

On The Side

By E. V. Durling

(Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.)

A reference to a type of osculation called a "Hollywood kiss" describes it as "lasting 15 seconds, no more, no less." No details were provided as to the intensity of the osculation or the type of embrace accompanying it. Both, as I believe you will admit, are important factors in a properly administered kiss. However, 15 seconds devoted to one kiss may be longer than you imagine it to be. To get an idea as to that give your wife a kiss lasting that long.

Sidelights
What shape are you in to hit the jackpot on a quiz program with geography as to category? I will give you a try out with a series of simple questions. What is the second largest city in New York state? In Michigan? In Pennsylvania? . . . Am asked what are the odds of making a seven or an 11 on the first roll of the dice. Answer is 17 to one against an 11 on the first roll. Five to one against a seven on the first roll.

Passing By
Gus Van. Veteran vaudevillian. Once of the great and much beloved team of Van Schenck. Gus, whose real name is August von Glahn, was born in Brooklyn. Before he became an entertainer he was a trolley car policeman. Incidentally, Joe Schenck died in 1930.

Believing
At what age did you cease to believe in Santa Claus? How about your youngsters? It is said that nowadays the average child stops believing in Santa Claus when six years of age. I stopped at eight. I once heard from a Californian who said she believed in Santa Claus until she was 13½ years old. That may be the world's record for youthful innocence.

Checking
Give a thought to your relatives, friends and acquaintances who are 65 years of age or older. How are they doing. An insurance expert claims if you take 100 average men at the age of 25 and check on them 40

years later, you will find that 42 have died. Fifty will be completely dependent on their own earnings or upon pensions or their relatives. Only one of the 100 will be wealthy. Two will be fairly prosperous. Only five will have saved enough money to live on their own savings.

Please Note
As for long time between blessed events I know of a woman who was 24 when she had her first child and 44 when she had her second. So, mister, just because you haven't had a blessed event at your house for 15 or 20 years, don't get the idea you are never again going to pace the floor of that hospital waiting room as an expectant papa.

Busy Corner
On what corner of what city are the most newspapers sold daily? A veteran newsboy claims that one day in seven hours he sold 5,500 newspapers at the corner of State and Madison sts., Chicago. Can you top it?

Getting Started
Feminine subscriber says she is 58 and has just embarked on a literary career. "Is it too late?" she asks. Certainly not. William de Morgan was 66 when he wrote his first novel. That was the one titled "Joseph Vance," which was a best seller. After that de Morgan wrote nine other novels!

Asides
The patron saint of psychoanalysts is St. Thomas of Aquinas. He argued that a doctor should have the right to probe a patient's mind as much as his body. That was nearly 700 years ago. . . . Mike Todd's first stage production, presented in Chicago, was titled "Bring on the Dames." However, the hit of the show was not a dame. It was a penguin billed as "Pete the Personality Penguin."

Asking
Queries from clients. Q. How old was Charles Dickens when he wrote the tale titled "A Christmas Carol"? A. Thirty-one. . . . Q. What was the name

Cupid Transformation Thought Voiced by Boston Psychiatrist

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor

New York—UP—A scientific thought with which to start the new year is that the Greek god of love, Eros, who became Cupid, has had a further transformation in the minds of Americans and now is Mickey Mouse.

The thought belongs to Dr. Merrill Moore, Boston psychiatrist who also has a reputation as a poet. He voiced the thought in estimating the state of mod-

ern psychiatry as 1955 ended and a new year began. Its state made him think of Cupid and Mickey Mouse. "But with all their newfangled pictures and images, Americans have not wholly rid their minds of the fat, mischievous urchin with his bows and arrows," he said. "And so it is with many ideas in psychiatry today. In name and in form they have changed from the shape of an unwrought stone to a fat boy and thence to a highly mechan-

ized dwarf, or animated cartoon." Scientific methods are eliminating opposing psychiatric "schools" which once seemed, to some scientists, to "stand in some strange antagonism to general psychiatry and to general medicine, general science and logic."

The "schools" are giving up their "self-imposed isolation," and so "numerous different but not necessarily opposing schools of psychiatric thought at last have consented to join hands with the rest of humanity and come to life again."

He made a "single example" of the Rorschach ink-blot psychological test. It "alone has forced one to see the primitive parts of expressions of the mind not as sociologist or economists re-

garded mental phenomena but rather as Jung and Freud saw them.

Associations in Religions
"It is realized, for example, that erotic associations not only cling around sexual objects, where they undoubtedly belong, but may also be connected with percepts of color and motion and with other concepts of worship and adoration, and that they are crystallized in the formal religion to which many persons adhere."

Modern psychiatry finds in people, he said in the New England Journal of Medicine, "ghosts and spirits and nature gods, ancestor worship, familiar patologies of thought and behavior, tribal attitudes social and cultural, body worship, or anthropomorphism, the formation of a

regnant set of ideas of certain individuals or groups, individual psychologies, magical and obsessive rites, purifications, and sacrifices—all the common stock and the successive phases of emotional and superstitious humanity."

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SCIENCE AT WORK

By DELOS SMITH
United Press Science Editor

New York — (UP) — If you wish, you may accept the word of Sir Geoffrey Jefferson, a famous British scientist, for the following: human beings are "in all things one with animals — racehorses, for instance, dogs, and perhaps performing fleas."

He was laughing, in mellow tones, at a central idea embodied in the Declaration of Independence, which is that "all men are created equal." The idea was so absurd, he said in a recent lecture that "no man will hold that all men are born equal in anything but impotence."

A hundred years ago, or longer, most people had no doubt of the "perfectability of man, nor would they have questioned his limitless powers of absorbing information." But now everyone knows these powers are "very unevenly distributed."

A 'Colossal Stew'
"Even more striking when you come to think of it is man's enormous powers of rejecting information," he said. "For although our nervous systems have great ability to select, some are so selective or so unabsorbent that they reject almost everything."

He was sure that with most persons it would come as a repulsive idea "that everything that goes on in our minds is nothing better than the sort of

fermentation, the simmering or boiling of a colossal stew composed of the odds and ends of all that we ever saw, read, felt, smelt, heard or touched from our cradles on to the present."

The question is how minds make use of the "colossal stew" and some minds make much more use of it than others.

"Evidently there are the greatest differences between individuals, and lucky are we that it should be so, for uniformity breeds dullness," he said.

But to explain why men are not and cannot be born equal, he asked some questions:

"Do brains differ from one another in the numbers of their cells? Almost certainly, 'yes' . . . Do some kinds fatigue more easily than others? Is there, perhaps, a quantitative difference in the proportions of the different sorts of cells of the cortex and subcortical grey masses? Very likely there is . . ."

"Given such differences there should be personal or familial variables in the internal workings of our nervous systems, variables in the speed of synaptic transmission, differences from man to man in the facilitations of his association pathways, differences from man to man in the facilitations of association pathways, differences also in inhibition. Something like this must be the foundation of the great differences in powers of memory."

Not only in minds are men unequal, he said — they're unequal "of hand and body skills at which the few so greatly outmatch the many. There seems to be a sort of 'wisdom of the body,' in a coordination of timing of eye and hand and foot — a perfection of balance and rhythm, of faultless movement that is as uneven in its distribution amongst human beings as is wit or beauty of face and form."

The American Revolutionary war brought on a cost to the taxpayer of about \$144,000,000, the records show.

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