

The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Margo M.—My friends won't make up. Ethel J. — Margo has pressured Paula.

Margo M. — I am trying to negotiate a peace between two very dear friends of mine.

Ethel and Paula were very close because they have children of the same age. They used to babysit for one another and do many other little favors. One day their two boys got into a terrible fight and Ethel's son gave Paula's a severe cut which required stitches. In the excitement of the moment Paula grabbed Ethel's boy and twisted his arm, calling him a nasty brat.

Paula says she regrets this and is willing to let bygones be bygones, but Ethel won't make up. I feel she is making a big mistake to let this incident spoil a very nice friendship.

Ethel J. — I was terribly upset about what my son had done, but it was partly an accident, something that happened during the fight. Anyway, if their places had been reversed and my son had gotten cut, it would never have occurred to me to lay a hand on her boy.

I have always felt that Paula was jealous about my boy because he is not only bigger and stronger than hers, but smarter in school. Many times she had said to me that he is too aggressive. I know he is aggressive, but I don't feel this is a serious fault in an 8-year-old boy.

I believe Margo has pressured Paula into saying she'll make up. She isn't sincere.

The Council: The role of the peacemaker is seldom appreciated. All too often this well-meaning individual turns out to be the one who bears the brunt of the quarrel. If she wants to keep her friends we would suggest that Margo step out of this situation.

When parents get involved in children's quarrels, there is usually more involved than meets the eye. The jealousy that Ethel suggests may be a factor. On the other hand, a factor in Ethel's refusal to make up may be recognition that her son was seriously at fault. She may have certain fears about his overaggressiveness and may wish to erase the evidences from her mind.

When an adult uses physical violence on a child, it is rarely provoked by the incident that is used as an excuse. The provocation may really be a fit of adult nerves or a deep-seated hostility toward the child. We can't blame Ethel for being uneasy on this score, but we think she is wrong to nourish a grudge. In view of the fact that wrongs were committed on both sides, she should consider declaring a formal peace without re-

newing the old intimacy. Perhaps the intimacy and the sense of rivalry both women shared in the past went a bit too far.

More important than peace between Ethel and Paula, however, is the need for Margo's disengagement from the affair. By involving herself she has given the whole thing undue importance and made the quarrel between women dramatize their feelings to the fullest. If these feelings are kept simmering, they will eventually boil over on Margo.

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Mix-Match Trio



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Hitler Was Being Poisoned by His Own Physician

Chicago (Science Service)—Adolph Hitler was slowly being poisoned by pills containing strychnine at the time of his death in 1945, a doctor has reported.

A medico-historical study by Dr. Noah D. Fabricant, Chicago otolaryngologist, revealed that the German "superman" at each meal swallowed a considerable number of tablets prescribed by his private physician, Theodore Morell. Hitler suffered intermittently from stomach cramps, and it is now believed that he was slowly being poisoned by the pills the physician prescribed. Dr. Fabricant reported recently at a meeting of the Society of Medical History of Chicago.

Hitler was full of fear. He thought he had cancer. In 1935 he became alarmed at the hoarseness of his voice. This was due to "excessive shouting," Dr. Fabricant declared, but Hitler feared for his very life because he thought the impairment was due to cancer. Actually he had a benign laryngeal polyp.

Until 1940, Hitler appeared to be younger than his actual age, 51. But by 1943 he began to manifest trembling of his left arm and leg; this became steadily more pronounced and refused to yield to treatment. In an effort to control the tremor, Hitler would brace his foot against an object and hold his left hand with his right hand. The nature of the tremor is now believed to have been due to Parkinson's disease. News films of him at that time display the visible signs of the disease which are both revealing and typical, the Chicago physician said.

During the last days of his life, Hitler became a physical wreck. His face was emaciated, his body stooped, hands and feet were shaky and his voice quivered.

He spoke entirely on the impulse of the moment, and moods of comparative lucidity were interspersed with wild accusations, wilder hopes and half-crazed rumblings. Almost his last orders were for executions; his prisoners were to be slaughtered, his old surgeon was to be murdered, his own brother-in-law was to be executed.

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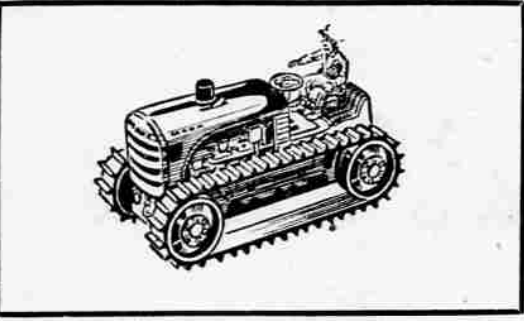
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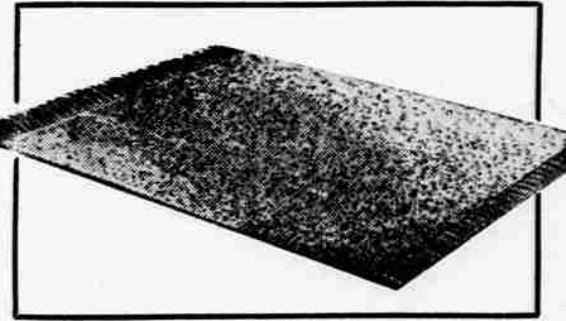
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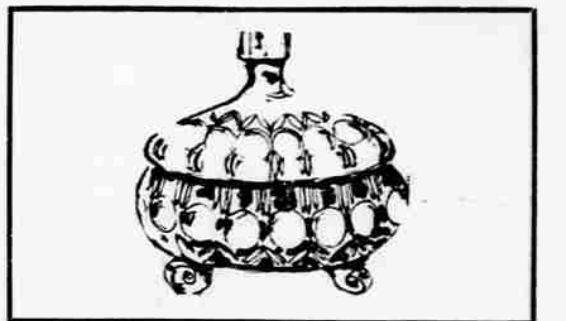
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