

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.

Mrs. K. J.—Vivian talks flip-pantly of divorce.

Vivian J.—It's better than an unhappy marriage.

Mrs. K. J.—My problem is how to bring up my family with the right ideas about marriage when they see so much that is wrong going on around them.

Our religion does not out-law divorce, yet it does view divorce as an extreme mea-sure and I certainly hope my children will be spared that unhappiness. But my daugh-ter Vivian, who is only 13, talks very flippanly about divorce and says she wants to have at least two husbands in her lifetime.

There have been several di-vores in my husband's family and one in mine, but my mar-riage has been completely happy. Yet every time I have the least disagreement with my husband Vivian comes out with "Why don't you two get divorced?"

Vivian J.—I don't think that two people should be forced to live together when they no longer love one another—and I also think very few people have the ability to hit it right the first time they marry. It takes experience to know what you want.

Two of my aunts and two uncles have been divorced and all but one have remarried, very happily. One of my aunts told me it took a lot of bad experience to make her understand what a good mar-riage was.

Frankly, I don't think my parents have the courage to divorce. They aren't as happy as they try to pretend to me. Every time I mention divorce they look scared. But I think it's more scary to have to stick to marriage when you're unhappy.

The Council: Vivian cer-tainly has divorce on the brain, yet we doubt whether she is really as flippanant on the subject as she pretends.

Adolescents often pretend to flippancy about subjects that confuse and frighten them. They want to discuss these matters with their par-ents, but they hate to show their fear and confusion. They may make sophisticated cracks about sex, for example, in an attempt to get it talked about without having to sub-mit to the indignity of asking questions.

It is more than likely that Vivian, like most young girls, dreams of a perfect romance and an always-delightful mar-riage. The fact that marriages can turn sour and that even her parents do not live in per-petual bliss must be upsetting. When she suggests divorce to her parents she may be ex-pressing a fear that it could happen to them.

These fears can't be dis-pelled by a few lectures or by shock and horror on her par-ent's part when she delivers one of her cracks on the sub-ject of divorce. Certainly they should not give these remarks their approval, but they can gloss them over and try to fo-cus Vivian's attention on the many happy lifelong mar-riages around them.

We believe that a good fam-ily life, a sound understand-ing of religious principles and emotional maturity are the biggest factors in creating suc-cessful marriages. The K. J.'s need not insist on their hap-piness as long as there is ample

evidence of this in their daily lives. As she matures, Vivian will become more conscious of the genuinely good atmos-phere of her family life and she will start thinking in pos-itive terms of how to model hers along the same pattern. (Copyright 1959, General Features Corp.)

Extinction of Mankind Disputed By Scientists

Washington —(UPI)— Two sci-entists have disputed predic-tions that mankind is on the way to extinction because of soft muscles and medical ad-vances.

Drs. Theodosius Dobzhan-sky, a Columbia University zoologist, and Gordon Allen of the New York-Psychiatric Institute, said that Charles Darwin's theory of "survival of the fittest" by the process of natural selection should not be applied to the human race.

Different Kind of Man They disagreed with the frequent pessimistic state-ments by some geneticists that the facilities of modern living, especially medical ad-vances, are keeping alive the less fit and enabling them to produce families.

In a report recently pub-lished by the Smithsonian Institution, Allen and Dob-zhansky said that the pres-ent environment demands a different kind of man to sur-vive and progress than the physically strong cave man.

Losing Qualities They admitted that man undoubtedly is losing some of the qualities, both physical and mental, which served him well in the environment in which the ancestors of the human species lived.

But, the report stressed, these characteristics no longer are necessary, so far as man is concerned. Samson, they said, would stand little bet-ter chance than his weakening brother in the present civiliza-tion.

Nixon's Campaign Takes Official Step

Concord, N.H. — (UPI) — A Nixon for President Commit-tee has taken its first official step toward placing the name of Vice President Richard M. Nixon on the ballot for this state's first in the nation presi-dential primary next March 8. A drive to get a minimum of 25,000 Republican signa-tures on the nominating pe-titions for Nixon was launch-ed Wednesday with Gov. Wes-ley Powell, the first to sign.

Bend Bank Manager Planning Retirement

Bend — (UPI) — Ben W. Fan-ning, manager of the Bend branch of the U.S. National Bank, has announced his re-tirement effective Jan. 1. He has been in the banking pro-fession for 45 years. His successor will be John W. Stenkamp, assistant man-ager since July, 1950.

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