

How Many Times the Average Man Proposes

Scientist Declares Six Is Usual Number, of Which Four Are Without Reason.

their next proposal—only half in earnest about one, and wholly in earnest when they finally met THE woman.

His statistics show that the proposal made during the "puppy" love period is generally a serious one, and that the love of the boy for



other classes with Cupid sought out the girls and renewed the engagements.

The records show that over four-fifths of the men who propose to girls in that stage—generally between 18 and 20 years of age—are accepted at once, possibly showing that the girls are as fickle as the men. But the large percentage of acceptances makes more startling the extremely small percentage of marriages resulting.

How They Felt When Rejected.

The causes of rejection are numerous, but another man is the cause in a majority of cases. The rejection period ranges from 21 to 25, and the figures compiled from the experiences of the 280 show that a great many boys leave their home towns and go to distant cities when "thrown down" by the young beauties. And the 280 seriously state that they were "fools" at that time and were not heart broken, but merely hurt as to their pride and vanity. They declare: "I want love at all."

There are some other strange statistics evolved from Prof. Thielman's researches.

He has learned that boys from 14 to 17 generally propose to women older than themselves, their "love" being probably admiration for some quality of mind or heart and possibly Platonic. After 17 there is another range change—they begin to propose to girls between the ages of 14 and 16. That stage lasts, apparently, until the young man reaches the age of 25, when he commences to propose without regard to age or previous condition of servitude, as nineteen confess that they proposed to their mothers' servants.

Another interesting feature of the investigation is that boys generally propose to fat girls until they reach the age of 24, and then begin to propose to thin ones. Prof. Thielman did not attempt to get any such statistics, so this discovery was a complete accident and not all the 280 gave their experiences. However, there were seventy-two who wrote and stated that "they" if in love with a fat little girl "with yellow hair, or black hair, or blue eyes, as the case might be." Thus at least seventy-two imagined that plumpness is the mark of beauty.

How to Distinguish Real Love.

The investigation has thrown some light on the question of how a man shall know when he really is in love. The huge majority of those proposing men declare that during their earlier proposals they had no trouble in asking a girl to wed. They could ask her without a quiver, but when it came to asking the real girl it was different. Most of them claim that they were "scared to death" and do not remember clearly what they said.

Which may indicate, although Prof. Thielman does not say so, that a man who feels "scared to death" when he asks a woman to marry him has the real article of love.

THE average man proposes marriage six times before he is married. Four of those times he proposes for reasons which he himself does not understand and without any serious intent of marrying, once he is rejected outright, and once accepted for better or worse.

Out of the first three proposals of the average man he accepted three times—the girl being no more in earnest than he is and actuated by the same mysterious impulses in accepting his offer that he is proposing, and it is doubtful if such a relation should be referred to seriously as an engagement to wed. Both understand that it is a tentative arrangement and neither hesitates to break it off short or simply let it go by default without further reference to any understanding.

These figures have been collected by Prof. Arthur Thielman, a Pennsylvania sociologist. From personal interviews with 280 men in all classes of society and all married men. Out of the 280 he found only nine who had proposed marriage to more than ten women, and the highest was fourteen. He found only three men who had proposed but once and married the woman to whom he proposed.

Many Wed Without Proposals.

Stranger than that—out of the 280 there were forty-seven who declared that after they had proposed to many women they never did propose to the woman they married. Twenty-six declared that their wives proposed to them, while twenty-one could not remember that there ever was any proposal—they simply understood without a spoken word that they were to wed.

Whether or not the men imagine that they were not in earnest in their first proposals is a question which puzzled Prof. Thielman, but after analyzing the replies received from the 280 out of 1,000 men to whom he wrote asking for details, he has arrived at the conclusion that they were in earnest—or the majority of them were—in their first proposal—that they were not in earnest in two out of three of

the girl at that age is earnest, no matter what else it may be, and also his statistics reveal the fact that thirty-nine of those who answered married the girl to whom they first proposed, having turned back to the first love after proposing to several others.

Finds No Heart Broken Men.

The statistics compiled by this student of coquetry reveals love as a strange, fickle institution so far as men is concerned, for he failed to find even one case of heart break. He does not think, however, that his test was a fair indication in this regard, as he argues that a heart broken man—one who has had a great love and lost—would not answer his queries.

From the letters received he drew the following conclusions:

That the idea of marriage is closely associated with love among the extremely young, possibly from observation of their parents, and the desire to possess is the first instinct of boyhood love. In the "puppy" stage of development the schoolboy who cherishes a tender feeling towards the early haired girl who permits him to carry her books from the schoolhouse, who walks past her house at night, desires to own her almost as soon as he begins to "like" her. Among the 280 confessors, 253 wrote that they proposed to school-girl acquaintances before they were 18 years old, and of these 229 were accepted.

This schoolboy and schoolgirl engagement extended usually over a period of about eleven months on an average, and in almost every case it was broken off because of jealousy. Only seventeen claim that they even discussed marriage on a sensible plan in this stage of their affections, the others being content to be engaged to wed "when he made his fortune"—which, the sage professor declares, may be the reason that few of such engagements ever result in anything.

Some Propose to Every Girl.

After his first inoculation of love—the first passion—the boy usually becomes a fickle, shifting being, turning his affections this way and then that, flitting from girl to girl, and, from the confessions, it is apparent that during this, the "fresh" period of young manhood, the youth usually proposes to every pretty girl who smiles upon him or permits him to call on her. And that at that time in the heart of the "romantic" stage of development—usually accepts the proposal and wears the ring he buys for her, chiefly Prof. Thielman opines, to "make the other girls jealous" and to hold possession of the ring. These engagements usually terminate in "spats," generally caused by jealousy on one side or the other.

That these secondary engagements are not serious is attested by the fact that only fourteen out of Prof. Thielman's 280 married girls in this period of their careers—or girls that they met in this period. Of the fourteen, nine were married at that stage, the others went away, and returning after



FROM NEAR and FAR.

CALF WITH TWO LEGS.

This calf was born without forelegs, but with an excellent appetite. When the photograph was taken the animal was 3 weeks old, weighed 130 pounds, and could, with some assistance, walk on its strongly developed hind legs, though it dines on "two fours and a sling," as here depicted.

SKIN OF THE FACE.

A French surgeon has this gruesome relic, the skin from a man's face.

NEEDLE'S POINT.

Highly magnified, the point of a needle doesn't look so sharp.

STALE BREAD.

Baked 4,405 years ago. Found on the Nile. Harder than a railway station sandwich.

DONE BY AN EARTHQUAKE.

How a stone building was wrecked by the earthquake at Dharmata.

TURKISH COFFEE SELLER.

A familiar figure in Turkish cities. He wears a yoke, one end of which supports a furnace, the other a coffee urn, cups, etc. The broken statue means that the photograph was taken in Angora, where the coin came from. In Asia Minor. Under the name of Angora it was a flourishing city in the time of Julius Caesar. It has only recently been connected with Constantinople by a railway.

PLANT WITH SOUL.

A photograph of unique mandrake root, the plant which was supposed to possess a soul owing to its extraordinary resemblance to a human face, and in medieval times it was believed that one could hear the dying shriek of the mandrake root as it was torn up from the soil. The adventuresome person who attempted such a dangerous task stopped his ears with wax so that he might not hear the groans of the mandrake root.

STRENGTH OF LIQUORS.

Early Greek headresses were made of silk. They were put on like a net, but were made of thick stuff in bright colors.

EYES OF SPIDER.

The eyes and stemmata of the jumping spider (Marpesia moutouza) are placed in a row on the front of the head, the stemmata, two in number, being situated on either side of the principal eyes.

SAILOR OF 1730.

This is the way English sailors looked when ashore in 1740.

FOR POISON.

The purpose of this poison bottle was to avoid possibly being mistaken for an ordinary bottle, or in fact any other bottle.