

M'LISS FINDS EVEN MEN WANT TO MOTHER CUTE BABY BOY

Generous Response to "Charity Worker's" Appeal for Home for Youngsters Proves the Kind of World It Is, After All

MANY people there are who take exception to Browning's optimistic contention, "God's in His Heaven, all's right with the world"; but if you want to prove to yourself just how right this old earth is, after all, just let it become known that you are acquainted with a destitute child, very much in need of a home and mother, and marvel at the scores of applicants who plead with you for the baby.

On Saturday, in an article in this column, I published a letter from a prominent charity worker in the city recounting the sad plight of a little three-year-old boy, whose widowed mother will have to part with him, because she is unable to provide for him. She is in poor health and has an eleven-month-old youngster on her hands. Her third child, a five-year-old girl, is being looked after temporarily.

Scarcely had the paper been on the street before calls for the little boy began to come in—some by telephone, some by special delivery letter and some personal applications.

There seemed to be no end of people who wanted to open their hearts and homes to the cunning little boy with the big, black eyes and the thick mop of dark hair, whose own mother has to give him up. Indeed, Solomon himself, that wisest of all wise men, particularly in the awarding of children, would be nonplussed when it came to making a decision in the case of this youngster.

But the most moving phase of the incident, it seems to me, lies in the fact that virtually all of the charitably inclined people who have offered to take the child in charge declare they are not people of affluence.

"We are not wealthy," one West Philadelphia woman told me, "but we have enough to give the child a comfortable home and a good education. I am childless and will never have any children. For a long time my husband and I have been discussing the question of adopting a son. Your article seemed to have been written just for us. I want that little boy."

The following letter from a generous-hearted man is another example of the response that the little boy's predicament has called forth:

Dear M'Liss—While reading your valuable paper last night I saw where you were trying to find a home for a baby who has no father. Would you like to say that I would be only too glad to help some one who is in need. I am only a working man myself, but will guarantee that I can give the child enough to eat and a good home until the mother is better situated, and where she can come and see her child any time she wants to.

I have two boys and a girl myself and am willing to help this unfortunate lady out of her trouble. Who knows? Perhaps I may be in the same boat some day myself, and I know I would like some one to help me.

Now if you want to bring the child to my home any time, I will safely say he will be as welcome as the flowers in May.

Hoping you will excuse my grammar and writing, beg to remain, faithfully yours,

Ask Billie Burke

A Pittsburgh clergyman, with a masculine broad-mindedness that all but passes feminine understanding, albeit not necessarily with an accurate perception, declares apropos the attempt of the fashion-makers to foist trousers on women, in some shape or form, that we would be much happier if we were to throw off the hampering skirts that have been our heritage for lo! these many moons and don masculine regalia.

"The women I saw in San Francisco's Chinatown," he says in a recent interview, "were attired, more sensibly than their Occidental sisters, and they wore something very like trousers." (Just what did they wear, I wonder?)

"When God gave folks legs," he continues, "he intended them for use, and if all women adopted the masculine attire used by their sisters in mountain climbing, they would feel better."

Harry Leon Wilson's diatribe on trousers for women, put into the mouth of "Ma Pettinbill" in one of his recent Saturday Evening Post stories, is interesting in this connection. I am more inclined to agree with Ma than with the minister.

"Freedom from skirts," says she, talking to a younger woman who would be "new," "is the last thing your sex wants. Skirts is the final refuge of immodesty to which women will cling like grim death. They will do anything possible to a skirt—silt it, thin it, shorten it, hike it up on one side—people are setting up nights 'right now thinking up something to do to it—but women won't give it up and dress modestly as men do because it's the only unfair drag they got left with the men."

FOOD PRINCIPLES

Do You Know Why You Eat Food? By VIRGINIA E. KIFT

Fresh vegetables and fruits keep you clean. Cereals, fresh fruits and vegetables make you want to work. So you have only to decide what is your particular need, then look at the list and see which foods will supply your wants.

People who are "run down" and nervous, need the foods which will keep the nerves fed and the blood clean, foods containing inorganic salts, the fresh fruits and fresh vegetables.

Under-nourished, thin, anemic people need tissue and fat-building food, milk, eggs, butter, fat meat and cereals.

People who are trying to reduce in weight, need to avoid milk, butter, fat meats, and eat more fresh vegetables and fruits; also they should drink plenty of water.

Growing children need the foods which will make muscle—lean meat, milk, eggs and cereals.

Thus a little thought reveals to the person feeding a family, or to the individual who must select his own diet, the various principles to be considered in choosing the daily food. Do you know why you eat food? Glance again at the above list and see if you can tell, if you see that you do some kind of food more than another, remember to select it when mealtime arrives.

It sounds easy, doesn't it? Be wiser than your neighbor. Then I am sure that you will decide that it is even easier than it sounds.

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FATHERS OFTEN CAUSE GIRLS' DISAPPEARANCE SAYS POLICE OFFICIAL

Lot of Kidnapping and White Slavery Stories Is Bunk. Domestic Trouble Is Mainly Responsible

3750 MISSING IN YEAR

Parental strife was chiefly responsible for more than 1000 young women leaving their homes in Philadelphia in 1915, according to figures just computed by Police Sergeant Joseph C. Shay, for nine years in charge of the missing bureau.

From January 1, 1915, to December 31, 1915, 3750 missing cases were reported to Sergeant Shay, or about 10 cases each day. Of this number, 3501 persons were found, while 204 persons are still among the missing. Among the 3750 persons reported as missing there were about 1250 young women.

For nine years Sergeant Shay, who is a sharp-eyed man, has sat in a little office on the fifth floor. Here he listens daily to stories of missing cases, some of them dealing with merchant daughters of wealthy families, clerks, stenographers, newsboys, laborers and servants. He is known to the police all over the country.

"Why do girls leave home, then?" Sergeant Shay was asked.

"In my experience I have found," replied Sergeant Shay, "that most of the young women who vanish these days do so on account of domestic troubles in the home."

"Often a young woman will return home after working hard in some factory or department store. While at the supper table with her parents and other members of the family, the father will, perhaps, have some words with his wife. Often a husband will call his wife a vile name. Suddenly the daughter will get up and leave the table. She will enter her room and, after dressing, leave the house."

"I have had many missing cases of young women who, after being found in some distant city, would not return to their homes here in Philadelphia until they were assured that a reconciliation had been effected between their mother and father. Another promise which many girls insisted upon having was that their fathers never again would use profane language against their mothers. But a lot of this stuff about kidnapping and white slavery is bunk."

SEEN IN THE SHOPS



A JUVENILE COMBINATION

This clever combination of the waist to pool skirt, for it has all the attractive qualities of a school dress and is a practical gym outfit, too. Remove the short skirt, and full bloomers are concealed underneath.

Smocking is featured in the waist to pool skirt. Loops and buttons of material are also used. The yoke is girlish. The skirt is held to the waist by large buttons. The collar and cuffs are hand-cuffed in a very dainty fashion. The outfit comes in many colors, both in lines and serge. It may be worn with or without the bloomers attachment. The price of the former is \$12 for serge and \$15 for serge and silk; the latter \$15 for linen and \$18 for serge.

The name of the shop where these articles may be purchased will be supplied by the Editor of the Evening Ledger, 628 Chestnut street. The great must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope and must mention the date on which the article appeared.

Fashion Hints

Effective corsage bouquets are made of velvet roses with black net leaves edged with chenille.

Changeable silk coats are promised for the spring. They are prettily trimmed with silk ruchings.

If you want to make the frock fashionable as in sleeves, sleeves of black teta or satin are correct.

Marion Harland's Corner

Women in Hall of Fame

"Can you tell me the names of the six women whose names appear in the Hall of Fame? The last admitted was Charlotte Cushman, but I am not sure of the others."

The women admitted to the Hall of Fame by the requisite number of votes are Mary Lyon, Emma Willard, Maria Mitchell, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Frances Willard. You say that Charlotte Cushman was subsequently added to the number, but my list does not include her. If you are right the number is complete. We shall be glad to be pointed upon the subject by authorities more competent to decide the question than I can claim to be.

Care of a Fern

"I should like to learn through your Corner how to take care of a Boston fern; how often does it need water and about what temperature should it be kept in?"

"N. R. C."

Keep it in a window through which the sunshine comes in for at least a few hours of the day, and water it about three times a week, soaking the earth thoroughly. The surface should be almost or quite dry before the next watering. Too much water is bad for the growth of the fern as all day sunshine. The room should be kept at a moderate temperature. About once a month the fern should be taken into the bathroom and the top of the tub half full of water just tepid. The leaves must be washed gently and the plant be left in water deep enough to cover the surface, for half an hour.

Cleaning Otter Fur

"Will you please give me the formula for cleaning otter fur?"

V. C. P.

Beat out all the dust and wash the skin thoroughly with grain alcohol. While it is still wet, sift into it all the powderer's earth it will hold, and lay out upon a table to dry, with a thin cloth cast over it to exclude the dust. Leave it thus for a day or more before hanging it upon a line and whittling out the dust from the wrong side, using a slender elastic stick. Finally comb and brush to restore smoothness and gloss. Any dark fur may be treated in this way successfully.

In a Tight Place

"I know what it is to be in debt, and we need so many things! We bought a small place here and paid down part, then came sickness and hired help, until we are discouraged. We have two children, a boy of 2 years and a girl of 4. It takes so much for clothing for us all! I wonder if some one has an old sweater? She may have two and will give one to me, if unused. Or a jacket or light coat that she would send me. I should indeed be glad. For three years I've needed a spring wrap, size 38, but just couldn't spare enough to buy it. I will do plain sewing or do anything to pay for the garment, and will pay carriage on the package."

MRS. S. J. M.

What can the Corner do for this mother in this the darkest hour of her life? We may not insert another petition for clothing for a long month to come.

An Old Time Ballad

"More than 40 years ago my mother, who has since passed away, used to sing to her children an old-time ballad that told of a sailor and his sweetheart. It seems, as I recall it, that it was a custom in this land to cut or break a ring in two, each to retain a part, when a sailor went on a long voyage. I can recall the air and the last part of one verse, or perhaps it is the chorus: 'While the other lies rolling in the bottom of the sea.' As to the breaking of the ring, I may be under a wrong impression. It may be they exchanged rings. Your kindly letter makes me bold to ask if this song is in your collection? If so, may I have

DOCTOR PLEADS FOR FRANKNESS WITH 16-YEAR-OLD LADS

By WILLIAM BRADY, M. D.

The street is a great university. It graduates more young men than any other institution in this country, giving an optional course in sexual physiology. On the street, the lad of 16 and under learns more than his father thinks he knows at 20. The course is dilactic, but effective. On graduation the boy is a genuine smart aleck and he knows as much as the most boastful simpleton that airs his views in the barber shop or the corner saloon.

In order to inform the graduate of the street, there is no moment under way to have young men, if not young women, too, taught what every human being has a right to know—the truth about life. The vicious virus imparted to the boy on the street leads directly to disaster. The ignorance of the man about town is phenomenal; even he seldom realizes what a fool he has been until it is too late to save his health from utter ruin.

It is the father's sacred duty to see to it that his son receives competent instruction in the great truths of life before the boy is misled by ignorant companions. If the father himself does not feel competent to teach the boy these things, let him ask the family doctor to do it. The boy and the doctor can have a friendly little talk, man to man, and get things straight. This, we believe, is a lot more effective than lectures or instruction given to classes of boys. When you take the boy all alone for a confidential chat, you impress him more positively than when he is one of a class, we think.

Real knowledge never yet spoiled any one. But ignorance is to blame for a tremendous amount of unhappiness and misfortune in this world.

We must work without cessation to batter down the vicious double standard

Cream of Tartar

is derived from grapes. This means a healthful fruit origin, a natural food, as distinguished from mineral substitutes such as Alum and Phosphate used in cheaper baking powders.

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You may select here from the first and most fashionable fabrics the market affords—and your suit or gown will be tailored in the latest authentic Spring styles by expert workers. Fit, fashion and fabric are guaranteed.

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Letters to the Editor of the Women's Page

Address all communications to M'Liss, care of the Evening Ledger. Write on one side of the paper only.

Dear M'Liss—Your article on "The Power," like all other articles which you write, is no doubt most interesting, but it does not specially appeal to me. I have never been "hauled" in my life, at least not since I was a baby, and therefore I cannot speak from experience. But, all the same, it occurs to me that "hauling" is not such a bad thing, especially to a man, if the "power" be young, pretty and interesting.

At all events, I would not object to being "hauled" and if you know any such "power" as those I refer to I'd feel obliged if you would let them have my office address, which I inclose.

A MERE MAN.

Dear M'Liss—Will you kindly settle a dispute? A friend of mine says that Geraldine Farrar first met Lou Tellegen when she played with him in "Temptation."

I say that Lou Tellegen did not play with her in "Temptation," that the musician in "Temptation" was the Toreador in "Carmen." Which is right?

LLEWELLYN.

You are right. The musician in "Temptation" was played by Pedro de Cordoba, who played the Toreador in "Carmen." Miss Farrar met Mr. Tellegen. I am told, while both were engaged in moving-picture work, but not on the same picture. He was at work on "The Unknown" and "The Explorer."

Dear M'Liss—Could you kindly advise

me on an installment bill? I bought a bedroom suit that was unsatisfactory. I sent one piece back. The man said he would fix it, but sent another just the same. It was paid for in full.

I have bought some more goods which are not paid for altogether, and told him I would not pay for them until he made good with the others.

There was no fixed amount to pay per week and I would like to know what would be the smallest amount I could give him. Also, could he do anything to me and what?

J. H.

I am told by the Legal Aid Society, which organization exists for the purpose of untangling legal knots for people who cannot afford to pay for legal advice, that they will be glad to answer your problem for you. Go to their office at 34 South 15th street. If they can help you there will be no charge.

To the South Wind

O soft, deceitful wind,
So gently blowing,
Smelling of moist black earth
And young things growing—
The lilac bushes in each country yard
Have heard thy call, and now their
boughs are starred,
With green tips showing.

The kindly snow has fled
Beneath thy sighing,
Leaving the bare wide fields
Uncovered lying.
The deluded sparrow sings of love, and
weaves
Its nests with twigs and straw beneath
the eaves—
Experience buying.

O sweet, beguiling wind
Whose smiles enrapturing
Make gardeners dream of seeds
And flower beds calling—
So soon as thou hast gambled on thy
way,
We shall awake to winter in full array—
And snowflakes falling.
—Ethel H. Wolf, in the N. Y. Times.

THE CHEERFUL CHERUB

Well, I'll never be too cautious though I've had a lot of spills—

If we always looked before we leaped We'd miss so many thrills

Care of Books

Here are a few directions which you would have to learn about the proper care of your library books if you studied to be a librarian.

Always have your books far apart on the shelves to allow you to put your thumb and forefinger between them.

In removing books from the shelf never tilt them and pull them out by the top. In time this method will pull their backs off.

MILLIE AND HER MILLIONS

IT MUST BE QUITE LATE

ABOUT HALF PAST THIRTEEN

GOODNIGHT, OLD BOY

SWEET DREAMS, ANGEL.

I GUESS I'LL DODGE THE DUMB-BELLS TONIGHT

MONTY, DON'T FORGET YOUR EXERCISE.

ALL RIGHT, ANGEL. I'M DOING IT NOW.

MONTY DISCOVERS A WAY TO EXERCISE WITHOUT EXERTION