

Why Are Men Happier in Marriage Than Women?

*Few Husbands Would Try for a Divorce
---Because They Like Solid Comfort!*



Charles Dana Gibson's "Suggestion for ill-assorted pairs", as published by Life in the days of the Gibson Girl.

By Jean Rendlen

SINCE the stone age man first chiseled a now unfamiliar hieroglyphic, marriage has been the inspiration of the music of the universe, the world's greatest masterpieces of art and literature, the biggest murder headlines in Metropolitan dailies, and the spiciest gossip of country clubs and "back fences".

It's always going wrong and it's always going right. Millions remain unmarried, but psychologists tell us that regardless of this, marriage is the predominating thought of every man and woman. There are those who say that the fellow who "will never marry" gives it more thought than those who have taken the leap!

However, whatever you may think about it and whatever your "Bohemian" friends may say about the grand old institution "going on the rocks" — it's all "pure stuff and twattle" — because there are more marriages, per population, today than there were in grandmother's day! If you don't believe it look around. Take the popular pair, Mr. and Mrs. William G. McAdoo, for instance — or Governor and Mrs. Frank F. Merriam of California. They're having a grand time together — and don't seem to mind being married a bit!

Statistics prove that marriage has increased in popularity steadily for the past 40 years. Going back to 1887 we find that for every thousand people the percentage of marriage was 8.7 while the figure in 1905 was 10 per cent. 1932 is the only year when it fell below, due to the depression, and this was 7.87 per cent. Then the percentage gets back to its former height.

What then causes the general belief that marriage as an institution is on the rocks? Unhappiness!

STRANGELY enough, it seems that more and more individuals are growing restless — so that today the problem is "how to be happy though married". No less an authority than Bertrand Russell declares that "the more civilized people become, the less capable they seem of lifelong happiness with one partner". This being on the theory that marriages are easiest where people are least differentiated, such as in peasant life, but when people have multifarious



The popular Mr. and Mrs. William G. McAdoo have a grand time together, despite the disparity of their ages—and don't seem to mind being married a bit! This pair is typical of what a happy marriage can mean.

tastes and pursuits and interests, they want congeniality in their partners, and feel dissatisfied when they find that they have secured less of it than they might have obtained.

Accordingly, I asked 200 men and women this question: "If you could press a button and find you had never been married, would you press that button?"

This is exactly the same question that Dr. G. V. Hamilton, New York psychiatrist asked 200 people — and both of us got approximately the same type of answers. Dr. Hamilton found that 128 said "no"! My results were better, since 135 said "no" to me.

Seeking the reason for this I found that men

were happier and more contented in marriage than women. Men seem, these days, to cherish a home more than women. Don't be misguided here however — they were not necessarily head over heels in love with their wives, but they would hesitate to dissolve the union because they were comfortable!

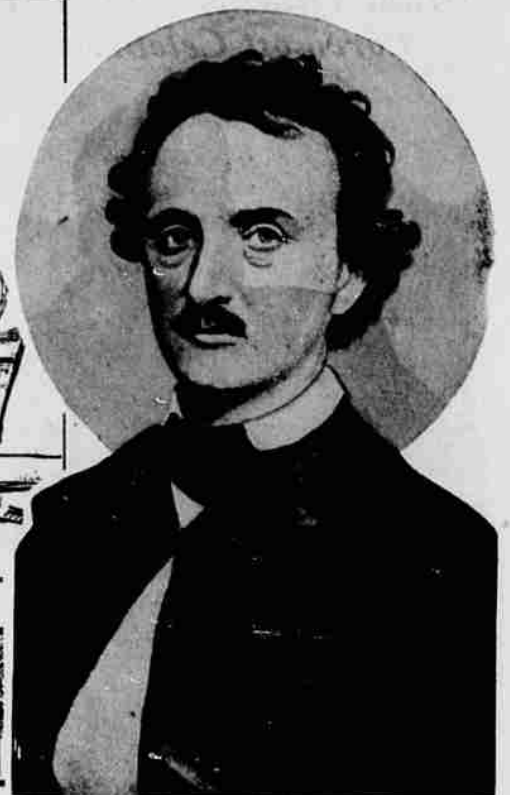
Most men gave this reaction, when they found they were not to be quoted or become involved by telling the truth. The women who would stay married for the most part were still in love with their husbands.

Telephoning psychologists and psychiatrists, I was informed (by almost all) that marriage in which the woman was older than the man had a

better chance of success than where the man was the oldest.

This explodes the generally accepted belief that a man should be older than the woman. There are many marriages around you which might testify to this (if you could really know the woman's age!) The outstanding examples in the West of such successes are to be found in the lives of many famous writers. Robert Louis Stevenson, married a woman 10 years his senior and ripened to fame and success with his wife, not to overlook the great happiness which was his.

One very successful business man gave the clue to this when he said that "all men want to



Edgar Allen Poe, literary genius of an earlier day, who never recovered from the loss of his wife. Her death influenced the morbid tone of his work.

play with their toys, even after they're grown up. When little they have toy yachts and when old and financially able they have real ones." He pointed to the number of men who play with toy railroads and get a real thrill from the experience. In other words he said, in effect, that men never grew up! If this is true then it must mean that men still want to be mothered! And here is where the older woman succeeds as a wife.

ONE man who said that he would push that button if he could obtain freedom, explained it by saying that he still had the "illusion" that somewhere there was the "right" woman. Being an intelligent person he added that "human beings need their illusions. If they did not, there would be no market for story books and motion pictures."

In the questionnaire sent out was the query, "What changes would you suggest?" to which many gave very interesting answers. One said, "There are a hundred more nearly civilized and certainly more effective customs, practiced among primitive East African races. We might profitably adopt most any one of these. Or, staying closer to home, something possibly could be gained by relaxation of the so-called conventions and proprieties, more freedom of movement both before and after the ceremony, less intimacy, less display of the sense of possession, and undoubtedly less hypocrisy in our attitude toward the whole married relation — or by anything else which is calculated to perpetuate the period of courtship."

"But all that probably is futile, because after all, we cannot remold human nature. Instinct would seem to demand new thrills and new experiences. People, like cattle, are disposed to rove in the never ending search for more luscious verdure. And, admit it or not, observation would indicate that the female of the species is more deeply afflicted by that insatiable desire than is the more dull, and less energetic male. It was the fear of loss, perhaps, which made chivalry build barriers around its womenkind."

Returning to that authority Bertrand Russell, there is found a new solution of "how to be happy though married" and that is in freedom to range in other emotional fields, a freedom that is to be recognized by both men and women. He says "There must be a feeling of complete equality on both sides; there must be no interference with mutual freedom; there must be the most complete physical and mental intimacy; and there must be a certain similarity in regard to standards of values. Given these conditions, I believe marriage to be the best and most important relation that can exist between two human beings. If it has not often been realized hitherto, that is chiefly because husband and wife have regarded themselves as each other's policeman. If marriage is to achieve its possibilities, husbands and wives must learn to understand that whatever the law may say, in their private lives they must be free."

Wives registering complaints against husbands listed almost 800 various things that irritated them, while husbands had less than 100 things they held against women.

THIS brings us to the fact that wives are more unhappy in marriage than husbands. The men have listed such things as temperament, selfishness, lack of intelligence, lack of affection, lack of social qualities and lack of sex adequacy.

Outstanding is the fact that practically no men mentioned clothes in the complaints or desires in regard to their wives, so it is safe to conclude that clothes do not mean as much to men as to women.

While authorities on psychology, behaviorism, and sex all give various answers to unhappiness in marriage, a check up reveals that most of the loss of glamour in regard to the great state of matrimony is caused by the simple virtues — or rather the lack of them, such as selfishness, affection, understanding, and the plain homey virtue of being able to laugh in the face of adversity!

Actually, when all checking up is done and all is said, the institution of matrimony is doing rather well. It may not be the glamorous thing for men that they experienced as bride-grooms, but they are happy in it because they like a home and its comforts — and — well, a home without a wife in it doesn't rate so much!

Tacoma Harbor Diver Brings Up Wreckage From Old Andelana

Wayne's Adventure Revives a Tale of the Coast's Strangest Disaster

By F. M. Lockerby

DEEP sea diving has its thrills, and many a tale of adventure has been written about men engaged in this underwater pursuit. But scarcely less adventuresome, although it sounds more prosaic, is the life of a harbor diver. Take George Wayne, veteran Tacoma, Wash., diver. He has followed the sea for years and most of that time he has been a diver. Yet one of his greatest adventures took place in the placid waters of Tacoma's harbor while he was engaged in a routine task.

While diving in search of a lost anchor, Wayne brought up a portion of the wreckage of the British ship, Andelana. Thereby, he revived the story of one of the strangest maritime disasters of the Pacific Coast, the sinking of the Andelana, with all hands aboard, while she was anchored off a Tacoma dock on January 14, 1899. Sixteen men are supposed to have lost their lives when the Andelana sank.

The Andelana was an all-steel vessel. She had come to Tacoma to load wheat for Liverpool, and was moored in deep water off the dock of the St. Paul & Tacoma lumber mill. Her holds had been cleared preparatory to stowing cargo and there was comparatively little ballast aboard when the men knocked off work the night of January 13, intending to commence loading wheat the next morning.

They never began their task, for the Ande-

lana capsized between 2 and 3 a.m., going down in 23 fathoms of water. Her entire crew, with the exception of one man who was ashore in a hospital at the time, was asleep below decks and sank with her.

Tugs grappled for the ship the next day and hauled her. Towed into shallower water, efforts were made to raise her. The anchor, which weighed 4,500 pounds, was brought to the surface and was sold by the salvagers for \$1,000. But all efforts to raise the Andelana herself were unsuccessful.

PRESUMABLY the skeletons of the officers and men of the Andelana still lie inside the ship and Wayne hopes some day to be instrumental in bringing the hulk to the surface so that the mystery surrounding their death may be solved. He declares that finding a portion of the wreckage of the Andelana gave him one of his greatest thrills as a diver.

Wayne makes frequent excursions into the depths of Tacoma's harbor in quest of things that have been dropped from ships. He prefers to work in depths of about 75 feet and can stay down for as long as three hours, if necessary. He has been down as far as 150 feet on numerous occasions for two hours at a time, but he says the pressure at such depths is too great for comfort.

The suit that he wears on these trips weighs



George Wayne inspects his helmet before it is placed over his head and he slips into the water for a stroll on the bottom.

several hundred pounds. It is in one piece, shoes included, but the helmet screws on afterwards. It requires the assistance of three men and a boy

for him to don the outfit. Putting on the outfit is a hot job and Wayne gets plenty warm before his aides are through attaching his telephones and air hoses. He is usually sweating by the time he is lowered into the water. Then he begins to get cold. The suit blows up like a balloon under water and the weight is partially neutralized so that he can walk around on the bottom of the bay without much difficulty. His hands stick out of rubber cuffs and generally are pretty blue and numb by the time he yanks his safety line to be hoisted to the surface. His visibility generally is about four or five feet. Some times, he says, fish swim up and peer into the helmet at him seemingly in amazement. Although he has been diving for a number of years, he has never suffered illness from it.

COMMANDER EDWARD ELLSBERG in his book, "On the Bottom" tells of diving exploits and persistent courage and ingenuity in overcoming great difficulties and dangers of the men that work "in the deep."

"When the causes of 'the bends' had been laid bare, and proper tables of decompression worked out by experiment, diving in deep water became practical enough to permit work to be done after a fashion, though at great expense and considerable hazard.

"Everything that the diver sees is magnified by the water, but he rarely sees much. In northern seas, the water is nearly opaque, and objects an feet away are often invisible. It resembles looking through a ground glass window; light comes through, but nothing is seen. Conditions are often even worse than this; if the bottom is muddy, fine silt rises up in the water in clouds and objects even a foot away are invisible.

Under such conditions, even powerful lights cannot pierce the water, and a diver a few feet from a boat has no idea where to look for it.