



Abolished?

his railroad salary. Those GIs were paid \$78 a month. Quite a difference.—S/Sgt. Carl E. Johnson, Ent Air Force Base, Colo.

I'm a district sales manager for a cosmetics firm and, in traveling, tipping has become a financial problem as well as a social nuisance. Tips are hard to include in expense reports, because there are no receipts. I usually have to tip 15 to 20 percent to avoid embarrassment in public, but can include only about 10 percent on my expense account because any more looks like padding.

Frankly, I wish someone would devise an acceptable tipping system—including tips in the cost of service, for instance, as suggested in your article. Meanwhile, the only way to get service—with no tips expected—is to travel by bus or plane, eat in cafeterias, and sleep in motels.—Mrs. Henrietta L. Wolf, York, Pa.

The suggestion that the tip "be included in a fixed service charge" has much merit and, in fact, this idea has been in effect in Europe for years. Trouble is, it doesn't work—not after Americans get through with it. On a recent trip there I found that we were expected to tip in addition to the 10 to 20 percent added to hotel and restaurant bills for service. Seems free-spending Americans, wanting to make a big impression or get that extra service, pay the service charge and start tipping on top of that. The Europeans love it!—H. F. M., Jefferson City, Mo.

I work as a waitress summers and teach school Winters, so I can look at this from both sides of the table. I think it would be a disastrous thing if tipping were abolished. Waitresses are quite human, and they try to do better work if they know their customers appreciate it. Most of them don't make big salaries. Many of them could not afford to work as waitresses without tips. I don't look on it as begging alms, because

that extra tip for extra service may be the means of buying extra food and clothing for children waiting at home.—Ola Feighner, White Cloud, Mich.



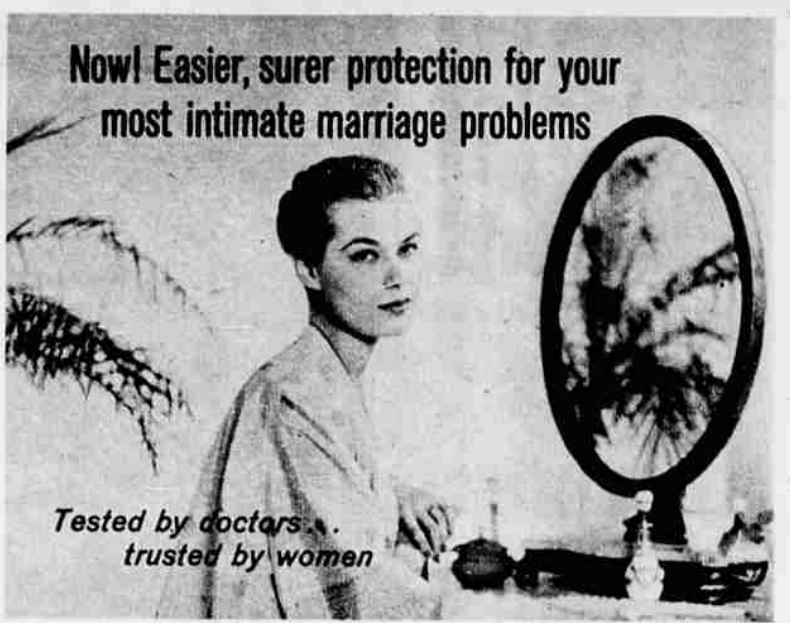
I'm a chambermaid in a hotel. It's all heavy work and hardly any tips, especially considering all the conventions they hold. Most of the guests ignore us, and with the small salary we make (about \$30 a week) it doesn't leave us much for expenses. Speaking for a few of us, however, we would just as soon have better wages, say at least \$1 an hour, then when a guest checked out without tipping we wouldn't feel so bad.—Miss Cecilia Quinn, Atlantic City, N. J.

I don't believe tipping should be abolished. Many times I have sat in restaurants and writhed inwardly to see a large and loud group at another table run a poor little waitress ragged, then leave a tip that hardly amounted to 10 cents per person. As she sighed and pocketed this munificent sum, I could only reflect that the more demanding patrons are usually the worst tipplers.

On the other hand, people who feel they are under duress to tip, regardless of the quality of service, are as much to blame. They need more backbone to tell a waitress occasionally that the absence of a tip is because of absence of service. It's the "automatic" feature of tipping that has degraded it, because an earned tip is a legitimate reward for legitimate labor.—Mrs. R. S., LeMars, Iowa.



I've been a bartender for 20 years. I know of many restaurants that get high prices for food but pay their help very little in wages. The public is expected to pay the difference. I've cashed hundreds of checks for restaurant help and, believe me, if it wasn't for their tips they'd starve.—Harold G. Brunk, Davenport, Iowa.



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