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A Contemptible Trick.

Showing That There Are More Ways Than One of Interfering With a Womao's intentions.

By P. A. MITCHEL

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Left an orphan when I was a very little girl, I was brought up by a naiden aunt, a woman of considerable brain and will power. I had hardly

been settled in her house before she

laid out a course for me to pursue, "I shall give you a good education." she said, "and an education is a foundation on which a woman may build a career as well as a man. I'm not going to educate you that you may occupy a subordinate position in some man's office; not going to make a stenographer of you to take down some man's dicta-tion-no man ever dictated to me. I shall give you a profession. But when you have been graduated I shall expect you to practice. It is not my intention to spend money on you to be thrown away. I don't propose that after giving you a profession some man suni come along, talk a lot of nonsense to you and render all I have spent on you abortive. If a woman is going to be a lawyer or a doctor she must begin by putting all notions of love and marriage out of her head."

Considering that my aunt made this appropriement to me when I was but twelve years old, it is not to be expected that it made any other impression on me than that I was to follow the path she laid down for me. It evidently did not occur to her that I was rather young to agree when grown to place myself in opposition to nature's laws. Nevertheless, she accepted my promise that I would repay her kindness in educating me by making myself the old maid she was herself and spend my life listening to people teliabout their aches and pains instead Make a point of putting all anxiets of hearing the prattle of my own chil-

Nevertheless, my aunt was a good woman despite her crankiness. She took admirable care of me, and when I became old enough to choose a profession I selected medicine. My aunt dled shortly after I had received my diploma and left me a legacy sufficient to give me a start in my profession. The last thing she said to me was: Remember your promise. You will be sorely tempted because you are very good looking. Men will try to draw you away from the path of duty, but you must not listen to them. What they will want of you is to make you a slave. Be constantly on your guard."

As to the temptation, my aunt was My being thrown into a field of lawhom were intelligent and attractive. impracticable expedient. was probably the cause of my receiv ing a number of proposats. But I not myself resolutely to carry out my nunt's intentions regarding me, feeting bound in honor to do so. I refused all my sultors, devoting myself exclusively to my practice. I found it impossible to keep the fact that I was pledged to cellbary from being known, and I believe that for this reason I was especially sought in marriage. Nothing is so desirable as that

which is impossible to obtain. I practiced two years and resisted all temptations to marry. One day an old lady came to see me and begged that I would make a diagnosis of a trouble that was afflicting her son. She said she believed there was something on her son's mind that he would not confide to his medical attendant. A man, she said, would be more likely to give his confidence in certain matters to a woman than one of his own sex. The invalid had been a trifler in love affairs, and she was not sure but that he had been caught in his own trap. If she could be sure of this

she might possibly find a remedy.

There was something winning in the old lady's solicitude lest her boy might he getting his just deserts. I was amused at the absurdity of a man having to call in a woman physician to cure him of a possible love malady. I did not attend men patients as a rule, partly because I had cured one man and he had given me his beart it. addition to my fee. But since this dear old lady'n invalid son was suspected to be already in love, even to the breaking down of his beaith, I saw no reason why I should not oblige her. So I promised to at least make

I found a fine looking young fellow some twenty-eight years old, six feet high and muscular. As I entered the room where he was lounging be looked be had evidently inherited from his mother. There was an unconscious be neutralized. strength about him that in a man is especially attractive to a woman. 1 did not wonder that be had fallen into patient's love he was winning mine. gailantry and could not but have some I awakened finally to the fact that my sympathy for him that he was suffer-ing the penalty. His mother with broken or I would become some doc-

ressionally, though I only asked him which I had cured my own. how he felt and to what cause he attributed his aliment; then I said to yield. I would not find a su

"You are not ill; you think you are." "I know it."

"I can't at present determin whether your trouble is mental or nervous. If there is anything on your mind you had better tell me. I can do nothing for you till I know the cause of your malady."

"I am only too glad to make a confidant of you, doctor, I am in love." "In that case you must be your own physician. I can do nothing for you." "But suppose this love is breaking

me down." "I told my mother that you would take that view of the case. My afe is worth nothing to me or any one else except my mother. I impiore you

anke." "I will. My prescription is plenty of outdoor exercise and mental occupation. Whenever the image of this un attainable girl comes up before you drive it out."

to try to do something for me for her

"l can't." "There is no such word as can't." prose to go.

"Will you come again?" he asked ruefully.

There was something both amusing a man clinging to me to save him from bimself. Nevertheless, I knew of no antedote for love and had no mind to waste my time dancing attendance on a man whose only allment was his devotion to some girl who didn't happen to fancy him. But I was obliged to confess to myself that there was something as attractive as ludicrous in it. The fond mother, who had probably been distening, at this point came in and said:

"Of course the doctor will come again. She will not leave you to suf-

"Not if I can be of service."

As I went out the patient followed me with his bandsome, melanchoty eyes, full of a longing that I could have understood had I been the girl who was torturing him. But under the circumstances it was very puzzling Before lenving I questioned has mother with a view of determining if there was any hereditary cause that would account for his condition, but she said all her ancestors on both sides

had been healthy in mind and body. I was at the time much interested in mental effects upon the body. I was sure that this young man's unrequired love had brought him into one of those conditions that are so puzzling to physicians. I told his mother this and advised her to attempt a removal of the fundamental cause. When suc asked me how to do this I suggested throwing her son and some fuscinating woman, other than the one ac loved, together. He would likely transfer his love and this would effect a cure. She promised to think about it, bor where I met many men, some of but seemed to consider it rather an

> A week later she called at my office, evidently very much troubled. said her son was no better; indeed. If there had been any change since my visit it was for the worse.

"I have thought of your plan, doc tor," she said. "of substituting another love, but I know of no one who I be lieve would be able to draw my son away from his infatuation. I named every girl of his acquaintance to him. asking if there was one be would like to have visit him, and he refused to see any of them. "I wouldn't mind seeing my doctor." he said, "as often as she will call."

And what did the poor old mother do, with tears in her eyes, but beg me to make an attempt to substitute myself in her son's affections for the woman he loved. I argued that even if successful I would only be repincing one cause by a similar one. She declared that instead the infatuation would be broken and her son would recover his health.

There was a professional problem involved-a problem as to the effect of mental causes of physical ailments. This and the mother's pleadings prevalled. I would cure the young man if I could, and after his cure-well, after that he must get on as best he

could without me. I visited him at intervals. I played no coquettish pranks upon him. I simply attempted to divert his mind by being as agreeable to him as I could. I chose those subjects for chat in which he was interested and found him in certain lines intellectually my superior. After every call I was rewarded for my pains by his dotting mother, who assured me that all was going well and ber son was steadily improving. Of course I tooked forward with misgivings to the day when my patient would be cured of one love to be tortured by another, but possibly up at me with a captivating smile that | third or a fourth might so dilute the poison that the physical effect would

A result occurred that I had not calculated upon. While I was wroning my drew and I began to question him pro- tor's patient for the same disease of

Nevertheless 1 determined not to field. I would not find a substitute, as would cease to see him. But he would not cense to see me. He followed me relentiessly. I fought him for ten months, then surrendered.

On the day my hasband and I returned from our wedding trip he gave me evidence of the value of my aunt's

"Sweetbeart," be said. "do you know that the illness which brought us to gether was all a put up lob on you?" "What do you mean?" I exclaimed opening my eyes.

"One day I heard some sawbones talking about you and your pledge to devote yourself to your profession and not to marry."

"You know the rest." As soon as I could get my breath I hissed, "it was a mean, contempt

A kiss stopped the rest.

FRATERNAL ORDERS OF LA

L. F. & A. M.-La Grande Lodge No. 41, A. F. & A. M. holds regular meet-7:30 p. m. Cordial welcome to all Masons. L. M. HOYT, W. M. A. C. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

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E E DANIELS. ED. HEATH. Clerk.

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