

Woman's Realm :- Social and Personal :- Fashions :- Literature

Dorothy Dix Letter Box

How Binding is an Engagement Ring?—Should a Girl of 24 Let Her Parents Decide Her Career? Why No Woman Can Do Exactly as She Pleases

Dear Miss Dix—Please explain what an engagement ring means and would mean in this modern age. If a boy is in love with a girl and she is love with him, hasn't he the right to ask her not to go out with other men?

Answer:

An engagement ring is just the outward and visible sign that a man and woman are betrothed. And it is usually not given until the wedding day is in sight. However, this is a matter of individual taste and expediency, and a girl may flaunt her engagement ring in the faces of her friends for a few weeks before she marries, or she may find consolation in it for years while she waits for her lover to be able to marry her.

The ethics of an engagement have never been settled either by custom or law. Every now and then some woman sues a man for breach of promise when he refuses to fulfill his engagement to marry her, and sometimes she is heart balm, but oftener she does not. Some nationalities consider a betrothal almost as binding as a marriage. Others consider it to be merely an option that a man and woman take out on each other, and that they can keep up or let go at pleasure, if they happen to change their minds and decide that the investment doesn't look so good to them after further investigation and mature reflection.

It seems to me that the modern engagement should be a gentlemen's agreement rather than an ironbound contract, owing to the fact that economic conditions generally make it a long-drawn-out affair in which much can happen to make a young couple regret the rash bargain they have entered into.

Of course, the lack of money does not keep a boy and girl from falling in love, nor from telling of their love, and it is natural that they should desire to feel that they have some hold upon each other, but if they are wise they make this tie a silken bond that they can unloose at pleasure, instead of a steel fetter that they cannot break without causing pain to themselves and anguish to another.

In a word, a couple who cannot afford to marry for many years should merely have an understanding that when the time does come when they can marry that they will do so if they still love each other and want to marry, instead of being bound by an obligation to marry that they feel in honor bound by an obligation to marry that they feel in honor bound to carry out, no matter how much they have lost their taste for each other, nor how unuring the prospect of spending their lives together seems to them.

A long engagement works a great hardship on both the man and woman because it puts them in an unnatural position in which they are neither bound nor free, in which they have neither the privileges of the husband and wife, nor the liberty of the bachelor or spinster. They are supposed to be true to each other, yet have none of that community of interest that draws an man and woman together. It is a situation more full of boredom, of suspicion, of jealousy, of the hope deferred that maketh the heart sick, than any other on earth, and it is no wonder it gets on their nerves, and the victims of a long-drawn-out engagement are always quarreling and always taking up.

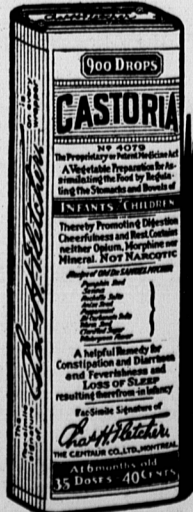
Worse still is their fate where the man goes off to seek his fortune and the woman stays at home to wait for him. Almost invariably the man changes in his new environment and finds his engagement a ball and chain about his feet, but he feels compelled to go back and marry the girl who has missed her chances of marrying some other man because she had bound herself to him.

So, if I were you, son, I wouldn't invest any money in an engagement ring until I was about ready to put a wedding ring on a girl's finger. And wouldn't ask her to give up every other man for me. I wouldn't want to feel that I had done her out of all her other chances, and that I had to make good by marrying her two—or three—or five years hence if I had outgrown her, and she wasn't at all the sort of a wife that I wanted then.

DOROTHY DIX.

Dear Miss Dix—What is the duty of an only daughter? Is it to stay with her parents, or should her future be her chief lookout? I am offered the chance of my life to gratify my ambition and do the work I have fitted myself to do, but if I embrace this opportunity I will have to leave home, and my parents object to my doing this. My father is a failure, he and mother have absolutely no desire to get ahead and they see no reason why I should not be satisfied with a small job. They insist that they know what is best for me in everything, but this is rather rubbing in the loving parent propaganda when you are 24. What shall I do?

ONE OF YOUR READERS.



When Babies FRET

There are times when a baby is too fretful or feverish to be sung to sleep. There are some pains a mother cannot pat away. But there's no time when any baby can't have the quick comfort of Castoria! A few drops, and your little one is soon at ease—back to sleep almost before you can slip away.

diarrhea, and other infantile ills. Give good old Castoria until your children are in their teens! Whenever coated tongues tell of constipation; whenever there's any sign of sluggishness that needs no stronger medicines to relieve. Castoria is pleasant-tasting; children love to take it. Buy the genuine—with Chas. H. Fletcher's signature on wrapper.

What the Fashionable Are Wearing

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern

By Annebelle Worthington

DISTINCTIVE LINES

Good taste not necessarily expensive. Here is a Paris replica interpreted in rich Havana brown shimmering printed sheer velvet that may be copied exactly for a very small sum.

Style No. 2836 designed in sizes 16, 18 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42-inches bust, takes but 3 1/2 yards of velvet in

39-inch width with 1/4 yard of 32-inch canton crepe in harmonizing tone, for the woman of average figure. This swank new model accentuates flat hips and higher placement of waistline through clever new treatment. The front of bodice with simple smart Vionnet collar-neckline, is cut in from underarm edges; upper edges gathered and joined to lower edges, forming a snug hip yoke with slight blousing above. Pin tucks at lower part of centre are decorative and have a tendency to break the width, thus giving length to silhouette. The back bodice section is attached to a hip yoke. Close side and shoulder seams of bodice, set sleeves into armholes and it is ready to attach two-piece circular skirt that has been seamed at sides.



2836.



There are many other interesting fabrics suitable for this attractive slenderizing model. You'll like it especially in feather weight woolen, now so popular with smart women for general daytime occasions. Printed silk is very effective. Black crepe satin is another favorite. Bottle green silk crepe, faille silk crepe in black with kerchief scarf tie and trimming pieces on sleeves in eggshell shade, Army blue canton crepe and plain sheer velvet in black or Lucerne blue are outstanding chic selections.

Pattern price 15 cents. Our Fashion Magazine is 15 cents but you may order a pattern and a Fashion Magazine together for 25 cents.

Answer:

Go. Don't hesitate to get up and follow where fortune beckons you. Opportunity has a way of passing us by if we don't respond promptly when she knocks at our door the first time.

I believe in children doing their duty by their parents, and treating them with all due affection and consideration, but parents have no right to ask their children to sacrifice their lives for their parents, nor to give up their careers for their whims.

You are young. You have your life still before you. They are old. Their fates are sealed. You probably have years ahead in which to achieve things. Their day's work is over. Just looking at it from any standpoint, it isn't fair, or just, that you should give up all that you may do and have just for the sake of giving them the pleasure of your company.

I have known so many cases in which fathers and mothers have blighted the lives of their children by their selfishness. They didn't want to be separated from Mary or John. They didn't want to leave the old house in which they had lived so long. They were afraid of new things.

They had narrow and provincial views that they wanted to force on their children, and so they kept John and Mary tied down at home, or they prevented John and Mary from marrying the man and woman they loved, or kept them from following the career they wanted to, and John and Mary's lives were ruined by doing what they thought was their duty to their parents.

And, nine times out of ten, the parents would have been far better off themselves if John and Mary had refused to make the sacrifice, and had gone on and lived their own lives and been happy and prosperous and better able to take care of father and mother than they were with their own lives failures.

DOROTHY DIX.

Dear Dorothy Dix—I am a girl 19 years old and I know a good deal of both moral and immoral life. Your articles shock me with some of your old-fashioned ideas. Why should not a woman do as she pleases? Tell me where there is a man with so spotless a past that he dare question any manner of life his wife or sweetheart may have lived? I believe that so long as a girl keeps herself from being common, untidy, boring, she has the right to her own mind and actions. One more question, please. Why does a woman have to consider whether a man will or will not marry her? Certainly the day is past when a girl's only thought is of marrying. Why, then, must she consider her every move in fear that no man will marry her? I would rather go through life alone than with a man who was narrow enough to see sin in those lights.

WHY.

Answer:

My dear young lady, I am sorry you consider my ideas so old-fashioned, but the Ten Commandments are also old-fashioned. So is nature. So are the rules of conduct that civilization has built up through thousands of years of experimenting in the relationship of men and women.

There are about a million good reasons why a woman can't do as she pleases. Nature supplies about 999,999 of them, and there is no good in arguing with nature because it always has the last word and renders the decision from which there is no appeal. The other reason is that dissipation tells on a woman more than it does on a man, and the that the woman who goes the pace goes to the dogs before he does. Look at any bear-eyed, hard-faced old woman runder and you have the answer to why women can't do as they please unless they please to be good.

Of course, a man may have no more right to demand a woman with a spotless past than she has to demand a Joseph as a husband. The only trouble is that they do, and if you marry I fear you will have to take a man

Happenings of the Week

Just stand aside and watch yourself go by:

Think of yourself as "he" instead of "I."

Pick flaws; find fault; forget the man is you.

And strive to make your estimate ring true.

The faults of others then will dwarf and shrink.

Love's chain grow stronger by one mighty link.

Where you, with "he" as substitute for "I,"

Have stood aside and watched yourself

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The Prince of Wales will head the list of Society hosts and hostesses who will entertain in London as the Little Season gets into its stride. For nearly twelve months alternations of one kind and another have been going on intermittently at York House, and the Prince has at last got his quarters there adapted more or less to his liking. Now he proposes to receive his friends there a great deal more frequently than he has done in the past, and to entertain quite as much as he has been in the habit of being entertained.

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The Prince is very fond of the role of host, and it is one which all his guests declare he plays to perfection. During the London Season he gave a series of small receptions and dinner parties, as did the Duke and Duchess of York, receiving well-known people often entertained by the King and Queen, members of the Corps Diplomatique, and representative men and women in public life.

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Parties of this type will continue to be held during the Little Season interspersed with private gatherings for his own particular circle of friends, at which the Prince will have the support of his younger brothers the Duke of Gloucester and Prince George. More room has been afforded for the reception of guests by the removal of the secretarial staff to another part of the house.

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This gives the Prince, for the first time since he went into residence at York House, the exclusive use of his own front door.

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All the decorations at York House have been carried out very carefully with a view to keeping them in the style of the Palace itself. Carpets and lighting have been chosen with much taste, and when the workmen are finally out of the York House the scheme as a whole is likely to give the Prince every satisfaction.

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With the hospitality that has

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marked the entertainments at Rideau Hall for many years, last Friday evening's ball proved to be as delightful and enjoyable as those of former occasions. Their Excellencies the Governor General and the Viscountess Willingdon have once again been most charming as host and hostess. Contrary to the usual custom, Their Excellencies did not hold presentations. When the guests were assembled at 9.45 o'clock, Their Excellencies entered the ballroom with the members of their household staff and the ball was opened in a very informal manner with an exceptionally good orchestra in attendance.

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Her Excellency wore a handsome black gown with her decorations, the Order of a Dame of the British Empire, Our Lady of St. John of St. Jerusalem and her lovely coronet of diamond maple leaves. Nearly 1,500 guests were present and enjoyed the lulling program of dance numbers and the delicious buffet supper served in the Raquet Court. One of the small anterooms was used for the serving of fruit punch throughout the evening. The long tables were prettily adorned with silver bowls of pale yellow mums.

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Autumn flowers in all the lovely tints were used throughout the various rooms. The Central Court of Rideau Hall and the main reception room were utilized for dancing as well as the ballroom, this being rather a new innovation as the latter room has always been an ideal sitting out place between dances.

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The lovely long Oriental saloon was thronged with guests during the evening, the handsome furnishings and pretty ornaments being the subject of admiring comments on all sides. This room, Her Excellency's special hobby, is a delight in every sense of the word.

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Mrs. Palmer, wife of Judge Harold Palmer entertained at an enjoyable mixed bridge on Wednesday evening at her pretty apartment on Prince Street.

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Mr. and Mrs. C. E. McLaggan, who have many friends here, have arrived in New Glasgow, after some weeks absence. They accompanied their daughter, Miss Marjorie to Montreal, at the opening of the McGill University year and since then visited in Toronto, stopped for a while in Battle Creek, Michigan, and on their way back, spent some time in Montreal, where Miss Helen is also a student.

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Rev. Dr. W. T. Herridge, who was for nearly 40 years minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Ottawa, a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, and one of the foremost and best known preachers in Canada died last Sunday in London, England, where he was on a visit. Dr. Herridge's first marriage was in 1885 to Marjorie Duncan, a daughter of Rev. Thomas Duncan of Bridge of Weir, Scotland, one of the most distinguished Scottish divines, whose name is still a household word in that country, and who as pastor of St. James Church in this city is so kindly remembered by the older folk. Mrs. Herridge predeceased the doctor some years ago. There were two sons and two daughters by this marriage. Gordon Herridge, a son, died a few years ago. Surviving are Major W. D. Herridge, son and Irene, wife of Mr. Kenneth McLachlan, of Arranpior, and Mrs. Gwendolyn McLachlan, of Montreal, daughters.

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Miss McCollum, is now occupying her lovely new home on Richmond Street West, which has just been completed and in which it is hoped she will spend many happy years.

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Mr. Wesley Frost, Consul-General of the United States a former Consul of this city, and Mrs. Frost, spent the week-end in Ottawa, where they were the guests at luncheon of the Hon. William and Mrs. Phillips.

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Mrs. R. T. Holman and Miss Gladys Holman of Summerside are visiting Mrs. Holman's daughter Mrs. Allan Parson in Montreal.

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Mrs. McDonald, wife of Hon. J. A. McDonald, Cardigan, and family, are being welcomed as residents of Charlottetown, having taken Mr.

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who is "narrower" on that subject. Mighty few men are broad and liberal in their views when it comes to their own wives.

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Of course, girls don't have to consider whether a man will marry them or not, only it just happens that practically every girl in the world wants to get married, and this is the one subject that she does spend her time considering.

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Ask me another,

DOROTHY DIX.



Important Autumn Stocking Suggestions by Orient

As the finest stocking investments in Canada, paying large dividends in wear and satisfaction, Miss Orient recommends—

Style 550
An ultrasheer 45 gauge all silk chiffon with the "Art Moderne" heel.
An extra long chiffon stocking of unusual fineness and clearness with invisibly re-inforced silk foot and garter hem. Recognized by leading buyers as the finest and sheerest chiffon in Canada at this price—the equivalent of many higher priced imported styles.
Unequaled at \$2.00

Style 300-V
A light service weight stocking for practical everyday wear, in which the inherent qualities provide sturdy service with the fine appearance of more expensive styles. With French or "Contour Heels." The most widely sold hose of its kind.
A remarkable value at \$1.50

Style 365
The famous "Purple Stripe" Heavy Service Weight Stocking. Widely recognized as the best wearing hose in America.
Exceptionally heavy fabric of pure thread silk with specially re-inforced hile foot and welt, and regulation Square Heel. Look for the Purple Stripe at the bottom of the welt.
Unequaled at any price - \$2.00
Other sound Orient offerings at \$1.50 to \$2.00.

The name "Orient" on a stocking, identifies highest quality and the greatest value in appearance, wear and satisfaction at a lower than usual price.

Insist on Orient, at all smart shops and Departmental Stores.
CANADIAN SILK PRODUCTS LIMITED
Also makers of Rainbow and Aladdin Lines
Sales Office: New Birks Building, Montreal

Ross McEwen's pretty home for the winter months.

Mrs. R. N. Taylor, of Westmount, P. Q., who has been spending a few weeks in the city, the guest of Mrs. F. P. Taylor, is leaving for her home, Monday. Mrs. Taylor's friends were indefatigable in their entertainment, the only regret being that her visit was all too short.

Mrs. (Dr.) C. H. Beer entertained very delightfully at Bridge yesterday afternoon at her home 227 Kent Street.

The muff is coming back. A new York woman has appeared on the streets of Winnipeg, Manitoba, wearing one. Replying to cautious inquiry by a reporter she advised him

Mrs. A. E. Morrison was among the week end hostesses entertaining at a prettily arranged bridge at her home on Saturday.

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