Health Hints -:- Fashions -:- Woman's Work -:- Household Topics

Are Women Good Friends to Women

By FORTUNE FREE.

It is one of the commonest accusations leveled against girls that they don't make the best of friends to one another. And that is not the accusation of a "mere brute man." I wonder how many young women I have known who have sighed to me that there was not one among their girl acquaintances to whom they could confide a secret and expect it to be kept, or from whom she would receive the proper amount of sympathy in trouble.

Men ordinarily, I believe, make better confidants of women's secrets than women do. Very often, I believe, there is an excellent reason for it.

A man once told me of a woman friend of his who, after binding him by the most solemn promises of secrecy—wild horses would never extract it from him—found the secret she confided to him such a trivial and wearisome affair that he clean forgot about it after he left the house. That worried him. He could not recall it. And the woman the next time she saw him, would inevitably say, "You remember what I told you the other day, don't you?" Then he seemed to remember it all in a flash. Sure enough the woman recalled the confidence the next time they met.

"You remember, don't you?" she asked.

"Perfectly," he replied; "perfectly. You behaved just as I should have expected of you. When he offered to kiss you——"

The woman interrupted him with a shriek. Her secret had to do, it turned out, with a hat she had bought in Paris. He had mixed up one secret with another. She never forgave him.

And he could not for the life of him think to whom the other secret belonged. It is quite easy to keep a secret one for gets all about, and half the confidences of women made to men are of that kind.

Among girls brought up with the one idea in their heads that they are to marry as quickly as possible the most "eligible" young men, one cannot expect much charity with regard to one another. One does not find it, anyhow. But is not that human nature? Take two young men, each of whom is in love with them same girl. Do they speak well of one another?

I was surprised some time since to find that two of my young friends—who had known one another for years and years, and always been most amicable to one another—had accordingly conceived the most utmost dislike for one another. Mr. A. informed me he had not seen Mr. B. for a long time.

"The fact is there are some fellows one cannot stand," he explained. "Now, B. has some good qualities, but the insufferable conceit of the chap and his selfishness are a bit too much."

When I met B. later he informed me he had not seen A. for a long time.

"I believe he spends a considerable time wherever Miss G. happens to be," I remarked.

"That's just what the silly fool would do," he remarked, bitterly. "Silly chump!"

I said I didn't see much silliness in it. Miss B. was a very beautiful and delightful young lady.

"Who said she wasn't?" he snapped. "That is just what makes it so silly. Think a girl like that is going to care a snap of the finger for so consummate an ass as he is? That's what makes his going on so idiotic."

"I have known so many girls who have been the most devoted friends of other girls and ready to make the biggest sacrifices to their friendship, that I don't believe a scrap in women not being the good friends of women. But I have noted that these friendships have been between girls employed in some common labor—some serious work in which they have found themselves side by side. It is comradeship that leads to friendship—comradeship with its innumerable little opportunities for those little acts of helpfulness that knit hearts and are never forgotten.

"We are all friends here," wrote a soldier at the front. "Put chaps in a trench together, and see if they don't grow into chums in no time."

Girls who meet united in fighting the same troubles, and with the same daily worries and anxieties see deeper into one another's souls than the girls who only meet in drawing-rooms or on tennis courts. They are rivals in the drawing-room or the tennis court. In work they are comrades mutually dependent on little kindnesses from each other for an enormous amount of lightening of their toil. It is there they find friends.

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Worth While Frocks for Modest Purses

Published by Special Arrangement with Harper's Bazar

The indispensable black taffeta frock is made by Premet with old-fashioned white ruching in the very modern collar.

The Eton jacket is the coat of the moment. Paquin tops a skirt of blue gabardine with an Eton of blue chiffon. Soutache braid and gold thread for trimming.

The vogue for striped linens for sports wear is steadily increasing, says a writer in the May issue of Harper's Bazar. There are no end of materials shown, and the stripes grow wider and wider, some even to the exaggerated width of nine inches.

If stripes continue to broaden at such a rapid rate, they must inevitably expand to their limit and so cease altogether. But for the present no one can gainsay their popularity.

A dangerous rival to the striped goods for sports' wear, however, has appeared in polka-dotted materials, with polka-dots sometimes as large as a silver dollar. There are even sports' skirts of dotted satin to be worn with lingerie blouses and a silk sweater in the color of the dot. Pussy willow taffetas in bold designs are also used for such skirts and when made in a side-plaited model are exceedingly good looking.

Effectiveness, in fact, is the keynote of the smart fashions in summer sport clothes. Whether one indulges in sports herself or is only an onlooker, it is essential that her wardrobe should contain a goodly supply of these garments, for at the fashionable resorts such a costume is worn the greater part of the day.

Of sports' hats there is legion. Some are of Angora braid, others of the straw and material in combinations innumerable and on many of them hand-painting is introduced. It may be only a plain ribbon band about the crown on which are painted prim little flowers, but it gives the requisite touch of individuality.

A most striking and unusual hat is a large dark ecru straw with the top of the crown, underbrim facing and band around the crown of black satin. On the front of the band is a hand-painted flower basket, and on the crown are painted the flowers which the basket holds. The painted basket is in shades of brown and the flowers of a garden variety, in vivid colorings.

Have you seen the new detachable brims for bathing caps? They are intended to shade the eyes on the beach and are most becoming. The brim fits over the bathing cap and is taken off before plunging into the sea.

Plaid or striped silk in a dark color combination is a most attractive material for bathing suits. Plain taffeta is used as trimming, and a detachable pique collar gives a most becoming touch. Each suit should have three or four of these collars, which may be attached with snap hooks; in this way a freshly laundered collar can be put on without trouble.

Though taffeta is satisfactory for bathing suits, salt water satin is, perhaps, the most serviceable of all materials, and is equally good looking in either navy blue or black.

A number of the newest suits are made from checked or plain pongee, but while these garments look very tempting in the hand, it is doubtful whether they will prove practicable, for such material is apt to cling to the figure after it has become wet.

The Force that Keeps a Zeppelin Up

By GARRETT P. SERVISS.

Please explain whether the lifting capacity of a Zeppelin type airship decreases as it ascends from the earth. If it does, is it due to the increased rarity of the air or to the decreased pull of the force of gravitation? When we say that a Zeppelin can carry, or lift, thirty tons, does that mean that the weight of the airship is thirty tons lighter than the volume of air that it displaces? O. P.

Yes, the "lifting capacity" is measured by the difference between the weight of the balloon and the weight of a volume of air equal to the volume of the balloon. The air presses upward upon all bodies immersed in it, even when they are heavier than the air.

In the latter case they do not rise, like a balloon, but they lose a certain proportion of their weight. If the atmosphere were suddenly removed everything on the earth would weigh more than it did before. The force of gravity would be unchanged, but the buoyant action of the air would be gone.

This is easily proved by experiment. Take two bodies of unequal density, like wood and iron, and place them in the opposite scales of a balance. In order that the beam may rest horizontal it is necessary that the volume, or size, of the body having the lesser density shall be proportionately larger. Now, remove them, together with the balance, into a vacuum, and the beam will incline downward on the side of the larger body, because the air, which has been removed, pressed upward more on that body than on the smaller one.

But if you should fill the vacuum chamber with a gas heavier than air the inclination of the beam would be reversed, because the relative upward pressure on the larger body would then be greater than on the smaller one, and to make them balance as they did in air you would have to decrease the size of the larger body.

If the air were of equal density from bottom to top, a balloon would never stop until it got to the surface of the atmosphere, but the density of the air decreases rapidly with increase of height, so that as the balloon rises the difference between its weight and that of an equal volume of air continually decreases until at a certain height, which can be calculated by the formulae employed in hypsometry, there will be no difference, and then the balloon can rise no higher. The decrease of the force of gravity at such heights as can be attained by balloons is relatively slight, and has no notable effect on their buoyancy. At a height of four miles a balloon would lose only one-500th of its weight.

A cubic foot of air at the earth's surface weighs about an ounce and a quarter, although the weight varies with the temperature and the humidity. A cubic foot of hydrogen, in the same circumstances, weighs about nine-one-hundredths of an ounce. The difference, 1.16 ounce, is the measure of the buoyancy, or lifting power, of a cubic foot of hydrogen immersed in air, and confined so that it cannot escape. Then ten cubic feet of hydrogen should be able to lift 11.6 ounces, 100 cubic feet, 116 ounces, and 1,000 cubic feet 1,160 ounces, or seventy-two and one-half pounds.

But allowance must be made for the weight of the balloon, the ropes, the cage, and everything that it carries. If these together amounted to seventy-two and one-half pounds, then the buoyancy of the 1,000 feet of hydrogen would only suffice to counterbalance their weight without lifting them from the ground.

But by making the capacity of the gas bag 10,000 cubic feet the increase in weight would be inconsiderable in comparison with the increase of buoyancy, which would now amount to 725 pounds. But to get the actual lifting power a considerable margin must always be allowed for change of temperature, humidity, etc., as well as for impurity of the hydrogen. Any mixture of other gas with it diminishes its buoyancy. The above estimates are probably twice too great.

Space must be left in the gas bag for the expansion of the hydrogen as otherwise it would burst the bag as it ascended rapidly, or else be forced out at the bottom, and thus a portion would be lost.

The increase in the volume of the balloon through the expansion of the hydrogen, tends, up to a certain point, to counterbalance the loss of buoyancy through the decrease of density in the surrounding air. But an elevation is always reached where the buoyant force ceases to carry the balloon higher because the volume of air displaced exactly equals in weight the total weight of the balloon with its appurtenances.

The same principle of buoyancy applies in the case of the immersion of a body in water. If the density, or specific gravity, of the body is greater than that of water, it will sink to the bottom; if it is less it will rise to the surface. But there is a great difference between air and water with regard to compressibility. Air near the earth's surface is very much denser than at a height of a mile or two, and the decrease of density continues with increase of height. But the density of water is very slightly increased with increase of depth. Consequently a heavy body will never stop sinking if once it goes under, but will descend to the bottom.

People are still asking, as many letters received show, whether the Titanic and the Lusitania may not be suspended somewhere between the surface and the bottom of the sea. That is impossible. They lie on the sea bed.

American Learning

Some amusing examples of school children's errors are provided by recent examination papers.

A vacuum is a large empty space where the pope lives.

In India a man out of a cash may not marry a woman out of another cash.

Elaine gave Launcelot an amulet before he departed for the tournament.

He succeeded because he had entire price contemplated.

Tennyson wrote "In Memorandum."

Parallel lines are the same distance all the way and do not meet unless you bend them.

An angle is a triangle with only two sides.

The qualifications for citizenship are that you must be neutral here or bride.

Gravitation is that which if there was none we should all fly away.

Louis XVI was guillotined during the French revolution.

Horse power is the distance one horse can carry a pound of water in an hour.

Guerilla warfare is where man rides on guerillas.

May Days Among the Flowers

"May," says an old proverb, "bends the gardener's back." And true the saying is, too, for May is the busiest month in the gardener's calendar. But it is likewise the happiest—the back bends willingly, joyfully. Everyone in May would begin a garden. The year is in its youth and the call of the fresh fragrance of the soil is irresistible. But, before the spade is driven into the earth, the gardener should take counsel of the fact that a garden well begun is a garden half grown. Work crowds on the heels of work in May and everything seems to be calling for immediate attention. There is, accordingly, a temptation to slight some of the tasks. There lies danger. Do what is done thoroughly; be orderly and systematic.

Both annuals and perennials are to be planted this month—the latter first. The perennials are hardy plants, making most of their root growth before summer suns have heated the soil. Spring, to them, is a tonic. It encourages their development. Summer brings them to bloom. No time, therefore, should be lost in selecting the varieties that are to be planted and in getting them into their permanent quarters. But selection should wait on judgment. It is easy to go wrong, especially at first, and nothing so surely makes for error and failure and discouragement as an attempt to plant too many varieties. Simplicity is the keynote of all good gardening and one plant well grown is worth a dozen that are dwarfed with invalidism.

Wise gardening, particularly with the hardy herbaceous perennials, must be built on the firm foundation of wise selection. It pays, therefore, to scan the lists of perennials with care and discretion. Catalogues are permissible and every perennial in the list appears to be "unsurpassed," while no garden without it can be "complete." A great deal of the confusion can be avoided, however, if the beginner will set himself resolutely against the allurement and concentrate his efforts, for the first season or two, on getting into his beds and borders the strongest, sturdiest, most reliable representatives of the great perennial family.

From every point of view—hardiness for hardiness, permanence, immunity from disease and insect annoyance, and quality and quantity of flower and foliage—the best dozen perennials are:

Anemone, aquilegia, campanula, chrysanthemum, delphinium, funkia, hemerocallis, hollyhock, iris, papaver, peony and phlox.

All of these, with the exception of the peony, which has a decided and persistent preference for September planting, do best when set out in the early days of May.

Annuals are of two classes, hardy and tender. The former, needless to say, may be sown earliest. The first to go into the ground should be the seed of poppies. Then, in the order named, as the ground becomes warmer and danger of frost more remote, sow larkspur, calendula, calliopsis, centaurea, sweet alyssum, nasturtium, convolvulus, silene and ageratum. As the sun climbs higher in the heavens and the days lengthen, sow celosia, candytuft, cosmos, gaillardia, lobelia, marigold, phlox and scabiosa. These, for the benefit of those who are unacquainted with their habits and requirements, may be further classified as follows:

For Dry Sunny Situations.

Nasturtiums	Marigolds
Coreopsis	Poppies
Alyssum	Petunias

For Cut Flowers.

Asters	Sweet Peas
Annual Pinks	Cosmos
Arctotis Grandis	Phlox
Stocks	Zinnias

Annuals Notable for Fragrance.

Sweet Peas	Sweet Alyssum
Mignonette	Verbenas
Stocks	Nicotiana

Useful as Edging Plants.

Candytuft	Dwarf Ageratum
Sweet Alyssum	Dwarf Nasturtiums
Lobelia	Portulaca

Annuals with Red Flowers.

Celosia Plumosa	Cosmos
Salvia	Poppies
Phlox	Asters
Zinnias	Stocks

Annuals with White Flowers.

Nicotiana	Poppies
Cosmos	Phlox
Asters	Alyssum
Candytuft	Gypsophila

Annuals with Pink Flowers.

Zinnias	Stocks
Poppies	Cobelia
Asters	Phlox
Petunias	Portulaca
Asters	Balsams

Annuals with Yellow Flowers.

Gaillardias	Coreopsis
Portulaca	Zinnias
Chrysanthemums	Marigolds
Sweet Sultans	Sunflowers

Annuals with Blue Flowers.

Ageratum	Larkspurs
Asters	Stocks
Nigella	Lupines
Lobelia	Verbenas

With the various groups of annuals plant freely the summer flowering bulbs and tubers. A pleasing effect, for instance, is to be had by combining gladioli with poppies. Midsummer finds the spring-loving poppies far beyond their prime. Larkspur, too, when planted early in the season soon becomes unsightly. Gladioli corms, set out early in May and every fortnight thereafter until the middle of June, will not interfere with the blooming of these annuals but, when they are faded and withered, will raise their flowers to replace those that have bloomed and passed. Montbretias can be used for the same purpose and, since they usually prove hardy with slight winter protection, may be permitted to remain undisturbed where they are set out. In semi-shaded spots, the tuberous-rooted begonia makes an admirable edging plant, rich alike in bloom and foliage. Another excellent summer flowering bulb, as hardy as the Montbretia, is the "summer hyacinth," Hyacinthus candicans. It will prove to be an excellent companion plant for gladioli.

Perennials are planted for many seasons—not for one only. It is necessary, therefore, to prepare the beds and borders where they are to grow with care. Spade them to a depth of two feet and add thoroughly rotted stable manure in the proportion of one part of the fertilizer to three parts of soil. Earth and manure should be turned and forked until it is completely pulverized. In beds prepared in this manner hardy herbaceous plants will live and thrive and bloom undisturbed for years.

Possibly, at first glance, the list might seem to lack variety. That impression, however, remains only until the beginner glances through the catalogue lists of the almost innumerable varieties recorded under the general heading of each. Of phloxes, for example, one catalogue lists nearly 30 varieties, affording a succession of bloom from the middle of April until frost. Similarly, there are scores of varieties of irises and of peonies.

Each year, try something new. Hybridists are busy and their products, usually announced as "novelties," are all worthy of trial. One cannot, however, neglect the tried and true favorites to make way for the new creations. But to can lend zest to the season's gardening a sort of spice of expectation, as it were—by devoting at least a little space to the newcomers.—Tarkington Baker in Woman's World.

A Hall of Shells.

The most interesting apartments in the new palace of the kaiser at Potsdam is the hall of shells. The room is most beautiful its walls adorned with thousands of shells of all kinds. They have been arranged deftly in charming patterns, while other shells in grottoes give a wonderful effect when lighted by electricity.

What Dividend Should a Telephone Company Pay?

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