

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

Dorothy Dix Says—

Grandma's Tyranny

Usurping Young Parents' Prerogatives Shoves Marriages On Rocks

DEAR MISS DIX: I am a woman 26 years old. Have been married five years and we are expecting our first baby soon, over which, of course, there is great rejoicing. But here's the fly in the ointment: My mother, a widow 50 years old and financially well off, has the habit of running in to see how I am every day, and she has announced that she is going to take care of the baby for me when it comes and until it is ready to go to school. She intends staying in my house all day and just going to her home, which is two blocks away, at night.

She says that young people are careless and do not know how to manage, and that since she reared up a baby then she is better fitted to take care of a baby than I am. But my husband says no; that we are as intelligent as the average person, and he thinks it is our duty and our privilege to bring up our children as we see fit, and that when we need Mother's help we can ask for it.

What is your unbiased opinion of the situation.

HOPEFUL

ANSWER: I think you have come to a crisis in your life, and that unless you have enough backbone to make your mother realize, once and for all, that this is going to be your baby and not hers, and that you are going to rear it according to your theories about how to bring up a child, that your whole marriage will go on the rocks. For your husband certainly is not going to be just a stooge in his own house who plays second fiddle to mother-in-law, yet I have seen that happen often enough.

HELLS PATERNAL INSTINCT

I have seen plenty of grandmothers take possession of the new baby and refuse to let the proud young father even touch it, and if there is any way to kill the paternal instinct in a man, that turns the trick. Many a man, who would have made a fine and devoted father, never even gets acquainted with his children. Grandma has taken his job away from him.

Grandmothers are not intentional trouble-makers in their children's families. It is just that they are so sure that they know best about everything on earth, and that they never realize that their sons and daughters grow up and have enough intelligence to manage their own affairs. To save their lives they can't keep their fingers out of their children's pie, and especially they can't keep their hands off a baby.

And that is why parents should never go live with their children if it can possibly be avoided, and why young fathers and mothers should rear their own children, without Grandma superintending the job.

DEAR DOROTHY DIX: I am a girl of 15. I am very popular and I never even stay at home at night, for I have so many dates. But I am not happy. My mother worries about me all the time because I cry so much.

For two years I have liked a boy very much, but I am forbidden to go with him because of the difference in our ages. I know positively that what I feel is not a passing fancy. It is real love, and he has told me that he feels the same way about me.

DISCONTENTED

ANSWER: The reason that you are unhappy and discontented is because you are forcing your age, and it has made you a little nervous wreck. No girl of 15 should be allowed to go out every night to places of amusement, and dance and drink and have love affairs with boys. She is not morally, physically, or mentally fitted for the strain, and so it is no wonder that you are a cry-baby and that your mother is worried about you.

The pity of it is that she didn't begin worrying about you when you were five years old instead of fifteen. If she had kept you the child that you were, instead of becoming the little gadabout she is letting you be, you would be happy and healthy playing around with other girls of your age and interested in your studies, instead of being a pitiful little neurotic who is old before her time.

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Household Hints

When ironing starched clothes, wax the bottom of the iron to keep free from starch. To remove ink stains from cloth, soak in milk. Salt in the rinsing water will keep clothes from sticking to the clothes line in cold weather.

Ellen's Diary

By an Island Farmer's Wife

"I wish, Ellen," James said to me this evening "that you'd shut that blamed radio off! It's mumbering away there and I can't seem to get to sleep—for all I do feel pretty drowsy." He was on the couch at the time, rather weary, I know, from battling the storm as well as the choring; the storm and gusty wind and the snow that belonged to March but came from April's strange stores. Windows are masked in white now, and since noon, when the first flakes were blown to us along the fields, we at Alderlea have been isolated by the snowfall and restless drifts. "You've no idea what it's like outdoors, Ellen!" James remarked when he came indoors at mid-afternoon and I went from head to toe. I found out to my discomfort later when I went in search of the creamer deposited this morning in a remnant of snow in the garden.

More lovely than a work of fiction, and beautiful in its very truth is "the quarter century of romance" celebrated by the King and Queen in London-town today, on the occasion of their silver wedding. Troublesome times has been their lot, yet through it all, their married life has been an inspiration and an example which could reach out to their humblest subjects. After all, love in a cottage can be equally—or perhaps more enduring, than love in a castle. And today, their ideal home life was brought to the attention of the Nation and their enjoyment of the simple pleasures that so often are passed by, or carelessly tossed aside by many in their quest for happiness. . . . a walk along a quiet country lane with their family; an evening by the fire; worship in a country church, the very things that many a one more favored considers as merely "num-drum, forgetting what rare privileges the like may be.

There was that episode of the lost creamer containing with certain exceptions the wealth of the morning milking, which by evening was buried beneath a depth of snow. "You should have thought about it long before this" James called to me from the shelter of the piggery and his voice was thin and twisted by the buffeting of wind and drift. Warmly dressed, I shivered vigorously in an attempt to find it, though by this the appearance of the place had changed. Cubic foot of snow after cubic foot of it came away while winds that howled and threatened came over fields and wood. At last in a session of work which later James termed "only exercise" the cover gleamed. Then laying aside the shovel, with a mighty tug I wrenched it free. "You got it, Ellen!" James called. "I was just coming to help you!" There was then need to tell him, so full of concerns as he is, that I carried an empty vessel. In some way, due to lack of careful stewardship I suppose, the contents had leaked away. Jook chuckled about it; Jeanie laughed. . . . James hangs up his cap now to say: "No lamb yet! The wind's dying—some." And "I believe I'd like a glass or two of milk now Ellen, it's good when it comes cold from the creamer!" Until tomorrow—Diary—Good-night.

Living & Leisure

THE WOMAN'S REALM

THE OPTIMIST

No matter how much rain comes down
Or how the wind may blow,
The robin sings his cheery song,
That all the world may know
He still remains an optimist
Despite the state of things;
For he has bucked fierce winds before
And flown with rain-soaked wings.

At any hour the wind will drop,
And it won't always rain,
And if the worms are hard to pull
Well, he just pulls again.
So why not try the robin's plan
And optimistic be?
Have faith, work hard, and keep your word.
Then happy you will be.
—B. T. B. Gleave, in Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

DISHWASHER'S LAMENT

NEW YORK — The average housewife spends about 57 eight-hour working days at the kitchen sink each year washing at least 47,000 dishes, 15,000 silverware pieces, and a mountain of pots and pans.

A scientific approach to dishwashing can cut sink time 25 to 30 per cent, says Dr. Elaine Knowles Weaver, associate professor of home economics at Ohio State University. Here are some of her suggested time savers:
Keep dishwashing in mind when building or renovating a kitchen. Select easy-to-clean materials such as ceramic tile for drainboards and walls, around sink. Plan a drainboard on each side of the sink. Pedal operated faucets and cabinets within reach of the sink save motion.

Each day, plan dishwashing when the meal is planned; use utensils that double as serving dishes—glass and pottery, shiny pots and pans, aluminum broilers. Don't dry dishes; rinse well with hot water and leave them in a drainer covered with a dry tea towel. Wash with a vegetable brush—It's speedier and more sanitary.

TREES SAVE SHOES

Shoes kept on trees will hold their shape longer and better. Tree them immediately after removing before the warm moisture from your feet dries and "sets" wrinkles and bulges.

WITH BITS OF WOOL

Knitters who always like to have a piece of work on hand often find that after a time they have a collection of odds and ends of wool left over from various things. A splendid idea is to use these to make a hot-water bottle cover, knitting the odds and ends into strips, which may then be joined together. Make the cover either longwise, sewing the strips together by hand, or, better still, horizontally.

The Stars Say--

By Genevieve Kemble

For Tuesday, May 4

THE advent of a sudden and surprising event appearing at first view as calamitous and unwelcome, may be turned to good account by pausing to give careful analysis to the situation, to be followed by a decision based on accurate and regulated business procedure, rather than an impetuous course of action or an unreasoning and emotional conclusion. Pause for shrewd evaluation of unforeseen openings that could spell progress and ultimate benefit.

For the Birthday

These whose birthday it is, may find themselves confronted by a rather critical situation in which a sudden change, new contracts and propositions, call for a shrewd and analytical approach rather than a rash and impulsive jumping at conclusions. An emotional or erratic grasp of really fresh and promising opportunities, could impede progress, cause estrangements and otherwise open up disagreeable situations. Originally, innovation, even fantastic ideas might be turned into lucrative channels by sound tactics, routine rather than daring. A child born on this day while prone to be erratic, and emotional, yet has sufficient intellect to grasp progressive possibilities and make wise decisions.

How Can I!!!

By Anne Ashley

Q. How can I remove scratches from furniture?
A. Use equal quantities of best salad oil and vinegar; mix and bottle, and shake well before using. Dip soft rag into the mixture and rub well into the wood. Equal parts of linseed oil and turpentine are also good. Beeswax can be used to fill cracks in furniture.
Q. Is it injurious to moisten the hair with water too frequently?
A. Yes; if this is done too often it causes the hair to become harsh and dry, making it break easily.
Q. What can I use as a substitute for egg in puddings?
A. One teaspoonful of gelatine dissolved in hot milk is a good substitute for two eggs when making puddings or cake.

Better English

D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "He would not hear to our leaving so soon."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "pecan"?
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Criminology, cresendo, crotone.
4. What does the word "inadmissible" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with ins that means "to urge forward"?

ANSWERS

1. Say, "He would not consent to our leaving so soon." 2. Pronounce pe-can, e as in un-stressed, a as in can, accent second syllable. 3. Crotone, 4. Inadmissible, 5. Impulse. "Our minds possess by nature an insatiable desire to know the truth."
—Cicero, 4

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That Body Of Yours

By James W. Barton, M. D.

NOSEBLOOD

It is known that the commonest place in the nose where bleeding occurs is at the lowest part of the septum (the tissue that divides the nose into the two nostrils). This is easily seen and the bleeding can be stopped by pressure on this spot by a finger or some absorbent cotton or gauze on the end of a small stick or match.

In the "Canadian Medical Association Journal," Dr. J. K. M. Dickie, Ottawa, states that while simply pressing on the bleeding spot stops the bleeding, this "one of the hardest facts to get over to patients with frequent nosebleeds. It is necessary to hold the 'whole' soft part of the nose between the finger and thumb and to keep it firmly compressed for 'at least five minutes'."

Another suggestion is not to let the patient with nosebleed lie down on his back, as doing so allows the blood to flow into the stomach, which causes faintness and nausea. If a patient has to lie down, have him lie on his face so that blood will run out into a basin. Make him sit up and bend forward or, better still, stand up. "If he faints, so much the better. It is difficult to faint and have a nosebleed at the same time."

What can be done when the bleeding spot is not in sight and so pressure cannot be applied to it?

The usual treatment is simply packing the nose with gauze, and thus stopping the bleeding for the time being. As the removal of this plug of gauze often causes bleeding to start again, Dr. Dickie suggests using a rubber or finger stall the inside of which is packed with lamp's wool. This is easy on the lining of the nose and can be removed without causing pain or bleeding. This is simpler than the use of finger-shaped balloons filled with air or water. Also the rubber is stronger, and does not perish so soon.

Remember, pressure on the bleeding spot is the treatment for a bleeding nose.

FIRST AID

Know what to do in an emergency. Send today for Dr. Barton's helpful booklet entitled "First Aid in Emergencies." Just enclose 10 cents and a 3-cent stamp, to cover cost of handling and mailing, to The Bell Syndicate, in care of this newspaper, Post Office Box 50, Station G, New York 19, N. Y., and ask for your copy.

Modern Etiquette

By Roberta Lee

Tired Eyes

To relieve eyes that are tired from close work, try bathing them in hot Epsom salt solution before retiring. Dissolve a half-teaspoon of Epsom salts in a cup of hot water and apply pads dipped into this solution, just as hot as can be borne. Repeat several times and the strained feeling will disappear.

Platinum Rings

Here's a cleaning hint for platinum rings only. Put some diluted laundry bleach into a glass and drop the ring into it for about a half hour. It will be clean when you take it out.

Padding Molds

When it is difficult to remove padding from the molds, dip a cloth in hot water, wring it out, wrap the cloth around the mold, turn it upside down, and see how easily the contents come out.

Morning Smile

S. R. O.

A woman's voice was heard from the steps of a crowded car: "Oh, get in, dear; some one will give you a seat." The next moment a young woman entered.

The men in the car read papers sternly. Those who had none pretended to be asleep. The too-careful woman gazed in vain. The car went on for half a mile; then a man sighed.

"There's a seat for one," said the conductor.

"Don't take it, dear," said one young woman. "Some man will want it."

In the moment of defeat she triumphed.

Household Scrapbook

By Roberta Lee

Hot Flashes?

Are you going thru the functional "middle-age" period peculiar to women (38-42 years)? Does this make you suffer from hot flashes, feel so nervous, high-strung, tired? Then try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to relieve such symptoms! Pinkham's Compound also has what Doctors call a stomachic tonic effect!

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