Woman's Realm / Social and Personal / Fashions / Literature

Dorothy Dix Says—

LIVING WITH MOTHER-IN-LAW DILEMMA FOR YOUNG BRIDE

It Can Be Done And Both Be Happy, But It Requires Every Ounce Of Diplomacy On Part Of Each Other

Dear Dorothy Dix—I am going to live with my husband's mother when we are married. Can you give me any suggestions about how to get along with her, as I am determined to live in peace with her if it is possible? ELEANORE.

ANSWER—Well, of course, mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law CAN live together without getting into each other's hair. It has been done but, as the English say, it takes a bit of doing, and you should think long and carefully and prayerfully before you undertake it. If, however, you have determined to tackle the job, my first suggestion to you is to make an honest effort to make a success of it. Realize that both you and your mother-in-law are put on the spot, because neither one of you wishes to live with the other. She wants to go on living as she has done for years in her old home, monopolizing her son, doing things her own way. You want your own home where you will be alone with your husband and where you can fix everything up according to your own taste and have everything just as you want it, as you have dreamed of doing ever since you played dollhouse as a little girl. These things being true and it being impossible for the two schools of housekeeping to be put into operation in the same house without conflict, I think you will do much to propitiate your mother-in-law and to promote peace if you will simply take a back seat of your own accord as soon as you enter your new home.

Tell your mother-in-law that you want her to continue to sit at the head of the table and run the house. It will require sacrifice on your part to do this, but you have told your husband a thousand times that you would die for him, if necessary so why not live for him a little?

Also, I would earnestly recommend to you to keep on with your job, if you have one, and, if not, to get one, or take up some study or hobby that will take you much out of the house. No two women, even if they were female angels, could live in the same house with one of them having nothing to do and no authority and no interest in it, without getting on each other's nerves.

Things to Remember

Then I would ask you to remember that it is always a wrench to a mother to have to give up her son to another woman. Her boy has been her all-in-all so long that it makes a terrible gap in her life when he leaves her.

So make this as easy for her as you can. Don't rub it in on her that you are first now. Don't do your billing and cooing under her eyes. Urge your husband to be more affectionate and more attentive to his mother than he has ever been before.

Finally, use as much tact and diplomacy in winning your mother-in-law's heart as you did her son's. Old women are very susceptible to flattery because they get so little of it. Tell your mother-in-law how grateful you are to her for having given you such a fine husband. Compliment her cooking. Ask her to teach you how to make certain dishes.

If you are living in her house, be the perfect guest—cater to her in every way possible, and you will make a friend of her. And a mother-in-law can be a very useful and helpful friend to the daughter-in-law she likes.

And some day you will be a mother-in-law yourself, and may Heaven reward you as you deserve by sending you a model daughter-in-law.

"ARMY" MARRIAGES ARE GREAT RISK

Dear Dorothy Dix—For five years I have been going with a girl. Nothing serious, just that we liked to be together, and now that I have decided to join the army she thinks we should rush into marriage because every one else is doing it. Nine out of 10 of the boys are in the same fix that I am. They don't want to marry because they know that nothing will be the same after the war is over. We may come back to no job and have nothing to support ourselves on, let alone a wife and perhaps a kid. And, most of all, we do not care quite so much for the girls we left behind us. Yet the girls want an immediate marriage. Why can't they be willing to do their share here until our work is finished? It all comes to this: I don't want to marry and my girl is giving me the deuce about it. How can I get out of it? Can you help?

TWENTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD WITHOUT A MIND OF HIS OWN.

ANSWER—The way out is easy enough if you have the courage to take it. Just tell the girl up and down that you do not intend to commit the folly of marrying under the circumstances, and that you expect to have troubles and anxieties enough to bear during the next few months without adding to them the extra load you would have to carry if you were worried all the time about what had become of a wife.

After all, a girl can't take you by the scruff of the neck and drag you to the altar against your will. So be man enough to stand up for what you know to be the right thing to do, and don't let her weep or cajole you into acting contrary to your best judgment.

Any girl who really loved you unselfishly would not try to force herself upon you in this critical hour of your life. She would send you away with her blessing and tell you that she would be waiting when you came back, and then, if you loved each other and you had some way to support a family, she would marry you.

TEEN-AGE BOY SHOULD NOT MARRY

Dear Miss Dix—I am a teen-age boy in love with a woman of 30 and wish very much to marry her. She is divorced and has a small child and I would like to make a home for them both. But I am also attracted by a girl of my own age. What shall I do? SAMUEL.

ANSWER—The G-men should get any woman of 30 who is trying to marry a boy in his teens, for kidnapping. Don't let her get you. Try to have a moment of sanity in which to consider how you would support a ready-made family. Why, you couldn't make a living for yourself now if you tried.

And if you are already attracted by a girl of your own age, think how tired you would be of this woman, who is old enough to be your mother, if you were married to her. And don't do anything so foolish as to let her drag you to the parson.

DOROTHY DIX.

HOW TO LAUNDER

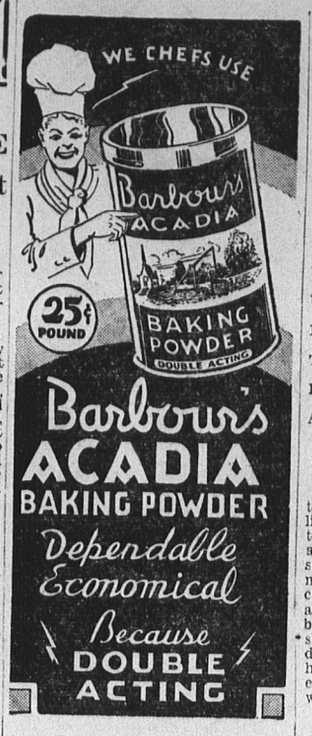
During the winter, washing the woollen blankets is a recurrent household requirement. Proper care of blankets makes a big difference in their durability and appearance and the frequent removal of dirt is the number one rule.

Successful washing calls for simple but definite measures. Unless wool is treated right it has a tendency to shrink and to become stiff and hard when wet.

Too much handling during the washing is one cause of dissatisfaction but handling can be practically eliminated by the use of extra-heavy suds. Doubling or tripling the quantity of soap increases its cleansing power so that little handling is needed. Soil flots out by itself.

Sudden changes in the temperature of the water or extremes of temperature increase shrinkage and cause the fibres to interlock and become hard and stiff. For this reason, the temprature of both the washing and rinsing waters should be evenly luke warm throughout.

After the final rinse, as well as between rinses, excess water may be extracted in the spinner of the washer or wrung out with the rolls of the wringer loosely adjusted to avoid too much pressure on the nap. If the washing is done by hand and no wringer is available, the blankets should be hung dripping on the line a couple of feet apart so the air has a good chance to circulate.



Living & Leisure —The Woman's Realm

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGGS

They let the colors drip a tiny way—
A path, across my kitchen floor today,
Vermillion, blue, jade green, canary, rose
Upon my spotless sink and on their clothes.
I will not scrub this brightness from the room,
The spots seem like small Eastern flowers in bloom,
Dropped here by children's fingers, posies sweet—
As once in old Jerusalem, they decked a street.
—Josephine Boulton Bleeker.

Nylon, as it becomes more plentiful, seems to have practically limitless uses, Nylon sewing thread is the latest. It looks like a strong cotton, is supposed to be stronger than cotton thread, but not quite so strong as silk. A casual test shows that it stands a good deal of tugging before it breaks. It is said that it will not shrink in the wash, but that it does not take kindly to a very hot iron. Nylon thread is inexpensive and comes in a very wide range of colors.

SHAPING THE FIGURE TO SVELTE LINES

Few women are entirely satisfied with their figure lines, and many have come to belive that a corset which remolds the figure must necessarily be uncomfortable to wear. But nothing could be further from the fact, according to a well known corset designer.

"The right foundation, correctly fitted should be as comfortable as an old slipper", she says. "It is possible to control the waistline and hips with firmness and flexibility, and with little boning, if any. The torso can be supported and held in true alignment, so that there is a lessening of fatigue. The foundation garment should not only make the figure look better, but it should improve the posture and carriage while letting the wearer move about freely, with easy, natural grace."

Ammonia should be applied at once if any acid is spilt on the carpet or your clothes, otherwise it will burn a hole.

Pour dry salt on a wine or fruit stain immediately, and the coloring matter will dry into the salt instead of into the tablecloth.

The hind feet of a rabbit pass on the outside of the front feet when it is running.

NEW LINGERIE SUITS FROCK AND OCCASION

Lingerie for Spring and Summer 1941 will reach a new high in wardrobe co-ordination, according to Yolande, well-known designer of fine handmade underthings.

"The time has passed when the same sort of lingerie, could be worn under every frock", she explained. "Today, the fastidious woman is just as careful to choose her lingerie for the occasion and the frock for which it is to be worn as she is to wear a sports girdle for golf and an evening foundation for dancing.

"Therefore, gowns and slips for the new season have been designed to conform to the other items in a well-rounded wardrobe.

"For sports there are slim crepe slips with tailored details of fine hand-faggotting, while this same type of faggotting enlivens the satins that are recommended for wear under suits.

"Afternoon frocks call for slips with hand-run laces and the deep, rich embroideries that are so well-bred yet so effectively feminine on either crepe or satin.

"Under evening gowns only the sleekest, most form-fitting slips will suffice and the famous Bravo slips is the answer to every woman's problem. Of either crepe or satin, its molded bra-top eliminates the need for a separate brassiere so there are no extra shoulder straps to complicate the most daring decollete."

In conclusion, Yolande reminds us that a lingerie wardrobe is one luxury that's supremely practical. For by wearing the simpler, sturdier lingerie for sports, etc., the delicate laces and fine embroideries of more frivolous garments are given the tender care they deserve and thus they last much longer.

BEING CHIC IS MINOR 'CAREER'

No woman ever will be truly chic until, in her own mind, she has a clear picture of the way she wants to look. And even after the imaginary picture is firmly set she'll never achieve her goal unless she first admits that it takes plenty of time and lots of energy to be chic and then reorganizes her daily schedule accordingly.

Going to the hairdresser for a new, more flattering, smarter coiffure and shopping carefully for the perfect suit are steps in the right direction, of course. But no more than that.

Well-Groomed Hair

Being chic means taking excellent care of that coiffure, going to the hairdresser at least once every six days—oftener if the hair is oily or limp and soft and difficult to manage. It meahs making sure that every item in the spring and summer wardrobe is just as perfect as the Eastern suit.

It means resolving to be smartly turned out every hour of the day—not just now and then on special occasions. It means learning to wear a simple dress with that certain air that spells chic, whether it's a gingham house dress or a simple office frock.

Minor "Career'

It involves improvement of one's posture, complete mastery of the art of applying makeup and development of a kind of sixth sense about colours, lines and fabrics that are becoming and those which are not. More hours to be devoted to shopping are indicated. The chic woman never buys the wrong thing. One reason she doesn't is that she never shops hurriedly. Or, for that matter, when she is tired, unsure of herself and her tastes.

You can begin to see that being chic is a kind of minor career. Whether you want this kind of career is entirely up to you, of course. But if you do want it, have it, by all means. Regardless of the size of your clothes budget, you can be chic if you want to be chic.

It's largely a matter of being willing to give up a couple of activities to which you now devote your time and of working out a kind of grooming and shopping schedule and sticking to it, come what may.

THE COOK'S CORNER

MINT PARFAIT

1-2 cup sugar
1-4 cup water
2 egg whites, stiffly beaten
2 or 3 drops oil of peppermint or 1-2 teaspoon peppermint extract
Few drops green coloring
1 cup cream, whipped

Method: Combine sugar and water and stir until sugar is dissolved. Cook together until the thread stage or a very soft ball is reached. Beat the egg whites until stiff and gradually pour the hot syrup onto these, beating constantly. Continue beating until the mixture is cool, then add the oil of peppermint or peppermint extract. Whip the cream until thick, but not stiff, and fold the first mixture into this. Now add green coloring, a little at a time, mixing well after each addition, until a delicate shade of green has been obtained. Pile lightly into a refrigerator tray and freeze for 3 hours. This makes 1 refrigerator tray full, or enough for 6 small servings. The recipe can easily be doubled if desired.

CHOCOLATE SAUCE

1 1-2 squares unsweetened chocolate
1 tablespoon butter
1 1-2 cups sugar
Dash of salt
1-2 cup hot water
1 cup coffee cream
1 teaspoon vanilla

Method: Place the chocolate in the top part of a double boiler and melt over hot water. Then add the butter, sugar, and a dash of salt and continue cooking over hot water until the sugar is melted. Now add the hot water and the coffee cream gradually. Remove from hot water and cook over direct heat for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat, add vanilla and beat vigorously for a few minutes. Store in the refrigerator until ready for use.

POTATO CUSTARD PIE

1 unbaked pie shell
3 eggs, separated
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon butter
1 teaspoon nutmeg
2 cups mashed potatoes
2 cups scalded milk

METHOD—Separate the eggs and beat the yolks with the sugar to a cream and add the butter. Mash the potatoes until all lumps are removed and then add to the scalded milk, stirring until the two are thoroughly combined. Add this to the first mixture and then stir in the nutmeg. Beat the egg whites until stiff, but not dry, and fold into the potato mixture. Turn into an unbaked pie shell. Bake in a hot oven (450 deg. F.) for 10 minutes (to set the lower crust) and then reduce the heat to moderate (350 deg. F.) and continue baking for 20 to 25 minutes longer, or until a knife when inserted in the centre of the pie, comes out clean.

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LONG BOB PASSE; BANGS IN STYLE

Hair-do's — as well as clothes — made news in the recent showings of spring and summer designers.

Every woman might as well face the fact here and now that her coiffure is no longer incidental to her appearance. She can't possibly be chic, according to 1941 standards, unless her hair measures up in smartness to her ensemble.

This is no year to say, "As soon as I get my spring clothes together, I must do something about my hair". No, indeed. This is a year to worry as much about hair as clothes, to realize that a new permanent is just as important as a new hat, that one gets a suit, accessories and a new coiffure for Easter— not a suit and accessories and maybe a coiffure.

Long Bobs Out

About 90 per cent. of the smartly turned out New York mannequins, who were hand-picked to show the designers' latest brain children, wore pompadours or bangs, with the pompadours leading about two to one. There were so few long bobs that long bobs aren't even worth mentioning. Bangs ran the gamut from short, softly curled, fringe effects to sleek, thick, turned-under types which concealed most of the forehead. Practically every coiffure had a sleek, definitely up-and-away look.

At one smart shop a "waterfall coiffure" was attention-getting. This has a pompadour at the front and is short at the back, with cascades of short curls falling from the crown of the head to the ends of the hair.

Lilacs were thrust through a low chignon for another fresh, spring-like evening coiffure. Evening combs, covered with fabric to match printed silk evening dresses, received applause. So did evening braids that were fastened across the top of the head with a twisted hank of yarn.

New Ideas

The yarn-and-braids idea is something which might be achieved effectively by the girl who doesn't want to cut her long bob. Hair is parted in the middle from forehead to nape of the neck; two braids are made, crossed at the back and brought up around the head. They won't meet, of course The space between them is filled in with twisted yarn to match dress or accessories —the yarn simply being fastened to the ends of the braids.

In addition to a dearth of long bobs, there was at the widely heralded fashion openings a veritable famine of hair-bows — both big and little; covered - up ears; feathers, fish and other so-called hair - do fancies. When evening coiffures were decorated at all, flowers, real or artificial, and good - looking pieces of jewellery did the trick.

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A Morning Smile

A manufacturer was engaging a new traveller, and explained that the last man he had employed had got things into such a tangle that he thought he would have considerable difficulty in getting order out of chaos.

"I don't know who Chaos is," put in the applicant, "but I'll get an order out of him if I have to hang on to him for a week."

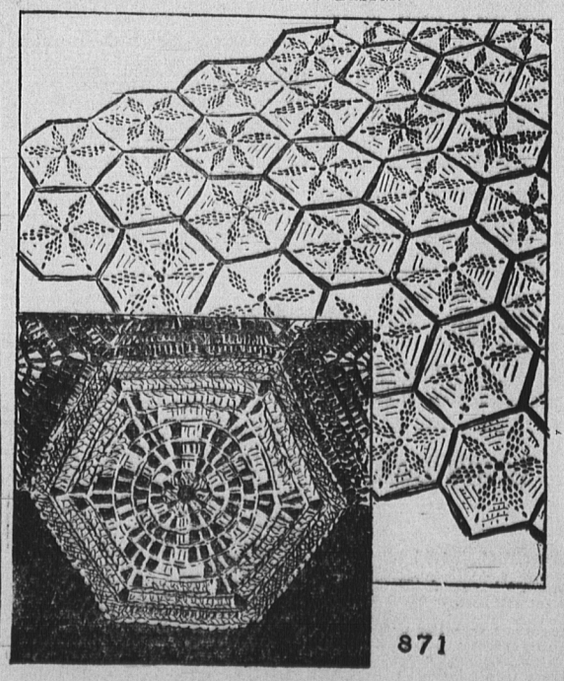
TIME'S AWASTING

First little bird: "Hoo's that sitting on the park bench below us?"

Second little bird: "That's the guy who fired buckshot at us the other day."

Third little bird: "Well, wot are we waitin' for?"

AFGHAN IN STAR DESIGN



DESIGN NO. 871

A quick and easy crochet job which may be easily completed in a short time is this afghan in a star design. Pattern No. 871 contains list of materials needed, illustration of stitches and complete instructions.

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