

ANITA FINDS A WAY

By DOROTHY BLACKMORE.

"But my father's business has been absolutely ruined by the war," protested Anita Morgan. "I must help in some way out of this." "You—help?" laughed her chum, Helen Bennett. "It's so funny!" They were nearing the theater for which Helen had tickets, and Helen, beginning to realize that her friend was in earnest, could find no reply. "I can't even make doughnuts for a woman's exchange. I'm not a good mender; I'm not a stenographer. I have no profession, no work of any kind to turn to, and yet I am determined to do something to help with the family expenses, if it's only adding a few dollars a week. I have brains and common sense and I know I can find something."

"I'm afraid it will be hard, Anita," said Helen, serious for the first time. She was beginning to realize that which, too, would be helpless when it came to earning money.

As they sat in the theater Anita watched the ushers running up and down the aisles busily seating the guests in the theater. They were earning their living—those girls. That was not a skill in the estimation of Anita Morgan, could do that. She was accustomed to late hours; she was quick and active and she had a good appearance.

The following day she went to the management of a theater and found employment at once as an usher. She did not speak of her work to anyone, but she saw many of her friends in the theater. At the end of a fortnight not a person had recognized her in her former work—except the quiet and quiet costume. In fact, it seemed to her as if the ushers might be so many wooden dolls for all the attention paid them by the audience. And for this Anita was very thankful.

She became a mystery among her former acquaintances. And Anita rather enjoyed being a mystery. She gave them no satisfaction—not even Helen, her chum.

At the theater she had many odd and amusing experiences, but the most interesting people to her were the newspaper men and women who frequented the theater, both in front and behind the footlights, searching for stories, for news, for plots and situations they could turn into space for which they were paid dollars.

Anita had begun to have a broad sympathy with anyone who was trying to earn honest dollars. In her former mode of life she had given wage-earners and wage-earning little thought.

Perhaps because of her keen interest and sympathy, she made many friends. She was pleasant, cheerful, earnest and approachable. And about a metropolitan theater everyone employed is not approachable, she had been told more than once, when she had been of service in securing an interview with a star or with folks on and off the stage.

"If I get this interview with Mme. Lurachev," a young newspaper man told her one afternoon, "and land it, won't you break your rule and come to lunch with me, just so that I can tell you how much I appreciate your tips?"

Anita shook her head, smiling. "No—I'd like to, but I mustn't begin," she said.

"You'd not be 'beginning' anything, would you?"

Anita did not answer. It was between the acts a young performer and she sat not but in the wings.

"Would you?" the young man persisted. "Think—is it fair, the attitude you've taken toward me? You won't tell me who you are, where you live, anything about you. You won't let me call on you; you won't come out with me. What am I to do?" he asked.

Anita was beginning to blush, for she liked the young newspaper man better than she had ever admitted to herself.

"I'm an usher in the Sphere theater, and you may see me at any performance," she said, laughing.

"Consolation— isn't it?" Roger Morrow asked. "I don't believe I'll get to that interview. If you won't accept a favor from me I'm hanged if I'll accept any from you."

Anita looked at him in surprise. "And your career—your pride in your ability to secure difficult interviews for your paper?" she asked.

The man turned away. "I don't care anything about my career. What good is it, if in its pursuit you meet a bully girl, a girl you—well, see here, I'm going to tell you all about it here and now, if you won't promise to come to lunch with me tomorrow. Shall I?" he asked, facing her and searching her face.

Anita looked at him for a moment and saw that he was terribly in earnest. "I will—but you may not tell me anything until you have come to my house to meet my mother and father which you may do any afternoon but Wednesday and Saturday," she said.

"And you are—"

"I'll tell you tomorrow at lunch," she interrupted. "Sh— the curtain's going up."

"It is—for a fact," said Roger, taking her hand for a moment. "Till tomorrow—then?" he said.

And Anita let him see the gladness in her eyes at the prospect.

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Her Father Noticed It.

"I suppose it is hardly necessary for me to tell you, sir, that I am in love with your daughter?" said the trembling suitor. "Not at all, young man," replied her father. "And, furthermore, I've seen enough idiotic symptoms in the last month to convince me that your passion is reciprocated."

Lessons Taught by Enemies.

Men or some often learn from their enemies. Prudence is the best safeguard. This principle cannot be learned from a friend, but an enemy extorts it immediately. It is from their foes, not their friends, that cities learn the lesson of building high walls and ships of war. And this lesson saves their children, their homes and their properties—Aristopanes.

Uncle Eben.

"It's all right to own up to a mistake," said Uncle Eben, "but a man can't help feelin' kind o' discouraged when he finds it's gittin' to be a habit."

BEYOND CONTROL OF MAN

Absolutely Perfect Day is Something That Depends on Too Many Factors.

There is a pretty little sentimental song which begins with the words: "When you come to the end of a perfect day." It relates to true friendship and it suggests that perfect days are rare in human experience. Perhaps they are. For perfect days depend upon many factors, and some of these are beyond the control of the individual. You cannot produce a perfect day at will any more than you can summon perfect weather to suit your convenience.

The hasty conception of a perfect day would be such a one as falls out to be entirely to your liking in every respect. That requires a combination of circumstances which is exceptional. You might set forth in the morning with the determination that, in respect to your own actions and affairs and your power over them, the day should be perfect, but in an hour or two external influences might intervene, and the whole thing go glimmering. If there be one element lacking, whether it be an environment, in the attitude of others or in yourself, perfection is not secured and the day takes its place in the common category, inspiring neither song nor rhapsody, and occupying no permanent place in the memory of the individual. In fact, it is the very rarity of perfect days that makes the subject one of comment, of story, of poetry, of cherished memories.

BEYOND MEASURE OF YEARS

Geologic Time Cannot Be Computed by the Ordinary Methods of Science.

Scientists hesitate to estimate geologic time in terms of years. Such estimates have, however, been made, and one published by Prof. Charles Schuchert in 1910 states that about 12,000,000 years have elapsed since the close of the Carboniferous age, an age, as the name suggests, in which great deposits of carbon, in coal, were being formed in many parts of the world. This age has been divided by geologists into the Mississippian, Pennsylvanian and Permian epochs, of which the Mississippian is the oldest and the Permian the youngest. The Pennsylvanian epoch alone is estimated by Schuchert to have covered 2,500,000 years, and animal life is supposed to have existed on the earth for over 14,000,000 years before that time. Geologic periods are recognized primarily by the animals and plants that lived in them, so that the study of fossils plays a very real and important part in the progress of geologic knowledge. Rocks of Carboniferous age, as shown in their fossils, have a wide distribution in the United States, and they are apt to abound in these remote places and in animal life. The fossil shells which are found in them, however, may vary greatly from point to point, because the animals they represent lived in different periods of geologic time or in different regions in the Carboniferous ocean.

Spectacles for Cows.

The idea of cows wearing spectacles seems ridiculous. Nevertheless there are cows that do wear spectacles, and they may be seen on the plains or steppes of Russia, which are covered with snow more than six months of the year. The cows subsist on the tufts of grass which crop above the snow, and the rays of the sun on the snow are so dazzling as to cause blindness. It occurred to a kind-hearted man to protect the cows' eyes in the same way as those of human beings, and he manufactured smoke-colored spectacles which could be worn by cattle. These spectacles proved a great success and are now worn by upward of 10,000 head of cattle. The animals no longer suffer from snow blindness, which once caused such untold suffering among them.

Why Men Are Bald.

Men get bald more frequently than women, according to a scientist, because they wear hard, heavy hats, they cut their hair too short, and they use too much hair cream. The "doc" says the scalp is like soil, and the hair like the vegetation that grows upon it. When the scalp is neglected the hair does not grow and its roots die, just as grass dies when the soil is neglected. A hard hat constricts the blood vessels that nourish the scalp. Clipping the hair short leaves its tender roots at the mercy of the cold, heat and dust. The oil that exudes from around the roots of the hairs and keeps them nourished is constricted by the cold and chokes up the matrix in which the hair is formed.

When Glass Adheres.

If sheets of plate glass be piled up horizontally to a considerable height without the precaution of separating them by sheets of paper, the glass in certain places adheres so tightly to it that it is necessary to use a saw to remove it bit by bit. This is due solely to cohesion, which is the property of bodies to adhere as soon as their molecules are in contact. It is almost impossible to make surfaces so smooth and to exert pressure so great that the molecules of the two surfaces will actually be in intimate contact, but in certain machines this does occasionally take place with both steel and lead. A recent experiment showed that perfect that even the microscope cannot detect the place of union.

Europeans Are Book Buyers.

In the United States only one person in 7,300 buys a book in the course of a year, while in Great Britain it is one in 3,500; in France it is about the same; in Germany and Japan it is rather better, and in Switzerland it is one in 572. Cheaper books, in paper covers, account for some of this difference; but, whatever the cause, it remains true that the Europeans buy twice as many books per capita as we do—Atlantic Monthly.

An Apology.

"Your custom are reprehensible beyond the possibility of expression. The idea of killing your fellow-man for dinner." "Yes," replied the cannibal who had been reading about civilized warfare. "But at least we have the excuse of being hungry."

More Appropriate.

"But Eliza," said the mistress, "your little boy was christened George Washington. Why do you call him Isaac Walton? Walton, you know, was the famous fisherman." "Yes'm," answered Eliza, "but dat child's rappe tashun to tellin' de troof made dat change imper'v'able."

PECULIAR EYES OF FISHES

Scientific Study Has Demonstrated Many Facts Not Hitherto Known to the World.

In the effort to discover why fishes are so near-sighted, scientists have been making some remarkable experimental studies of their eyes. One of the many interesting facts which these studies revealed was that fishes' eyes compared with human eyes are relatively large. The length of the eye of a fish is ordinarily about one-twentieth of its length, while the length of the eyeball of a man is from a sixtieth to a seventieth of his height.

The eyes of fishes are in constant use except when they are asleep. No fishes have no eyelids, their eyes being protected from injury by a shiny material or by a thick transparent skin. The puffer, or swellfish, which habitually burrows in sand at the bottom of the water, has eyelids which cover the eyeballs when closed, the lower eyelid being larger than the upper.

In the experimental work the eyes of normal fishes were first examined with the microscope, then by electrical stimulation the focus was changed from distant to near objects. It was found that, contrary to statements sometimes made, the eyes of fishes when swimming were focused for distant vision. Fishes are able to focus their eyes on near objects—such as food—by contracting the superior and inferior muscles. It was found possible by operation on the oblique muscles to make the fish near-sighted, far-sighted, or astigmatic.

LESSON FROM THE FLOWERS

Gentleness and Tolerance Are Taught by Sweet Things in Garden and Field.

What a freedom from cares and perplexities one finds among the flowers. They are so calm; you may be with them from morning till night and not have one bitter memory or disagreeable thought to take with you to your pillow. A tiger lily won't dig its claws into your breast, the calla lily will not prolong her call indefinitely. The sweet willow's honeyed personality is honest and sincere; sweetness that will not under fancied provocation turn into vinegary revenge.

The snowdrops will not chill you with cold words and looks. The dog wood will not bark at you or dig your footsteps. There is a clump of the beautiful variegated variety bending over a quiet corner of the fish pond, its pretty leaves reflected in the water. It has no canine faults, but all the canine virtues, fidelity—no running away from the mistress to follow strange masters.

Jack in the pulpit does not preach too loudly or make grand gestures, taking your mind insensibly from the heavenly message he is striving to deliver and which your soul desires to grasp, the mind being willing but the body weak.

The Swiftest Thing We Know.

So far as we know, Galileo was the first to try to verify the suspicion that light was not really free from ordinary motion. In his endeavor to measure the speed of light, Galileo stationed two observers a couple of miles apart at night each armed with a dark lantern. One of them suddenly darkened his lantern, and the other was instructed to do the same the moment that the first light disappeared. Galileo reasoned that if light really took a finite time to cross the distance, it would be measured by half the interval between the darkening of the first observer's lantern and the disappearance of the second light from his gaze. The argument was perfectly sound, but as the time in question was about one-fiftieth thousandth part of a second, it is no wonder that the observer failed to detect it. Yet it is on a quite similar plan that the modern experimental determinations of the speed of light have been made.

Surely Prize Scarecrow.

An American tourist had been boasting again in the village inn, says London Tit-Bits.

"Talking of scarecrows," he said, "with a drawl, 'why, my father once put one up, and it frightened the crows so much that not one entered the field again for a year.'"

He looked triumphantly around his audience. Surely he had settled those country bumpkins.

But he was to meet his match.

"That's nothing," retorted one farmer. "A neighbor o' mine once put a scarecrow into his potato patch and it terrified the birds so much that one rascal of a crow who had stolen some potatoes came next day and put them back."

The Locust as Human Food.

The curious species of insect life, known as the locust, which, according to its family traditions, visits and pays its respects to the outside world once in 13 or 17 years, has furnished much food for discussion among scientists, students and farmers. In addition to these there are others who anticipate with pleasure the advent of the locust, for whatever might be said about strange creatures, in spite of its destructive ability and its appetite for choice foliage, it has one good quality which was probably discovered by no less a person than John the Baptist when he decided that specimens which he found in the desert were good to eat.

London Conference.

The "London Conference" was an assemblage of the representatives of the chief European powers to reconcile Austria, Prussia and Denmark. It met in London, April 25, 1864, and held its sessions for two months, but without effect.

Sacred White Elephant.

A white elephant is regarded sacred in Siam, and when one dies as a funeral grander than that accorded to princes. Buddhist priests officiate and thousands of devout Siamese men and women follow the deceased animal to the grave, jewels and offerings representing much wealth are buried with the elephant.

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Steamer will leave Baltimore, Pier 4 Light Street, (weather permitting), Tuesday, 2 p. m., for Fair Haven, Plum Point, Dares, Governor's Run, Cove Point, Millstone, Solomon's Island, Spencer's, St. Catherine's, Sotterley, Parkers, Forrest's, Duke's, Trent Hall, Holland Point, Benedict, Monday morning.

Returning steamer will leave Benedict, (weather permitting), Friday, 12 noon, stopping at all the above points. Solomon's, 9:20 a. m., Millstone, 10 a. m., Governor's Run, 10 p. m., Fair Haven, 10 p. m., Baltimore, next morning.

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