

The Bee's Home Magazine Page

On Maintaining Appearances

Fable About the Woman Who Tried and What It Taught Her

By ANN LISLE.

There was once a woman who found herself suddenly thrown on her own resources. Fortunately, the resources were there. She sold all that had made her life beautiful and decorative and took the proceeds to buy useful things that in turn she might sell these and earn a livelihood therewith.

Out of the wreck she kept but one expensive thing—a very beautiful and wonderful fur coat which her husband had given her in the days before his life and his fortune had terminated abruptly.

The woman had a little baby to support and the only means she found available was to go up to the wilds of Canada and introduce a line of knit goods to the shopkeepers there. The fur coat, she felt, would save her from colds and pneumonia which might endanger her own life and so her baby's means of support and life as well.

Besides, she was quite sure that the charming appearance the fur coat would enable her to make, however cheaply she was clad underneath, would be distinctly an asset to her business.

The first town to which she came housed a large store which her employer had told her was good for a thousand dollar order and a 10 per cent commission to her. She went in to see the proprietor, and could not quite decide whether he admired her sweaters and shawls and baby jackets or whether his admiration was all for her beautiful fur coat.

Finally, after he had examined her goods thoroughly, he told her to return the next day when he would have made his choice between her line and that of a competitor. The woman had no doubt of success, for the competitor's line was inferior in quality and equal in price.

The next day she returned, confident of success. Said the kindly proprietor of the Canadian emporium: "I gave that other poor devil the order. He needed it so much worse than you. I realized that an order like mine couldn't mean much to a woman who had a coat like yours."

The woman went back to her cold bed room and flung herself across it, sobbing and quite heedless of whether she crumpled her coat or not. The next day in another ancient town, she got an order. But she went after dressed in a \$12.00 black broadcloth she had bought in a bargain basement.

When she got back to New York she found her seal coat for just half its value. "It cost me a lot, and it lost me a lot. It taught me a lot," said she. MORAL.—When skim milk masquerades as cream, people who are used to a fragrant cream may be afraid of it.

Do You Know That

Glass coffins have been found in England.

The battle of Waterloo lasted eight hours.

The United States provides more than half of the world's total production of copper.

Half an hour of the goosestep does as much for the muscles of the leg as half a day's route marching.

In the froids on the Norway coast the clearness of the water is wonderful. Small objects may be seen at a depth of twenty-five to thirty fathoms.

AFTER SUFFERING TWO LONG YEARS

Mrs. Aselin Was Restored to Health by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Minneapolis, Minn.—"After my little one was born I was sick with pains in my sides which the doctors said were caused by inflammation. I suffered a great deal every month and grew very thin. I was under the doctor's care for two long years without any benefit. Finally after repeated suggestions to try it we got Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. After taking the third bottle of the Compound I was able to do my housework and today I am strong and healthy again. I will answer letters if anyone wishes to know about my case."—Mrs. JOSEPH ASELIN, 656 Fourth Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn.

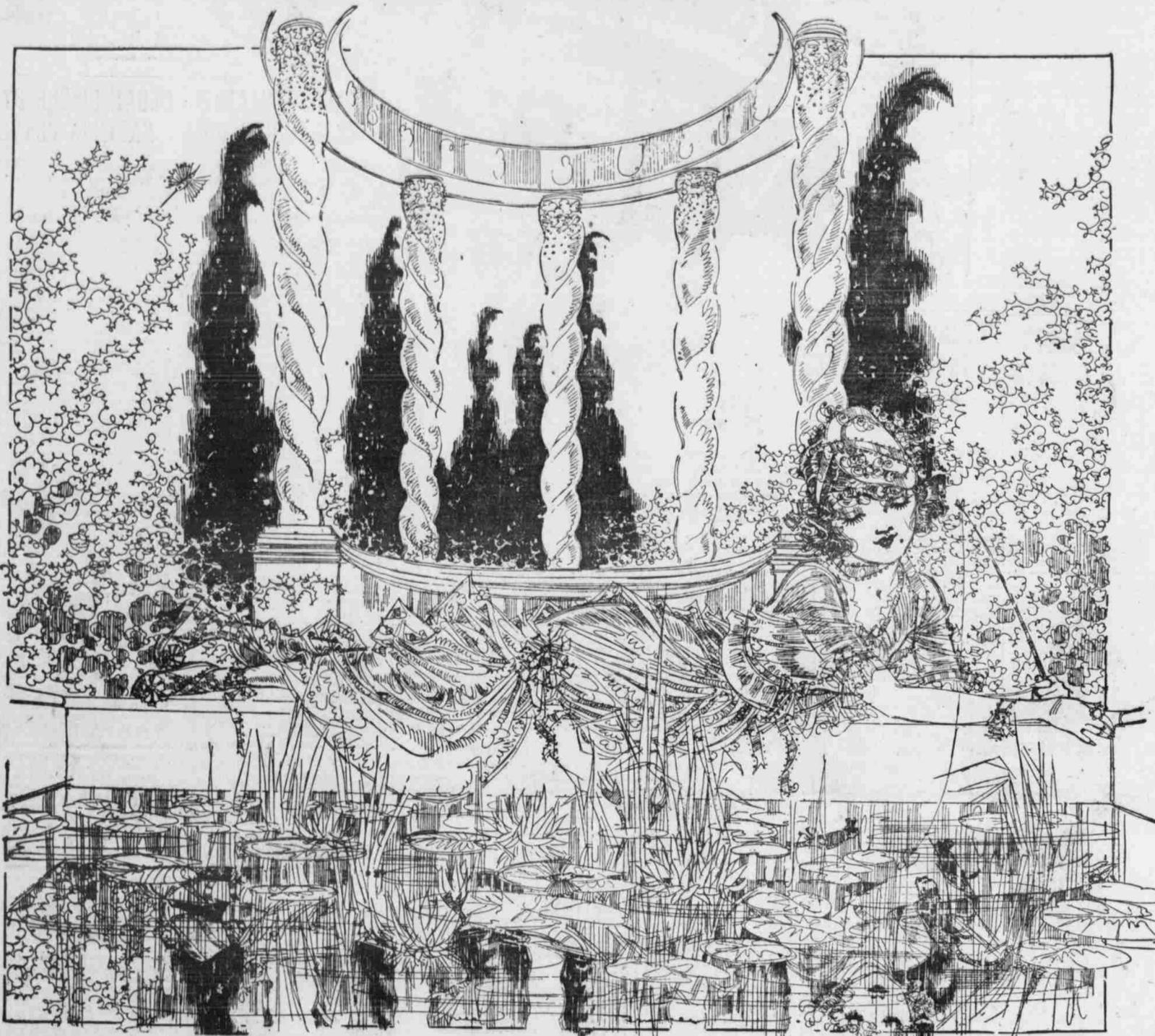
Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, made from native roots and herbs, contains no narcotics or harmful drugs, and today holds the record of being the most successful remedy we know for woman's ills. If you need such a medicine why don't you try it?

If you have the slightest doubt that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound will help you, write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (Confidential) Lynn, Mass., for advice. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman, and held in strict confidence.

"Good Fishing Weather"

By NELL BRINKLEY

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The lawyer squirms in his turning chair till he can get a glimpse of the Summer sky and the remote silver of the bay. Observing the soft gray sky and the soft gray water and soft southern wind, he mourns, "Great guns! This is great fishing weather! The big fel-

lows are biting today like so many pet kittens. If I only could get away. Great fishing weather!"

But there's an angler who doesn't need "weather." Just the right bait, that's all. Of course, Summer-time's the best time. She's a quirky little fellow with curls and a child-smile, and a tongue of

honey, and a way of looking up in a "fish's" face that says, "My, but you know a lot—most everything, don't you?" and with a soft little heart on her bent pin she draws them in one by one! She snaps her fingers at "fishing weather!" What does that matter when you know the bait for any weather!—NELL BRINKLEY.

How to Keep a Husband

By DOROTHY DIX.

The bureau of public welfare of Chicago has been making an exhaustive study of the problem of wife desertion. The result of their investigation shows that men are not apt to leave their wives if the wife is: Big and strong and healthy. If she is a good cook. If she is sweet tempered, helpful, interested and affectionate. If there are children in the family. If the husband is a man earning a small salary. On the other hand, husband desertion is an ever present peril to the wife who is: Sickly and physically weak. Is extravagant, shrewish and untidy. Is over critical and nagging. If there are no children. If the husband is a large money earner. This report contains much food for thought for all women, because it squares with common experience and observation. Also, because it gives a tip to every wife who has sense enough to take one, on how to keep her husband happy and contented, and from wishing that he had the courage to duck and run.

For, believe me, dear ladies, not every man is a wife deserter who would like to be one, or who at various times has contemplated being one. So your danger is greater than you think, and it's up to you to take out a little husband insurance by taking to heart the garnered wisdom of this report on the why of wife desertion.

The first thing about it that strikes one is that it turns a searchlight on the

exceeding humanness of husbands—which is a thing that the average woman never takes into consideration. She regards a husband as either a little tin god or a brute. She expects him to be either a superman who will not be irritated by her own follies and weaknesses, or notice whether the cooking is good or bad, or else she sets him down as a mean, grouchy tyrant who will find fault no matter what she does.

All this is far and away from the truth. The average husband is just a plain, everyday sort of a man, who wants things comfortable at home, who desires to be met when he comes home at night by a bright, cheerful, chummy wife, who isn't above banding him out plenty of soft soap and jolly him along, and who sets him down to a good dinner in a tidy house.

Given all these things, and especially when there is a strong tie of parenthood to bind a man and woman together, and the danger of a husband deserting his wife is almost negligible. That is what this report means.

Before marriage, beauty and grace and fine clothes may attract a man, but after marriage it is good nature, and sympathy, and cheerful companionship that holds him.

The man who is married to a woman who meets all the exigencies of life with fortitude and philosophy, who knows how to make allowances for his faults and failings and who never throws his mistakes up to him, couldn't be dragged away from her side by wild horses. Nor do you ever hear of men asking for divorces from wives who are crack-jack cooks, and who make home a place of peace and rest.

Man's matrimonial ideal is expressed in Mrs. Boffin's favorite motto, "Oh, Lord, let's be comfortable! Do!"

On the contrary, just as the woman who is amiable and thrifty and efficient, grasps her husband to her with hooks of steel, so the woman who is shrewish

and nagging and wasteful and extravagant and a bad cook and manager, is in danger of losing hers.

For my part I have never blamed the man who was married to a wife and whose whole life was spent in an accompaniment of recrimination and reproaches from leaving her.

Also I have ever felt that when a man gets a wife so lazy and trifling that she will not learn to cook and keep house decently that the law should give him the right to dump her back on her parents, on the ground that they have paid off an inferior grade of goods on him. He's been flim-flammed.

That mere men do not do this, and that so many men stick by the bad matrimonial bargains they have made and so on enduring a married life that is an earthly purgatory, when there are a dozen railroad trains out of every city on which they could fade away and leave their miseries behind them, is one of the greatest proofs of the inherent nobility of humanity that I know. But it's one that wives should not take too many liberties with.

There is one other significant point in the Welfare Research committee's report on the wife deserter that should be a comfort to poor women and that is that the lack of money often means the continued possession of a husband. For one thing, the very struggle that a poor couple make to get along brings them very close together and gives them a mutual interest that holds a family intact. For another, the man who has not money to spend is out of the zone of temptation of the adventuresome, who pursue every rich man; so the poor woman stands a better chance of holding her husband than the rich one.

On the whole, the report of the Welfare Research committee is full of hope, for it shows that all that a woman has to do to keep her husband is to be cheerful and amiable herself, and feed him well, and keep him poor. All of which any woman can do—especially the last item.

Gigantic Size of Some of the Stars

GARRETT P. SERVIS.

"Which star has the greater area, Sirius or Capella? Also, please give dimensions of both.—Gerard Golding, Chicago." The "area," or disk, of no star is visible, even with the most powerful telescopes. The stars are all so remote that they become mere points of light, although these points are virtually magnified into spurious-looking disks of different sizes of light. The larger the telescope the smaller the spurious disk of star with the same magnifying power. But the star looks brighter with the larger telescope, because more of its light is concentrated in its telescopic image.

The differences of brightness similarly affect the naked eye, and the brighter star the larger it looks although in every case the real diameter of the star subtends an angle too small to be visually appreciated. But there is an indirect method of estimating the probable size of various stars, which gives some very interesting results. By taking into account both the relative distance and the relative brightness we can determine the actual amount of light emitted by any star whose distance is measurable by using the sun as a standard. To illustrate this method, take the two stars that you inquire about—Sirius and Capella. To our eyes Sirius appears about five times as bright as Capella, but this is an illusory superiority, due to the fact that Capella is much more distant than Sirius. If they were at an equal distance Capella would far outshine Sirius. According to the best estimates, Capella is about 200 times more luminous than

the sun and Sirius only 40 times. Here is the principle on which such calculations rest: First, compare, by means of careful measurements, the amount of light that we receive from the star in question with the amount received from the sun. The comparison is not easily made, and the results obtained by different observers vary rather widely. But we may take as fairly accurate the estimate which makes the light received on the earth from Sirius one-seventh-millionth of that received from the sun. Now, the distance of Sirius is about 53,000 times the distance of the sun, and if both were equal in actual luminosity then the sun at Sirius's distance, ought to appear just as bright as Sirius.

Remembering that light varies inversely as the square of the distance, let us calculate how bright the sun would be at 53,000 times its present distance. The square of 53,000 is, in round numbers,

2,809,000,000, which, taken inversely, shows that the light of the sun, at the distance of Sirius, would be reduced to only one 280-thousand-millionth of its present amount. But Sirius, at that same distance, gives us one 7-thousand-millionth of the sun's present light, whence it follows that Sirius must be, in reality, 280 divided by 7, or 40 times more luminous than the sun.

To form some idea of the size of the stars, or the area of their surfaces, we must begin by making an assumption concerning their surface brightness as compared with that of the sun, per unit area. Suppose, for simplicity's sake, that we assume that the amount of light emitted from each square mile of Sirius is the same as that from each square mile of the sun. Then, since the total luminosity of Sirius is 40 times the sun's, and since the areas of circles vary as the square root of 40, which is about 6 1/2, one of the circles, the disk of Sirius, is 40 times greater in area than the other. The diameter of Sirius must be the square root of 40, which is about 6 1/2 times the diameter of the sun. This would make Sirius about 6,485,000 miles in diameter. But there are many reasons for thinking that the luminosity of the surface of Sirius, area per area, is much greater than that of the sun's surface, so that it is probable that it exceeds the sun in size far less than the calculation just made would indicate.

In the case of Capella, however, we have a star whose constitution appears to resemble very closely that of the sun, and we can, with more confidence, make the assumption that its surface brilliance equals the sun's per unit area.

Then, applying the same calculation again, we find that the diameter of Capella should be the square root of 20 (the number of times it exceeds the sun in total luminosity) times the diameter of the sun. The square root of 20 is about 4 1/2, which makes the possible diameter of the star Capella nearly 11,200,000 miles.

Snap-Shots

Common sense may tell you when to begin, but it takes judgment to know when to stop.

Common sense counsels many an unromantic woman to save her love letters. Her lawyer may need them some day.

Common sense keeps men from flirting with widows. They find it quite unnecessary.

Common sense doesn't keep some people from giving themselves away—nor others from being sold!

Common sense ought to keep men from arguing with women. If the eternal feminine is right, man loses; if she is wrong, she weeps—and then how can he win?