WHEN HE MEANS BUSINESS

THERE'S everything, nowadays, in knowing when a man means business, and when he's just passing the time away, said the girl behind the counter, meditatively, as she began fashioning the long ribbon into a rosette.

"That's true," agreed the floor walker. "This thing of a fellow's hanging around year in and year out ought to be cut out. It's not fair to the girl. He either ought to manage to put her wise somehow or else dig out. It's only decent to let her know where she stands."

The girl behind the counter sniffed contemptuously. "It'd take a pretty wise guy nowadays to keep a girl from knowing where she stands. Why, the fellow can't breathe without her knowing all about it. Trust her for knowing when he means business and when he's only using her parlor because he's too poor to go out with the boys".

"Oh, come off. You don't mean a girl can really get on, do you?"

"I'd like to know why she can't," she replied, aggressively.

"Any man can fool a girl, I tell you. It's a cinch. He can come around one night and act as if he thought she was the only pebble on the beach, and the next night he can be just as much gone on the girl next door. He can be just crazy to make a date with her, and then when the time comes he may show up, and then again he may not. He can keep steady company with her for months or even years, and then turn around and marry somebody else. The chances are ten to one she thought she had him clinched, and all the time he was laughing up his sleeve because she was so struck on herself .Take my word for it, it's a pretty slow sort of a fellow that can't keep a girl guessing."

"That's all you know about it," said the girl behind the counter. "There's not a girl with a grain of sense who doesn't know months ahead of time when her best young man is going to pop the question, and very few who cannot go so far as to set the night and consequently be able to get into their glad rags in honor of the occasion."

The floor walker looked at her in astonishment and admiration. "Is that straight? I didn't know girls were that smart."

"You must a thought they were dead easy," she said with an air of superiority. "But let me tell you, they weren't born yesterday—not by a long sight. No, I'm busy now," she replied to the query of a customer, as she gave the rosette a few ostentatious pulls. Then when the customer had moved on, she added confidentially to the floor walker, "These people are so ill bred. They never can see when they are interrupting you."

"That's so. But tell me, how do girls get wise to whether a fellow means business or not?"

"Oh, yes. That woman put it clear out of my mind. Why, it's easy enough. They just have to notice how he acts. Everybody knows a man behaves differently when he is in love and when he is in a natural state of mind."

"Natural state of mind! Why, don't you think that being in love is a natural state of mind?"

"How can it be? Just as soon as a man begins to think that a certain girl is the main squeeze, he immediately contracts the habit of doing all sorts of fool stunts that he would never have thought of doing before."

"Such as what?"

"Well, in the first place, he can't seem to see anybody but just one girl. He seems to have suddenly gotten tired of all the other girls in town, to have gotten used to butting up to one house every night in the week, whether he has a license or not. He keeps steady company with one lone female week in and week out, wearing out her parlor furniture and using up the gas until he has to produce a quarter to put in the meter."

"I don't see how that goes to prove anything," objected the floor walker. "He might come around all the time like that just because it was the cheapest way of passing his evenings. No admission charged—free entertainment—what you call a cinch."

"Nothing of the kind," replied the girl behind the counter. "I won't deny that lots of fellows do that kind of thing, but you can spot the man in love every time. He doesn't save any money on the deal; in fact, at this stage of the game he often lives beyond his income."

"But how? He surely doesn't throw it all away on the girl?"

"He sure does. It would only cost him a couple of dollars to go with the boys, but just look at what he spends when he takes her to the theatre. And then there are flowers and candy and books—it all counts up, I can tell you, and by the time the ghost walks he is generally pretty hard up."

"I see. When a man is in love, he acts like a fool. But lots of fellows are born that way, and so how can you tell then?"

"That's easy enough," she replied. "He generally gets wise the very first week as to what kind of candy she likes, and after that he will show up on pay day with that kind of candy regularly, until she gets sick of the sight of it, and has to implore him to change her diet. He also gets a line on the fact that violets are her favorite flower, and then he lugs so many around that the house smells of them from the roof to the cellar."

"And the girl takes all this in?"

"You bet she does. Trust her for keeping tabs on everything he says and does, and for sizing him up all the time. Girls are wise guys all right. They know when it's worth while to waste valuable ammunition on a man, and when it would be the same thing as casting pearls before swine. They know when a man remembers what she said about liking white neckties that he is cinched for sure, because no fellow will acknowledge that a girl knows more than he does about men's clothes until he falls in love. She also knows it's a sure thing when his sister tells her that instead of shaving every other day as he used to, he now shaves every night in the week. When a man is keeping steady company with a girl, etiquette—and a few other things—demand that he should always have a smooth shaven face, but after marriage the laws of etiquette undergo a radical change. It's funny, ain't it?"

WEARING OUT THE PARLOR FURNITURE.

BY PAY DAY HE IS GENERALLY PRETTY HARD UP

"It certainly is," agreed the floor walker. "Can't account for it at all. But how else can she tell when he means business?"

"Well, he's liable to show up at all sorts of inconvenient times—just to see what she's up to, you know. Sometimes he doesn't say much, but just the same the girl knows that he is a private detective agency as far as she is concerned. He also makes wholesale arrangements with the telephone company so that he can call her up several times a day. He probably never has anything important to say to her; just asks her how she feels and what she has been doing."

"Just calls her up to find out whether she still hangs out at the same place, I suppose, and to make sure that she has not skipped with the other fellow?"

"You got the idea," replied the girl behind the counter. "Then the girl can find out how she stands in other ways."

"What, for instance? It beats me how you know all this."

HE LISTENS FOR HOURS TO HER FATHER'S VIEWS ON REFORM.

"Just let her get her eye on the way he behaves when her family is around. If he nearly breaks his neck to hand her mother a chair, and if he sits and listens for hours to her father's views on reform, she may know that it is time to get some fancy underclothes. He is sure to pop the question within a couple of weeks and the chances are ten to one that he has already invested in a solitaire at a dollar down and a dollar a week store. It is high time now to call in her best friend and tell her the glad news under a strict promise of secrecy, in order to insure that everybody will know about it in two days at the very outside."

"You don't say. Does he do anything else when he is in love?"

"Oh, my, yes. For one thing, he never wants to go home at night. He stays and stays, until the girl either drops off to sleep or has to get her brother to eject him gently. If anybody else has the nerve to show up while he is there, he gets a mad on and sits and sulks, refusing to say a word. And jealous! My, it's no name. I once ran with a girl who lost twelve pounds the first month she was engaged. Couldn't stand his jealousy, you know."

"What do you know about that. Some fellows certainly do give themselves away, don't they?"

"You bet they do. And they show that they have it the worst way when they neglect their business for her, when they can't work for thinking of her, you know, when they spend all their time talking to her instead of really trying to earn their salary—"

But just then the floor walker discovered that he had some pressing business to attend to in the next aisle.

Teething Should Not Cause Illness

THE belief that cutting the first tooth means illness for an infant is an exploded theory, according to the head physician of a child's hospital, who declares that there is no more reason why a healthy young child should be sick when teething than at any other time.

"It has always been a subject of curious interest to me why the majority of mothers and other persons, too, should think that a baby must have all sorts of ailments when getting its first tooth," he said. "Aside from being irritable, having a slight rise in temperature at morning or night, occasional disorders with the stomach and the desire to be constantly chewing on something, a normal child in good condition should be free from illness while cutting its teeth. The ailments in nine cases out of ten attributed to teething are caused from some other source, and for that reason a little one who appears to be weak and really indisposed should be placed under the care of a physician for treatment.

"There is no exact period at which teeth begin to show. Some babies have them sooner than others, but if none has appeared at the end of six months I would advise a mother to consult a doctor, for by that time the normal infant should have had several. The easiest and most natural way for them to come is in pairs, though I have known many youngsters to get four at a time.

"One of the first signs of coming teeth is the way the infants try to rub their gums red, often swollen appearances of the latter. They will chew on anything from a piece of rubber to a meat bone, if allowed, and almost devour their own fists when there is nothing else to press against the gums to stop their itching.

"Most mothers and many physicians recommend giving pieces of ivory, rubber rings, metal tubes too large to swallow, bits of bone, etc., to chew on, but I would not advise any of these, if for no other reason, because I think they are not sanitary, and I know of nothing worse for a baby than to have something unclean in its mouth during teething time. If any of these things are given to the little ones I would urge that they be sterilized each time before being given to the youngsters, to make sure that they are free from impurities.

"The only thing that I would suggest doing is to keep the baby's mouth clean, and unless there is an inflammation in the gums, nature provides amply for this. If necessary, however, the mouth should be swabbed out with soft pieces of cotton and lukewarm water when the gums are swollen. And once a day, perhaps in the morning, it would be a good thing to gently massage the gums. By that I mean rub them slowly from right to left directly over the spot where the tiny white teeth will come through. Five minutes of this should be long enough, or the skin may become irritated."

PERTINENT GOSSIP FOR WOMEN

YELLOW is indeed a remarkable color, serving in its different shades both blonde and brunette. A beauty with dead white skin and just a shade of rose on the cheek, clad in a gown of softest yellow, with billows of creamy or snowy lace about her neck, is a poem of loveliness. A warmer tone of the "sunshiny" color has a ravishing appearance worn by a handsome brunette, her gypsy beauty being just what is required to bring out its artistic excellence, says Modern Woman.

And everybodys knows what a serviceable shade is the yellow brown for knockabout and country wear, some tone or other of which will be found to suit every grade of stature and complexion.

* * *

There are very few men who are capable of judging whether a woman is extravagant or not. It is unsafe to attempt to decide the cost of her gown from its appearance: we all know it is not the most showy thing that costs the most, nor the most simple that costs the least. It is not the most elegantly, not even the most richly dressed woman who runs up the largest bill.

Many women who dress admirably, entertain delightfully and give generously can and do spend hours in economical details, and by hundreds of ingenious, happy devices save money from unnecessary outlay to expend in generous, artistic and social pleasures.

* * *

The stomach never has the least power of digesting true fat. This is disposed of in the intestines. When eaten in the ordinary forms, as fat meat, butter, etc., the fat separates out in the stomach, and does not in the least interfere with the work of the gastric juice on the other foods. But when a non-fatty food has been intimately mixed with grease the latter prevents the gastric juice getting at the food it could digest. Fish fried in oil or butter is by no means the most marked example, as the fat does not penetrate very deeply. Potatoes mashed with butter are rather worse, and minced vegetables fried with butter are bad offenders. The reason advanced explains why pork is difficult of digestion. The muscular fibers are mixed up with fat cells, and by the liberation of the oil in each tiny cell the eaten pork is made into an oily paste. A very strong stomach will do the work required; but it is not a fair task to impose frequently, and a weak stomach will refuse to do anything beyond reminding its owner by a few stabs that it will not stand such treatment.

PALMISTRY By Martini

THERE is presented herewith a summary of qualities or characteristics revealed by signs in the hands that will aid in answering questions easily and quickly.

Acquisitiveness (Fig. 1).—All fingers curved inward; head line long and straight (a); no stretch between first finger and thumb (b).

Adaptability (Fig. 2).—Thumb flexible, especially so in first joint (a); fingers and palm flexible; head line sloping (b).

Calculation (Fig. 3).—Fingers long and knotted (a); head line long and straight (b); little finger long and square (c).

Conventionality (Fig. 4).—Fingers straight and stiff and set close together (a); palm stiff and thumb straight (b).

Deceit (Fig. 5).—Little finger long (a); head line sloping and forked (b); hand partially closed when sitting; also very soft or flabby.

Idleness (Fig. 6).—Palm fat and soft, with no knuckles visible, and fingers tapering, venus large (a); moon large (b).

Melancholy (Fig. 7).—Fingers long (a); mount of Saturn large (b); mount of Mercury flat or missing (c); mount of moon high and developed near the wrist (d); head line sloping to or into the mount of moon (e); fingers often knotted.

Narrow-mindedness (Fig. 8).—The quadrangle very narrow (a); head line straight (b); fingers and thumb conventional (c).

Religion (Fig. 9).—Finger of Jupiter straight and pointed (a); good heart and head lines (b).

Timidity is indicated by a depression at the third phalanages of fingers; head and life line joined for some distance into the hand; thumb small; upper mount of Mars flat or absent.

Anger is shown by red nails, and lines very high in color and deep; nails with square bases show revenge.

Foolishness is betrayed by a weak first phalanx of thumb; head line sloping and short; hand soft.

COIFFURE ORNAMENTS A-GLITTER

THE newest styles are the fluffy plumes in white, black or the light pastel shades with gold, silver or iridescent drops of pearls on the ends of each feather, making a glittering drop that is most effective, for the ornament is comparatively high and the bright ends fall directly on the hair. These are made in two designs, the short, broad one, that tall women will like, and the high, rather narrow kind for women small in stature.

Another entirely new style of decoration is a butterfly made of velvet and silk net with plenty of bright spangles that glisten. In light pink, blue, a delicate green or pale yellow, these insects are most attractive. They are made with a long, slender velvet body and two sets of wings fashioned of velvet and net. They are made over small silk covered wires, so that they will hold their shape.

Not as unique, but quite as original, are the velvet and net quill-like ornaments that are worn on the side of a high coiffure. There are two of these imitation feathers in each of the decorations. They are made on wires, the quill ends being of solid velvet in a light color, with half of the feather of velvet and the other part in net of a shade to match. The velvet half is prettily adorned with a very narrow piece of gold gimp put on in squares. The two quills are securely fastened together and are tied with a maline in a large double bow with short ends.

A pretty ornament of flowers is made in a tiara shape of white silk lilies of the valley, with two deep red roses that fall gracefully over the ear. Another floral ornament is of forget-me-nots. It is made like a wreath, and entirely encircles the crown of the head. At one side of it there is a shrub-like bunch of the flowers that relieves its flat appearance and makes it particularly becoming to small women, for it gives the effect of height.

Bows of velvet and net with spangles, worn at the side of the hair or directly in front, are pretty and simple enough for a young girl, though in black with jet ornaments they are especial favorites of elderly women.

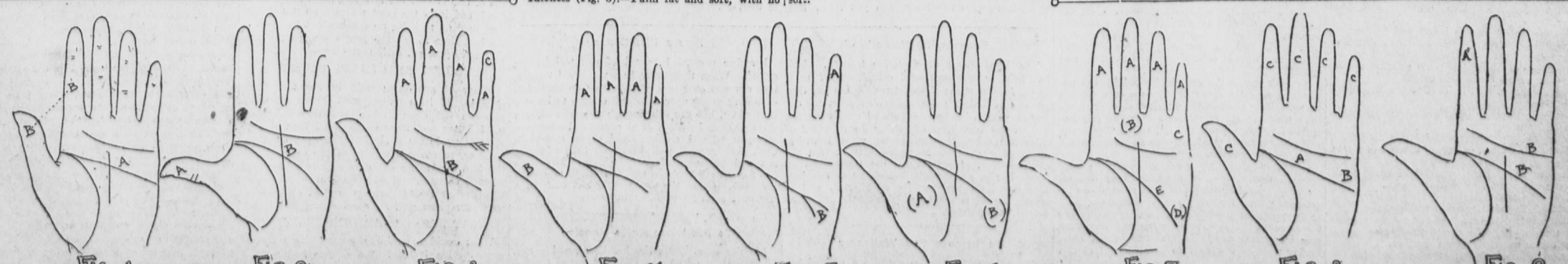

Fig. 1. Acquisitiveness. Fig. 2. Adaptability Fig. 3. Calculation Fig. 4. Conventionality Fig. 5. Deceit. Fig. 6. Idleness. Fig. 7. Melancholy. Fig. 8. Narrow-Mindedness. Fig. 9. Religion.