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HAILS PASSING OF MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN

Writer Eulogizes Present Age of Youthfulness

Gray hairs are gone, old age is out of date, and a sign of the times is the disappearance of the middle-aged woman.

This is as it should be. So long as a mature woman does not ape a flapper, why should she not keep her youthful looks into the forties—or the seventies? Why should a dowager assume that it is her duty to be dowdy?

A black gown and a white heart are not inseparable, and dull gray and goodness do not always go together. If a woman is "all glorious within," it is well that her looks should make this manifest.

Nowadays our social world seems to be divided into girls, young married women and women who are great-grandmothers. No more do you see the middle-aged matron, with her proud grace and reserved bearing; or the handsome mother of forty, with her flow of talk and flock of dull daughters. And we never come across the sweet-faced, sad-eyed single woman—the typical maiden aunt of the Victorian era.

Sad to say, the ideal old lady has gone forever, with her silver hair, white cap, black gown and gentle, dignified manners. Old ladies, such as those depicted in Whistler's famous portrait of his mother, or in Manet's picture of Mme. Manet mere, have ceased to exist in our social life of today.

Everything in life—art, dress, rules of health and beauty culture—tends toward the exit of the middle-aged woman. And she is out of it on the stage and in fiction. Balzac's "Femme de Trente Ans" seems a back number, as many heroines in up-to-date novels are well on in the forties and fifties. And the same note is sounded in the plays of the period.

Most of us live up to this August example. Women of sixty or seventy yacht, hunt, shoot, dance, play golf and hokey and drive their own motor cars. One peeress, who was married in the sixties, drives her car with leucis, and another of the same age leads cottolons, although she is the proud owner of several grandchildren.

Much can be said on the side of perehinal youthfulness. The desire to prolong one's youth shows vital force and is said to be a sure proof of national well-being. Every woman for her own sake would fain keep fresh and young, as she is well aware that so long as her looks remain she can rule men, and there will be no "Finis" written on the page of her book of life.—The Hon. Mrs. Fitzroy Stewart in the London Mail.

Great Speed of Air Craft

When speed records established by airmen are recorded, only those who are in the game can really understand what real speed means. Trains or autos traveling at the rate of sixty miles an hour give a thrill, but what are these compared with "air" thrills. A very good illustration was given by an aviator who took part in one of the contests, acting as mechanic on an airplane which was moving at nearly two miles a minute. "We seemed to have the whole sky to ourselves one minute," he said, "and then behind us appeared one of the giants. She overhauled us as if we were standing still, and was far in front almost before we realized we were not alone." Curiously enough even the airmen themselves find it difficult to estimate at what rate they are tearing over the earth.

New Disease Announced

A new disease has been discovered by Dr. Marshall Clinton, of the University of Buffalo. The symptoms are sharp shooting pains in the side. Prior to his discovery, he declares, many physicians mistook it for appendicitis, gall bladder infection, kidney trouble or some other serious ailment. Many women have been operated on for appendicitis, when housewife's rib was all that was the matter with them, Doctor Clinton says. The ailment is common and occurs most frequently among housewives. Persons who are shortwaisted are especially subject to it. The cure for costalgia consists of an operation to remove the tip of the floating rib.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Reflected Glory

Two artists on tour took a hack at Marseilles to visit the city in comfort. At the end of a few minutes the cabman turned around and remarked: "I'll say you two are no fools." Astounded, the two friends looked at each other without a word. Five minutes afterward the same thing happened. "Why do you keep telling us that?" asked one of the travelers. "Ha! pardi," he answered. "You have engaged, without knowing it, the best cabman in Marseilles."—Le Rire, Paris.

Made Provision for Pets

A kind old English lady was so much attached to three goldfish that she left £70 (\$350) for their feed and care. When they died the interest from the money was to be used to keep the graves green and smooth above their graves and decorated with fitting flowers. Another woman provided \$500 a year for the care of her parrot. The keeper was to bring the bird every two years to a certain lawyer that identification might be made of the bird as the original one.

Work Guaranteed to Speed Up the Brain

Are you a quick thinker? If you are, your chances of success in life are bright. If you are not, then test your speed, and "speed up."

If a friend holds a small red handkerchief in one closed hand and a blue one in the other, and you, not knowing which hand he will open, have to throw your left arm if he discloses blue, and the right if he discloses red, then the thought-plus-action should take just under a tenth of a second.

To tell, correctly, how many letters there are, say, in the word "telegraph," should take half a second. But that is not a good speed. It should be but a third. The superspeed would be a fifth, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Mental visualizations and the thought action should be practically instantaneous. Yet nine men out of ten would take two seconds or more in dealing with "telegraph."

Excellent tests of your mental speed can be made with synonyms. "Disrobe—undress," should take half of a second. A really speedy thinker would need but a fifth. "Flexible—pliant," "loquacious—talkative," "palustrious—careful," are the other examples.

What is called "jointed" thinking is good exercise, too. This deals with ordinary knowledge and is worked on the bell and response system. A friend, for instance, may say "Venice." You have to respond with a word which has to do with Venice. "Shakespeare, canals," would be two responses. A tenth of a second should be taken—no more. "Liverpool" should bring the flash of "liners."

Then there is "characteristic" thinking. An animal is named, and a characteristic must be thought of and spoken. Donkey—ears, and zebra—stripes are illustrations. All these are tests for a start.

The testing of speed thought is not a test of knowledge although it may reveal the want of it. The idea is to speed up the brain.

Someone Lost a Leg

A patrolman in the western part of the city, was pacing his beat with nothing in particular on his mind when he chanced to notice an old boiler in the 200 block in South Missouri street, the Indianapolis News reports. Some shadowy object just inside the boiler caused the cop to hesitate and then decide to investigate. He walked softly toward the old boiler and there, sure enough, he spied a man's leg, just inside.

"Aha, a bum asleep for the day," mused the copper. He made a quick grab at the leg. To his dismay the leg came out of the boiler easily, but no man followed. Shortly thereafter a policeman with three legs called at police headquarters and left his extra leg at the lost article department. The artificial limb is an expensive one and the police are at a loss to know how far a one-legged man would go before he learned his loss.

Indian Confederacy

The "Six Nations" was a confederation of Indian tribes, formerly inhabiting the central and western part of New York state. As early as the beginning of the Seventeenth century, the Mohawks, Oneidas, Senecas, Cayugas and Onondagas had formed a league, known as the Five Nations; but in 1712 they were joined by the Tuscaroras, a related tribe from North Carolina, and were thenceforth known as the Six Nations. In 1783 the Mohawks and Cayugas migrated to Canada, and the confederacy was dissolved. The total number of the "Six Nations" probably never exceeded twenty-five thousand.—Kansas City Star.

Broncho Buster Honored

Pete Vandemeer, champion broncho buster of Canada at the Calgary stampede of 1923, and a friend of the prince of Wales, has recently been made Chief Sky High by the Sarcee Indians of Alberta. He showed such skill as a wild horse tamer and broncho buster on the Indian reserve that the Sarcees insisted on making him a chief. In 1923 Pete Vandemeer was a guest of the prince of Wales at the "E. P." ranch, near High river, and rode Albert Kid, the wildest horse at the Calgary stampede, for the entertainment of Alberta's royal rancher.

Day of Long Speeches

Evidence that commencement day speeches were even longer years ago than now is offered by a Methodist Episcopal church bulletin, which says: "Records of the early history of Dickinson college show that our great-grandfathers and grandmothers thought nothing of sitting through an entire day of speechmaking to see their sons and daughters graduate. The salutatory oration, delivered in Latin, was scarcely less flowery than the string of speeches that followed. A two-hour intermission allowed the auditors a brief relapse to normalcy."

His Reward

"Howdy, Tobe!" saluted an acquaintance from Slippery Slap. "How'd you come out in that poker game tuther night?" "I didn't get no money, Newt," replied Tobe Sagg of Sandy Mush. "but great gosh, look at the experience I had!"—Kansas City Times.

Back Number

Grandma—Do you want to hear the story of "Puss in Boots?" Elsie—No, gran'ma. No one wears 'em now. Tell me about "Puss in Black Silk Slippers and Galoshes."—Boston Globe.

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