Reading for Women and all the Family

LITTLE TALKS BY BEATRICE FAIRFAX

employers of young girls are fascinating and unscrupulous s.

ere must be thousands of plain, unbeguiling, business-worship-men among them, who never ned of flirting in their lives, don't even know whether a girl grapher is good looking, and would no more think of asking ut to dinner than of asking the cabinet to dance with them.

an office position isn't necessar-n experience of great peril for a y girl.

would be a great pity if that een-year-old with starry eyes cloud-like hair were too self-ious about the whole situation hat first Monday morning that s summoned to her new em-r's desk.

office life need by no means op any strongly personal side. not inevitable, and she'll be a deal better off if it doesn't. A who works in an office filled men ought to be as impersonal r typewriting machine. Or to o be.

yet—however hard a girl may avoid them, troublesome prob-do have a way of arising, dis-g dilemmas do present them-s. Letters reach me almost daily fine, sweet girls, who are seri-worried by the personal ele-that has crept into their rela-with their employer. They find selves in uncomfortable situa-that they themselves don't un-rstand, much less know how to with. And they ask for help advice. There's no doubt but they need it.

The Employer's Advantage

only too apparent that the em-r who makes pretty speeches to tenographer—whether it is to her charming confusion, or to her to work overtime, or wheth-may even be that he is falling in with her—has an advantage on ide.

esn't he hold the means of live-d in his very hand? He engages he discharges. He is powerful. on't want to offend him." "I want to lose my position," are hrases that occur over and over ese letters.

n he's usually much older than and far more experienced. If he kind of a man who is skilled fling with a girl, while meaning ng, the girl herself is merely dered. She doesn't even know her he's trying to make himself able in a strange, disturbing, miliar way—or whether he is g things she shouldn't permit.

at eighteen-year-old girl whose yer is twice her age knows what she should do when he de-s the habit of making flattering ents on her appearance?

d how can she be otherwise at a loss when he begins as sometimes do, to make her pres-

Perhaps these are harmless that an older man may offer her with propriety. Perhaps they are not. She wishes she knew.

The next step is that he asks her to dinner and the theatre.

Shall She Dine With Him?

And this is rather too much for her. Though she dislikes being considered a prude, she thinks she oughtn't to do this. And she tells him so. So he takes some trouble to convince her that there's no ground whatever for her scruple and that he is offering her the most innocent pleasure in the world.

He doesn't always succeed in convincing her. But he usually succeeds in persuading her to go, which is a different matter.

But why shouldn't she go? someone will ask. Why shouldn't a young girl who drudges all day accept whatever distraction is offered her when work hours are over?

That's easily answered.

In the first place, employers have a habit of being married. It is true that married employers who invite girl stenographers out to dinner usually explain that their wives are out of town or hopeless invalids or something of the sort. But does this lessen the injury to the girl's reputation that repeated dinners and theatres in his company will bring about?

But even if he isn't married, there's only one chance in a thousand that he has any other purpose than a dangerous flirtation. And the outcome of this will be that the unsophisticated girl, flattered, fascinated, dazzled, will find herself seriously in love with a man who has no intention of marrying her. You see, it's playing with fire—that game as old as the world.

To all girls who hold positions under men employers, I have to offer a bit of prosaic advice. I beg them to keep their heads.

Impersonal Role Safest

Do your best from the beginning to be impersonal, as I suggested. If you are so highly attractive and your employer so susceptible that this won't work—if he insists on talking to you as though you were a pretty woman and not a piece of office furniture—try not to take his advances seriously. You may be sure he is not serious in making them.

Try to be older and wiser than you are. Don't let it all fluster you. You have your own life to lead as well as your own living to make. You can't afford to let yourself be even the least bit emotionally upset by a man who means nothing.

Being cool-headed is an excellent policy. It will do a great deal for you. It will discourage office flirtation to a great extent. But it won't do everything.

A girl may be perfectly discreet in her conduct and yet find herself irrestibly influenced by the delightfully personal conversation of the good looking man at the large desk in the inner office.

The day even comes when she knows she's in love with him.

"What shall I do?" she asks me in dismay and fear.

There's only one thing to do—whether you're in love with your married employer, or your employer persistently tries to flirt with you. You must give up your position.

I wish girls had more courage about taking this step. I know it isn't always easy to find a new job. But a week or so out of work is nothing compared to a serious emotional entanglement that may lessen your working capacity for a long time.

Drop the whole thing. Get out of the office atmosphere. It's the only way. Try to be a big, strong, free woman, and don't let the course of your life be turned aside by a man who's merely using you as a pastime.

Bringing Up Father

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LIFE'S PROBLEMS ARE DISCUSSED

She is eighteen, and sometimes she gets so discouraged and unhappy that she would just like to run away and live on a desert island all by herself.

"When I compare myself with other girls," she writes, "I seem to exist, not to live. In what way? In every way."

Then she goes on to sketch herself in broad strokes of drab. "I am motherless, and my father, brother and myself keep house together. It is not much of a home. I am not employed at present, and when I was did not have a very good position. In fact, I spent most of my time knocking about from one position to another.

"The trouble was, that I was never in good health, and I still am a sufferer from weak nerves and a general run-down condition, although few people would believe it to look at me, for I am by no means of the pale, emaciated type. On the contrary, most persons consider me attractive.

"About a year ago, I decided to take up a course in physical culture in the hope that it would benefit me. I was so desperate at that time that I was ready to try almost anything; and I thought if I could only achieve good health it would not be so difficult for me to earn my own living and to bear my other troubles.

"The course required a lot of patience, determination and effort. I cannot deny that it did me some good, but if, as I began to feel better, I stopped following instructions I immediately slipped back again. I had hoped for some definite and permanent improvement within a year; but the time has almost elapsed now, and the benefit I have obtained is not nearly so much as I expected. And I get so tired of it at times, having to give up so much—early to bed, and continually having to think what I must eat and what I must do. Would you advise me to keep on at it, or is it a mere waste of time?

"Perhaps, you will think this illness of mine all imaginary. I am inclined to believe so myself sometimes. Yet when I relax in my dieting and regimen people are very apt to notice it and tell me that I am not looking well.

"Constant worry and not enough fun causes part of my ill health, I am sure. Yet even as a child I was not very healthy. If I wanted to, I could fill pages describing my peculiar temperament, but I think I have told you enough.

"I am discouraged and I worry, because I want to be of more use in the world, and to enjoy life and be happy. This is the reason that I want to be healthy.

"HEARTSICK.

"P. S.—A doctor could not help me, as I would not know what to tell him."

My dear girl, I am not sure that a doctor would not help you—if he was the right kind of a doctor. And I am not sure that a clergyman would not help you—if he was the right kind of a clergyman. Or a Christian Science or mental practitioner. Or a good shaking. Or a sweetheart. Always presupposing each to be of the right kind.

But the person who can help you most and best is your own little self. When you read that, don't stop, please, with the idea that I am going to ladle you out a few platitudes, telling you that there is really nothing the matter with you, and that you have only to cultivate a glad, Pollyanna spirit to see all your seeming ills disappear.

Far from it. I would never call weak nerves and the dragging depression which accompanies them an imaginary ailment. It is every bit as uncomfortable and real to the sufferer as toothache or appendicitis. Indeed, the doctors are now assuring us that "temperament" itself is a definite disease. Nor, if you can see the slightest benefit or advantage from your physical culture course, would I advise you to stop it. I merely say, these things you ought to do and not leave the others undone.

Most cripples are optimists. Why? Because they instinctively try to show the world that the loss of a hand or a foot or an arm does not make them "different" from other people. They refuse to pity themselves or allow others to pity them. And they become so occupied in this game of camouflage that they forget about their disabilities. Busy people are always cheerful people.

Contrariwise, the victims of "temperament" constantly strive to appear "different." They are always looking within to detect new shades of variance, and become self-centered, mopish, discouraged.

Get an interest outside of yourself, my dear. You say you have not much of a home. Then make it one. Brighten up your own corner. The tasks of the housewife energetically followed form as good a system of physical culture exercises as was ever invented. Perfect yourself in them. As your ambition becomes aroused and you begin to see results you will begin to take a joy in this work. Moreover, you will be training yourself for the day when you are at the head of a home of your own.

Don't give up your exercises, either. Fifteen minutes a day put in regularly at that will help both your physical and mental morale. Eat carefully, but don't think too much about it. Take plenty of time to sleep. It is physical "culture" you are after, not physical "torture."

The best rule perhaps is to follow the lines of the Y. M. C. A. triangle. Work always to your best advantage on the three sides of your nature—physical, mental and spiritual—each to an equal degree.

MAKING THE MOST OF OUR CHILDREN

A Series of Plain Talks to Parents

By Ray C. Beery, A.B., M.A.
President of the Parents Association.

Not all school teachers understand boys as they should, which is unfortunate. And it is likely that this fact has a direct relation to boys not liking school.

A teacher, who really knows child nature, and who provides for the recreational needs of pupils, and who teaches knowledge in an interesting way, has very little trouble with pupils wanting to quit.

Of course, there are various reasons why particular boys want to stop. For example, one mother writes to me:

"My boy wants to quit school and go to work—doesn't seem to be doing any good, rather 'girl struck' and wants to 'try his wings.' Your help will be appreciated."

There is a close connection between your boy's wanting to leave school and the fact that he is "girl struck."

Your description of the situation was very brief but in analyzing the case, I should say the fact that he is girl struck is the primary cause of his wanting to quit school. Boys want more money to spend on girls than they can get hold of, as a rule, and this fact causes them to want to start to work and make the money for which they feel they are in such great need.

To offset this particular reason for his wanting to quit school, you might arrange to increase his weekly allowance. A proper way of approaching the subject would be something like this: "Well, son, I believe that you are quite old enough now to take good care of your money and so I have in mind increasing your weekly allowance. I want you to have enough money to be able to spend and have a fairly good time while you are going to school now and at the same time be saving enough on your college fund so that you will have money to spend when you go away to college."

End your talk by telling him how much you propose giving him per week as an allowance. You would do well to give him this talk just after he has had a visit with some admired college man.

There may be several minor causes for his wanting to quit school. Perhaps he doesn't like his teacher. Perhaps he fears the coming "exams." Perhaps he doesn't understand some particularly hard study. Perhaps, he feels the school room is a sort of pen, which greatly limits his freedom and which he naturally dislikes. In some cases there is too much nagging at home about school studies and too little sympathy with the child's outside interests. As a result there is a feeling of antagonism, causing the youth to threaten to drop school work. Still another cause, and by no means the least important, is the lack of interest in the school-room and on the playground.

I would suggest that you have a confidential talk with the boy's teacher for next year. Jot down all the attractive points about the year's work. For example, find out all you can about the next year's class organization and class functions. Give him the impression that in order to be in the "Swim," next year, he would of course have to be in school because the school crowd doesn't have much to do with outsiders.

Above all, get him interested in the school's athletics for next year, if you can. Play up in his mind the advantage of being on a high-school team and being able to play teams in other cities.

It would be a good idea for you to have the most popular teacher in high-school out to dine with you some evening, if it could be arranged. Encourage the companionship between this teacher and your boy. This would be a very practical way of interesting the boy in high-school next year. If it is not convenient to have a teacher, have some popular student from the high-school.

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Senate Reinserts Measure to Increase Pay of Navy Men

Washington, Feb. 25.—An amendment to the pending naval appropriation bill increasing the pay of enlisted men of the navy, which was stricken out in the House on a point of order, was tentatively reinserted in the measure yesterday by the Senate naval committee. Opposition was expressed by some members and another vote will be taken.

HELPED SELF AND SICK RELATIVES

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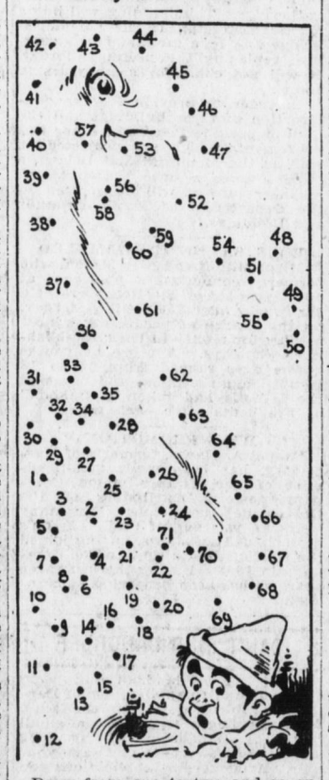
Daily Dot Puzzle



Draw from one to two and so on to the end.

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Your disordered stomach will feel fine at once.

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Advice to the Lovelorn

SHALL SHE SUPPRESS TRUTH?

Dear Miss Fairfax

A while ago met a man I liked and was engaged to him. When we went to France I met another, whom I have since grown to care for. Before I got up courage to write to my first friend something happened to the other one that makes it impossible for us to ever marry. He advises me to take the first man and not to say anything about him.

I have decided to take the first because I want you to advise me whether to tell him about my other friend. You see if I tell him he will always doubt me after we are married. What shall I do?

Undecided.

Is it possible for a girl to transfer her love back and forth as rapidly as this. I cannot believe that your feeling toward the first man is deep enough to justify you in marrying him but if it is you ought not to do so without telling him what happened in his absence. There is no other honorable course.

COQUETRY PUSHED TOO FAR

Dear Miss Fairfax

I met young man I liked very much, but not wanting him to think I was chasing him I put him off when he proposed to take me to the theaters, or other entertainmen and when he asked to call.

But I must have gone too far for when I meet him and talk with him during business hours he sticks to business and never mentions our affairs. Now, Miss Fairfax as I like this young man very much, would like to make up with him again, but as before do not want him to think I am running after him, as I might add he has all the qualities that are supposed to make girls do that.

M. T.

Unravelling a situation that one has knotted up one's self is a difficult affair. In this case, I should think you would have to proceed rather warely. Begin by inviting the young man to some group affair where wou will not necessarily see him alone.

DIFFICULT CHOICE

Mr. Plowden, the well-known London magistrate, was once questioning the wife of a notorious burglar. "You are wife of this man?" he asked. "Yes.' You knew he was a burglar when you married him?" "Yes." "How came you to contract a marriage with such a man?" "Well," the woman explained, "I was getting old, and I had to chose between him and a lawyer."

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od-Iron Phosphate akes Thin Folks Fat

ou are weak, thin and emaciated can't put on flesh or get strong, atter how much you eat, go to A. Gorgas and get enough Blood-Phosphate for a three weeks' ment—it costs only 50 cents a —and take as directed. If at nd of three weeks you don't feel ger and better than you have months; if your eyes aren't ter and your nerves steadier; u don't sleep better, and your vigor and vitality aren't more doubled, or if you haven't put veral pounds of good stay-there you can have your money back he asking and Blood-Iron Phos-will cost you nothing.

W THIS LITTLE BOY

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ett, Texas.—"The measles left ttle boy, aged 9 years, in a very run-down condition — he ed a good deal, and, as medi-did not seem to help him, we y took him out of school, and ght he would never be strong. One day I read about the liver and iron tonic known as , and such a change as it has in my little boy—it stopped ough, he is now back in school, g and well." — Mrs. E. A. ht.

ere is nothing like Vinol to re-strength, appetite and vim to sickly children. We strongly mmend Vinol for this purpose. orge A. Gorgas, Druggist; Ken-s Medicine Store, 321 Market ; C. F. Kramer, Third and d streets; Kitzmiller's Phar-, 1325 Derry street; J. Nelson , and druggists everywhere.

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