

The Bee's Home Magazine Page

Mother and the Job

Modern Economic Conditions Have Brought Up the Vital Question of Whether Woman Must Choose Between Motherhood and Her Job.

By DOROTHY DIX.

In discussing the question of whether the Board of Education should dismiss women teachers from its force when they become mothers, it seems to me that the only real point at issue is how motherhood affects the teacher's efficiency.

If motherhood, as most of us believe, broadens a woman's sympathy, teaches her more patience and forbearance with children, and gives her an insight into child nature that no young girl or old maid can possibly have—if, in a word, motherhood gives a woman the touch of nature that makes her kin to every inarticulate, stumbling, groping little soul in her charge, then let the mother teacher be reinstated in her old job.

But if the mother teacher's thoughts and interests are centered on her own baby in her own home, so that she does her work half-heartedly and perfunctorily, and if she rushes through her tasks in the schoolroom to get back to her own cradle, then let her be dismissed.

The whole question is a question of efficiency that the school board should be able to settle on that basis. It is a case where the good of the greatest number must be considered, and the fate of the woman teacher should depend on her record.

The question that has been raised in this controversy is a most interesting one, for it involves a big economic problem that we have got to face in the near future, and that is whether children are to be a luxury confined to the very rich or the desperately poor. This would be a bad thing for the world, for it is the children who are reared in middle-class homes that are the salvation of society.

Many thoughtful people who believe that motherhood should disbar a woman from teaching take the ground that the best interests of the home and the rights of the baby to be born are best served thereby.

They say that when the time comes that a baby is expected the husband should be able to allow his wife to leave from teaching and take up the profession of motherhood in its fullest, finest and most comprehensive form. The man of the family should be able to support the home in comfort and give the woman the time and opportunity to devote her whole undivided interest, attention and care to teaching and take up the profession of motherhood in its fullest, finest and most comprehensive form.

Undoubtedly this is the ideal situation. The only difficulty is that it is impossible to always achieve the ideal, and to those who have the courage to look life in the eye as it is, instead of as it ought to be, it is perfectly apparent that the time is fast going by, if it has not already passed, when many men will be able to provide in such manner for their wives and children.

Already the marriage rate has been cut down enormously because men cannot afford to marry. It will go lower still unless we break away from the silly old convention that the only respectable way in which a woman can help her husband is by being a domestic servant to him.

Hundreds of thousands of young girls are fitting themselves to fill and paying situations in the commercial world. They want to marry and they want children, but the only way in which they can do this is by keeping on with their jobs after they are married, and helping to support as well as create a family. To forbid this is to doom them to celibacy or childlessness.

That a man is not able to make enough money to support a wife and children in idleness and luxury does not necessarily indicate that he is unfit to be a husband and father. Some of the finest, noblest, most intellectual men in the world lack the talent for money grubbing. These men have brains and brawn and high ideals to bequeath to their children and it will be a distinct loss to society if they are doomed to remain childless because they can't alone and unaided support a family.

As for a woman continuing at work after she is married and after she has children, doubtless that is also a problem that will solve itself when we reach it. Possibly the advantages of mother doing everything with her own hand for her own child is as much of a myth as the superiority of mother's bread, which we have found is not half as good or wholesome as the baker's.

At any rate, most women have mothers or other female relatives who are amply able to care for a child competently, and such things as trained nurses and kindergartens and creches. Also, the average professional woman would not be away from her child more hours a day than the ordinary mother is away from hers in shopping and going to clubs and bridge, whist parties and matinees.

The added comfort in living and the advantages that the wage-earning mother could give her children must likewise be taken into consideration. Certainly of two evils it is better that the mother should continue in her profession than that the children should be sent into the factory.

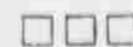
Modern economic conditions have brought strange new problems for us to solve, and none of them is more vital than this question of whether a woman must choose between motherhood and her job.



These Dutch Caps Are So Attractive They're Really a Dutch Treat



A Study in Smiles as Posed for by a Quartet of "Chin-Chin" Beauties



By JANE M'LEAN.

You've heard of roguish lips and eyes,
Of dimpled smiles that hypnotize,
Of maid's device hearts to entrap—
Behold the picturesque Dutch cap.

In every line there is a lure—
It suits a smile or face demure;
And, fashioned of a bit of lace,
It adds a charm to any face.

So, would you add to features fair
A charm to make a man beware;
The newest thing in Fashion's wiles—
Just make your own and lead the styles.

Boy and Girl Love Affairs

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

"In spring the young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." And in the springtime of life fancy turns with more and more lightness to thoughts of love. But this young love is like tender springtime flowers—like the anemone and the arbutus—in that it does not wear well.

Several letters have come from very young lovers asking for advice.

"Discouraged" writes that he is 19 years old and very much in love with a girl of 17 years, who she refuses to take his love seriously.

And she is quite right, for five years from now when he is coming to man's estate he may want in a wife far different qualities from those that do not attract him in childhood sweetheart.

M. P. is 15 years old and declares herself "madly in love" with a lad of 20 years. "Anxious" says that her 30-year-old beloved is very cordial when she sees him, but that she fears he forgets her very existence as soon as she is out of his presence. She adds, "I suppose he thinks I am a child not worthy of his thoughts, but I have no peace for thinking of him. What shall I do?"

M. E. A. P. writes to know if it would be right to elope with her 18-year-old lover, since her mother thinks that 16 years is too young for marriage.

In each and every case the same rule applies. What shall you do, my dear boys and girls? Study, work, fill your minds so full of activity and ambition that love will take a secondary place until you are old enough to understand what love really is.

What you are craving now is excitement and emotion. You are at a period of growth when you are changing in every way. What you care most for now will probably not appeal to you two years—or one year—or perhaps six months from now.

Do the things you enjoyed most two years ago seem very worth while now? Wouldn't you hate to be doomed to spend the rest of your life with the boy you admired five years ago when he let you have a bite of his red apple at recess?

The 17-year-old girl who refuses to take her boy lover seriously is wise. So is the lad who is polite to Miss Fifteen when he sees her, but devotes himself to foot ball, or rowing, or history, or business, or whatever wholesome interest in life and progress he is following whenever she is not around to challenge his admiration.

Little Miss Fifteen, what do you know about the business of being a wife? Can you keep house, cook, mend, sweep, bring up a family, soothe a tired man when he comes home from work at night and think unselfishly of the happiness of those who depend upon the woman of the household? Or do you think marriage means someone to make love to you, buy you clothes and escort you to dances?

Devote yourself to the serious problem of growing up to be a fine, sane, capable woman. Then you will attract love, for it will be your due.

The mother who thinks 16 is too young for marriage has experienced marriage and loves her daughter too well to let her go into it unprepared.

Boys and girls in their teens should not go a-sweethearting. They should try being friends and should save up romance for a time when they have matured enough to get the full flavor of it.

Don't mortgage your mature love to a passing fancy of your youth. If your boyhood love lasts for three or four years, then you are safe to trust it for a lifetime. Marry your child sweetheart. But test your youthful love before you risk your whole future on it.

Advice to Lovelorn

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

You Must Have a Chaperon.
Dear Miss Fairfax: I was 18 last June, and I was keeping company with a young man two months. There is a two days' excursion going to Washington by train and he asked me if I would like to go. Do you think it would be proper for me to go with him, or must I have a chaperon?

HAZEL M.
You must not dream of taking this overnight trip without a chaperon. It would do great harm to your reputation, to say the least, and it would undoubtedly cause you to forfeit the respect of the man you accompanied.

Suggestions for a Party.
Dear Miss Fairfax: I am a young lady of 18, and go out a good deal. I would like to have the young folks come to my house, but do not know how to entertain them, as I haven't a piano. Would you kindly advise me how I could give my guests a good time?

ANXIOUS.
Why not hire a Victrola with a number of records and allow your guests to dance informally and to listen to the selections? To vary the evening have a peanut hunt or a spider web with the threads leading all over the house and ending with a young man and young woman at opposite ends of the various strings, and one prize for a partnerless young woman and the same for a young man who afterward will console her.

Economy and Thrift in the Home

By MRS. FRANK LEARNED.

Thrift and economy are of serious importance in the days when incomes are uncertain and wage-earning is a problem. Part of the education of every woman, in times gone by, was to be skilful in needlework.

It is to be regretted that modern girls have not been taught sewing, as a rule. But this old-fashioned accomplishment is becoming a new-fashioned one. Girls and women are taking it up in earnest. The girl who understands how to plan, cut and make her own gowns, or how to make them over, learns how to be self-reliant, independent and how to save money.

She can take pleasure in making a waist or a gown for her mother or sister. She may learn how to be an instructor in sewing. If she has talent and business ability she may, with careful training, start a small business of her own.

All varieties of hand and machine sewing are taught, as well as methods of drafting, cutting and fitting. Hygienic rules as to the position of the body when sewing, the correct way to sit as regards light, are explained.

From the preliminary mysteries of systematic sewing the student advances to the study of all the details of dress-

making. A girl who has not taken the school course in sewing may prove her ability to enter the dressmaking class by presenting for examination a garment made by herself and passing an entrance examination.

Girls of 17 years old may enter the trade sewing or dressmaking classes, girls of 15 years old are eligible for the simpler course of home dressmaking.

A student has the opportunity to make two gowns for herself during the term. The material she supplies herself, with the approval of the instructor. The personal interest thus given in making dresses for herself is stimulating to a pupil.

The aim throughout the course of study is that students shall acquire skill, develop initiative and ambition and learn a sense of responsibility and have a broadened view of the general industrial conditions in the community.

Whether a girl intends to use her training in a special branch of work, or for her own personal education, she will have learned system, perseverance and accuracy. Her faculties for observation and her inventive and artistic sense will have been developed. She will have the power to be of use to herself and to others, and will be more interesting from having cultivated her talents.



Victrola VI, \$25 Oak

It's easy to learn the new steps with the music of the Victrola.

The Fox Trot and all the other new dances—all played loud and clear and in perfect time.

There are Victors and Victrolas in great variety of styles from \$10 to \$200—at all Victor dealers.

Victor Talking Machine Co. Camden, N. J.



The following Omaha and Council Bluffs dealers carry complete lines of Victor Victrolas, and all the late Victor Records as fast as issued. You are cordially invited to inspect the stocks at any of these establishments.

Schmoller & Mueller
PIANO COMPANY
1311-1313 Farnam St. Omaha, Neb.
Victor Department on Main Floor

Branch at
Nebraska 334 BROADWAY Council Bluffs
Corner 15th and Harney, Omaha. **Cycle Co.**
Geo. E. Mickel, Mgr.

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1513-15 Douglas Street, Omaha, and
407 West Broadway, - Council Bluffs, Ia.

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Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Castle dancing the Fox Trot