

The Bee's Home Magazine Page

Are Women Less Honorable Than Men?

By DOROTHY DIX

The assertion is often made that women are more moral and less honorable than men—meaning thereby that women are long on the greater virtues and short on the lesser ones.

Chastity, for instance, is a virtue on which women appear to have almost a monopoly. Women are also far more punctilious about paying their debts than men are, and that they are more honest in the handling of money is evidenced by the continually increasing number of girls behind the wickets of the cashier's desk.



On the other hand, women are born amblers, and count it unto themselves for high courtesies when they can cheat the government out of the price of a postage stamp. The majority of them see nothing reprehensible in bribery to aid a good cause.

The most angel-faced maiden can tell a perfect whopper of a fib without batting an eye. Few women have any sense of the sacredness of their pledged word, and mothers in Israel, whose virtue is as incorruptible as the Ten Commandments have no hesitations in using the arts and wiles of a Dollah to get what they want from men.

Men profess to find this curious, topside feminine code of ethics inexplicable, but it really isn't hard to understand at all. It's the direct result of women having been a subject people for centuries and centuries, until they have developed the vices and the virtues, and the point of view of the slave.

Until this present generation of self-supporting business women, every woman has been dependent on some man. She has had to wheedle what she wanted out of father or brother, or husband, or lover, and the amount that she depended upon her fitness and cleverness and skill in working him.

The only people in the world, men as well as women, who can be fearless and frank and honest and above-board are those who are financially independent and in power. The courtier must flatter, the suppliant affects humility, the man whose bread and butter depends upon his job must seem to agree with his employer.

That has been the case with women. The domestic woman has never been given anything as her right. She has never had any independence. She may do the work of half a dozen servants, but she is not rated in the census report as among the women who follow gainful occupations. On the contrary, she is said to be "supported" by her husband.

She has no pay envelope. She has no money of her own. She has only what her husband chooses to give her, or what she can cajole out of him, or sometimes what she can get from him by stealth by going through his pockets, or raising money on the grocery bill.

Now experience has taught women that the easiest way to get along with men is by jolly them along and playing upon their weaknesses, and this has made the sex adept in all the arts of double dealing. Women have found that flattery is the open sesame to men's pocketbooks, and this has taught them insincerity. They have daily occult evidence of the fact that men actually enjoy being bamboozled by women, and this has made them expert liars, for there is small encouragement in being truthful Jane in hand-me-down raiment when Mendacious Sapphira is dressed like Solomon in all his glory.

It isn't a fact that reflects any credit on either sex, but it is a fact, nevertheless, that no woman can be perfectly truthful and frank with her husband and keep out of the divorce court. Said a prospective mother-in-law to a bride on her wedding eve: "My dear, I have just got one piece of advice to give you: Never argue with John. Never try to set him right when he is wrong. Just agree with him outwardly."

"You can hold your own opinion as much as you like. I have known three men of this family—my father-in-law, my husband and my son. They have all been brutal to every woman who differed with them, but they are kinder to me as long as you jolly them along. So if John says to you that a tree is growing upside down, just reply, 'Why, so it is! I never saw one grow that way before.' So shall you have peace and automobiles."

Not a very exalted matrimonial platform on which to live, is it? But the trouble with the advice is that it works. The woman who has to flatter her husband into giving her a new dress; who has to bribe him with a kiss for the price of a hat; who has to cover up what the children do to keep him from flying into a rage and making a scene; who has to fib about the price of things to save herself from being reviled for her extravagance is hardly responsible for not being strictly truthful and honest.

She knows she is being treated unjustly and unfairly, and she is taking the means that comes handiest to protect herself.

When women are no longer subject to men; when they have political and financial freedom, these faults will automatically correct themselves and women will be as frank, as fearless and as honorable as men. They will add the lesser to the greater virtues and be such women as the world has never known before.

Diamond Embroidery Is Used to Relieve Somber Fashion Effects



Black Panne Velvet, four-cornered hat, with blue facing, and fox pom-pom. Chin Chin Collar of mink fur. Black Velvet Sailor, with taupe ostrich trimming shown in top photograph. A black Evening Gown of velvet and tulle is trimmed with small rhinestones and clusters of flowers.

Are Children of Native Born Weaker?

By Woods Hutchinson, A. M., M. D.

There is no question, of course, at all, that, on general principles, parents who have a decent income and live in a comfortable house, with modern conveniences, open good food, and wear good clothes, do feed and care for and rear their children better than those who are deprived of these privileges.

The death rate, both infant and adult, in any neighborhood or in any class of the community, runs almost absolutely parallel with their position in the social scale. The higher the income, the lower the death rate, the world over. Bankers at the very top of the list, servants and sweat-shop workers at the bottom.

But while taking things for granted works fairly well in a rough and ready way, deliberate planning and forethought works much better.

Though the low general infant death rates are usually found under the most favorable social conditions, the record results in the saving of infant life have been reached, in every instance, under unfavorable social conditions among the poorer classes of society, simply by organizing a system of watchful and intelligent care of all children born, and seeing that it was thoroughly carried out. An average, or respectable, infant death rate, throughout the civilized world, is in the neighborhood of 120 per 1,000. That is, of every 1,000 babies born 120 die during their first year.

Towns that are careless and backward, run easily up to 180 or 200 per 1,000, while a competent health department feels distinctly uneasy and a little ashamed of itself if it cannot manage to get below the 100.

The banner reputations for child saving on the part of whole countries are those of Canada and New Zealand, the latter progressive and well-managed community losing only about forty-five out of every 1,000 of its highly prized infants.

This, of course, is due, in both these countries, to a high general average of welfare and intelligence, and to the consequent legislation which makes for social justice and a fair distribution of the products of industry.

But even this extremely favorable record has been beaten several times, under by no means ideal circumstances, under by thorough and painstaking attention to the point at issue, namely, preventing babies from dying during their first year.

Opera Stars of Birdland

The Mocking Bird and the Nightingale the Leaders in the Production of Wonderful Song

By GARRETT P. SERVISS.

It is sometimes regarded as a compliment to the mockingbird to call it "the American nightingale." If that is meant to carry the implication that the nightingale is superior to the mockingbird a great many lovers of the famous American singer will refuse to accept so equivocal a tribute to their favorite.

They will insist that the mockingbird stands alone, on its own pedestal, co-equal, as a musician, with any other bird in the world. One person may prefer the notes of the nightingale; another those of the mockingbird.

There are many great singers in the bird world, some of which possibly possess notes that are sweeter or finer than any uttered by either the mockingbird or the nightingale, but these two have, the one in Europe and the other in America, captured the popular taste and imagination, and become the themes of poets, beyond all other members of the feathered tribes.

The songs of all birds are very simple in their elements, at least they appear so when set down upon a musical scale, but some of them are absolutely marvellous in timbre, in rich and subtle harmonies of tone, and in instinctive skill of execution. They are capable of exciting such profound moods of thought and feeling in human beings that one can only wonder what their effects may be upon the birds themselves. Birds, by the way, usually appear to despise human music!

The mockingbird got his name from his wonderful ability to imitate or rather to make his own, the notes and songs of other birds. He seems to practice a little for this achievement, and then he pours forth imitations of the robin, the wren, the wood thrush, the bluebird, the cardinal grosbeak, the sparrow hawk and other birds so perfectly that the human ear, at least, is completely deceived. There is a record of a mockingbird which mimicked the notes of thirty-two other birds in the course of only ten minutes!



Above, the Mockingbird, and below, the Nightingale, the two king songsters of the feathered world.

Two American Soldiers

By H. H. STANSBURY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 24.—A recent shift in the roster of the United States army furnishes a practical example of the opportunity afforded the American youth for a useful career under our form of government.

A boy born in Nashville, Tenn., November 19, 1861, of parents in moderate circumstances, has just been retired from the active list as a major general. He is William Harding Carter.

Another boy born in Lewisburg, Pa., December 21, 1881, whose father was a school teacher, has been promoted to the rank of major general and assigned as assistant chief of the army staff. He is Tasker Howard Bliss.

These two men came from widely separated sections of the country to enter the West Point Military academy in the early '70s. They were not the sons of rich men, but they were educated by the government. Whether or not their parents could have extended them a university training that would have afforded other than an army career, they made the best of the offer extended by congress at that time. Both the country and themselves have been generously rewarded.

When a lieutenant in 1881 young Carter served in the Indian campaigns and won the Medal of Honor, the highest tribute which can be paid an American soldier. In later years he devised the general staff law, and has fearlessly advocated such national safety measures as the country is now demanding. The Continental army was appraised and recommended in certain ways by General Carter long before Secretary Garrison thought of the subject. The career of General Bliss has been

more interesting than he could have dreamed it would be when he left rural Pennsylvania to become a cadet. In addition to service in Porto Rico, Cuba, and along the Mexican frontier, he was the absolute ruler of the Moro country in the southern section of the Philippines for several years, with the Sultan of Sulu as his subject.

The improved opportunity for an interesting and useful career via West Point presented to the American youth of today compared with the advantages of a military training which lured Carter and Bliss forty-odd years ago is alone an inspiration.

Speaker Champ Clark of the house of representatives announced only a few days ago he would introduce a bill at the coming session of congress to double the present student capacity at West Point.

Appointment to this splendid school is available alike to the poor man's son and the banker's son, as it has been always. The free institutions of learning to be found in every community provide a means of preliminary preparation no less satisfactory than private tutors.

It is to applaud General Carter and General Bliss to say a military training may hold forth greater advantages today than it did when they entered the service.

In-Shoots

Eternal vigilance has landed many a matrimonial trout.

The grouch has one point in his favor. He is seldom a bore.

The searchlight always seems to be looking for something bad.

Machine politics always seem more profitable than machine poetry.

A dog can take a bath every day and still be a cur, and it is that way with some men.

Who wouldn't be glad to get a Victrola for Christmas!

Hundreds of Omahans have awaited the following two Victor Records, exquisitely rendered in string music—

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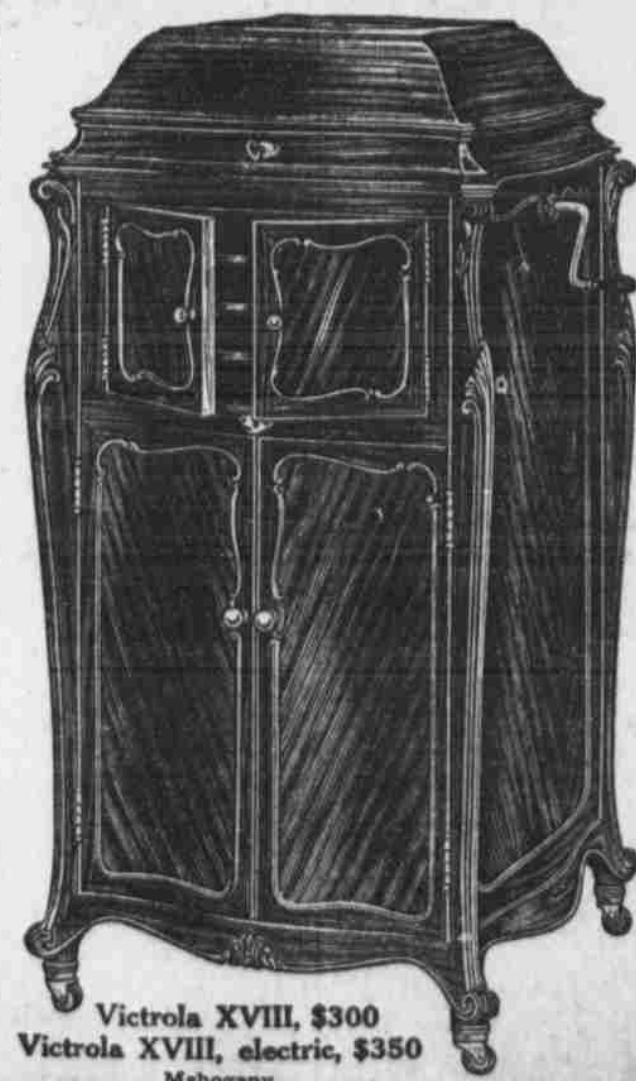
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