired one of the party. "I'm afraid they did hurt a little," said Private Edwards reluctantly and in quite an apologetic tone. You see for 19 days after I had no medical attention, but had to lie around in the trenches, my leg roughly bandaged up by myself and a large bullet below the kneecap, as well as the bayonet cut, which was 10 inches long and very deep. But what worried me more was that I went totally blind for several weeks. A high-explosive shell had burst near me, and the concussion blinded me. My sight has come back at last, and I have very much to be thankful for! Don't you think so?"

WILBUR'S COCOA

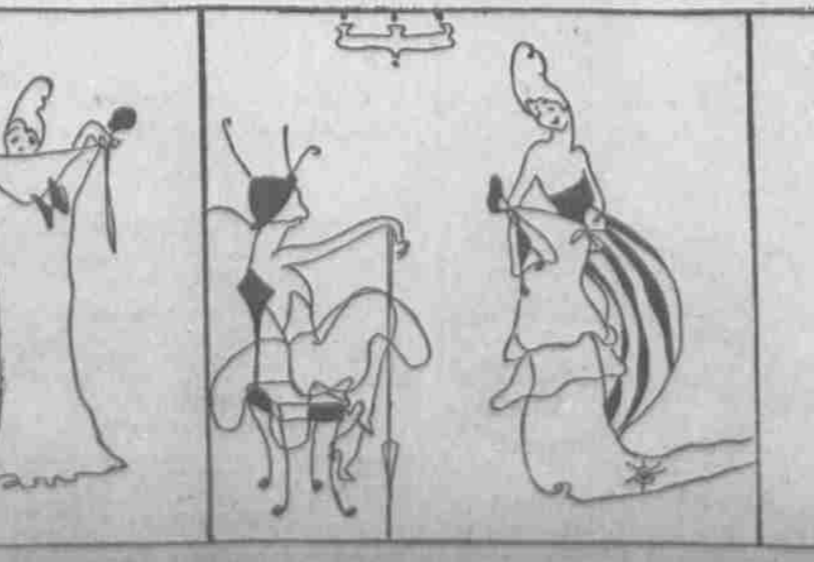
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SALLY, OF PEACOCK ALLEY



I want something modish. No, not so conspicuous. New, but too ostentatious.

THE DREAM GIRL OF VANITY FAIR



Something coy like myself. There, enchanting and so refined.

ADVICE GIVEN MOTHERS ON NURSING OF BABIES

Child Federation Issues Instructions in Third of Its "Street Bulletins." The third in a series of what are termed "street bulletins" in the interest of the proper care of babies has been issued by the Child Federation. The bulletin confines itself to instructions as to the nursing of babies. It follows: "If you love your baby, NURSE IT. Mother's breast milk is safe—no dirt, no germs. Remember seven bottle-fed babies die to every one breast-fed baby. The baby will be well if you go to bed early. Eat the best food you can get. Drink a quart of milk a day. Drink water freely between meals. Rest whenever you can. Drink very little beer, wine or whisky."

WILL RESCUE DR. SHAW'S AUTO

Suffragists Hope to Induce County Commissioners to Accept Bonds. Suffragists are determined that the little yellow automobile "Eastern Victory," which was presented to Dr. Anna Shaw by suffragists in New York and which was recently seized for taxes at her home in Moylan, Pa., will continue to be used by the Doctor in her campaigning in this section. Therefore they have devised means, by aid of W. Roger Fronfeld, counsel for Doctor Shaw, to give bond to the County Commissioners and have the car released. There is yet one hitch to this plan, however, and that is that the arrangement has not been accepted by the commissioners. Suffragists feel, though, that the matter will settle things, at least temporarily, with them, so that the car will be released and used in the campaigning.

TO TEACH CARE OF BABIES

Plan Under Way to Instruct Camden's Little Mothers. The proper manner in which to care for babies will be taught girls in Camden by the Playground Commission if plans formulated by T. A. Finkelsy, Jr., supervisor, do not miscarry. The Little Mothers' League will be inaugurated to carry on the work of instruction and will come into being about August 1. Some member of the organization will conduct one meeting a week in each playground in the city. At the same time the little girls will be furnished with a book, "THE CHILD," which contains splendid advice on the subject of caring for small children.

Keeping in Touch With Home

You never quite forget the home town, even on the most enjoyable vacations. Keep in touch with home affairs by seeing to it that your favorite newspaper follows you wherever you go. Notify the Evening Ledger before you leave to send your paper to you. Specify the edition desired. The Evening Ledger will award a daily prize of \$1 for the best original suggestion on an entertainment. The subject of the first contest will be "My Man's Success in Luck." All manuscripts should be a reasonable length, and none will be returned. Address to the Entertainment Contest, Evening Ledger, Independence Square, Philadelphia.