

Superlatives Are Costly Indulgence

By GABBY DETAYLS.

SUPERLATIVES are a costly indulgence, if you value the effect of your words. Gabby has previously expatiated on geography as an asset in polite conversation; on the exceeding charm of good enunciation and the glory of graceful carriage. And while these columns are not a correspondence course in the right thing to do any day, she would now warn her readers against superlatives.

"These are the best sandwiches I have eaten this year," an exasperated damsel exclaims at a tea.

"The sandwiches are delicious," says another.

You believe the latter and doubt the former. Why? Because of the superlative. People are naturally suspicious of superlatives, suspicious without even knowing they are. How much more dignified is "The sandwiches are delicious," than "These are the best I have eaten this year."

And how much safer! Suppose a hostess at some former tea were around. Wouldn't you resent the "best this year," though? But "delicious" would provoke only her approval.

"He preached the longest sermon I ever heard!"

"He preached for three hours!"

How much more forceful is the definite statement of the duration of the sermon. "The longest I ever heard," sounds a little bit "fishy." You wouldn't take the remark too seriously. You would think the speaker a little impatient and perhaps inaccurate.

The superlative is to blame!

It should be. There are not many things in life that are the best, the longest, the loveliest, the thickest, the thinnest, the ugliest, or any of the extremes.

Gabby is reminded of a Mother Goose poem which ran something like this:

"If nobody's taller than you, you must be tall.
If nobody's smaller than you, you must be small.
If nobody's sadder than you, you're a poor elf.
If nobody's sicker than you, you're yourself."

In other words, there is usually something a little more extreme than the thing about which we speak, and if we would be believed, if we would temper our speech, if we would be free from exaggeration, conservatism and forceful, we should never use a superlative.

"She's the prettiest woman in town." You hear the remark and instantly try to think of some one you consider prettier.

"She is a very handsome woman."

No one would think about quarreling with you over that remark. Your point would be better made by far than when using a superlative.

Superlatives have a use, else why teach children in school to compare adjectives, but they should be confined to statements about which there is no controversy, such as "The Pacific is the largest ocean." They should be used when they are a matter of fact, rather than of opinion. Others will and should resent your superlatives of opinion, so, don't use 'em.

There are complications connected with modern woman. Sometimes she goes into business and sometimes that business is opposed in some ways to the business in which her husband is engaged. But that does not occasion any difficulty, unless there is a child in the family.

At least this is the general conclusion Gabby draws from the following incident:

One of the candidates for the Good Will trip to France, sponsored by The Bee, is a most attractive and successful business woman. Her company, which is a big national concern, is backing her all over the United States. She is doing all she can for "devastated France" and is anticipating a journey across the sea.

The husband of this candidate is a prominent officer in another concern, which likewise has a candidate. He is planning at night and working by day for the candidate of his company, who has every prospect of being one of the winners.

Husband and wife understand each other, and the situation. They have had a jolly time about it at home.

But it is not a funny matter at all to their little girl. She wants "mother" to go to France. She can't understand how "daddy," who is so fond of mother, could possibly help any other "girl." The other night she lay down and cried about it. Explanations did not help. She was consoled only when her father told her that he himself would buy as many votes for mother as he did for the other girl.

Central High Glee Clubs at Dietz Church Tonight

Under the direction of Mrs. Carol M. Pitts, the boys' and girls' glee clubs of Central high school will give a sacred concert this evening at 8 o'clock at the Dietz M. E. church. The two clubs have a combined chorus of 70 voices. Their opening anthem will be Gounod's "By Babylon's Wave." The boys' club will sing "Tis I, Be Not Afraid" and "The Wayside Cross," with Jack Kerschner taking the solo part in the latter.

"Crossing the Bar" and "Chorus of Seraphims" from "Paradise Lost," will be the girls' glee club numbers.

A religious characteristic in the form of an anthem for eight-part chorus work, is "Listen to the Lambs," which will be sung unaccompanied. Miss Dorothy Steinbaugh will sing "How Beautiful Upon the Mountains," "The Little Brown Church in the Vale," and "Recessional" will be other numbers. Miss Lela Turner will accompany.

From Lincoln also will come Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Raymond and a party of friends. Mrs. Raymond was chairman of the Junior League show recently given in Lincoln

Junior League



Left to right: Winifred Smith, Mrs. Lawrence Brinker, Marion Coak, Josephine Congdon, Mrs. Raymond Low, Mrs. Yale Holland (lead), Mildred Butler, Mrs. George Pratt, Mrs. Newman Benson, Gertrude Stout, Helen Walker. Inset, Miss Gertrude Stout, president of the Junior League.

One sumptuous, brilliant scene will follow another at the Junior League Revue, Friday and Saturday nights of this week, Brandeis theater. An Arabian chorus opens Act 1, where will be seen a prince and a princess, ladies of the court, special dancers, flower slaves and men slaves. Eight scenes full of beauty and jingle complete the act.

Scene 1, Act 2, will be the much anticipated "style show." Beauty and fashion will there be rarely combined. The "Indian Scene" will follow and then imitable Rosie Burgess as the lead in "Bad, Bad Man." Everyone will cover up his jewels and hide his pocketbook during this number. The Chinese scene, pictured above, will be a gorgeous part of the second act.

Virgil Haggart as Henry Hunter; Jack Peacock as Philip Withgrub, and Mrs. Yale Holland as Ming Foy, have the leading roles in this thrilling scene. Chinese coolies, who will assist the Chinese maidens, coyly posing here, are: Foye Porter, Phil Downs, Richard Smith, Robert Reschner, Ellison Vinsonhaler, Frank Campbell, Donald Kiplinger, Floyd Smith, Guy Beckett and Milton Rogers. Miss Mildred Rogers is the group chaperone.

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West Lawn cemetery. All patriotic clubs and organizations are invited to participate. Rev. Lloyd Holsapple, chaplain for Douglas County post will speak and Trinity Cathedral choir will furnish the music.

Following the exercises at West Lawn the auxiliary will plant daisies on the graves of the dead soldiers who are buried in other Omaha cemeteries. Mrs. John Kilmartin, president of the auxiliary, will be in charge of arrangements.

The curtain will raise at 8:15. Tickets are on sale at the Unit-Docekal drug store.

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The chorus of over 100 includes some of Omaha's best singers. Bernard Johnston, Ak-Sar-Ben chorus director, is leader. Mrs. Nettie Allen, pianist, and the Elias orchestra will furnish the music. Miss Gertrude Godman sings the obligatos. Miss Mary Cooper's pupils will give 15 dance numbers, appearing in the first and third acts. Many of the cast of 10 speaking parts have received professional training.

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"She never forgets her main business, which is to stenograph. She doesn't make any silly talk of losing herself in her work. She gets the letters out. She does not rant about the way the keys call her. But she gets to work in the morning. She goes into the world of business without any great notions of her own importance or her own position. She does not at all object to the fact that she is a woman; she sees things in nearly their proper relation; she accepts herself as just a woman."

"That's why she is wanted and indispensable and well treated. Ever hear of a stenographer breaking down from overwork? Typists often enough, but seldom the average stenographer. She is the one person who successfully backs the machine of modern business. She doesn't mind being a cog in the country of the main chance."

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In the same party will be the Messrs. Gage Frick, Kenneth Shea, W. J. McCord and Marion Sharp of Kansas City.

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Good Deeds Will Follow the Junior League Revue of This Week

The Day Nursery has established itself in the hearts of Omaha people. It is there tiny tots may be left during the day while the mothers are at work. The cases are investigated to make such they are worthy and a small daily fee is asked of those who can pay.

The National League for Women's Service, which has maintained the nursery for several years is relinquishing the responsibility June 1 and the Junior League is taking it over as their own charity. They will both manage and finance the institution.

The proceeds from the annual league revue, May 12, 13 at the Brandeis, will be used to support the nursery. This annual show is the only means the league has of making money. It is being presented this year for the third time, with Mrs. Louis Clarke in charge.

The baby station and the nurse at the Twenty-fifth and Decatur have been financed by the league's time and year and will be continued during the coming season.

During the first year of the league's existence the presidents were Miss Harriet Smith, Mrs. Paul

Gallagher and Miss Erna Reed. The City Mission, the Red Cross social service department, the Day Nursery and other organizations were beneficiaries of the league's time and treasury.

Occupational therapy in the children's ward at the University of Nebraska Medical hospital, was the special work of the league during Miss Gladys Peters' presidency. Sewing classes were held for the University hospital, the Salvation Army Rescue Home, the Creche and Associated Charities.

This year the league furnished a room at the Salvation Army Rescue Home, donated a piano to the children's ward at the University hospital and provided a piano for the nurses. They assisted at the Associated Charities dinner dance early in September.

These facts, which only in a brief way cover the good work of the Junior League in Omaha during the past three years, give assurance that much good will come after the revue of this week, which in itself promises to be good. The annual election of the Junior League will occur at the first meeting in June.

Ancient May Pole Revived

May day is one of the oldest of the English festivals, and its popularity has persevered for centuries. May Pole dancing was at one time so wide spread in England that those stern brethren, the Puritans, denounced May Poles as "idols, about which the people leaped and danced as heathens" and parliament went so far as to ban the revelry by statute.

The good old customs of the day seem to be dying out in America, except for annual revivals at such girls' colleges as Bryn Mawr and Wellesley where winding the May Pole with bright ribbons is one of the events of the year.

The Omaha University club took a stand, and determined that they would carry on the old time traditions, so at their party last evening a brightly decked May Pole was one of the central features. For those who preferred the one-step to skipping about the pole, there was dancing of a tamer sort during dinner and afterward, and there were tables of bridge for the still more sedate.

About 150 were present, those having reservations including the Messrs. and Mesdames Miles Standish, who had six guests; L. G. Woodford, who had 10; D. H. Dunham, eight; A. P. Creigh, E. F. Leary, George Sumner, who entertained 15, and a number of Dutch treat parties. One of the largest of these was composed of Mr. and Mrs. Alan McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Burkett, Mr. and Mrs. Milo T. Gates, Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Davis, Miss Emily Keller, Miss Rachel Metcalfe, Ed Phelps, Dr. George Boehler, C. Clarke, Fritz Koening and Dr. Robert Schrock.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Beemer had 10 guests, and R. A. Nealy and R. A. Van Orsdale entertained a party of eight

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