

# Paul and Virginia

By HELENA HOYT GRANT

## Natural History

PAUL checked himself as he loitered in the hall, preparatory to the morning journey. He paused in front of the mirror and surveyed his reflection gravely. He fastened with the set of his collar, patted his scarf a little bit complacently and, in the manner of speaking, threw out his chest and favored his image with an approving stare.

But Virginia was a witness to this scene from the living-room door without the knowledge of her lord and master.

He turned guiltily as he heard her little chuckle.

"Well," he demanded coldly.

"Oh, my, what a vain fellow you are, Paul. And yet you talk about women primping."

"Primping?" he retorted sharply. "I'm not primping, and besides, Virginia, I wish you'd not creep up on me like that. It's—it's enough to give a man—"

"Aw!" she pouted. "I'm not creeping up on you, darling; I thought you were ready to go."

He stammered a reply and turned his back upon the hall mirror.

"Well—"

"And I like to see my boy careful, like that in the bathroom."

He melted a little.

"I certainly don't want to wait downtown with my tie crawling up over my ears, you know," he said almost affably. "And it is just as well to take a look at oneself in the mirror, morning any way."

She dimpled at him in acquiescence. "Of course, honey, and men have a

right to think about that, too. Didn't nature plan it that way?"

He eyed her suspiciously.

"What do you mean—nature plan it that way?"

Virginia affected a little yawn.

"Oh, you know, Nature intended that you men should be the beautiful creatures of the world, but custom, or silly old chivalry, or the influence of the dark ages, or something upset the scheme, and we, who, vain women have been going about imagining we had a corner on beauty."

Paul frowned.

"I guess you think you are having a quiet little joke all by yourself, Virginia, and you're right so far as the convenience of it goes. You may understand what's funny about it, but I don't get it."

"Of course, you should understand. Paul, dear, you read as much natural history stuff as I, surely. And nature has always planned the male to be the most beautiful. Look at the—"

His frown became really rather severe.

"You talk foolishly this morning, my dear," he muttered with the air of a martyr.

"And look at the wild animals of the forest and jungle."

He grimaced.

"Ah, forget that, Virginia, I've got to go."

He kissed her lightly.

"Paul," she cried after him, "consider the fact that you are a man, and that he hunched his shoulders to suggest that he had closed his ears, and trudged on."

Tomorrow—A Lecture on Psychosis.

# Please Tell Me

What to Do

By CYNTHIA

## Thinks Foolish Letters Should Not Be Answered

Dear Cynthia—There are three things I like to do when I am on my way home at night. I first read the "Gumps," then I read your column, and then I read your wonderful column.

I have never written you before, but many times I have been tempted. The other night, however, I read a letter from some one—I forget who it was—addressed to "Puppy." And then I had to write.

The author stated that "Puppy" like most people, had been writing to you for effect. Also that "Puppy" liked to see people criticizing her by writing such foolish things in the column.

My advice to the author of that letter is: If people like you would not write foolish things in the column, you would write to Cynthia's column to "show off." Would you see that their efforts were fruitless and would not do it any more?

PREPARATORY.

"Where Are Our Sensible Men?"

Dear Cynthia—in answer to "Sir Hector."

Hector is giving credit to a very sensible letter. If there were more broad-minded young men like you lots of girls would be more sensible and happier.

I am nineteen years of age, blonde (blonde), but do not smoke and attend petting parties, do not wear short skirts, but am an up-to-date girl; can dance and do every one considers me good looking.

I work in an office, but the thing that I want to know is "where are all our sensible men?" I don't meet them often. Most of the young men now are just looking for a good time and are looking for a good time.

It seems that a sensible girl, lolly at that, is left out these days. I wonder ever why we get disgusted with men? Well, here is one that certainly is not a "Puppy." I would like to meet you, Sir Hector, and I hope you will write to the column again.

Please give my love and tell me if you agree with me.

Here is hoping that Sir Hector will write some more.

"BLUE EYES."

Started Smoking at Sixteen

Dear Cynthia—About a week ago a letter appeared in your column signed "A Reader" and he (or she) wanted girls not to smoke and gave as proof of his assertions some horrible examples. I think that Reader has been reading some medical books and gotten thoroughly scared. He says that some of the worst insanity cases have been caused by cigarette smoking. True, but haven't some bad cases been caused also by overwork in business, too much study at school, etc? Anything can be carried too far. We should do things in moderation. Reader says one drop of nicotine on a dog's tongue will kill the dog. Well, 100 drops of nicotine on a dog's tongue won't kill a man. Besides, to kill, nicotine must be the pure liquid stuff.

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# Soft draping and pastel shades make a lovely frock for afternoon which Paris has designed.

Crepe de chine and lace over tulle Georgette with a sash to match.

There's One Consolation for the Girl Who Always Has to "Hold Up the Wall"

The "Flapper" Who Is Proud of Being Wild Will Tire of Pleasure Before This Girl Gets Over Her First Thrill

"How I envy her!" sighed one girl watching another as she swung across the lawn with two boys at the bazar.

The sandwiched girl wore a scanty little dress with a short skirt, and a Peter Pan collar.

Her hair was bobbed.

As she reached an open space in the middle of the lawn where she was sure everybody could see her, she reached over, took a cigarette from one of the boys, inhaled deeply and blew the smoke expertly from between painted lips.

Then she laughed loudly and without mirth, gave back the cigarette, accompanying it with a roguish smile, and pranced across the grass.

She was a "flapper."

And, like all flappers, she was proud of her desire and intention to "grow wilder every hour."

THE other girl was much nicer in every way; her innate sense of modesty and decency would never have allowed her to make a public spectacle of herself in that way; her good judgment would tell her that she was much better off without that sneer of unnatural red across her mouth, and she would never be hard.

But she labored under the disadvantage of a ruinous title: she was a "sensible" girl.

And so she sighed and mourned and envied, as she sat on the porch, "holding up the wall," all by herself, watching the gaudy flapper flap her way to the dance platform with her two beaux.

SHE knew it all wrong; she knew she was the more ladylike, modest, attractive girl.

But she also knew that as long as the flapper continued to flap and make use of all her insincere airs and graces, she, the sensible girl, would continue to hold up the wall and watch other girls go get the fun she longed for.

Can you blame her for being unhappy?

All the time boys are saying, "Give me the nice sensible girl who doesn't paint her face like a doll, who allows her beautiful hair to stay long, who isn't always running around after a good time and making noise, who doesn't insist on a fellow's spending all his

When Matches Were Invented

The first match was invented in 1505, but it was far different from the matches of today. It consisted of a slip of wood, tipped with some chemical mixture. If you possessed matches of this kind you would have to hold a stick of wood in the acid. This produced the light.

After this came an improvement which did away with the necessity of carrying a bottle of acid with you. This was called the Promethium match and consisted of a small roll of paper about the size of a cigarette, one end of which had been dipped in a mixture of sugar and potassium. Roll up the paper with a tiny glass bulb filled with sulphuric acid. To light this match, however, you must provide yourself with a pair of pliers or pliers and pinch the glass bulb within the roll of paper. This released the acid, which came in contact with the chemicals on the paper and set fire to it.