

ELLEN'S DIARY

by an Island Farmer's Wife

"Can you tell me where I might see an Aspidistra?" We overheard the master of a quiz program ask the other day of his subject. A silence followed the question. "Can't you make a guess?" the questioner encouraged.

"Would it be a musical instrument?" the other replied.

"No, but strangely enough we should be likely to find both in the same setting: in the parlor! For the aspidistra was a prized plant of grandma's day."

We dusted the broad shiny leaves of one today. It too brought to mind scenes of old parlors, stiff in walnut and haircloth. With ornate organs and whatnots, quaint pictures and tables—a great Bible, a clasped album of photos, a pretty lamp, conchs and treasure from far places, and to make magic for the stay-at-home, intriguing stereopticon views.

But the cares of the house-cleaning were forgotten when a little sunny wind and a lad of the place unable to attend classes because of "only a little cold" begged us to come outdoors. Toward a spring of this farm we pointed out steps there to gather first water-cress of the season.

In the small pool beneath the sunken mossy tub which told us of a time of dip-pails and "ze" creamers we found it. The spring is little frequented now except to the visits of the children or a thrifty farmer at work in the neighborhood. Yet for every pa-

tron it boils in fetching small geysers of crystal, from more than one crevice of smooth sandstone and with a merry chuckle goes down to join the broad flow of the millstream below.

"There hasn't been a soul here since last fall," Gage offered. "No one but the squirrels! See the husks of the spruce cones!" He looked up expectantly to the branches of the sheltering trees about. "Queer," he commented, "there's none out today. But" he smiled. "We saw better than that over there in the pasture, didn't we?"

"That was the pair of robins we had just hailed happily, very trim and pretty in their spring suits. 'Robins!' he had exclaimed in surprise. Then broke into a broad smile. "What did you bring back with you from the south?" "Without asking," he said softly, "you've brought us the summer."

April gave us pleasant skies to-day and a wind that at sunset went to rest away beyond the beavers' lodge up the creek to the west. It was gone when we came to Alderlea in the afterglow to keep the younger farmer's anniversary of birth with the family in the house across the lawn.

Down below its eabled windows jewelled, sat the mill beside the pond was silver. And keeping an old watch about were the sheltering hills.

Until Saturday ———— Diary
——— Good-night. ————

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M. D.
EFFECTS OF MEDICINES ON THE BRAIN SUBSTANCE

From time to time I write of the research work of an original nature being carried on at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. While much of this work is in the department of psychiatry, recently Dr. Laurence H. Hamrich, Jr., Fellow in Medicine at Duke, described to the Southern Section of the American Federation for Clinical Research a sure and simple procedure for inserting a catheter (a long thin plastic tube) into the main artery carrying blood to the brain for studying the metabolism or working processes of the brain.

"Many techniques have been devised for studies of the brain but the Duke technique is one of the simplest methods where surgery is not used. Doctors can be certain of the position of the catheter by injecting a weak solution of floriscan and checking its course under an ultraviolet light."

The studies at Duke so far have been only on the effect of insulin on the brain. Insulin is the substance manufactured by the pancreas and discovered by Drs. Banting and Best.

Dr. Hamrich's studies show that while insulin has an effect upon the use of sugar in the body, it has no effect whatsoever on the brain. Dr. Hamrich states that the technique might eventually be applied to thrombosis and, perhaps, treatment of the brain, to apply medicine directly to the brain.

This procedure itself involves the insertion of a needle into the main artery or blood vessel going to the brain and another needle into the main artery coming from the brain.

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Better English

By D. C. Williams

1. What is wrong with this sentence: "We intend to visit with our relations inside of a few weeks."

2. What is the correct pronunciation of "accompanist"?

3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Pertinent, permanent, perpendicular, perseverence.

4. What does the word "nostalgic" mean?

5. What is a word beginning with int that means "fearlessness"?

ANSWERS

1. Omit "with" and say, "within a few weeks." 2. Pronounce a-kom-pa-nist, four syllables, and not five. 3. Permanent. 4. Homesick. The soldier wrote a nostalgic letter to his father." 5. Intrepidity.

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DOROTHY DIX

Courting Trouble

DEAR MISS DIX: Herb and I were married two years ago shortly after we finished our graduate work. We didn't tell our families until after the ceremony, feeling there would be less chance of a lumps once the marriage was performed. I had never met Herb's mother until we were married. However, after everything was over, we settled out of town and got along quite well with both sides of the family.

Now I can sense a change in my mother-in-law, and feel that her attitude is threatening the happiness of our marriage. At first she seemed to like me, but she doesn't speak to me. We were even afraid to tell her when I became pregnant, and she didn't know about it until two months before the baby was born. My nervousness over the affair is being taken out on Herb. I know I'm nasty to him, complaining everytime he visits his mother, and berating him when he comes home. Probably each of the three of us is partly at fault, but placing the blame isn't nearly as important as trying to get our marriage back on a sound basis.

CONTEMPTUOUS INDIFFERENCE

ANSWER: Any mother-in-law, no matter how patient and long-suffering, would be apt to resent the almost contemptuous indifference of which you and Herb have been guilty. Any mother likes to know the girl her son intends marrying, and for Herb to break the news that he was married—and to a girl his mother had never met—was a callous thing to do.

Your parents apparently had met the young man, why shouldn't the boy's folks have been granted the same consideration from you? Here was no teen-age hasty romance; having finished graduate work, you both must have been about 23. Your mother-in-law appears to have accepted the situation gracefully, at that, until you permitted a minor blowup to assume the proportions of a major battle. It really looks as though you had been looking for just such a chance to put on the guise of injured daughter-in-law and take to the sulks. Keeping your pregnancy a secret was another mistake. Evidently you believe in keeping everything a secret—except your antagonism.

Undoubtedly there is some fault at each of the three points of this triangle, and I'm glad to see you are sensible enough to admit it. If you really want to get on a good footing with your mother-in-law, why not take a decisive step in that direction, instead of petulantly waiting for Herb to act? A heart-to-heart woman talk between you both will certainly iron out many of the difficulties and give you both a chance to admit where you were wrong.

DEAR MISS DIX: I'm a boy of 16, my parents are separated; I live with my mother and two younger sisters. My mother treats me like a baby, telling me what clothes to put on in the morning, what to eat, supervises my studying, sitting next to me all the time. How can I make her realize I'm growing up?

L. L.

ANSWER: It would be to your mother's advantage, as well as yours, for her to change her present attitude. You are indeed growing up and no amount of pampering or babying will keep

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How Can I?

By Anne Ashley

Q. How can I improve the flavor of lemon pie?

A. Place the rind into the filling mixture for a few minutes, and then remove with a spoon. The flavor will be improved but it will not have that bitter taste that grated lemon rind often produces.

Q. How can I make a substitute funnel?

A. If in need of a small funnel to fill the salt and pepper cruets, make one by cutting off the top of the corner of an envelope and using this corner as a funnel.

Q. How can I easily remove ink spots from the fingers?

A. Rub the inside of a banana peeling over the fingers.

WOMEN

Page 8 The Guardian Thursday, April 15, 1954

Mrs. Canada



Blue-eyed, 28-year-old Mrs. Margaret Trudel gets in some baking practice in her suburban Quebec City home in preparation for the Mrs. America finals later this month at Ellinor Village, Fla. An English war bride and mother of three, she was chosen to represent Canada on the basis of a photograph and favorite recipe submitted in a Canada-United States contest. Her husband, a car dealer, will accompany her on the trip. (CP Photo)

The Stars Say

By Estrellita
For Tomorrow

PERSONAL relationship are highlighted now, with the result that business dealings, domestic and romantic affairs should be unusually harmonious.

A surprise visit from distant relatives or interesting news from abroad are also distinct possibilities at this time.

During the evening hours, make time for such activities as reading, creative work or the pursuit of some religious interest. You will find great peace of mind in such activities, especially if shared with friends and loved ones.

For the Birthday

If tomorrow is your birthday, you are currently in the midst of a period which promises great satisfaction and many opportunities for future advancement.

There should be a considerable improvement in your financial status by early June, not only as a result of your business endeavors but also by a sudden and unforeseen reduction in expenses.

Personal and romantic relationships will be in the spotlight during the summer months and social activities should be unusually stimulating during the same period.

Household Scrapbook

By Roberta Lee
Clothespins

Soak the new clothespins in a vessel of boiling water to which a little baking soda is added, for 30 minutes. Rinse in cold water, let them dry in the sun and they will not break so readily.

Straw Hats

To make a straw hat cleaner mix corn meal, a strong solution of oxalic acid and water, to a thick paste. Rub into the straw thoroughly, allow to dry, then brush it well.

Modern Etiquette

By Roberta Lee

Q. What is the proper way for a woman to give a luncheon in her home?

A. Invitations may be given by telephone or informal note. The time usually is between one and 2:30 p.m. The luncheon may provide the only entertainment, or may be followed by cards. A luncheon menu should include an appetizer; a main course of meat and two vegetables; a salad; rolls or hot biscuits; dessert and coffee.

Q. Who takes charge of the wedding fee for the clergyman?

A. The bridegroom places it in an envelope and gives it to his best man, who hands it to the clergyman after the ceremony.

Q. When passing your plate for a second helping of some dish at the dinner table, what should be done with your silver?

A. Always leave the silver on the plate.

Lenten Meditation

from the columns of the Times, London

In Lent the Church pays special attention to the quality and needs of the Christian's spiritual life, and the reviewing afresh of the claims of Christian truth and church membership. Too much introspection may indeed lead to a kind of withdrawal of the individual from the responsibilities of corporate endeavour, and therefore to a crippling of his religious activities. Over-concentration on the self may thus defeat its own object.

Yet none who has grasped, in any adequate sense, the implications of the demands of his religion will fall to be aware of the need for continual spiritual rehabilitation and renewed strength. He will realize that his best efforts come far short of what might and should be, and that too often these best efforts have not even been put forth. To face with honesty the facts of one's own spiritual life, and to get rid of the comforting illusion that all is as well as it could be, is always a wholesome and renewing exercise.

One Collect asks that by the "comfort" of God's grace we "may mercifully be relieved"; that is, be set free from the inhibiting sense of unworthiness and inadequacy, and the faults and weaknesses, which must always be a hindrance to the progress of the life of the spirit, and which help to deprive man's work of its high-value. The meaning of this phrase in the Collect may easily be misunderstood. For it does not primarily mean consolation; it is the idea of power and enrichment—the equipment of the soul for the struggle and the strengthening and renewing of his courage. Thus the prayer is not so much a request which relates either a past or present adversity; it looks forward, for help and vigour for the future task.

Morning Smile

"John is marrying a wonderfully accomplished girl. She can swim, ride, drive, play golf and fly a plane. She's a real all-round girl!"

"Well, they ought to get along fine. He learned to cook in the army."

CONFLICT WITH DARKNESS

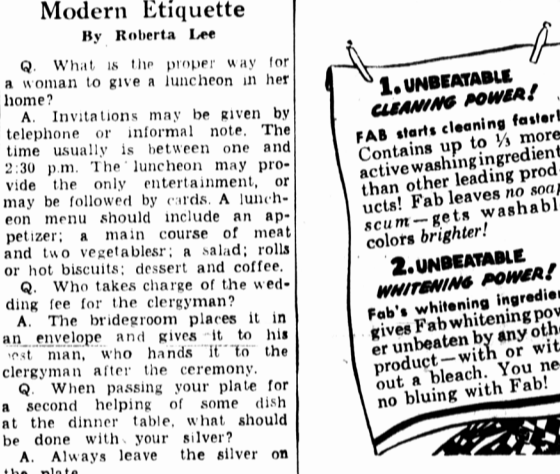
Lenten Meditation

world; and even through the experience of suffering, so that the suffering itself becomes a source of power. On more than one occasion St. Paul connects grace with suffering. "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness." But, most characteristically, this "comfort" comes through prayer and worship, through "waiting upon God." The concept of grace implies human dependence and a recognition of need. That, indeed, is the prime condition which allows it to be operative in the individual's life.

The need for spiritual power is only too evident in the modern world. The conflict between good and evil, in which the spiritual view of life seems to lack the driving force and initiative of its opposite, reveals this need, as the stark reality of the issues which are at stake becomes ever clearer. To contrast the driving force of Communism with the apparent lack of any comparable vitality in the Christian forces of the world, while it may provide a wholesome corrective of complacency, may imply too superficial a judgment, for in the nature of things the spirit works more quietly and with less ostentation. But it is part of the Christian faith that the divine Spirit is ceaselessly at work, and that the leaven of Christian influence is not powerless in contemporary affairs. Yet the comfort of God's grace—in the original sense of this phrase—is an essential need, and the very prayer for it involves the belief that it is available, both for the individual and for the Christian task in the world.

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