

a bow and arrow in a day of Mauser rifles and Krupp guns. As one's professor in a correspondence school of love, he might have been very well; but as a husband? Why, the very notion of taking breakfast with him made one shudder!

All these feelings crystallized one afternoon in a street car, when, as he sat chatting harmlessly by my side, a perfectly incomprehensible fury of repugnance seized me in which the devotion of years was utterly buried. "Oh, how I hate you!" flashed through my mind. And from that moment, though I had to admit that the poor man was guilty of nothing worse than a bad shave, my dislike was so pronounced that I resolved to rid myself of his attentions.

How to Get Rid of a Man

HOW? Always in dealing with such a problem there is one safe formula to follow. Ethically it may be questioned; but inevitably it succeeds. If you wish to end one romance, foster or invent another. Rivalry stimulates, you think? It may in moderation; but if you deliberately transform yourself into a grinding bore on the subject of another man's perfections, the most persistent suitor must inevitably give way.

In this case I did not invent the other man, he just happened to turn up, and by the law of contrast it was decreed that the puny man with a brutal intellect should be superseded by a brute with a puny brain. He was one of those Englishmen whose temperaments appear to be of the consistency of a rather soggy Yorkshire pudding. Indeed, looking at him, I used to wish often that he had more of the roast beef of old England in his disposition and less of its doughy accessory.

This young man's allegiance and his leisure were

quite openly divided between me and football. His only idea of giving a girl a treat was to take her to watch a game of hockey or polo. Also he had turned up after a football game, in which he had participated, minus several teeth, and finally informed me with obvious pride that he had only thirteen teeth left. It was then I unfeelingly suggested that if he expected any woman to be interested in him he would have to visit a dentist. But he pointed out, with practical and truly British economy, that it would be hardly worth while to indulge in two hundred dollars' worth of dentistry that he might lose in the next football game.

Poor man! He had the Englishman's frequently supine admiration for the American girl, whom he seemed to regard as a quite marvelous Punch and Judy show operated for his special delectation. I believe if I had recited the Penitential Psalm to him he would have taken it for American humor.

He was a man of ready made morals, and, though he had a good deal of money, of ready made clothes. The morals fitted him perfectly; but the clothes did not.

I did not note all these things at first; in fact, I tried conscientiously to like him, with, of course, the fatal result that attends anything a woman attempts to do conscientiously. I still had the idea that to fall in love is as much a part of being a grown up woman as doing up one's hair or lengthening one's skirts, and was quite distressed at being unable to accomplish it.

Many women marry too early from this same conviction; for never was the psychology of women more totally misinterpreted than by La Rochefoucauld when he wrote: "In her first passion, a woman loves her lover; in all the others, what she

loves, is love." For, on the contrary, we are all eighteen so anxious to join the select company of enamoured heroines that infect our novel fed youth that we accept almost any male creature who deigns to notice us as a peg on which to hang our sentimentality.

But even with all the yearning in the world to fall in love, I decided an Englishman wouldn't answer. It really wouldn't do to marry a man, who however good looking, bored you so that you wanted to scream. Almost I sighed for my former Lilliputian suitor. At least—though he wouldn't admit it—we had a brain in common.

I might prolong this liad by mentioning one or two more of my failures. I recall one impecunious and artistic youth who broke abruptly upon an acquaintance, hitherto untouched by sentiment, with this statement, "Of course, if we should ever decide to marry, I should not care to see you give up your profession and degenerate into the ordinary domestic little drudge."

But what is the use? I think I have had just the average woman's opportunities, and I am frankly glad that I have rejected them and preserved my freedom.

Sometimes, if I go on a week-end visit to some married friends, I am tempted for the first hour or so to envy their happiness. "What will be the end of your loneliness?" I ask myself as the narrowing vista of old maidenhood stretches before me. Then one thing or another pricks the bubble,—symptoms of jealousy, boredom, of feminine fretfulness, or masculine obstinacy, and as I speed back home on Monday morning even the car wheels seem to hum that famous line to Freedom:

"Yet though thou slay me will I trust in thee!"

HOW INFECTION AFFECTS THE BODY

By Stephen Smith, M.D., LL.D.

HOW infection affects the body was the supreme mystery that the scientists of the past strove in vain to penetrate. By no devices of their laboratories could they detect the agents that caused an epidemic. There was only one satisfactory explanation of the origin and spread of the devastating plagues which seemed to fall from the heavens on the people, and that was that epidemics were "a visitation of God" on account of the sins of the people. Of course the only preventive and curative measure available and effectual was "repentance, prayer, and humiliation."

It is a cause of devout thankfulness that while these things were hid from the "wise and prudent" of former times, they have in these latter days been revealed unto "babes." No event in human history would have more greatly taxed the credulity of the most learned and experienced physician of half a century ago than the prophecy that in the early years of the twentieth century school children would be taught by simple and easily understood object lessons how to prevent and how to cure consumption, the Asiatic cholera, yellow fever, and other epidemics that have devastated cities, destroyed armies, and swept from the earth whole tribes of primitive people.

But that prophecy has been literally fulfilled. During the last summer there has been a traveling object lesson that visited the different sections of the State of New York and taught the people, especially the children, all of the essential facts as to the nature of the infection of tuberculosis, its effects on the body, and the methods of prevention and cure.

As infective diseases cause the vast majority of cases of severe and crippling affections and of deaths in every community, the value of a knowledge of the nature of infection and how it affects the body, by the people of all ranks, ages, and conditions, cannot be estimated in its influence on the future of the human race. Already we learn that within the period referred to the sickness and death rates of communities where the people have been most thoroughly instructed as to the nature of infective diseases and how they affect the body, have greatly diminished, and the average of human life has been markedly lengthened. Indeed, it now seems possible to restore the patriarchal age when a man may live to be "an hundred and twenty years old. . . his eye . . . not dim, nor his natural force abated."

To understand how infection affects the body involves an inquiry as to the nature of infection, its mode of entrance into the body, and its operations on its organs and tissues. The terms "infection" and "contagion" are often used as synonymous; but a strict definition according to the medical sig-



nificance of each limits the former to "the transmission of disease by actual contact of the diseased part with a healthy absorbent or abraded surface," and the latter to "transmission through the atmosphere by floating germs." But in the final analysis the cause of disease in both infection and contagion is so similar in its action that the medical profession has adopted the term "communicable disease" in all cases where the disease is communicated from one person to another by means of a germ, whatever may be its method of attack on the body.

What the Germ Is

WHAT is this communicable germ or agent? A bacterium—a little stick, staff—so called from the rodlike shape it assumes in the process of growth. The individual bacterium (plural, bacteria) is an organism representing a low form of vegetable life; resembles mold; in size the smallest living thing that can be seen with the microscope; in masses forms the films floating on foul fluids or covering decomposing animal or vegetable matter. It consists of a single cell, and its mode of increase when placed under proper conditions for growth is by division of the cell body; the two cells formed out of the first being divided into four before complete separation has taken place; the four dividing into eight, the eight into sixteen, the sixteen into thirty-two, and so on indefinitely. Now, as it requires only thirty minutes for one cell to divide, it has been estimated that a single bacterium will in twenty-four hours increase to the number of over sixteen million five hundred thousand, and in forty-eight hours to two hundred and eighty-one million five hundred thousand. At this rate of increase, in three days there would be a mass of bacteria weighing about sixteen million pounds. As the multiplication of bacteria depends upon con-

ditions that soon interfere with or interrupt their growth, as the want of food, their own secretions, and certain natural forces operating against them, these stupendous figures are useful only as an illustration of the enormous fertility of these organisms, and their destructive energy when they attack a susceptible living body.

What is the function of bacteria in the economy of nature? It would be surprising if such a menace to human life as some species of bacteria have proved themselves to be had no other place among the forces of nature than to prevent the too rapid increase of

the human race on this earth, as our forefathers believed. It is gratifying, and quite satisfying to a revengeful spirit, to learn from the modern laboratory that the special and only function of the bacterium is to perform the duties of a universal scavenger. It is always seeking decomposing animal and vegetable matter. It lives on filth, riots in it, and dies when deprived of it. It enters the human body only in search of filth, and if it finds none it does the person no harm, and dies either from the want of food or by starvation, or escapes from the body, or secretes itself where it may safely await the creation of decomposing matter, when it will begin its lifework.

Thus, there may be and doubtless is at all times a great variety of bacteria of a virulent type quiescent in our bodies only for the time that they find no decaying matter adapted to their special tastes or wants.

It is a most interesting fact, therefore, that this most deadly foe of man becomes dangerous only when the latter is harboring in his body waste or decomposing matters that are slowly poisoning him. It is in the process of digesting this material that the bacterium excretes poisons—toxins—of the most virulent nature, which are absorbed into the blood of the human victim, creating the condition popularly known as blood poisoning.

Bacteria perform a most important function in the economy of nature; viz., the conversion of decaying and dead matter into food for plants. Biologists assert that without bacteria plant life on the earth would be scanty or entirely wanting; they are the natural intermediaries between plants and animals in point of food production. They are therefore called scavengers, because they live on decomposing matter; but in the very act of digesting such waste they convert it into products essential to plant life (carbon dioxide and ammonia) and by their excretions restore to vegetation its chief supply of food.

It appears on the same authorities that bacteria