

MANY GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE

Pleas for Separation That Seem of the Most Flimsy Kind--They Range in Importance from Pumpkin Pie and Dogs to Writing Poetry and Kissing the Cat.

NAPOLÉON declared that every man in the ranks carried in his knapsack a marshal's baton. Victor Newman, a clever English artist, now in New York, declares that every American girl tucks divorce papers into her trousseau.

Whether the analogy be just or unjust, certain it is that the American woman proves almost as fertile in the matter of excuses for securing a divorce as she is in marshaling wiles with which to net a husband, writes Anna Steese Richardson in the New York World. For while scarcely more than a round dozen causes are cited by the law as grounds for divorce, even in this country of liberal and varied state divorce laws, the average woman can interpret the most common cause, "cruelty," in a hundred and one ways, each of which will go straight to the hearts of judge and jury.

For instance, the superior court in Seattle, Wash., was recently asked to decide whether "dyspepsia" and "cruelty" were synonymous terms.

Harriet Bendick Kohl was a culinary artist. Her husband, a dyspeptic, was a companionable spouse. When he yearned for some of his wife's tidbits he would surely fall from grace and into a tantrum. One Sunday he induced his wife to make waffles. After eating plentifully of these, floating in maple sirup, he threw the family canary in its cage through the window. A batch of especially fine soda biscuits led him to stray from his diet, and that afternoon he kicked the family watchdog into the neighbor's back yard. When no family pet was at hand, Mrs. Kohl was the butt of his displeasure and dyspeptic rage. After eating an unusual quantity of her very best strawberry shortcake, Mr. Kohl actually refused to speak to his wife for 48 hours. Mrs. Kohl urged this ingratitude for her culinary ability so effectively that divorce on the grounds of cruelty was granted.

Cruelty in Restricted Diet.
Mrs. Anna M. Hodge of Pittsburg, Pa., secured a decree because her husband limited the daily bill of fare, breakfast, dinner and supper, 335 days in the year, to sausages and rice pudding. He threw on the diet, but Mrs. Hodge called it cruelty, and the court agreed with her.

Mrs. J. B. Stetson of San Francisco, in applying for a divorce from a traction magnate of the far west, cited as "cruelty" the fact that she had to eat pumpkin pie three times a day and was denied the privilege of adding soup and salad to the family menu. Mrs. Harry Maremount's divorce from a Chicago carriage maker was due largely to a difference in opinion over sauerkraut. She liked sauerkraut, but her husband could not endure the smell of it. When she persisted in cooking it he struck her and fled from their home in anger. Mrs. Joseph T. Colvin of Pittsburg secured a divorce because her husband, a prominent secret society man and an all-round fellow, insisted upon supplying champagne when she asked for bread. The court agreed that no woman could live on champagne alone.

Codfish Cause for Divorce.

In the little town of Union, Bergen county, New Jersey, Mr. and Mrs. Theron C. Knapp amiably agreed to secure a divorce because Knapp, in a moment of extravagance, brought home a box of prepared codfish. Mrs. Knapp had always humored her husband's fondness for codfish cakes with the good-old-fashioned brand of codfish which you soak over night and pick by hand. Shocked by his extravagance in buying the prepared article, she pulled the hair. The records do not show which constituted cruelty, the codfish purchase or the hair pulling.

A Marquette (Mich.) man cited as one instance of cruelty, in his petition for divorce, the fact that his wife had invariably refused to make for him a lemon pie, of which delicacy he was extremely fond, "much to his discomfort," the papers set forth.

Family pets have often figured in petitions for divorce. Mrs. Andrew Mahu of Alton, Ill., had 40 picked Leghorns, which she kept at the rear of her cottage. Her landlord served notice that his property could not be

converted into a chicken ranch. Her husband announced that he could not afford to sacrifice his trade as a piano tuner by moving into a different neighborhood. The two had been married 15 years, but Mrs. Mahu calmly packed up her personal property, including the chickens, and moved away, leaving Mr. Mahu to the cold comfort of a divorce court.

Poodle Separated Fond Hearts.
William B. Entrinkin of Chicago objected to the attentions showered on a French poodle by his wife, and took it out on the poodle, to the latter's physical discomfort. Whereupon Mrs. Entrinkin took herself to the divorce court, with "cruelty" for her open sesame.

On the other hand, Mrs. Leroy Mor-



gan of Marion, Ind., secured a divorce because her husband insisted upon having his pet dog for a bedfellow.

Bad Luck Ascribed to Day.
Basis for Belief of Ill Luck of Friday Has Its Root in Two Causes.

The bad luck supposed to attach to Friday is said to be traceable to the worship of the goddess Freya, the Venus of the north, who felt herself slighted if anyone began a journey on this, her festival. In punishment for the dishonor thus brought upon her Freya was wont to direct misfortune to assail the offender, so that it came to be thought that Friday was an unlucky time to embark on any enterprise, although most marriages in Scotland are said to take place on that day. In Walsh's "Curiosities of Popular Customs," is told the story of the brig, Friday of Wilmington, whose builder defied superstition by giving her this whimsical name and launching her on Friday. He also sent her upon her first voyage on the sixth day of the week, but on the succeeding Friday a home-bound vessel "saw the sail of a brig pitching heavily in the

—was worth a thousand Gottlieb's. Justice of the Peace William B. Williams of Montclair, N. J., tried in vain to make peace between a couple whose names he refused to divulge, but who were separating because the wife insisted on kissing her cat good night.

Differences over the site of their home have led many a couple to the divorce court. In Chicago, Willis Howe, manager of the Palmer house for 20 years, and later manager of the Virginia, secured a divorce because his wife refused to live in Chicago, and he refused to leave the Windy City. She said that after Vienna and Paris, Chicago was cruelty. Her husband dubbed her actions "desertion," and both won their point—a divorce.

Too Many Kisses.
Kisses, though quite within the matrimonial law, have been known to pass as cruelty. Poor Arthur Kehr, a Chicago musician, sued for divorce because his career as a bread winner was interrupted by his wife's appetite for kisses: "I could not elude that constant cry of 'Arthur, kiss me,'" he said in his complaint. "I was a prisoner at my wife's house. The week I was there I earned just \$4.20. I had to run away, and after 16 days of over-kissing I applied for a divorce."

On the other hand, Mrs. Henry Rodgers of Hasbrouck Heights, N. J., applied for a divorce on the ground that her husband, who holds a prominent position with the United States Steel trust, no longer kissed her on leaving home and returning. Vice-Chancellor Garrison of Jersey City dismissed the complaint because "the wrongs complained of are of a senti-



mental nature and the court of chancery has no jurisdiction."

When Mrs. Frederick W. Maschmeyer of St. Louis begged Judge Hough to grant her a divorce on the grounds that her husband cruelly refused to kiss her, the judge was incredulous, for she was lovely and altogether kissable, but when he learned that the refusal to bestow the longed-for kisses was the outward and visible sign of an inward and almost perpetual grinch, the judge decided that there was a case of cruelty, indeed.

Children and Divorce.
Children often appear in petitions as reasons for divorce. Prof. George W. Burns a teacher in the public

LOOK AND LONG FOR LETTERS

Young Folks Too Frequently Fail to Realize What a Message to Home Means.

"My boy," writes a white-haired mother to her son, a busy man in a distant state, "write home often. You do not realize what your letters are to me, and how long it is between them."

No, he had not realized it, and unhappily there were many absent sons and daughters who need a similar reminder. They would be indignant at the suggestion of wanting filial devotion, but in the stress of business, in the society of new friends, in the happiness of a new home circle, how rarely they spare an hour for a good long letter to the aging mother in the old home—the loving mother whose heart, as the passing days fall to bring the longed-for letter, is one of the most pathetic tragedies of old age.

The decline of the letter-writing habit of an earlier generation has often been deplored, but this feature

of schools of Cincinnati, secured a divorce because his wife, having borne him ten children, refused to have any further additions to the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Neuman of Los Angeles had made an ante-nuptial agreement that they were to have no children. Mr. Neuman, after a few years, changed his mind on the subject, but Mrs. Neuman did not, and returned to her own home and mother.

Mrs. Hamilton Fries of Stonetown, N. J., thought her husband ought to walk the floor with the baby when the latter so desired, especially after nightfall. Hamilton declared that after covering 750,000 miles of carpet in the wee small hours, he was justifiably striking. Mrs. Fries and the baby decided that papa must either walk or lose 'em. Papa lost.

But Rudolph Bartzat, Jr., of Lincoln, Neb., thought his wife was going some when she sold a \$20 baby buggy for one dollar in order to buy a ticket for a theatrical performance. He said he did not mind having her sell an occasional article of furniture to buy a new gown, but he drew the line at her selling what he had given their baby. Another case of home and mother for hers.

The most innocent pleasure, carried to excess, may be counted as an exhibit in a divorce case. Mrs. J. W. Smith of Bellefontaine, O., sat up in bed at night to roll and smoke cigarettes, and her husband secured a divorce. Mrs. Grace C. Markell of Scranton, Pa., secured a divorce because her husband would not permit her to dance with other men, and talked out loud about it, too, thereby, cruelly embarrassing her in public.

Released from "Fire Fiend."
Joseph A. Kuntz, a Bronx brewer, is what the professional firemen call "a buff." He lived opposite the fire house, and, no matter what hour a alarm rang, he followed the engine. This disturbed the slumbers of his wife, who after enduring the excitement of four years applied for a divorce.

George G. Genereaux of Oakland Cal., entertained his men friends at a poker in the family woodshed. When his funds ran low, he stepped into the house and borrowed of the family exchequer. His wife said this cut of the supply of household delicacies, and she secured her decree without trouble.

Jules Joseph Moquette and his wife of Newark, N. J., split over Socialism and his wife said she would not be kept awake nights listening to his tirades on the subject. Mr. and Mrs. Victor Johnson of St. Louis split because he wanted to do the housework and let her seek a job "downtown." She said she wanted to make the biscuits and broil the steak herself.

Charles F. Healy of Chicago must have been a good-natured person, because when his wife was ill and her doctor said that the divorce decree which she wanted would be a sure cure, he yielded without a murmur. Then she regretted the act, and on her recovery he demanded that the decree be set aside.

HORNED TOAD TOO REALISTIC

Prevailing Fashion Has Not Found Favor with All of the Gentler Sex.

"Will you look at that woman's shoulder!"

"I don't see anything, un— Oh! Isn't that queer!"

The third woman turned around to look as she asked what it was. When she saw she exclaimed: "Why, it's one of those new ornaments, a horned toad."

"Not a real one?" asked the woman who had first noticed the decoration, with some anxiety.

"Oh, no. That is, not a live one, but a real one. It has been metalized. That's the newest fad in ornaments. The real flowers that were metalized had their turn, and now the animals are having theirs. Horned toads are most effective, so they are most popular. A good many persons believe that these little lizards are poisonous and wouldn't wear one for anything, but you see how stunning they look." The metalized horned toad certainly did look weird. He was at least four inches long, his tail curled up naturally and his sharp claws were outstretched, his small horn-covered body glewed with iridescent green.

"They may be up-to-date and nobby, but excuse me!" was the ultimatum of the woman who had been inquiring so anxiously about the decoration.

When England Had Lotteries.

It was not until 1826 that government lotteries were abandoned in Britain. For the 30 years preceding an average annual profit of over \$1,725,000 had accrued, one contractor alone spending \$150,000 in advertisements in a single year. The money thus raised was usually for a particular purpose, such as the improvement of London, the purchase of Tompkins' picture gallery, or the repair of various harbors.

From the seventeenth century to the reign of George IV, the crown repeatedly drew considerable revenues from such schemes.

of the decline can neither be excused nor defended. The post-card substitute is a little less than a mockery when the cards are sent to the mother who wants, and should have, so much more than that.

As youth lives in and for the future, so does old age always look back over the slope as it nears the summit. The parent is wrapped up in the son and daughter; but as the son grows to manhood and the daughter to womanhood, they are absorbed in the plans and the processes of building the coming years. Such is the law of life and the basis of all progress, but it is a pitiful thing when the son and daughter fail to keep in mind their obligation to the loyalty and love of their parents.

Blessed are the absent ones, who write long letters to the home. Soon, they cannot know how soon, the precious privilege will no longer be theirs.—Youth's Companion.

No one cares much what you do unless you try to help.

UTILITY JOB A HARD ONE, SAYS HOWARD

DEL SAYS "FILLING-IN" POSITION MORE DIFFICULT THAN REGULAR BERTH.

MUST ALWAYS BE IN FORM

Utility Players Are Now Considered Stars and Are Not Looked Upon as Mere Substitutes to the Regulars.

When Arthur Hofman, one time being the utility man of the country, came into the position of a regular on the Chicago National team, George Howard, or "Del," as he is known to his friends, succeeded him in the office of filler-in, and has proved a most acceptable substitute.

Speaking of the work of the utility man, Howard said recently: "It is very much harder to sit on the bench ready at all times to jump in to take the place of some other player than it is to be in the game every day. Sitting and waiting, probably for a week at a time, without a chance to get out and show what you can do, is, to say the least, very irksome. You see your fellow players out on the field running around enjoying themselves and winning the plaudits of the spectators, and you have to stay there and cool your heels and smother your impatience as best you may."

"All of a sudden, some day when you least expect it, the manager calls on you to go in and play. Your fellow players are rather chary of you, and the people in the stand look upon you with eye askance. It is up to you to get out and fill the other fellow's shoes; yes, even do better, otherwise the wrath of the enraged multitude will descend on your undeserving head. Get into the game without any chance of warming up, and, nine times out of ten at a critical moment, when to make good means to win and to slip up means to lose. Small wonder that you are nervous."

"The slightest error draws down on you a pile of criticism. Should the regular player have made the same mistake it would not have been noticed, but with the utility man it is set down in big black letters on the page of the manager's blacklist."

"A very short time, even five minutes, may settle the life of a man as a ball player. In the highly nervous state of mind and body that you are in when you get your try out you cannot do yourself justice. There is nothing more galling than to be taken out of the game for some little offense, when you know deep down in your heart that you have the makings of a good first-class ball tosser."

"You have to be able to play both in the diamond and the garden, and this requires a rather variegated set of brains. Many a player may have the necessary mechanical ability to play both infield and outfield, but when given a chance out of their regular position fall because they have not the needed adaptability of mind. It is a hard thing indeed to be able to put into effect the different plays from the different positions without an instant's hesitation."

"For instance, take a man who is playing the outfield and put him in the infield. Is it easy for him to scoop up a hot grounder and drive the ball to first, or second, whatever the case may be, without stopping to think or take a look around?"

"Or, again, put a man in the outfield who has been used to playing one of the infield positions. He is accustomed to having balls come at him with terrific speed. He knows how to stop them and what to do with them when he gets them. His throws are short and quick, but now he has

CATCHES FOR MILWAUKEE

Recent Revision Forbids "Dribbling" of the Sphere and Eliminates Tricky Throws.

Deciding that several changes were necessary in the code of basketball to make the intercollegiate rules elastic enough to permit a more interesting game, the committee has made about a dozen changes.

The practice of "dribbling" up to the basket and taking a step to shoot for a basket is now forbidden under the new rules. Provision is made for the constant catching the ball on the run. It will then be up to the referee to use his judgment and give the player a chance to slow up.

To avoid the scheme of a tricky player to deliberately throw the ball against a wall so that it will carom back to him or one of his team mates, the new rules makes the ball "dead" when it is thrown. The new rules permit a glass background for the baskets as in the National A. A. U. rules. Merely touching the line makes the ball "out of bounds" so there no longer will be a dispute about the player's foot or any part of his person being across the line. The makers of official basketball will have to change their machinery a little, as under the new rules the weight must be from 24 to 23 ounces, whereas, under the old rules they were to weigh from 18 to 20 ounces.

The referee may call fouls on all the players while the umpire may call fouls on only the eight who are out of the scrimmage for the ball. This is intended to reduce the possibility of players other than those struggling for the ball to commit a foul.

Burlington, Iowa, won the pennant in the Central association.

Milk From Beans.

The Japanese have discovered a cheap substitute for the milk cow, which is extracted by a special process from the bean, is said to be an excellent vegetable milk, the properties of which render it highly suitable for use in tropical countries. The preparation, according to the Java Times, is obtained from the soja bean, a member of the leguminous family of plants and a popular article of food among the poorer classes of Chinese



to wait while the ball is coming out to him. He has to figure what effect the wind may have on it, and his throw must be long and accurate.

"A little while ago the utility man was looked on as a substitute, a person of no great value to a team. Nowadays, however, things have changed. Now he is a necessary requirement to a team. Managers to-day are on the lookout for good utility men as well as for star players."

"The baseball public, too, is beginning to know the value of the utility man. He is now coming to be a sort of a popular hero, as is the pitcher or the reliable pinch hitter. His work is cheered. Friendly yells greet his appearance on the field and his failures are allowed for."

"Many players whose names are now on the head lines have advanced from the utility ranks, and should all the one-time utility men be suddenly wiped from the baseball slate there would be left a ragged row of names, indeed."

"In my day I have filled in almost every position and have had a fair measure of success in each one of them. But jumping from one position to another is very wearing, and likely to considerably shorten your baseball life. I am proud enough to be able to fill for the champion Cubs, but I will be a whole lot happier when I can finally land a steady job playing one position."

BASKETBALL RULES CHANGED

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Wealth in Swedish Eggs.

The bogs of Sweden, it is now estimated, would yield 10,000 million tons of air-dried peat. Compared with present coal imports, this would supply the country with fuel for many years.

GHOST OF THE POET DANTE

Said to Object to Anyone Using Room in Florence, Italy, Where He Was Born.

Florence, Italy.—Recent occurrences in the house in this town where the poet Dante was born probably will make other people in the more prosaic walks chary of taking up their abode under roofs which have formerly sheltered more celebrated people—or at least will make them very careful what trade they pursue when inhabiting such famous homes. The one trade most to be avoided in such circumstances seems to be that of blacksmith, judging from the uncomfortable—not to say painful, experiences which the smith now living in



House Where Dante Lived.

Dante's house, whose shop once formed the bedroom of the poet, has just had.

Besides most mysterious noises which were heard all over the house, sufficiently disquieting to all good Florentines, and uncanny "carrying-on" by his implements, which acquired the uncomfortable habit of rising from where they had been laid and placing themselves safely out of reach, causing some very explicit remarks by the blacksmith and his attendants, the most alarming manifestation of the presence of a ghostly visitor made itself felt literally the other day. A big hammer started mysteriously from the bench and dealt the blacksmith a heavy blow on the head. History doesn't record his remarks on this occasion, but everybody will sympathize with him, whatever he said.

After a few days of exciting episodes, of which the above are a few examples, the inhabitants of the house thought they had had enough and the two assistants of the blacksmith, who are believed to be powerful mediums and the innocent causes of these phenomena, decided to hold a seance. They therefore summoned two other mediums and sat down to discover the wishes of the spirit, which was evidently as much disturbed as themselves. The spirit obligingly complied with their wishes and on being summoned in the usual way revealed himself as the ghost of the poet Dante and handed over to them a piece of parchment covered with writing.

An examination of this document disclosed the fact that the spirit had distinct objections to any one occupying the room in which he was born; furthermore, he desired that two assistants, who were mediums, should be dismissed. Needless to say, these commands were attended to with alacrity by the good blacksmith, who had no desire to feel his heaviest hammer descending on his head again.

All Florence has been agog over the affair and the blacksmith became the most sought-after man at the tavern where he was wont to take his evening glass. His advice to every one is, first, never to take a house in which any celebrated person has chanced to live, and, secondly, if you must, above all, don't be a blacksmith in it.

Mrs. Howe's Old Age.

To me has been granted a somewhat unusual experience in life. Ninety full years have been measured off to me, their lessons and opportunities unbridled by wasting disease or gnawing poverty. I have enjoyed general good health, comfortable circumstances, excellent company and the incitements to personal effort which civilized society offers its members. For this life and its gifts, I am, I hope, devoutly thankful. I came into this world a helpless and ignorant bit of humanity. I have found in it many helps towards the attainment of my full human stature, material, mental, moral. In this slow process of attainment, many features have proved transient. Visions have come and gone. Seasons have blossomed and faded, passions have flamed and faded. Something has never left me. My relation to it has suffered many changes, but it still remains, the foundation of my life, light in darkness, consolation in ill-fortune, guide in uncertainty.—Julia Ward Howe, in Harper's Bazar.

The Law of Love.

Let us not confine ourselves to barren words in recognition of virtue. While we see the right, and approve it, let us dare to pursue it. Let us now, in this age of civilization, surrounded by Christian nations, be willing to follow the successful example of William Penn, surrounded by savages. Let us, while we recognize these transcendent ordinances of God, the law of right and the law of love—the double sun which illumine the moral universe—aspire to the true glory and what is higher than glory, the great good of taking the lead in the disarming of the natives.—Charles Sumner.

Must Be So.

"Look here, Jane, it seems to me that you're asking me for money all the time."

"That's a delusion, John, dear. If you'll think a minute you'll realize that I'm spending it part of the time."