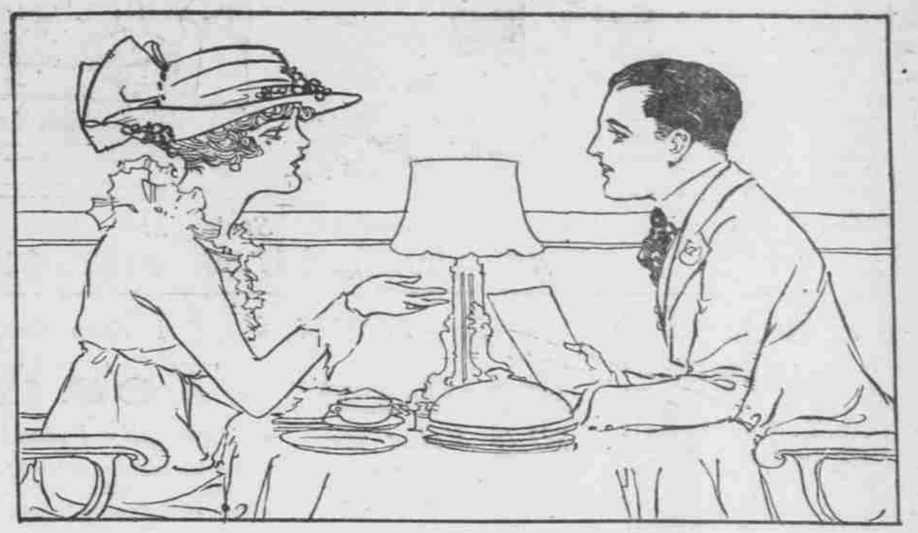
Is The American Girl Really "a Natural Grafter"?

Startling Question Raised by the Comments of Returning Soldiers and by Criticisms of the Modern Girl by Observers of Modern Ways

Adolph Brandes, infantryman, who says: "The American girl is the finest girl in the world, but I do wish she would cut down her expenses."



"SHE SAYS SHE LIKES TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, AND WHY SHOULDN'T HE PAY FOR IT?"

BY HELEN HOFFMAN.

IS THE American girl a parasite? Have the changes of war opened our eyes to what foreign visitors for years have been telling us, that the American girl, "a spoiled creature, demands more, gives less, than any other woman in the world?"

For years I have been hearing this criticism. Now reiterated by the returning soldier and the mothers of men of this country, I am almost beginning to believe it.

I asked the head of a family what he thought about the allegations that the American girl is a "natural grafter." He said this:

"Perhaps she isn't any more 'naturally' a grafter than other folks, but she has been brought to the grafting business by tradition and training, and being good at anything she sets her mind to she is as clever and successful a grafter as you can imagine. Of course women don't have reasons for things. They just do them. So that there is no way of getting at their motives. You get a glimpse of her state of mind when you ask her about a given case. She says she likes to have a good time, and why shouldn't he pay it?—he being the man in the case."

My head of a family gives me this bit of dialogue as typical:

"Why do you take money from that young man?"

"Money? I never took money from him."

The One Who Buys.

"Doesn't he pay money for the lunches and dinners? Doesn't he pay for everything?"

"Of course. Why not?"

"Why should he pay for your food?"

"Don't I give him my company?"

"Doesn't he give you his?"

"What an idea! His company!"

"Well, then, if you don't think his company is as good as yours you lunch with him for the money he spends. Does not that put you in a rather funny position? Doesn't that mean that you sell your company?"

"The idea!"

"You see," said my head of a family, "it couldn't get into her mind at all. The average girl feels no shame at taking money from a man, from any man. She claims that she is man's equal. She claims economic independence. But she continues to regard him as her natural prey when it comes to supplies. Even women who work for a living and have their own income—often as big as his—will take money from a man without a blush. She considers that all that is lavished on her is her right and his privilege. Her attitude is much like that of a dependent child. But she doesn't consider herself a dependent child. It would be only a joke if a tragedy didn't so often lurk behind it. You get the tragedy in the way earnest-minded young fellows feel about it without ever being able to say it to a girl. No man feels graceful raising such a question with women. And then pretty disastrous things happen to the lives of young men as a result of grasping women—both before and after marriage."

As a Woman Sees It.

Analyzing the present situation, moved by war changes, Mrs. Julian Heath, president of the Housewives' league, proud mother of a handsome sailor son, perpetual hostess to scores of entertainments and affairs given for the men in uniform, voices a strong appeal to the young American woman to consider the great problem at hand with the return of nearly 3,000,000 soldiers and sailors to this country.

Said Mrs. Heath:

"There is a type of girl all too numerous in this country—a girl who moves in highly respectable society, who would be offended to be called anything less than honorable, yet who has in her the makings of a parasite, or perhaps what one might call, in plain terms, a general all-around grafter."

"For years," asid Mrs. Heath, "young American men have tolerated her, have even indulged her and encouraged her extravagance, her selfishness, in marvelously generous, good-natured fashion.

"She is the same sort of girl today who can think of men acquaintances only in terms of theater tickets, handy escorts to cabarets and givers of flowers and candy. Well," said Mrs. Heath, "I'm afraid she will have to change her views or be compelled to confine herself to less desirable male society. Of course," she added, "there are still plenty of the sensible, old-fashioned sort of girls, but I often wish there were fewer of this other kind.

"The fact of the matter is, the great big idea that is written large and uppermost in every man's thoughts today is the word home.

"The boy who has been tossed about at sea for months, the boy who has been deprived of all the little homely comforts in the dugouts of France, the boy who is wearied of the bleak hospital walls of this and other countries, has one definite object in mind when he disembarks in port here, and that is—home.

"There is no more important question before the country today than the reclamation of the American home," said Mrs. Heath. "Women who have been doing all kinds of war work, particularly the big number who have given such splendid volunteer service, ought to permit this work to be taken over now by paid workers, if necessary, and they ought themselves to return home to do their duty as homemakers to the boys who need their helpful, stimulating society and sympathy at this time when they are trying to adjust themselves to normal life again.

"Always Had Their Hats On."

"At one of the big Saturday evening dances given by the war camp community service, of which I am one of the hostesses, I thought it odd to hear boys speak of visiting girls in the suburbs of New York and even in Jersey.

"I said, 'Can't you find any girls in New York to visit without going so far away?'

"What they told me only confirms my observation of the parasite girl. Their explanation bore a touch of pathos," said Mrs. Heath.

"The convalescent hero of an engineering corps, in his answer to me, reflected the reply of the others."

"'It's nice to be invited to a girl's home for the evening,' he said. 'It's been so long since I was in a home. At their invitation I called on some girls in New York, but they always had their hats on waiting for me to take them out to some place of amusement. I don't know why some people have homes. They don't like to stay in them. All these girls care about is what we can do for them. They're grafters. If we don't bring them candy when we call, or take them out to a movie or a cabaret, they've got no use for us.'

"I know from my own experience," said Mrs. Heath, "that these boys speak the truth. During the past winter, I threw open my house every Sunday afternoon and evening to men who had leave from nearby camps. I interested a number of girls to come every Sunday to help serve refreshments and sing and entertain the boys. The boys enjoyed it immensely, but I observed that the girls would become restive, that is to say, many of them would, and would be asked to be excused so they could keep an engagement to go to the movies or some lively entertainment.

Seeing Girls Differently.

"The boys, too, who used to look good naturedly upon the girls who used rouge and powder plentifully now ridicule this fashion or show their contempt for it. It seems they saw a good deal of this in their foreign war experience, and they like to think of the American girl as something different.

"Speaking of a group of girls they met one day, I heard the boys remark of them: 'Why, they were painted up like blue monkeys.' Now," said Mrs. Heath, "is this type of girl who represents a large class in the country going to permit herself to remain a back number, a part of a past programme, a past life in this country, or is she going to wake up and realize the possibilities of the greatest service a woman can render at this time, of being the right sort of companion to the man struggling to regain a new foothold in the life to which he has been stranger for many months?

"For the boys, I can say, and I have met and talked with hundreds of them," said Mrs. Heath, "they are not asking any favors; they have shown a splendid spirit of independence, as in one case of many that I can recall. I observed a growing friendship of a rich young woman and a returned soldier of good family, but no means. I remarked this to him jokingly one day. 'If I had money,' he said, 'I should be the happiest fellow alive to marry her, but in my present position it is unthinkable.'

"Another was a hospital instance—a boy who had lost the sight of one eye and was wounded in the leg. He spoke of his mother's death while he was in France. 'There is nobodby I write to now,' he said, 'but my father. There was a girl, but——'

The Returning Soldier.

"'But what?' I asked. 'Well,' he said, 'she's written to me lots of times, but I don't answer. I shall not inflict myself upon anyone in my condition. I have no right to.' Such is the spirit of our returning heroes, for heroes they are in every sense of the word, and boys that any girls may be proud to number in their acquaintances, not for what they may get from them in presents and entertainment at theaters and cabarets, but for what they may offer them in friendly encouragement and homely companionship at this time when they are trying to get on their feet again, as it were."

Mrs. Heath's remarks find echo in every gathering where a group of soldiers or sailors are to be found discussing the future of each.

"Every fellow since he has been in France appreciates the American girl more, I believe," said a youthful Adonis in khaki, listed as Adolph Brandes on the United States infantry records, who saw much service in France with the old 69th of New York. Adolph is a native son of Nebraska, but previous to the war he had a desk position in one of New York's big financial institutions.

"There are lots of nice girls we meet, that we'd like to ask to the theater or entertainments, but as no man today could risk inviting a young woman to the theater and supper on less than $8 or $10, we boys who are just back from war can't afford it. Most of the girls we meet are this sort. In France one can go to a cabaret and spend say a couple of dollars on wine and some sandwiches or salad, and dance and listen to the music and have a pleasant evening, but unfortunately the same thing is not true of this country. The American girl is the finest girl in the world, but I do wish she would cut down her expenses."

"The boys in the army and the boys in the navy are tired of housework," said William Stokes of San Francisco, Cal., a young business man of that city, who has just been discharged from the navy. "I have a fine home to go to and a wife who is an excellent housekeeper. But I can tell you that all the boys who served Uncle Sam in the war are tired of making beds and sewing on buttons, and washing dishes, and the girls they pick out to marry, take it from me, are going to be girls that they are assured will make good homemakers. 'This is what I have heard hundreds of boys say, and they are in deadly earnest. Whereas in peace time the average boy never considered whether the pretty, blushing girl he proposed to could make a bed or cook a meal, his war-time training has taught him otherwise, and out of the depths of his experience I believe he is going to choose a wife who shows signs of domestic interest; not the silly butterflies he knew before he went away to fight the Hun.

"Only recently," said young Mr. Stokes, "it was my painful duty to be called upon by an old friend, a returning aviator, engaged to a pretty girl from Texas, to listen to the story of a discontented fiance. It is one of many. The girl came to New York to meet him upon his return from France. She was the same silly girl he had become engaged to with such heart throbs of interest two years ago. But he had changed.

"He complained to me, 'I just can't go on with this. She bores me to distraction,' he said. 'She is much more interested in having a good time in New York than she is in me. All she talks of is the next show, the next dance, the next thing on the amusement programme. No, what I am looking for, Bill,' he said, 'is a home, not public entertainment.'

"You see," said Mr. Stokes, "he had changed; he had learned the true values of life; the vital things that make life worth while; the fine friendship of men who faced death together; the fine loyalty to comrade and country, the splendid sense of service; all those things that give life a new meaning. He knew that all the rest—the lights, the music, the crowds—were just camouflage of life."

No less interesting was the comment of a young aviator, the son of a successful business man of New York. "I'd like to have a home of my own," he said. "Every fellow who has been knocking around France for some time feels like this. In my dad's business I can earn $6000 a year, but," he asked wistfully, "how can a fellow support a girl on that? She demands so much these days. The American girl has much to learn from the simplicity of the English girl and the economy shown by the French girl. They are satisfied with so much less and in many instances I believe they are much happier."

So, girls, here's the situation. What are you going to do about it?

BOTTLED SOFT DRINKS CONSUMED IN THE UNITED STATES AMOUNT TO $3,000,000,000

Food Value Consists of Sugar and Substitute Sweetenings—Industry Consumes 100,000 Tons of Sugar Yearly.

HAVE you any idea what things are in the bottled soft drinks you consume—those 3,000,000,000 bottles that, unhampered after July 1 next by strong competition, may grow to more billions?

Well, some contain one thing, some another, but all contain water, flavor, sweetening and carbon dioxide gas. These four things are the basic essentials of a bottled soft drink. There is likely to be some coloring matter and there may be an acid—usually either the citric acid found in lemons or tartaric acid, found in grapes, though sometimes mineral acids are used. Frequently there is a condiment, such as red pepper, cinnamon, allspice, cloves or nutmeg. There is almost certainly a trace of alcohol. And that just about covers what is likely to be found in soft drinks, according to specialists in the bureau of chemistry, United States department of agriculture.

The flavors used for soft drinks include ginger, sarsaparilla, root beer, birch beer, chocolate, cream, colas, cherry, wild cherry, lemon, strawberry, raspberry, loganberry, orange, pineapple, grape, apple, pear, peach and others, and very frequently two flavors are combined in the same product.

Prior to 1914 the sweetening used was almost universally granulated white sugar. When the shortage of sugar began to be felt, however, large use was made of such substitutes as corn syrup or glucose, corn sugar or commercial dextrose, maltose syrup, refiners' syrup and honey. Such substitutes were encouraged as a war measure by the department of agriculture, which now thinks it probable that some of these substitutes will be used regularly. The department is even of the opinion that the use of certain substitutes is frequently desirable. A larger quantity of the substitute is ordinarily required to secure the same measure of sweetness. Thus the drink is given more body and has a higher food value. Sweetening ingredients other than ordinary sugar should be declared on the labels of soft drinks shipped into interstate commerce.

Food value in a soft drink is ordinarily not considered by the person who consumes it, his object being the delectation of the palate or the quenching of thirst; but the fact remains that good soft drinks do contain considerable food. Such products as ginger ale, the phosphate drinks, the grape drinks and lemon sours contain from three-fourths to one and a half ounces of sugar to each half-pint bottle, which is equal to or double, approximately, the sugar ration allowed to a meal under war conditions. One hundred thousand and the like. The use of certain harmless dyes is permitted by the national food and drugs law, provided they do not conceal inferiority, and that the presence of the dye is plainly declared on the label. By examining the label on the bottle one may know whether the soft drink he buys contains an artificial color.

Many drinks contain the pure acids of the fruits they simulate, but others contain mineral acids, phosphoric being frequently used and sulphuric and hydrochloric less frequently. The United States department of agriculture, in a recent publication on the composition and value of bottled soft drinks, says: "Sulphuric and hydrochloric acids do not occur naturally in fruits or fruit juices, and in the opinion of the authors they should not be used to contribute tartness or sourness to soft drinks."

The quantity of any condiment in a soft drink is likely to be very small. The alcohol contained is used as a solvent for certain extracts and amounts to only a few tenths of 1 per cent by volume.

The department of agriculture says that where soft drinks are bottled on a large scale the sanitary precautions are usually excellent, but that where they are manufactured in a small way for immediate consumption conditions are sometimes deplorable. Syrup and extracts are sometimes spilled and allowed to remain, attracting flies and other insects. Proper precautions in washing bottles are not always taken, and the water used for preparing the sirups and for filling the bottles is not always pure. The sanitary quality of bottled soft drinks shipped in interstate commerce is subject to regulation under the federal food and drugs act, while that of those intended purely for local use is subject to local control by state or city officials. The quality of bottled soft drinks in the long run, the department says, depends largely upon the demand made by the discriminating consumer.

It is estimated that the consumption of bottled soft drinks in the United States prior to war restrictions was about 3,000,000,000 bottles annually, or 30 bottles a year for every man, woman and child. The consumption is likely to increase, since high-grade bottled soft drinks enables the dweller in rural communities to enjoy a product which a few years ago was obtainable only directly from soda fountains in towns and cities.

tons of sugar are used each year in the soft drink industry.

The carbon dioxide gas that is present in all bottled soft drinks is a wholesome product, identical with the carbon dioxide which occurs naturally in certain mineral springs in the United States, the waters of which are highly prized for their effervescent properties.

With the exception of vanilla, nearly all bottled soft drinks are artificially colored. Ginger ale, sarsaparilla, root beer, birch beer, chocolate and the colas are ordinarily colored with caromel—which is another name for burnt sugar. The other drinks are usually colored with one of the permitted dyes, naphthol yellow for lemon and orange drinks, amaranth, ponceau or erythrosine for cherry, strawberry, raspberry

BELIEF THAT HORSESHOE WILL BRING LUCK OLD SUPERSTITION

Current Regard for Supposed Charm Is Traced Back to Ancients—Of Course Shoe Must Be Hung With Ends Uppermost.

MANY of the so-called "modern improvements" of civilization, which so largely contribute to the comfort of living, are by no means so recent in origin as we are disposed to imagine.

An eminent archaeologist has recently declared, for example, that Nero's palace in Rome had three elevators. It is true that those elevators must have been hoisting machines of very primitive pattern—operated presumably by man power, with the help of rope and counter weight—and it is more than doubtful that they were ever used to carry human freight. Few palaces or other buildings in ancient Rome were more than two stories in height, and passenger "lifts" were for that reason not needed.

We are accustomed to think of running water in houses as a modern luxury. New York city did not have it until 1776, when a reservoir was constructed east of Broadway, into which water was raised by pumping it from wells dug for the purpose But that was a very primitive arrangement, in the opinion of a writer in the Youth's Companion, compared with the system of ancient Rome, by which water was brought from great distances in aqueducts that were marvels of engineering and that emptied through lead pipes into thousands of tanks of hewn stone.

Erected at intervals along the streets of Pompeii were pillars of masonry, up which ran lead pipes; and on top of each pillar was a tank, from which water was distributed by pipes to the houses. All dwellings, except those of the very poor, were thus supplied, and some had nearly a score of faucets, controlled by stopcocks that were much like those that are in use today.

At many street corners there were fountains with stone basins, the edges of which even now show depressions worn by the hands of the people who leaned over to drink. These fountains were fed by the city water, which was brought by an aqueduct from a distant place so elevated that the "head" was very powerful. That kind of engineering was highly developed in those times. When Julius Caesar first visited Alexandria in Egypt he found there so complete an underground water system that the city seemed "hollow underneath."

In the year 73 B. C. Julius Caesar organized the fire department of Rome. It had a force of 600 men. At that time the primitive fire engine had already come into use; it was a pair of pumps worked by a beam, and the two streams united in a common discharge pipe and passed out through a nozzle that could be turned in any direction. "Siphons"—emergency fire extinguishers — were commonly kept in houses. Frequent mention is made of them in ancient literature, but we do not know what they were like.

Japanese Hairdressing.

In Japan not only men, but women, go to the barber if there be any sign of hair on their faces. They do not permit even the soft down to grow, which the Japanese are often astonished to see left on the faces of some western women. Often, too, the eyebrows are shaved. In recent years the female barber has become a feature of the profession in Tokio, most of these being the wives of barbers who wish to make themselves useful to their husbands, though some are independent.

The 17th of every month is regarded as a barber's holiday, when they close up shop and go to theaters and places of amusement, for which they are often furnished with free tickets, because they allow the playbills and other advertisements of the places of amusement to be posted in their shops free. Most of the instruments now used by Japanese barbers are made in Japan, though at first they were all imported.

WOMEN! DRY CLEAN THINGS AT HOME

Try it! For a few cents you can dry clean everything.

Save five to ten dollars quickly by dry cleaning everything in the home with gasoline that would be ruined by soap and water—suits, coats, waists, silks, laces, gloves, shoes, furs, draperies, rugs—everything!

Place a gallon or more of gasoline in a dishpan or washboiler, then put in the things to be dry cleaned, then wash them with Solvite soap. Shortly everything comes out looking like new. Nothing fades, shrinks or wrinkles. Do not attempt to dry clean without Solvite soap. This gasoline soap is the secret of all dry cleaning.

A package of Solvite soap containing directions for home dry cleaning, costs little at any drug store. Dry clean outdoors or away from flame.

Girls! Your hair needs a little "Danderine"—that's all! When it becomes lifeless, thin or loses its lustre; when ugly dandruff appears, or your hair falls out, a 35-cent bottle of delightful, dependable "Danderine" from any store, will save your hair, also double it's beauty. Try "Danderine" and