

ALL PEOPLE WERE FORCED TO USE PERFUME IN OLD DAYS ANCIENT CUSTOM IN VOGUE

Washington, D. C., Nov. 2.—“Chemists are undertaking a new task, it is reported, in seeking to classify perfume odors; but the use of perfumes is exceedingly ancient,” says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C. headquarters of the National Geographic Society.

“The Bible indicates that perfumes were in vogue among the Hebrews and in the reign of Hammurabi, the George Washington of Babylon—for Hammurabi also was a general, an engineer and administrator—the use of perfume was enforced by law.

“In ancient Babylon and Assyria mighty warriors bathed themselves in perfumes and wore their hair in carefully curled, highly scented locks. Moreover the perfumes were distributed in tiny glass vials and bottles, progenitors of the fancifully shaped bottles of today.

Egyptians Ate and Drank Perfume

“Ancient manuscripts and hieroglyphics on tombs tell of the delight the people of early Egypt found in perfumes. During one era, a day a week was set aside when the people were asked to perfume themselves entirely. The scents which they procured from trees and shrubs and aromatic plants would be too strong for modern taste. The most ardent present-day advocate of perfume would be overpowered by sweet smells if he could visit an ancient Egyptian household in the heyday of the ‘perfume era’. He would find his food perfumed and his wine perfumed. He would be surrounded by women bathed in perfume and men whose bodies were covered with highly aromatic unguents. Were he to visit a home of ancient Babylon he would breathe perfumed air from the aromatic wood burned in the fireplaces in the houses.

“Artistic vases of alabaster found in ruins of Greek and Roman settlements were the perfume ‘bottles’ of these peoples. Roses were the favorite flower of the Romans, and likewise their favorite scent. Thrice daily the Roman noble ‘wallowed’ in liquid perfume, after which his body was rubbed with sweet ointments. Rose leaves were placed in the vats where his wine was fermented and the scent of roses greeted him when he arose in the morning.

Have an Ache?—Try Perfume

“The Greeks had a special passion for perfume. Their poets wrote poems to it and about it. Only the most careless of the Grecian dandies were so thoughtless as to bathe himself in but one kind of perfume. ‘A different scent for each part of the body,’ may have been the slogan of their perfumers. It was fashionable to rub mint

on the arms and many of the other scents recommended were just as ‘highly spiced.’ Into the wines which graced their banquet tables they infused roses, violets and hyacinths.

“When a Greek found himself worrying too much over his troubles he used a recommended perfume to clear his mind. Stomach ache, headache and various other aches were said to be relieved by the application of different flowers and plant scents. The Greek quacks of an ancient day had a full supply of scents to relieve troubles, real or imaginary. Votive offerings to the gods were highly scented and clouds of incense arose from the Grecian altars.

Rosemary Beautified Queen

“Perfumes were introduced into Spain by the Arabs. Southern Arabia the Sheba of the ancients, was the chief source of supply for the trees and plants which yielded the perfumes of the Egyptians and Greeks and Romans, and the ‘perfumes of Araby’ were not mere poetic license but actual fact. Perfumes were brought to Europe gradually, but it was not until about the middle of the 16th century that they became almost universally popular. A still popular scent, water of Hungary, was first distilled from rosemary in the 14th century. Queen Elizabeth of Hungary, a conscientious user of this scent, was kept miraculously beautiful until a ripe old age by its application, according to some early writers.

“The popularity of scented gloves was a factor in spreading the use of perfume in Europe. France and Italy were especially partial to the sweet scents, while in England as in ancient Greece, to certain types of perfumes were ascribed remedial and seductive powers! One earnest citizen petitioned Parliament in the latter half of the 18th century, to inflict the punishment of witchcraft on women who entranced men into marriage by using perfumes.

“About the time this bill was introduced the famous and infamous Cagliostro was selling his magic perfumes and love potions to the court beauties of France and England. Cagliostro, an alchemist, whose real name was Balsamo, posed as an Italian count. With a beautiful and unscrupulous wife, he travelled through the countries of Europe, purveying portions that were supposed to make ugly women pretty, pretty women beautiful and beautiful women irresistible. Although he achieved wealth and notoriety, Cagliostro died in the prison of San Leo, in Rome in 1795. He was one of the most picturesque characters allied with the history of perfume.”

CLAIMS THAT THE TOURISTS INTERFERE WITH PLANS OF DAN CUPID IN ROUMANIA

In the hilly comitat of Arad in Transylvania which was formerly Hungarian and belongs now to Roumania, lies a little village high up in the mountains, far away from railroads and highways. Its name is Gajna and since immemorial time it has been a meeting place for young men in search of wives and girls who have reached the marriageable age.

The district is sparsely populated, the farmyards far from one another, and the young people would have little chance to select suitable mates, were it not for Gajna, where marriage candidates from the whole district meet about the middle of July.

The Rumanian herdsman leads a lonely life, out in the mountains with his cattle and horses the year round. When he feels it is time to find a companion he takes leave and goes to Gajna. And the sons and daughters of the isolated farmyards also look forward to the summer in Gajna.

Gajna Awakens in July

Eleven months of the year Gajna is a sleepy place, but in July it becomes so crowded that only a small fraction of its visitors can be accommodated in houses while the others are obliged to camp out. It changes into a beehive of lovemaking and matrimonial bliss. On foot, in carts and on the backs of horses and donkeys come the

marriage candidates from far and wide. The girls accompanied by their parents, bring with them everything they possess in the way of worldly goods.

In this poor district their wealth does not amount to much. The dowry generally consists of a couple of dresses, a trunk of homewoven linen and perhaps a gold chain round the neck, from which dangle gold coins that were saved in long years of toil. The wealthier brides hide a wallet with paper money in their corsets to show the treasure to the future husband. Love is not everything in Gajna. It means much to a hardworking herdsman or farmer, if his wife brings a modest sum into the new homestead.

Suitor Makes Survey

When the suitor arrives at Gajna, he walks round and scans the faces of the girls, stops here and there and speaks a few words. After a while he has gained the survey he needs, and something in the look of a pair of dark eyes, a smile different from the others giving him a first vague idea of sympathy, generally decides his fate. But life in the Transylvanian mountains is too much of a fight to allow people to trust in love only. When the undertone of mutual sympathy is discovered a serious and prosaic perambulation begins, tradition bound preliminary

inquiries that may or may not end in the calling of the orthodox village pope. If they do the wedding is held on the spot and a day after the couple leave the camp with all the belongings of bride.

Only one who can dispense with comfort will normally risk a trip to Gajna. But the few who have seen the picturesque spectacle mixed with the crowds in their gaily colored costumes watched the simple festivals improvised round camp fires in the evenings related their experience to others. Thus it came about that enterprising tourist agencies decided to exploit the peasant weddings.

Tourists Delighted

Expeditions set out from Arad, Klausenberg and Nagy-Varad, comfortable tents were bought to Gajna and a vanguard of good cooks with ambulant kitchens was dispatched to assure decent meals. Finally the tourist parties arrived in automobiles and by way of a narrow gauge railway that is normally used for the transport of timber. The guests were delighted for they found what they had expected and the marriage candidates behaved admirably, strictly according to the rules as they were explained in the guide books distributed among the sightseers.

To be on the safe side, the agents had smuggled in fake suitors and pretty maids upon whom they could rely. They were distributed among the real country folks, to make the scenes livelier. But the real marriage candidates became very shy when they discovered what was going on. Promising preliminaries were suddenly broken off and disappointed men and women stole away from Gajna unmated. The village pope got not nearly as much work as in previous years. Word was passed on that another lonely spot would be chosen as a rendezvous for the next time and its name is kept secret among the initiated.

SAYS GASOLINE TOO HIGH IN THIS PROVINCE

St. John, Nov. 2.—The purpose of Saint John and the citizens of New Brunswick generally are paying approximately five cents a gallon too much for gasoline. This was the opinion expressed by various speakers at a meeting of the New Brunswick Automobile Association held at the Admiral Beatty Hotel last evening. The matter was generally discussed when the summer gasoline prices were brought to the attention of the chairman, the president, T. P. Regan.

The matter of increased duty on second-hand cars imported into Canada from the United States, also received the attention of the meeting and the Association went on record as being strongly opposed to an increase on second-hand cars imported by an individual owner or purchase, while they favored such an increase in the case where used cars were being imported for wholesale purposes.

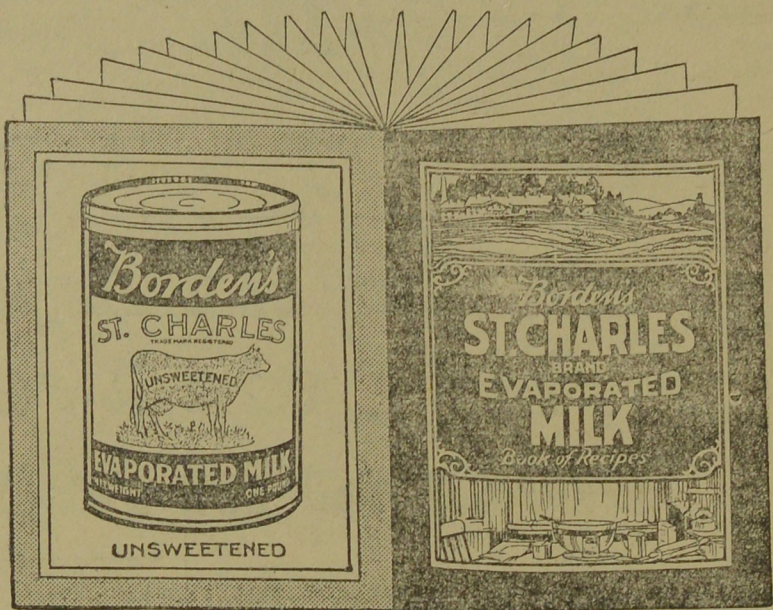
It was also decided by the Association to assist in furnishing cars for the conveyance of soldiers to Fernhill cemetery for the “Soldier Grave Decoration” ceremonies to be carried out on Sunday.

BALLAD OF BREAKFAST

You have my praise, oh lady fair,
Your cooking is beyond compare
I find your pastries warm and light
Your salads are a sweet delight;
None but an ingrate could refuse
To grant you in these things your dues,
But tell me this I humbly beg
Why can't you learn to boil an egg?

Each morning my reserve is spent
In watching this experiment,
To sadly note they always come
Most anyway but medium
And so I ask you, lady please
Quit chasing fancy recipes
And place upon the kitchen peg
The dope on how to boil an egg.
—LYMAN ATWOOD in Detroit News.

You lose and nobody gains when you give another “a piece of your mind.”
Calling a man a “big noise” puts him in a class with the concrete mixer.
If there is a war going on between Russia and China it is poorly advertised.



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