

LEAP YEAR AND ITS DANGERS TO THE MALE

With the breaking of 1936, which is leap year, the eligible bachelor enters a period of peril to his state of single blessedness for during the ensuing twelve months any girl who may have become "smitten" by his particular kind of manly beauty may propose marriage to him and not be thought "bold" for thus reversing the usual procedure on such occasions.

It is said that the custom is a very ancient one, dating back to at least as early as the 13th century when a certain Queen Margaret of Scotland made a law whereby a bachelor so approached by "a maiden lady of both high or low estate" should be compelled to accept his fair suitor's hand under penalty of a stiff fine unless he could prove he was already betrothed.

Even in those far-off days it would appear likely that there was a preponderance of the gentler sex and that the men were just as reluctant to take the plunge into matrimony as they very often are today so the good queen made her famous decree in an endeavour to rectify this.

But perhaps after all this idea of the man doing all the courting has not as much basis in fact as is generally supposed. A man wouldn't get ahead very far without encouragement and so a wise girl puts a grain of sugar into everything she says to the suitor she would encourage while taking a grain of salt with all he says to her.

A study of women's ways in courtship reveals that there is no universal belief in the principle of feminine passivity as the most successful way to secure a mate.

"Feed The Brute"

In New Guinea, for example, the girl takes the initiative and makes the first advance by sending choice food to the young man she admires. The more presents he receives from her hands in this way the more assured is he of her love for him.

In Japan it has long been the custom for parents to select a go-be-

tween who in turn picks a husband for their daughter but the modern Japanese miss in her bid for greater freedom now goes one better.

She visits a large department store in the nearest big city where the marriage bureau has proved to be a most popular recent innovation. Here the clerk behind the counter acts in the role of the older 'go-between' and the young women state their requirements in the husband line with as little concern as if they were ordering a new silk sash at charity time.

Women Were Hunters

The poetry of the Middle Ages furnishes many instances of women who have actively encouraged lovers who lacked the courage to propose marriage.

While the English-speaking woman's passivity under these circumstances is comparatively modern, it is surprisingly deeply rooted in the mind of many. Yet few would be chosen as wives unless they relaxed from this passive state at times.

It may be it is by instinct that a girl in love realizes that "holding back" is a tactful process and likely to stimulate a faint-hearted lover to show hand.

And that this is not a product of sophisticated, modern life is evident from the fact that among some peoples marriage by capture is still practiced but even so the pursued maiden is careful not to run too fast for the lad she favours to overtake her.

The thin veneer of civilization does not markedly affect primitive instincts a consistent "holding-off" in order to increase the ardour of an admirer may result in disaster for "it is easier to keep half-a-dozen lovers guessing than to keep one lover after he has stopped guessing".

So it may be said truly that the girls who are successful in love are those who accept the statement of the psychologists that there is no such person as an "average man". Each must be dealt with individually and

AS SEEN FROM PARIS

The Complicated State of French Internal Politics

PARIS, Jan. 6.—For two years Parliament has not been able to sit without a strong cordon of police surrounding the Chamber of Deputies. On days when important votes were to be taken, the police have been reinforced by troops, both mounted and on foot. Army trucks, filled with armed soldiers, have filed through the streets and have blocked the approaches to the Palais Bourbon. And when the Cabinet has obtained a majority, it has often been hard to say whether it was a vote of confidence or a vote of terror.

During this same two-year period the country has been full of factional strife. Newspaper articles of great violence have fanned the ardor of the rival clans, some of them going so far as to recommend assassination of opposing leaders. The "Fascist" leagues have intensified their propaganda, holding surprise mobilizations throughout the country. The Leftist parties have retaliated by constituting a "People's Front," in which Communists, Socialists and Liberals are for once united. There have been clashes between hostile mobs, much bloodshed and a few deaths. Altogether it is an atmosphere of latent civil war.

Like the ancient of Blenheim, few are able to tell you clearly what the strife is about. It began with the Stavisky suicide of two Christmases ago, and reached a bloody climax on February 6, 1934, when a mob, attempting to force the Concorde Bridge, was fired on by the militarized police, with twenty deaths. Edouard Daladier and his Leftist government, although they obtained a vote of confidence that night, resigned the following morning to avoid the risk of further riots.

not treated according to "what all men expect".

Many men find it so hard to frame in words what they yearn to say to the girl they admire, that they are only too grateful if she meets them even rather more than half-way.

Former President Doumergue was called from his distant retreat to form a "national truce" government, but the truce was an armed one, and has remained so. In nine months of power, M. Doumergue got no further than a proposal to reform the Constitution, curtailing the prerogatives of Parliament and enhancing those of the Executive. Parliament, as might have been expected, turned him out of office at the first opportunity.

His successors, MM. Flandin and Laval, have not been much happier in their efforts to pacify and reconcile the French. M. Flandin, instructed by the Doumergue experience, attempted to govern in collaboration with Parliament, but budget difficulties culminated in a raid on the franc which brought about his down fall. M. Laval, called upon to succeed him, proclaimed that the franc could be saved only by massive economies, and that as such measures were bound to be popular, it was idle to expect Parliament to enact them. He therefore asked and obtained full power to legislate by decree.

But the decree laws, while diminishing the nation's purchasing power, have not balanced the budget, since tax receipts have declined simultaneously with expenditures. The consequence is, today, that the nation is fairly well persuaded of the impossibility of getting out of the depression by the deflation route, although it is not yet prepared to accept the alternative of devaluing the franc.

The notion that the franc, which was devaluated by four-fifths only a few years ago, needs to be devaluated again is incomprehensible to the rank and file of Frenchmen, and if such a thing should be done it is certain to mean tremendous unpopularity for those who happen to be in power at the time. Consequently, as anybody who understands practical politics would expect, both Left and Right are most anxious that if things get any worse, the opposite party shall be the victim of that unpopularity.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—It is not in accordance with the etiquette of the Bar for a barrister who has defended the prisoner at a murder trial to sign a petition or participate in any movement for reprieve. This is one of several injunctions issued to barristers in the annual statement by the General Council of the Bar published today.

SCIENCE FINDS OLD BRAINS LOSE SPEED

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 6.—Psychological tests which infer that the mind declines with age are "unfortunate labels upon adults," in the opinion of Dr. Irving Lorge of Teachers College, Columbia University, who addressed the opening session of the Psychology Section, American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Lorge readily admitted that decline in visual and auditory acuity, speed of reaction and co-ordination, disuse of function, remoteness from school and preoccupation with life's problems cause a slowing down in the rate of performance but he insisted that if the older is subjected to tests of mental power instead of speed, he will do quite as well as his juniors.

The power to do mental tasks or to solve those of life's problems which must be approached mentally, probably does not deteriorate as a function of age," Dr. Lorge declared.

"The reported deterioration is more apparent than real. It lacks genuineness in the sense that the test used to measure mental ability is not a genuine measure of mental power. Contaminating power with speed measurements among older adults obscures the true relationship of intellectual power to age."

But if you yearn for honors in the field of literature, you had better get in your best licks before you are 40 years old. This is the conclusion of Dr. Joseph B. Helder and Dr. Harvey C. Lehman of Ohio State University, after studying the publication dates of several thousand classics in relation to the age of their authors.

In 17 out of 31 types of literary effort, best work is done before the age of 40; the decline is gradual to the age of 45, falling more abruptly to 55 and less steeply to 65 and beyond.

Great comedies are written by men less than 35 years old; great tragedies from 27 to 45. There is a chance that you may become famous for religious prose any time between 38 and 72 but your lyrics are likely to limp and lag after 27.

The field of the short story is for relatively young men from 30 to 35 years old. Of 82 world-renowned poets

SERVICES AT THE CHURCHES ON SUNDAY

The usual Sunday services were carried out at the various churches on Sunday. The sermon themes were especially for the New Year.

At the Brunswick Street Baptist church Rev. G. W. Guion, the pastor, spoke at all services. "Repentance" was the theme of the morning address and a New Year communion service was celebrated. The title of the evening address was "Faith".

New Year's services were conducted at Wilmet United Church where the pastor, Rev. J. W. Bartlett spoke on the subject, "How to Make the New Year Happy", in the morning and in the evening he spoke on the subject, "If I Were Methuselah". New Year's communion was celebrated after the evening service. There were large congregations.

At St. Andrew's Presbyterian church Rev. Dr. George E. Ross spoke at all services. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed in the morning. The church celebrated the commencement of the Week of Prayer. The subject of the evening was: "Christ As a Man of Prayer".

The usual services were held at the Devon Baptist church. "What Does It Mean to Follow Christ?" and "Religion on Business Principles", were the titles of the day's addresses by the minister, Rev. D. L. Kennedy.

the majority did their best work between 25 and 30 years of age though a secondary peak in the curve indicates that many won their laurels after 80. Scientific prose is best written between 37 and 50 years, but authors of historical novels need not despair if they fail to find public favor before the age of 63.

BRITAIN SEES RED WHEN IT IS TAKEN FROM UNION JACK

LONDON, England, Jan. 6.—A first class sensation burst upon Britain Saturday with the discovery that the imperial red of the Union Jack is to lose its ancient redness.

The change is a result of a Government order substituting other dyes for those previously used to color the red bunting, in an attempt to save money.

The British Color Council refused to accept the resulting tint as red, saying it was a mere dirty brown or rusty color. The council insisted the traditional red, white and blue, pride of Britain for centuries, would become rust, white and blue.

Substitution of a synthetic dye for the brilliant, but costly cochineal hitherto used was decided upon by an intergovernmental technical co-ordinating committee, originally set up at the instance of the War Department.

Vigorous protests, were expected to rain upon a harassed Parliament over this "debasement" of the emblem.

MUST CHOP WOOD TO WIN BIG LEGACY

LONDON, Jan. 4.—One of the strangest wills on record is reported from the continent, says London Answers. A young man has been left \$150,000 by his uncle—but only on conditions: No part of the legacy can come to him except in the form of firewood, which he has to chop with his own hands before he is allowed to sell it. The sales, too, must be made by the heir himself.

Another nephew is appointed by the will to see that these conditions are fulfilled. If they are broken, this second nephew can claim the fortune involved.

One of the most ingeniously annoying wills ever made consisted of a series of envelopes, marked: "To be opened 12 months from today," "To be opened two years from today," and so on. When, ten years after the death of the testator, the last of the envelopes was opened, the relatives, who had been kept for so long on tenterhooks, learned that the fortune they coveted was to be allowed to accumulate for 100 years before being distributed.

Rev. W. A. Burge spoke at the services of Gibson Memorial church in Devon. The morning service was at Devon and the evening service at Devon. Service was at Nashwaaksis in the afternoon.

At St. Paul's United Church, Rev. George Telford spoke in the morning and in the evening the speaker was Rev. Robert Scott of the Old Age Pensions Board. Large congregations attended.

At St. Dunstan's Church, Rt. Rev. Monsignor F. L. Carney and Rev. Dr. Milligan conducted the services, and there were the usual large congregations.

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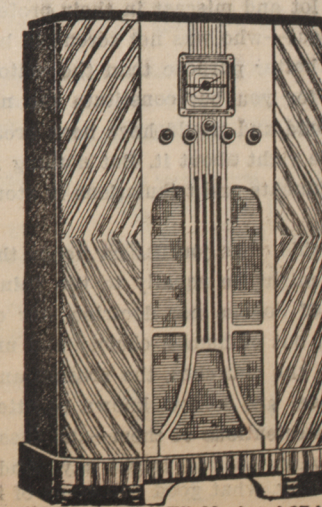
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