

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MARRIAGE

BY LILLIAN RUSSELL

America's Perennial Beauty, After Four Experiments, Reveals at Last the Results of Her Unusual Opportunities for Discovering Why Wedlock Is Only "Fifty Per Cent. Efficient"

How to Be Happy Though Married
 Better than paying a wife a salary is taking her as a partner.
 When a couple begins to haggle about bills romance dies.
 Don't make of your wife a thief and a liar.
 The parting of the ways is a difference about money.
 Marriage is a business and should be conducted on business principles.
 --Lillian Russell.



Miss Russell in Her Second Wedded Role, Mrs. Harry Braham.

By Lillian Russell.
 (In an interview.)

WHAT is the matter with marriage?
 Experience plus observation have taught me that it is too much thought of love and too little about money.
 Money causes more divorces than does unfaithfulness to marriage vows. Money is the root of nearly all matrimonial misery. The remainder, caused by natures so dissimilar as not to harmonize, is too slight for consideration. Most persons can get along happily together if the chief bone of contention be removed. That chief bone is difference of opinion about money. I am convinced that ninety-nine-hundredths of all unhappiness in marriage is caused by such differences. Marriage, while not wholly a failure, is one of the half failures of the world. It is only fifty per cent efficient. That one of every eight marriages ends in divorce proves that something is radically wrong. A short while ago the ratio was one divorce to twelve marriages. Quickly it became one to eight. I fear that if present conditions continue the descending scale will be one to six, to four, to three and finally that state of social chaos will ensue when it will be one to two, or one-half of the marriages will parade their failures in the divorce court. And the other couples, remaining in the bonds of wedlock, will be in the same mood which Achilles nursed in his tent. They will chafe at their bonds and sulk over their grievances. They will be irked by their state.

All the signs point to a marital revolution. I am not of those who would destroy the institution. It is needed to restrain the lower elements in human nature. And I would prevent the marital revolution if I could by establishing marriage upon a business basis. Marriage is a business and should submit to the regulations and restrictions and enjoy the emoluments of a business. I call upon the wives and the women who may become wives and their sympathizers, who are leading the revolt upon marriage, to issue a protocol. Let them cease their onslaughts upon marriage and adjust matrimonial differences upon a business basis. I beg them to consider the marriage contract as a substitute for the red flag of war.

I propose as compromise measures a complete understanding about money apportionment before marriage and that a wife shall receive one-half of her husband's income after marriage, to do with as she likes.
 Both of these I know are startling suggestions, but a consideration of them will show you that they are reasonable. I do not advocate marriage without love but I believe that love should be held in leash and what Demarest Lloyd called "the short fever of mating" should be held in abeyance until an entirely satisfactory arrangement is made for the future.
 It has been considered indelicate for the girl who is being wooed to talk about money to her suitor. It should be, and soon will be, considered a sign of a weak intellect if she doesn't. Marriage will not be a lottery after Mary says to John, "Yes, I could love you. I know no other man whom I prefer for a husband. But whether I marry you will depend upon what guarantee you can give me that our future together and my future, should I have the misfortune to become your widow, will be one secure from poverty."
 If John be a sensible man, not a human balloon inflated with vanity, he will admire his Mary's clear common sense and reply as frankly as she has spoken.
 If he be a shifty, evasive person, he will say: "Of course, my dear, I will make a will in your favor." I



Miss Russell in the Brief Time She Was Wedded to John Chatterton, Signor Perugini.

trust that Mary will not permit this to throw her off the right thought track. If she be perspicacious she will know that although John makes and gives into her hands for her keeping, such a will, he can make five or six wills afterward, and the last will be the only legal one. That promise may seem to her to prove John's generous intent. It may merely mask his duplicity.
 Don't be satisfied with promises. Performances are what you have a right to demand. Insist that John sign a contract duly witnessed that when you become his wife you shall have half of his income to do with as you like. The contract should further provide that he shall out of his half that remains provide for his household, that is, furnish a home and maintain it, and buy the wardrobe of his wife and children and provide for the education of the children.
 This, I quite understand, will cause a howling chorus of male protest. I hear the cries "Too much!" and "A female holdup!" echoing throughout the land. But I hold my ground against all dispute.
 Granted that if a man earn but less than fifty dollars a week this may be impracticable. Many Americans earn \$3,000 a year. The income tax is based upon that average. I address myself to the average American. If a man has not reached that average he should have it in view and reach it as soon as he can. So a provisional marriage contract will contain a clause providing for that prosperous time. Meanwhile he and his wife should have a common purse. When she needs a gown they can go together to buy it. When he requires a suit they shop together and help each other in the selection. I have in mind such a couple who are ideally happy. There is, indeed, something to be said for this state. It is good to have just enough to get on with comfortably for they have nothing to quarrel about. Most quarrels, and far the bitterest, are those about money. Many a couple has gotten on happily living a life of peace, until they begin to grow wealthy and bickerings about how the money should be spent begin.
 This state would be delightful if the years had not a habit of steadily multiplying and there



Miss Russell When She Was the Bride of Edward Solomon.

were no such thing as a long future stretching away, the path through which can only be made easy by money. It is quite true that there is no condition in life which cannot be ameliorated by money. I would not engender in any mind that reads this a worship of money. But I would advise every woman to regard it as something whose sufficiency will oil the path of her married life.
 Husbands, consider this: To give a wife half of your income is to put her on her mettle, likewise on her honor. The first decisive entering wedge in married unhappiness is the divergence of view about the expenditure of money. She demands a



Miss Russell, in One of Her Interludes of Singleness, Reflecting on the Dubiousness of Double Blessedness.

always be a psychological beginning for any offense, however flagrant. The beginning of all divorce is a mental one. The parting of the ways is difference of opinion about money.
 The pair begin to dislike each other. Dislike becomes intolerance. Intolerance grows into hatred. They fly from this state to the divorce court, which by contrast seems to them the ark of peace. A complete marriage contract, settling beforehand all questions of money, is the ounce of prevention that would cure us of divorce.
 A rich man's refusal to give his wife money is the last remnant of the ages-long slavery of women. It is the last of the galling bonds. The end of this would be the lifting of the yoke of serfdom from her neck. Having to ask a man for money is the brand of the slave on a woman's cheek. His refusal to give her a flame of resentment in her that may reduce her happiness to embers. If I were a man, knowing what I do of what is going on in women's minds and hearts to-day I should be afraid to refuse her whatever amount she asked. The play "To-day" is not an overemphasized statement of the situation.
 The credit man at one of the greatest department stores told me the number of women who order bills sent to their husbands for dresses they never buy is amazing. They buy, we will say, three gowns, but they order a bill sent to their husbands for six, and ask the store to advance them the amount of the three they did not buy. Or they ask a friend to buy gowns and have them charged to their account and collect the money from the friend. Scarcely a dressmaker is there who does not overcharge in her bill with the connivance of the wife. The wife collects the excess from the dressmaker or the dressmaker may have given her the money.
 So a man puts a premium upon dishonesty. He makes of his wife a thief and a liar. The marriage built upon a foundation of distrust on one side and dishonesty on the other is a house built upon the sands. Few women will take advantage of freedom given them with money. Put them on their honor. Tell



Lillian Russell (Mrs. Aleck Moore) as She Is To-day, Wife of a Millionaire, the Marriage Problem Happily Solved.

them it is their hair and they are responsible for it. Far more likely than that they will squander it is that they will hoard it. I have known women to set their husbands up in business again after the husband have failed by the sums they have saved. Most women would guard this their "future

money," as they would their honor and their reputations.
 Better than paying a wife a salary is taking her as a partner. We take as salaries to our inferiors. We take as a partner our equal. Lift your wife financially, as in every other respect, to the place where she belongs, at your side.

A New Idea of What Influences Sex of Children

By DR. LEONARD KEENE HIRSHBERG, A. B., M. A., M. D. (Johns Hopkins).
 DR. ISRAEL BRAM, of Philadelphia, is the latest recruit in the ranks of the sex determinators. He discusses the various theories which have been suggested as explanations of the fact that either a girl or a boy was born. The influence of either parent as well as other ancestors, the months and seasons of the year, the mental states of the father and mother, the sentiments, emotions, the power of love, the foods, etc., have all been credited or blamed with a capacity to direct the sex of the approaching child.
 The upshot, however, of Dr. Bram's researches are entirely different.
 An excess of food, he says, in the mother causes the female to predominate. Thus the child is a girl. Generous amounts of papulob to the father, with a scanty allowance for the mother tends to the birth of a boy. Albuminous, rich, heavy, meaty foods, if taken by either parent, will influence the sex in favor of the overfed one.
 He cites the fact that in periods of privation, starvation, financial panic and war the mothers do not receive enough nutriment, and the ensuing births are, as a consequence, mostly boys.
 Moreover, he holds, the internal tissues, such as near-kidneys or "adrenal" glands, when active tend to make the child a male. In women whose adrenals are ill or injured the children are predominantly female. If the dry powder of the adrenal glands is given as a medicine, Dr. Bram contends, the offspring will be male.
 Dr. Bram has devoted several years to an investigation of these facts. A large number of his patients wished to have boy babies. He experimented, he says, with thirty of these prospective mothers, twenty of whom were seen seven months before their babies were born. Every one of these had a baby boy.
 For boys, eggs, meats, fish, cheese and heavy albuminous foods are forbidden. Cereals, fruits, potatoes, butter, milk and buttermilk are allowable. Lots of water must be drunk. In addition to this a capsule with two grains of the extract of suprarenal gland, combined with four grains of leucithin, is given after each meal—always under the advice of a physician, of course.