

The Bee's Home Magazine Page

Flirting With Married Men

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

A letter has recently come to me from a friend who is a deep student of human nature and human problems. It deals with the sad fact that the world is infested with numerous married men who are a menace to womanhood, a shame to manhood and a sorrow to the women who have married them. I am going to quote today a part of what T. K. M. says on the subject and then I will add a few words of my own on this sad problem.

"I think it is a sad thing that a girl does not realize what devoted attentions from a married man must inevitably mean. She does not seem to become aware of his intentions and purposes until she is entirely under his influence and in his clutches. And then it is always too late. Innocence is a detriment in this case.

"Most girls seem possessed of the idea that the mere fact of a man's being married is their safeguard—that, being married, he is necessarily harmless.

"Again, many girls are imbued with the absurd and fallacious idea that should they succumb to temptations, the married man can and must afford them protection against publicity and its consequent scandal."

No word of what T. K. M. writes is exaggerated. No pretty girl can afford to toss her head and say lightly: "Oh, well, it might be dangerous for some girls to have much to do with married men—but I can take care of myself."

How can a girl rely on her strength of character to save her from going to destruction through a friendship that is so dear to her that she hasn't the strength of character to break it off when warned against it, but has to excuse herself and take refuge behind the excuse that she can take care of herself?

No young girl can be sure of taking care of herself in affairs with unprincipled men. Innocence is attractive to some devils in human guise, and they make it a business to play on that beautiful quality which they wish to destroy.

Innocence is not aware of danger in emotional affairs and enmeshes itself.

When a worldly wise public sees a young girl associating on terms of affection and friendship with a man who is married it concludes that she is offering her poor little best and it derives her of setting a higher value on herself.

No one ever believes in the purity of a

friendship between a married man and young girl. It is not evil-mindedness that prompts this attitude. It is experience of the world and its ways.

Why should a married man turn for companionship to a young girl? Why does he not count on his wife for that? Why does he continue to remain the husband of a woman he is willing to discuss with a girl who is a comparative stranger?

Ask yourself these questions, girls, and then add one more. "If a married man will talk disparagingly of his wife and his relations with her to me, what right have I to suppose that he will not equally lightly discuss me with her—or with the next woman to catch his roving fancy?"

We are all creatures of habit, and no matter how our hearts roam for a time, they generally come home at last. Between a man and his wife there is the bond of common interests, home ties and family communion. If this temporarily ceases to hold him, can any young girl who gives herself unpledged hope for loyalty?

Each day we read of grim tragedies based on mistaken love. For an unhappy wife who is betrayed by husband and newer sweetheart, the world has sympathy and charity. For the girl there is the outer darkness. She is despised by the world and deserted by the man, who leaves her at the first breath of difficulty and discomfort with even more indifference than he deserted his wife, because he had begun to tire of sober domesticity.

Some men are born faithless. If untrue to his wife, to whom he is bound by solemn obligations, why should any woman deceive herself into believing that a man will be true to her after he begins to be bored.

Don't start an affair with a married man. If you have a handsome young employer, come into his office as a part of his business machinery—don't think of yourself as a girl to be wooed, and don't encourage the man to consider you except as a factor of his business.

There is probably a social gulf between you—don't try to bridge it. You will probably only create a wider gulf that will yawn between you and all girls who are properly discreet and careful of their reputations.

If a charming young man comes to your town and you know nothing of him, don't permit yourself to grow interested. He may have a wife and babies at home, and you scarcely want the price for a few months of happy intimacy to be the loss of reputation for you, the loss of happiness for his wife and the loss of a father for his children.

An affair with a married man does not spell happiness for any one concerned. Don't you want to be a happy wife some day, you little silly girl who throw away your chances of joy so lightly? Of course you do—and you don't want another girl to steal your husband, even if the theft will leave her poorer than it found her, do you?

Well, then, don't set fate a bad example by stealing another woman's husband. You will "serve your term" for it, if you do—and this is what you will pay: Unhappiness, shame, a broken reputation, the guilt of spoiling some one else's life, the scorn of women and the sneers of men. There will be no permanent gain—only everlasting loss. Is it worth chancing?

Don't be a married man's sweetheart—that is one of the surest roads to unhappiness and to lasting remorse coupled with undying disgrace.

The Stage as a Mirror of Fashion

REPUBLISHED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH HARPER'S BAZAR.



The South African monkey has offered his pelt to Miss Julia Sanderson, the dancing prima donna of "The Girl from Utah" at the Knickerbocker theater. This offering appears as a border to the wide band of black velvet on the skirt of

the white chiffon frock and again, in scalp fashion finishing the flat wide girde. Also ornamenting the girde is a large flat cabochon with pendants. The simple little corsage of the chiffon is almost childlike in its simplicity, crystal

beads being the only trimmings. Chiffon and lace lend a misty outline to the evening gown worn by Miss Pauline Frederick in "Innocent." They fall in long, sinuous folds, veiling, but not concealing, the sheath-like foundation of

satins, swathe the neck and shoulders like a lovely cloud and are draped in back to form one of the new pointed trains. A length of the satin is wound around the waist and hips, giving the waistless all-houset now so much desired.

Why America Should Now Lead in Beauty Culture and Fashions—Part 2

Dressmaking, as we understand it today, grew up in France under the Empress Eugenie, and the first grand couturier was the originator of the present famous Paris house of Worth.

The first Worth was a young Englishman, the son of an English draper, who came to Paris to learn all that he could of his father's business. With English acumen he grasped the idea of furnishing

the complete gown, that is, he conceived the plan of selling not only the goods and trimmings, but the complete costume, built up under his direction.

The Empress Eugenie found the young Englishman's ideas to her taste and made him court dressmaker, and in spite of the fall of the second empire and the rivalry of other countries who set up establishments on the same lines, this house has endured up to present times and holds leadership for certain very elaborate and formal costumes.

It has become entirely French in its affections. When the war broke out the first of August the Maison Worth closed its doors and turned its big workrooms into sewing atteliers for Red Cross work. All the men under 40 years of age, whether members of the firm or employees, left to join their regiments at the frontier.

The output of the dressmaking business in Paris of late years has reached a colossal proportion; it would be difficult to estimate it. Curiously enough, while the French men and women engaged in this industry are rarely able to work to good advantage outside of France, the heads of many of these establishments are foreigners, the Austrian and Dutch being largely represented. There are several English firms in Paris and I know of one American.

A certain number of these and to a certain extent all of them cater directly to the American trade. A certain proportion of their models are designed to please the American woman and anyone at all familiar with Parisian gowns knows that these are far from being the models that achieve success in Paris. From this fact it is simple to produce the argument that American women, while they wish their models created in Paris by no means accept the Paris designs. They insist on something made up for them personally that will become and adorn their racial and peculiar type.

What has been the reason that up to now Americans have been obliged to go to Paris for this?

Mme. Lucille

(To be continued.)

Domestic Diplomacy.

A young married man was talking to an old married man yesterday, and was complaining that he could not get his wife to mend his clothes. "I asked her to sew a button on my vest last night and she hasn't touched it." And then his older married friend remarked: "Never ask a woman to mend anything. When I want a shirt mended I take it to my wife and flourish it around a little and say, 'Where is that ragbag?' Then my wife says, 'What do you want of the ragbag?' I want to throw this shirt away, it's worn out." Let me see that shirt," my wife says. Of course, I pass it over and she examines it. "Why, it only needs— and then she mends it."—Chanute (Kan.) Tribune.

Advice to Lovelorn

By BEATRICE FAIRFAX.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I am keeping company with a young lady I love very dearly, and know that my love is reciprocated. The only thing I have against her is that she would always like to go to a theater or some other place of amusement. As my salary is not very large, I can hardly do myself justice in pleasing her. Can you advise me what to do?

N. O. T.

Be frank as to your finances with the girl for whom you care. There are many inexpensive methods of amusement, and if you are thoughtful of her you can plan little surprises that will take the place of more expensive gayeties. A walk through the parks is a pleasant way of spending a Sunday afternoon. If you can afford to spend a dollar or two in your sweetheart and divide it judiciously between moving pictures, street-car rides, an occasional soda and a few flowers, you can manage to give her many pretty little attention each week.

True Mourning.

Dear Miss Fairfax: Will you kindly advise me through your paper whether it is right for a working girl whose wealthy sweetheart died to stay home only on the day of the funeral, or should she have stayed home all three days, as her friends claim she should have done? Also should she dress in mourning, when she cannot afford it? I am this girl, and I stayed home only one day, that was the day of the funeral, and am not wearing mourning, and my fiancée's friends say I should have done both the above things. Your kind advice will be greatly appreciated.—MAY D.

True mourning is not based on the wearing of black or observing penitential days. It is quite right of you to stay at home on the day of your fiancée's funeral, since to have acted otherwise might have been a mark of disrespect. But you would be very foolish to involve yourself in the expense of buying mourning. You know the loyalty of your own feelings, and the criticism of your friends does not matter.

Being Fair to a Girl.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I have known a young lady for two years. During that time we have become great friends. She is very popular, but this summer she has refused all invitations from other young men. Naturally, I confined my attentions to her. I do not want to marry for four years, and am not wearing mourning, whether she is the only one for me. I want to treat her honorably and do the right thing by her. Along what lines should we continue our friendship? We are both 23. W. L. B.

State your case clearly to the girl who cares for you. It is much better to be honest with her and inflict a quick, sharp wound than to permit her to go on from year to year giving you her love and attention and then at last wake up to the hopelessness of her position.

The only honorable thing to do is to tell her exactly how you feel.

Ask for an Explanation.

Dear Miss Fairfax: I have been keeping steady company with a young man for about four years. I have very good reasons to know this young man loves me. There is only one thing that bothers me, and that is sometimes when he says he will call on me a certain evening he fails to come, and then I don't see him for maybe a week or two afterwards. I never say anything to him about it, so he won't think I care so much, and when he comes again he is just as loving and acts just the same as usual. I have tried a couple of times to be away when he calls, but it did no good. PAULINE.

Self-respect demands that you should not permit anyone to ignore engagements with you. Ask your friend why he is so careless about keeping engagements he has made. Do not fear that he will overestimate your love because you are on your dignity.

Encouraging an Absentee.

"So they docked you for staying away from congress?" said Farmer Corntassel. "Yes," replied the statesman. "And it's all wrong." "That's what I think. After findin' out what you're liable to say or do, they ought to pay you extra."—Washington Star.

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