

DIDN'T STAND TEST

Reader's Caustic Criticism of Modern Heroine.

They Lack the "Honey" Qualities of the Characters in the Pages of Dickens, Is One Thing He Has Noticed.

Doctor Pedbury picked up the gayly bound novel that lay on his patient's counterpane.

"Well, Hosen," he inquired, "how's the light literature prescription working? Good story? Mighty pretty girl on the cover, anyhow."

"Ain't read it and ain't a-going to," declared Hosen aggressively. "Girl's pretty enough, but no three hundred pages of her doin's for me. She don't stand the test. They don't any of 'em. Cover or frontispiece; there's only two sorts of 'em, and I don't like either. I ain't pertick'ler whether they're tall or short, skinny or dimply, kysyish or light complected; but I do want 'em a nice, likable-lookin' sort of humans—and they ain't. You put 'em to the button test, and it downs 'em."

"The button test? What's that?" asked Doctor Pedbury.

"Oh, I s'pose there's others," admitted Hosen, "but that's the easiest; just

s'pose a feller wants a button sewed on—wants it right off. Well, he hangs his coat on his arm and goes to one of those girls. 'Gwendolen Gertrude,' says he, 'I want to wear this coat, there's a button off. Can you fix it?' Well—Hosen displayed the Imperial beauty on the book cover—"Just look at her, doc. You know what she says without me tellin' ye. 'Base slave, begone!' or 'Minion, avunt!' or 'Impertinent Rube, go ask your grandmother!' or some little thing of that sort. That's the general idee; that's the way Gwendolen Gertrude looks.

"And there's lots to her—chin up, head back, eyes shut; handsome critters; but gosh! who'd want to ask a favor of 'em?—less by telephone, so's he could drop the receiver quick before he got an answer. Well, that's some folks' idee of a lovely heroine, I s'pose—but it ain't mine.

"The other kind ain't so dangerous lookin', but she ain't much more use. Jest frivolous. Hosen or kinty, one or t'other. 'Elsie Marce, here's a button wants sewin'; s'pose you could do it?' 'Elsie Marce, she laughs pretty and shows nice teeth and says, pleasant. 'Why, yes, of course'; only she's got engagements up to the middle of next week, and, anyways, the buttons she sews ain't warranted to stay on more'n an hour or so; so maybe, after all, 'twould be as well to ask somebody else. Well, that's Elsie Marce; and she ain't my notion of a lovely heroine, either.

"Heroines were different when I was young. Dickens' heroines, now; they was real nice and lovable besides bein' pretty, and their pieties looked it. That little Dot woman with the baby, and that Ruth girl that made the beef-steak puddin'—they'd ha' stood the button test all right.

"Well, doctor? Say, reach me that seed catalogue off the table fast, won't ye; and, say, if ye would stop to the library as ye pass and ask Bill Hickens for a copy of Nicholas Nickleby—mine's such bad print ma won't let me read it in bed—and bring it along next visit, I'd appreciate it a lot. Thank you, doctor! I thought you wouldn't mind."—Youth's Companion.

Australian Water Holes.

A curious form of water hole is found in the deserts of western Australia, dry by day but yielding an abundant supply of water by night. The flow of water is preceded by weird hissing and sounds of rushing air. On examining one it was found that the water supply occurred in a long narrow trench, at the bottom of which was a thin plate of gneiss, separated by a cavity from the main rock mass beneath. Apparently the heat of the day causes this plate to expand in the form of a depression, in which the water retreats. When it cools and contracts at night it forces first air and then water back into the trench.



Latest portrait of Queen Elizabeth of Belgium, who with King Albert and their three children are to visit the United States in the near future.

WIFE GETS NEW HAT, YET SHE COMPLAINS

Says Husband Is Liberal Spender Except When Household Is Concerned.

Twenty cents will not purchase a suitable hat for the wife of a man who earns \$2,000 a month.

This point was decided, officially and finally, by the appellate division of the supreme court in New York when it affirmed the decree of separation awarded by Justice Pendleton to Mrs. Clara H. Montgomery against her husband, Joseph R. Montgomery, who is a raw sugar buyer for Arbuckle Brothers.

Mrs. Montgomery stated in affidavits opposing her husband's application to have set aside the separation order that her husband was a liberal spender except where it came to his household.

He would allow her only \$1 a day for food and nothing for clothing, except on one occasion when he doled out 20 cents with which to purchase a new spring bonnet, she declared. She said she was forced to borrow bread from neighbors during the day, and on telling her husband of this on his return to the

house at night, he would personally seize the bread to be returned to her so that the neighbors got none the best of it.

Doctor bills he also balked at, she said, and on numerous occasions when these fell due he remarked with evident cheerfulness that he could bury his wife for less than it would cost to settle with the physicians. Alimony later will be fixed by Justice Pendleton. Before their separation the Montgomerys lived at 134 West One Hundred and Eightieth street.

Life's Damage.

It is much easier to die than to take a vacation. A man who is summoned to his last long voyage may set his house in order in an hour; a few words, written or dictated, will dispose of his possessions, and his heirs will gladly attend to the details. This done, he may fold his hands on his chest and depart this vexatious life in peace. It is quite another matter to prepare for a few weeks away from town. There are bills to be paid; the iceman, and the milkman, and the laundryman must be choked off, and the daily paper restrained from littering the doorstep. There is hair to be cut, and teeth to be tinkered, and so on. In short, it takes days to stop the machinery of living for a fortnight, and days to start it going again. But, my dear, one must have a change.—Chicago Tribune.

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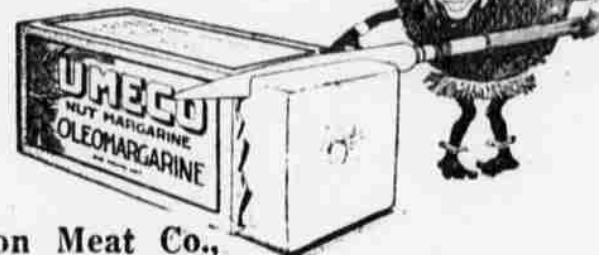
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