

Hands Not the Least of Feminine Charms

Recently I asked twelve different men what was the first thing that they noticed when they were introduced to a woman.

All were in different walks in life, and I asked them all at different times, Mary Manners writes in Vanity Fair.

One man said, "Her ankles," another "Her eyes," a third "Her clothes," but, to my amazement, the other man answered, "Her hands."

I never before realized how important the hands of a woman are in the eyes of a man, so I asked for explanations.

"I fell in love with my wife's hands almost before I had seen her face," one of the twelve confessed to me.

"She was playing the piano, and the way her little fingers rippled over the keys held me spellbound. I felt that a woman with hands like that could do anything, and I was right!"

"A woman's hands are so expressive of her personality," a naval officer said. "I instinctively distrust a woman with a fat, pudgy hand. She is usually lazy and empty-brained."

"As for the young woman with the 'lily-white' hands, preserve me from her! She is too helpless for words as a rule. All that she is good for is lifting chocolates out of a box and twiddling her rings."

"Give me," said another man, "a pair of hands that look as though they can sew, cook, hold a tennis racket and golf club, play the piano, lift a baby, drive a car, put flowers in a vase, hold a pen-and-ink, beat of all, hands which look soft enough to caress an aching head and graceful enough to kiss!"

"Graceful enough to kiss!" That last sentence stuck in my mind.

So many women forget that while they deplore the death of civility they themselves have pulled down the pedestal on which they once stood.

Beautifully kept hands are a sign of inward refinement. We cannot all have our hands cast in a classic mold, we are not all blessed with "long, tapering, artistic fingers," but we can help nature by making the hands with which she has endowed us beautiful, expressive, and indicative of our character.

Pork Chops

"Sir Ellis Barker, the famous London surgeon, warns us to leave preserved foods alone. He says preserved foods lack vitamins."

The speaker was Earl Akers, mayor of Topeka. He resumed:

"After that pronouncement, whenever I hear preserved foods being praised I think of old St. Hoskins, the miser."

"A friend dropped in on St. as he was frying a brace of pork chops."

"Fine chops, them," said the friend, smiling hungrily.

"Fine chops?" grunted old St. as he turned them, all sizzling and smoking in the frying-pan. "Well, I guess they is fine chops. None o' yer murdered stuff, putter. That hog died a natural death."

Jazz Novels

George Luks, the noted New York painter, looked up with a sigh from a new novel of the jazz or Greenwich Village school. Then he read, now from this page, now from that:

"Don't I know it?" snapped mother. "Ah, what's eatin' yo?" snapped George.

"I don't care a darn," snapped Mabel.

"None of your lip," snapped father. "How do I know?" snapped mother."

Mr. Luks closed the novel and laughed in his hearty way.

"How's that," he said, "for snappy dialogue?"

Leprosy Cure Reported

The leprosy case of Miss Florence Wheeler has attracted some considerable attention at Manila because after treatment with the new Philippine cure she has remained "negative" for two years, during which she was on probation. If no other signs develop in the near future she will probably be released from the San Lazaro leprosy hospital. She is fifteen years old and the grandniece of Gen. Joe Wheeler, famous cavalry leader of the Confederacy. The Cullion leprosy colony has in recent years released two cases when a cure was pronounced definite.

Then He Remembered

A year ago a college student living in Dearborn tore the coat of his suit and sent it to a Dearborn tailor for repair and pressing. Yesterday he happened to enter the little shop and the tailor not only at once recognized him as the person who left the suit there a year back, but told him that all repairs had been completed, and that if he did not come for the suit within a short while he would charge for storage. And it was then that the student remembered what he had been trying to remember for a whole year.

Here's Occasion When It Really Was Cold

A Connecticut correspondent writes us: Reading in the Companion recently of a Vermont farmer who invented a flying machine with which he flew from the top of a high mountain and landed on a rock with such force that he drove his feet into the ledge clear up to his hips and again a little later of a Westerner who saved a sleeping gray squirrel in two one winter's day without waking him reminds me of a story told by my grandfather. He lived in a very bleak corner of Connecticut in the early days when fireplaces were the only means of heating. It seemed impossible for him to warm the house. At last he became desperate, and, going into the cellar where there was a large fireplace, he packed it full with several cords of good hard wood, set it all afire and then went upstairs to bed.

The next morning he got up early, hoping to find the house warm, but the rooms were as cold as ever; so he went out of doors to see if smoke were coming out of the chimney. To his amazement he saw the flames standing up out of the chimney four or five feet high, frozen solid!—Youth's Companion.

Twain Had Weakness for Southern Cooking

Merk Twain, in his Autobiography, pays tribute to Southern dishes, such as, for instance, corn bread, hot biscuits, wheat bread and fried chicken.

"These things," he says, "have never been properly cooked in the North—in fact, no one there is able to learn the art, so far as my experience goes. The North thinks it knows how to make corn bread, but this is mere superstition. Perhaps no bread in the world is quite so good as Southern corn bread and perhaps no bread in the world is quite so bad as the Northern imitation of it. The North seldom tries to fry chicken, and this is well; the art cannot be learned north of the line of Mason and Dixon, nor anywhere in Europe. This is not hearsay; it is experience that is speaking. In Europe it is imagined that the custom of serving various kinds of bread blazing hot is 'American,' but that is too broad a spread; it is custom in the South, but is much less than that in the North."

Wet Shoes

If you are caught in a rain and get your shoes wet do something to counteract the possible effects if you cannot get home to change your footwear. Business people who are caught this way know how uncomfortable it is to go around in damp shoes and many of them know something about the evil effects that often result.

It is a simple matter to lay a few blotters on top of each other and stand on them a few minutes. You will be surprised how much dampness the blotters will absorb. Even if you are on a shopping tour you can purchase blotters and take this precaution.

If the shoes have become very wet or thoroughly soaked, place a blotter between the stocking and shoe for a few minutes. This is a safety-first suggestion that may avert a cold or more serious illness.

"Association Test"

It was resolved in the Continental Congress, March 4, 1776, and the resolve approved by the committee of safety at Exeter, April 12, that all males above twenty-one years of age (lunatics, idiots and negroes excepted) should be asked to sign the Association test, whose text was as follows:

"We, the subscribers, do solemnly engage and promise that we will, to the utmost of our power, at the risk of our lives and fortunes, with arms, oppose the hostile proceedings of the British fleets and armies against the United States colonies."

The Eye Appeal

One of the chief differences between such an art as Homer's and such an art as Dante's or Milton's is that Homer never thinks of any appeal but through the ear; whereas Dante and Milton both know their verses will meet with eyes as well as ears. Their art is certainly not greater than Homer's, but it has finer modulations of significance. The thing is, that Dante and Milton, like every other printed or written poet, take advantage of the eye-appeal without losing the ear-appeal.—Lancelles Abercrombie.

Use for Old Newspapers

Merchants in the countries of the Far East depend wholly on the supply of discarded American newspapers as wrappers for purchases in their shops. Hundreds of tons of whole and clean newspapers are being shipped monthly to the Far East from Atlantic coast ports. This business formerly fell almost exclusively to Pacific coast dealers, but with the outbreak of the World War the Eastern firms began purchasing the newspapers from junkmen for foreign shipment.

When Terrible Black Death Ravaged England

One of the first places in Europe where the black death appeared was at a small Genoese fort in the Crimea, the western terminus of the overland Chinese trade route. The Tartars were besieging the fort at the time, and Chinese merchants took refuge there. The siege was lifted by the investing army, which fled from the plague, thus spreading the infection southward into Asia Minor, Syria and Egypt. Ships from the Euxine carried the contagion to Constantinople and to Genoa, and thence it radiated, fanshape, throughout the Mediterranean littoral.

In August, 1348, England's first black death victim succumbed in Dorsetshire. By November it had reached London. By the summer of 1349 it had dragged its pall of putrefaction over the entire island, including Scotland, Norwich, which had been the second city of the kingdom, dropped to sixth in size, more than two-thirds of its population falling victims of the scourge.

Cultivation of the fields was utterly impossible and there were not even enough able-bodied laborers to gather the crops which had matured. Cattle roamed through the corn unmoiled and the harvest rotted where it stood.

—National Geographic Magazine.

Newspaper Story Well Worth Being Told Again

Perhaps it's because newspaper men are a clanish lot of lads and prefer, when not engaged in their arduous duties, to be of and among themselves to seeking the company of others, but it strikes this observer that those who are alien to the newspaper profession hear few stories respecting the activities of the boys from the paper offices. Certainly the young man—or young woman—who is engaged in gathering the news of the day encounters plenty of adventure, some of it funny and again some of it not so funny.

Practically every newspaper man in the world has heard the story of the cub reporter who, being of a timid nature, was assigned by his city editor to interview the irascible capitalist whose lovely daughter had just run off with the family chauffeur. In fear and trembling he rang the doorbell. "Is Mr. Jones in?" he asked the maid who answered the door. "No, he is not," she replied. "Thank God!" said the reporter, and fell off the steps.

The story is so familiar to newspaper men (in fact it is incorporated in many of the textbooks that now aim to teach the young reporter how to shoot) that one wonders how generally it is known by the public.

Sacred Steps

The Santa Scala is a flight of 28 steps of white-veined marble in the piazza of the church of St. John Lateran at Rome, which, according to tradition, belonged to the house of Pilate at Jerusalem, and were made sacred by the feet of Christ as he passed to judgment, the Kansas City Times relates. Penitents are permitted to ascend these stairs only on their knees, and so great has been the number that annually made the ascent that it was found necessary to cover the steps with planks of wood to insure their protection. It was while ascending these steps that Martin Luther, then a monk, thought he heard the words, "The just shall live by faith." Mortified by the degradation to which he considered his superstition had led him, he descended and hastened from the spot.

How Quakes Give Warning

To predict earthquakes with as much certainty as forecasts of storms or floods are now made, may soon be possible. The preliminary shifting and writhings of the earth's crust, imperceptible to human beings but easily detected by sensitive instruments, have been successfully used by scientists at Volcano house, Honolulu, on the rim of the crater at Kilauea, to give warning of a coming quake. On the first occasion when a test case was made, it was observed during a period of about a month that there was a decided southerly tilt of the crater's north rim. This suddenly changed to a northerly tilt at the end of the month, and a few days later veered back to its original position. On the strength of the position changes, it was predicted that a perceptible shock would come within a few days. The prophecy was fulfilled two days later, when a shock, not severe, but quite perceptible, rocked the island.

Waldo Turned a Corner

Waldo's teacher had asked him to write a sentence containing the word amphibious, and as Waldo was, but twelve, he had some trouble spelling the word, but, after several calls on teacher for aid, evidently got it written to his satisfaction. Then ensued a long period of concentration and wriggling. It was broken when Waldo asked teacher how to spell containing. At last he laid the results of his labor on the teacher's desk, and this is what he read:

"My teacher has asked me to write a sentence containing the word amphibious."—Philadelphia Ledger.

How to Make Floor Wax

A good floor wax is made by melting a scant half pound of beeswax set in a pan of hot water. Add gradually, stirring well, a quart of turpentine, and when mixed a half cup of ammonia. Cover closely the saucepan containing it and set over vessel of hot water at the back of the stove to heat it for ten minutes. Apply warm with a piece of flannel and polish with a rough cloth.

HOW SCIENTISTS HAVE COME TO NEW VOLCANIC THEORY.

Volcanoes and boilers blow up from the same cause, too much steam pressure; volcanoes are not "safety valves" to the molten interior of the earth, for the earth's interior is not molten; the lakes of boiling lava in volcanic craters are hotter at the surface than they are in their depths.

These and similar astonishing statements, in some cases reversing ideas at present accepted about volcanoes, were made before the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Washington recently by Dr. Arthur L. Day, director of the geophysical laboratory of the Carnegie Institute at Washington and expert on volcanism.

The data and observations on which Doctor Day based his statements were gathered in volcanic regions all over the globe, but attention had been centered especially on two fire-mountains; huge Kilauea in Hawaii, and Mt. Lassen in California, the only active volcano in the United States proper. The former was studied as a laboratory of lava reactions, and the latter for the lessons of its peculiarly explosive eruption of nine years ago.

At Kilauea it was found that the surface temperature of the lava lake was variable, rising as high as 1,185 degrees Centigrade, or 2,165 degrees Fahrenheit. Twenty feet below the surface the temperature was 100 degrees Centigrade lower. Doctor Day is of the opinion that this peculiar effect, which is the reverse of what would naturally be expected, is due to the chemical reactions of the gases that bubble through the lava, giving off heat as they unite and rise.

The Lassen eruption of 1915, as well as the lesser eruptions that have occurred from time to time since then, appears to have been due mainly to a great steam explosion. Doctor Day believes the water for the generation of this steam came from the lava itself. Molten rock, he found in laboratory experiments, can dissolve considerable water in itself, but as it cools and crystallizes the water is given off again and turned into steam.

Wife Was His Memory

"Your story of the absent-minded minister," writes a contributor to the Youth's Companion, "reminds me of a minister whom I knew in a little Wisconsin town many years ago. He had a wretched memory, but for all that he was nothing less than a saint."

His absent-mindedness was chronic. He seldom could remember his text, and, being averse to notes, he depended on his good wife to come to his rescue. He would lean over the pulpit and say, "What was my text for today, my dear?"

"She would tell him, and he would then proceed to preach a fine sermon from it."

"One Sunday after the singing of the second hymn he opened his Bible and, leaning down, made the usual request: 'My text for today, my dear?'"

"I don't know, I'm sure," composedly replied his wife. "You forgot to tell me!"

Butterless Land

The supply of fluid milk in the Dominican republic is fairly adequate, and although it is in general use for adults, modern methods of production and distribution do not prevail. A large amount of condensed, evaporated and powdered milk is imported into the country each year and one of the other of these preserved milks is always used for infant feeding. No butter is made anywhere in the republic and the demand for this commodity in the local market is met by importations chiefly from the United States and Denmark.—New York Times.

Words Wrongly Spelled

"I have seen lists of the words most often misspelled," said a teacher quoted in the New York Times, "but in my experience the one most frequently sinned against in print is 'gauge.' I have even found it stamped 'gauge' on the manufactured article. The next most frequently misspelled? I don't know. But for one infrequently used, 'buoy' certainly ranks high. 'Weird' seems to give some people lots of trouble, and almost everybody on a test will misspell 'deleble,' because better acquainted with its negative, 'addeble,' which has changed its original spelling."

Irish Wake

A wake is a vigil with a corpse. The word is derived from "wacan," Anglo-Saxon for a watching. It is still customary in many countries for friends and neighbors of the deceased to sit up nights with the corpse until it is buried. The custom probably originated in the ancient superstition that unless carefully guarded a corpse was in danger of being carried away by spirits from Hades. The Irish wake is especially notorious. In some parts of Ireland those remaining up nights with a corpse spend the time in drinking, dancing and telling jokes and stories. It is a highly festive occasion. Grace Greenwood in her "Stories of Travel" has this to say about the Irish wake: "A wake, sure it's an entertainment a man gives after he is dead, when his disconsolate friends all assemble at his house, to discuss his virtues and drink his poteen."—Pathfinder Magazine.

Paper Cups and Dishes Made by Electricity

Exemplifying the many diversified applications of electricity, ingenious machines are now used for making paper cups and dishes by a manufacturing concern in Brooklyn. The creation of these paper cups is an interesting process. Mechanical fingers on an ingenious electric-driven machine pick up a single disk of fine quality paper and place it in a section of the machine for pressing. This pressing gives the cup its shape, plating the sides for strength and rigidity. The piece is then transferred to another unit, of the same machine, where it is sterilized by heating.

When the second step has been completed, the cup has assumed its final form with plaited sides, natural curved lip and tumbler shape. But, as a measure of added efficiency, it is put through a third process, being sprayed with hot paraffin, which seals the plait and gives increased rigidity and crispness. From this point the cup passes into a baking chamber, where the paraffin is drained off. The finished cups are carried along on an endless conveyor past a fan, the breeze from which hastens drying.

Relieves Workers of Stigma of Suspicion

To save workers in factories which employ in their products gold, silver, or precious stones from suffering the indignity of being selected for searching, a Danish engineer has invented a special apparatus.

Hitherto, the custom has been to stop a certain proportion of the workers leaving such factories at night, thus apparently casting suspicion upon the individuals selected. By the new invention the worker asked to adjourn to the searching-room is chosen by a machine.

The apparatus consists of a container holding a number of balls, corresponding to the number of workers engaged in the factory. Some of the balls are made of a material conducting electricity. As the workers pass to the exit they press a button, when a ball is released. It rolls out of the container and a white lamp glows for a moment. In such case the worker passes on.

Should one of the conducting spheres roll out, the electric current turns on a red lamp, which means that the person indicated is one of those to be searched.

Franklin and His Kite

Of timely interest, in view of recent doubt cast upon Benjamin Franklin's kite experiment, is the recent discovery of a letter written by Franklin on the subject in a book published in London in 1774, now in the library of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, says Popular Science Monthly. After describing how to make the kite with a pointed wire on the upright stick, Franklin says:

"As soon as any of the thunder clouds come over the kite, the pointed wire will draw the electric fire from them, and the kite, with all the twine, will be electrified, and the loose filaments of the twine will stand out every way and be attracted by an approaching finger."

"Sit on the Woolsock"

This expression signifies "To be lord chancellor of England." The lord chancellor, presiding officer of the house of lords, occupies a seat on a cushion stuffed with wool. It is a large square bag of wool, without back or arms, and covered with red cloth. In Queen Elizabeth's reign, an act was passed to prevent the exportation of wool from England and encourage woolen manufacture. In order that this source of the national wealth should be kept constantly in mind, wool sacks were placed in the house of lords, where the judges sat.

Teaching Parrots to Talk

The burden of biological survey says no hard and fast rule can be laid down for teaching a bird to talk. This is entirely a matter of patience and perseverance in dealing with the bird. At first the bird should be kept in a room by itself, and the cage covered on three sides. Do not talk to the bird except in repeating simple phrases over and over again. Only one phrase should be used in a single day in the early training. Gradually work until several phrases are repeated over and over to the bird each day.

How Fog Bells Operate

A strand of several human hairs is stretched between two supports in one of Uncle Sam's most modern light-houses. On this strand is a link. As the fog-laden air gets moist the hair stretches, lowering the link and making an electrical contact, which starts an electric motor operating the fog bell striker. Thus, that old, old saying about being "saved by a hair" has come true.

Many National Parks in the United States

There are 19 national parks. They are: Hot Springs, located in middle Arkansas and containing 46 springs; Yellowstone, in northwestern Wyoming; Sequoia, middle California; General Grant, central California, created to preserve the General Grant tree, 35 feet in diameter; Mount Rainier, Washington, with 28 glaciers; Crater Lake, southwestern Oregon, extinct volcano.

Wind Cave, South Dakota, with miles of galleries; Platt, southern Oklahoma, containing sulphur springs; Sully Hill, North Dakota, a game preserve; Mesa Verde, southwestern Colorado, with prehistoric cliff dwellings; Glacier, northwestern Montana, with 50 small glaciers; Rocky Mountain, middle Colorado, with peaks 11,000 to 14,255 feet high; Hawaii, including the volcano Mauna Loa; Lassen Volcano, northern California.

Mount McKinley, Alaska, highest mountain in North America; Grand Canyon, northern Arizona; Lafayette, Desert Island, Maine, with group of granite mountains; Zion, southwestern Utah, with canyon 2,000 feet deep.

In addition to these there are several dozen smaller reservations, with caves, natural bridges, battlefields and similar places of natural or historic interest. These are known as national monuments.

Scientific Basis for Chances of Greatness

The older the parents when the child is born, the surer its chances for greatness.

The first and last born are more likely to attain eminence.

The more children a mother has the longer she lives—and the longer she lives, the longer the children live.

Children of professional people—lawyers, physicians and the like—have a better chance for fame than those born to wealth or those whose parents lacked educational advantages.

The offspring of fathers under thirty-one are more likely to become soldiers; artists come from fathers between thirty-one and forty; between forty-one and fifty there is more of a tendency toward statesmen; over fifty-one come the philosophers like Confucius, Bacon and Franklin.

Ninety per cent of the investigated criminal cases show them to be the offspring of younger parents.

If your father is more than sixty, and you are the youngest child in a large family—you should become famous.

The Family Tweezers

When you recall the old days back in the boyhood home there is nothing dark about the picture except the thought of the tweezers and mother's firm inquiry, "Andrew, what are you limping about?"

"I didn't know I was limping," you said, at the same time putting your foot down flat to show her that everything was all right.

Taking your word for what it was worth under the circumstances, she asked to have a little look. She made you get down on the floor and put your foot in her lap, while your brother kindly volunteered to get the tweezers.

You reasoned with her, pleaded with her, and even accused her of wanting to hurt you, but she worked away until she finally brought a terrible scream from you and an ugly splinter from your foot.

Even now a shudder comes over you when you think of those tweezers and those awful words:

"Andrew, what are you limping about?"—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Hindu Women Advancing

In 1914 an American woman, Doctor Sender, founded a school of medicine in India, but it was not till 1918 that the first native students began to attend. "Hindu women are not intelligent enough to take their degrees," was the verdict of the director of the Madras School of Medicine. The results of the last years, however, have proved the exact contrary. Up to the present, 93 per cent of women students have obtained their doctor's degree, while only 30 per cent of masculine students obtained it, the Dayton News says.

If we remember that out of 165,000,000 women there are only 150 who have obtained the right to practice medicine and that many Hindu women would rather die than be examined by a man, we must hope that this feminine victory will spread and that the number of students will increase in the different schools of medicine in that country.

Landmark to Disappear

The ancient Pictish capital of Scotland, Forteviot, is shortly to disappear, and a new modern village will rise in its place, Lord Forteviot having decided to rebuild the hall, school, and dwelling houses. Perth, overhangs the May water, which flows into the Earn. According to the legend of the foundation of St. Andrews, the king of the Picts built a church at Forteviot (then called Fortieth), and in his palace there Kenneth MacAlpin died in 860. It was on the "Miller's Acre," near the Holyhill, that Edward Hallow's army encamped before the battle of Dupplin (1332).

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