

Women AND THEIR Interests

Why Man Ducks the Wedding Ring

BY DOROTHY DIX.



In a recent interview in a Paris paper Madame Bernhardt explained what Silas Wegg would call "the decline and fall of matrimony." She said:

"If the customs of my youth were now prevalent and the young people of today were not allowed to mingle so much without hindrance, the marriage returns would rapidly increase."

Same here. The divine Sarah—the wise Sarah—has put her finger on the crux of the whole matter. People don't marry because comradeship has been substituted for love between men and women, and they are contented to be friends instead of husbands and wives.

Women were never as attractive and desirable as they are to-day. Not even among the ancient Greeks was the percentage of female pulchritude so high as it is now. The cult of the body has become almost a religion among women. So if a man seeks for beauty in a wife he may shut his eyes, and make a grab in the dark in any group of girls, and be sure of getting one who in his grandmother's time would have had all the poets writing sonnets to her eyebrows, and all the beaux fighting duels for her smiles.

Women are also more intelligent than they ever were before, more versatile, more sympathetic, better fitted to be wives and helpmates to men; yet with all of her attractions and accomplishments the modern girl lacks one art in which her grandmother excelled—the art of catching a husband.

disinclination to marry may be largely accounted for by the freedom of companionship that prevails between the sexes. In the olden times when the only way a man could enjoy a woman's society was by marrying her, he was in a rush to hustle with her to the altar.

But when custom permits him to monopolize a woman's evenings; when they may spend long days together on the golf links; when they may attend theaters and parties together, and tea and dine in company unchaperoned in restaurants, the man is in no hurry to wed. He has as much of the lady's society as he desires without the necessity of assuming her bills, or giving her a right to lecture him.

The long engagement is a modern invention of man's, not woman's, and it is a handicap that our grandmothers never knew. Nothing that the new status of woman has brought her is so delightful as platonic friendship with man, but we get nothing in this world without paying for it, and the price that women pay for comradeship with men is too often sisterhood. When it was a case of either lover or nothing, it was generally lover.

Another reason why men are less eager about marrying now than they used to be is that women are too willing. Many things change, but human nature never changes, and the primitive instinct in man is for the chase. The harder a thing is to get the more he wants it. Women have forgotten this masculine peculiarity, and instead of permitting themselves to be pursued, they have turned around and run after the men with the result that they seldom catch them.

For woman, alas, was not built for the chase.

Probably our grandmothers were just as anxious to get married as any girl is now, but they had the gumption to affect a coy and reluctant attitude, and because a man believed that it was difficult to capture the citadel of a woman's affection, he wooed her with fire and passion, and energy.

Then He Wooed with Fire. But How Is It with the Modern Girl? Because she appeared indifferent to

his visits, he kept the path to her door hot with footstep. Because the most that he hoped to win from her hand in the shape of a letter was a line or two of sweet, copy book reply to his numerous missives, he weighted down the mails with burning love letters.

How is it now? The modern girl has left him in no doubt as to the state of her affections. She says "yes," and thank you, too," whenever he asks her, so he feels that any old love making will do. He says "come to see me," she calls up on the phone, and so on, and so on, when there's nothing more amusing in prospect. As for letters, she'll write any way, so what's the use in bothering to keep up his end of the correspondence? It's the old story of the overripe peach that no one wants to gather.

Our grandmothers also had another advantage that we lack—our great-grandparents understood the value of the unattainable. They didn't throw their daughters at eligible young men's heads. They built fences around them. When a young man came a-wooing the entire family didn't take to the kitchen to give him a chance.

On the contrary, the stern parents stood guard over a girl, and put him to his wits' end to steal a moment's secret converse with her, or slyly press her hand.

Sometimes the wily father even went to the extent of locking a girl up in her room to keep her from a suitor, and then the man, who very likely couldn't have been driven in at the front door, picked his neck climbing up to the window to steal her.

He Can Have Woman's Society ad lib. So Why Marry?

In a word, they made courtship romantic and difficult, and in consequence there were many elopements. Now, however, because we have made courtship so easy, there is little of it. It is because nowadays a man may have a woman's society without incurring any responsibilities that he ducks the wedding ring. If women want to promote matrimony, they have got, in gambler's phrase, to make men either put up or shut up.

There is a "man-failure all along the line" where the body is not nourished by foods that build bone and muscle and brain, that keep the human body up to top-notch efficiency.

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LADY ATTENDANT

LATEST VARIATION OF THE TUNIC SKIRT

Striped Taffeta With Plain Ruffles Make a Pretty Combination

8273 Two-Piece Skirt, 22 to 32 waist.

Here is one of the latest variations of the skirt in tunic effect. It is really just a two-piece skirt with circular ruffles arranged over it but there is quite an effect of a tunic and there is the flare and fullness that make the latest demand of fashion. As a matter of course, the ruffles can be of a different material if combinations are liked and a great many gowns and suits are showing trimming of taffeta while the foundation material is wool or cotton. Cotton crepe of the better grade is much in demand for skirts of the kind and taffeta trimming makes a good effect. In the picture, striped silk is used throughout. The finish can be made at either the high or the natural waist line.

For the medium size, the skirt 8273 will require 3 1/2 yds. of material 27, 2 1/2 yds. 36, 44 or 52 in. wide, with 1 1/2 yds. any width for the founces. The width of the skirt at the lower edge is 1 1/2 yds.

The pattern 8273 is cut in sizes from 22 to 32 inches waist measure. It will be mailed to any address by the Fashion Department of this paper, on receipt of ten cents.

Howman's seal May Manton Patterns.

Reily Hose Plan Festival For Convention Money

The Reily Hose Company, No. 10, will conduct a festival on their lawn at Fourth and Dauphin streets on June 26 and 27, when the usual refreshments will be purveyed and music will be furnished by the Goldsboro Band.

The receipts from this entertainment will be used to entertain the visiting firemen who are guests of the Reily during commencement week.

PACTANG POPULAR

The large crowds that fill the Paktang Park Theater each night are a pretty good indication that the theater-going public of Harrisburg are aware of the fact that the park theater is an ideal place of amusement during the summer months. And then the shows at the park compare favorably with the best of the standard winter attractions. The bill for this week is one that it would be hard to beat anywhere. Palfrey, Barton and Brown, the feature attraction, present what is undoubtedly the best novelty act that has ever graced the town. This trio does a little bit of everything pertaining to vaudeville and seem to be almost perfectly in whatever they attempt. In fact they may be said to be doing two or three acts in one.

Another act on the park bill deserving of special mention for novelty and originality, is Frank and Addington. These two young ladies do a refined singing and talking act, during which one of the team treats the audience to a very clever exhibition of fancy bag-punching. This unique combination makes a big hit with the park audience, who are not slow in expressing their appreciation. The rest of the show consists of four well-chosen acts that round out a very pleasing performance. —Advertisement.

CHURCH CORNERSTONE LAID

Penryn, June 11.—With impressive ceremonies the cornerstone of the new Jerusalem Reformed Church was laid to-day, before more than a thousand people. The Rev. George B. Raeder, of Litz, had charge, and the Rev. A. O. Bartholomew, of Manheim, preached the sermon.

Swatting Days Are Here So Get Busy Folks

The swat-the-fly crusade is now on in full blast in the city. The Civic Club announces that the measuring day for the first campaign, which closes July 31, will be some time during the latter part of that month. The place where the flies may be brought will be announced later. As usual, five cents a quart will be paid for dead flies, while for both campaigns, the second of which will open in August, six money prizes will be awarded, two of \$5 each, two of \$2.50 each and two of \$1 each.

TO ATTEND CONVENTION

The annual State convention of the Sons of Veterans will be held next Wednesday and Thursday, June 17 and 18, at Sunbury. Representatives from all the branches of the Sons of Veterans from all parts of the State will attend. Those from this city that will attend are: Karl Stewart, Ray Stewart, C. F. Neely, C. Day Rudy, D. W. Cotterel, W. S. Steele and D. D. Hammelbaugh.

I. O. O. F. MEMORIAL SERVICE

Special to The Telegraph

Mechanicsburg, Pa., June 11.—According to the request of the Grand

FARMERS' INSTITUTE

Special to The Telegraph

New Bloomfield, Pa., June 11.—On Tuesday the board of managers of the farmers' institute of Perry county, representatives of the Perry County Fruit Growers' Association and Pomona Grange, No. 1615, met here and arranged to hold a farmers' institute December 9, 10, 11 and 12, and the Perry County Fruit Growers' Association will also hold its annual fruit, vegetable, corn and cereal exhibition. The place selected is Newport for this year and the indications are that it will be one of the largest exhibitions of the Fruit Growers' Association ever held in Perry county.

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