

Silent Triangle Drama of the Speaking Hands

How Mute Wife No. 1 Charged Mute Wife No. 2 With Luring Away Her Husband's Love With Tender Gestures



TRIANGLE

Mrs. Louise Rutherford Mickenham, who is charged by Mickenham's first wife with "Pantomiming" his love away. At right: Treasured Old Photo of the First Mickenham Marriage When Lena Was the Bride.

curious situation. Mrs. Lena Mickenham sued the woman who married her ex-husband—now Mrs. Louise Rutherford Mickenham—for alienation of affections. Lena charged that Louise stole the love of her husband and wants \$25,000 for it.

In the swift, graphic sign-language of mutes, the former Mrs. Mickenham told how the present Mrs. Mickenham met her husband. According to Lena's complaint, she was happily married until 1927. Then, she says, at one of the parties attended only by the deaf, Ashley Mickenham met Louise Rutherford, the divorced wife of a Protestant minister, also deaf and dumb, who tours the settlements of people similarly afflicted, sermonizing with his hands.

Ashley's infatuation, Lena declared, began from that first bridge game. She noticed that he enjoyed enormously being her partner and that night at supper saw to it that his place was next to hers. Mrs. Rutherford, Lena charged, did nothing to discourage the attentions of Ashley.

More parties followed. At bridge, according to Lena, Ashley, he and Mrs. Rutherford developed a set of signals that had nothing to do with Hoyle. Of course, all the bidding was carried on in the sign language. And from time to time Lena said she was conscious that when Ashley bid, "Two hearts," he was embroidering the gesture with "I love you."

In sign language this also involves the "heart sign," and Lena contended that Mrs. Rutherford understood and returned the silent endearment. It was all done so swiftly that the other players might not have seen, Lena said, but she saw and was deeply hurt.

The spectacle of a gathering of deaf mutes, two of them carrying on an interchange of sweet nothings airily gestured when no one was looking, offers a rich field for the imagination. How did Ashley—or Mrs. Rutherford, if, as Lena implied, she was the aggressor—commence the traditional first stumbling phrases of affection? How did the pair manage to sandwich in "I am not understood" or "Meet me at three" between the casual gossip of the parties, where eyes were glued to elo-



OLD, OLD STORY
The Three Most Famous Spoken or Written Words in Any Language. "I Love You," Translated Into the Sign Language of Mutes by Grace Bowen (Right).—"I"—Made With the Thumb and Little Finger of the Right Hand, as Shown in First Picture Below; "LOVE"—Made by Clapping Hands Over the Heart; "YOU"—By Pointing at the Person, as Shown at the Right.



MUTED SIGN
This is How a Deaf-and-Dumb Girl Signifies "I Am Lately"—Posed by Grace Bowen, Famous Artist's Model. They Are Often the First "Words" Exchanged Between a Love-Smitten Mute Pair.

THERE is another country, near and yet cut off from us, a country that lives in total silence. In the United States alone there are more than 13,000 people who must converse, be amused, make love and go about their daily tasks without being able either to speak or hear.

Around three members of Chicago's deaf mute colony recently arose a triangular drama, which, like the old movies, was not a "talkie." It was a

quent hands and so much as the dropping of a semicolon would be apparent to the trained mutes?

Anyway, if Mrs. Lena Mickenham is to be believed, her relations with Ashley from that time on became strained. He wasn't as good to her as he had always been. Finally he sued her for divorce. She maintained in her charges that he never would have done this if he hadn't been prompted by Mrs. Rutherford, who, with agile fingers, was pantomiming him away from her.

Lena answered her husband's divorce suit with a cross-bill and won a divorce. Mrs. Rutherford subsequently became Mrs. Louise Rutherford Mickenham, and later Mrs. Lena Mickenham said it was all unfair—a literally "underhand" affair—and she wanted

twenty-five thousand to soothe her sense of outrage.

At the hearing of the suit each will have a dozen witnesses, not one among whom can speak normally, although a few have learned to read lips and to utter words. All the testimony must be interpreted for the judge and jury.

The first Mrs. Mickenham has gone to live with her stepfather in Chicago since the divorce. She has adopted her maiden name of Lena Miller. Her brother, John, is also a mute, but her stepfather can speak and hear normally. Ashley operates a tire shop in Wichita, Kansas.

Mrs. Louise Rutherford Mickenham, defendant in Lena's suit, is well-proportioned and matronly. She has large, engaging eyes and long hair streaked with gray. Well educated, she reads lips and speaks in a clear, articulated but toneless and expressionless voice. She cannot hear and has learned to speak by carefully watching others. Whenever she can she uses the sign language—it's much less effort.

Ashley has never become an accomplished lip-reader and he has never learned to speak. He maintained that he was not lured away from his former wife by Louise, claiming that the other marriage went on the rocks as a result of mutual incompatibility and that he made up his own mind about whom he should marry next.

Deaf mutes tend to congregate and form little communities of their own. They seem to like one another's society, and there are frequent marriages—this despite the fact that deafness is readily inheritable. There are

many children of mutes who are born into the world without the ability to hear. Some are completely lacking in the delicate auditory nerves and the mechanism of the inner ear. This kind of deafness can never be cured.

On the other hand, there is no certainty that mutes will beget mutes. There are brothers and sisters, one deaf, the other perfectly normal; sometimes both parents of these are mutes. Again, deaf mutes—when their affliction dates back to birth—have no feeling of loss in not being able to hear. They have never heard a sound, and so they are unable to comprehend what sounds are like. Helen Keller, the internationally famous girl who was stricken deaf and blind in early infancy, learned to enjoy music through vibrations, and to speak and read with the aid of the Braille system of raised letters.

But her ambition was spurred by the memory of sights and sounds in girlhood. The average deaf-and-dumb person has no such recollection, and so is not a bit downhearted about being unable to hear. They are happy and contented folk, as a rule, even though many of them haven't learned to laugh.

Meanwhile the Mickenhams are fighting out their differences in court. The current Mrs. Mickenham has a prosperous son by her first marriage living in Chicago's fashionable South Shore. He is not a mute.

Just how the \$25,000 would compensate Lena Miller for the lost love of her husband isn't clear. It may be that she simply wanted to show the world that he was won away from her by unfair sign-love-making, if such was the case as she contends. And it may be that she hoped her husband would have a change of heart and begin to make tender gestures at her once more. Such things are hard to probe. They are wrapped in a silence as deep as that which cloaks the principals in the deaf mute damage suit.

"Don't Play to the Gallery"—Simpson



JAMES SIMPSON

(President of Marshall Field and Co.)
JAMES SIMPSON, president of Marshall Field & Company, in Chicago, has two outstanding rules for success. They are:

"1. Don't play to the gallery to cover up shortcomings. You seldom find a man getting to the top, or near the top, merely by a few brilliant, dramatic strokes. These may help him to achieve his ends, to be sure. But behind the brilliant drama you will find the other things—correct principles, right living, sound thinking and hard work."

"2. Try to find adventure in your work. Without it you cannot acquire the zeal which is part of the equipment of the man who makes money. If a man likes adventure, he ought to find it in his business. It is there. All he needs is the wish and determination to discover it."

"The profit has to come, of course. That is the proof of clever playing. But the game itself, the sport and zest of playing it, ought to be a big part of the reward even if there were nothing else. It that is absent the money part of the reward is too small, no matter if it is millions."

About thirty-three years ago a tow-headed Scotch lad of seventeen got a job in Marshall Field & Co. as an errand boy at five dollars a week. After a few years had passed he was getting ten dollars. The story is told that he became dissatisfied and went direct to Mr. Field for an increase in wages. The great founder of the company looked at him and said:

"Why, when I was your age, I made only five dollars a week." And then, the story has it, came the reply which made the boy famous:

"Well, sir, perhaps that was all you were worth." The boy was James Simpson, and (whether the story is true or not) in a short time he was private secretary to Marshall Field. Now, at the age of fifty, he is president of the company and one of the outstanding merchants of the world.

HUMAN MECHANICS

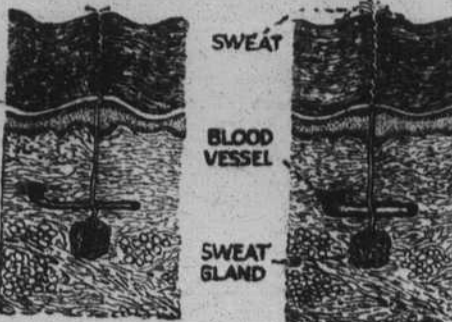
BY HERBERT L. HERSCHENSON (Physician and Surgeon)

THE normal temperature of man is considered 98.6 deg. F. In health, it seldom rises or falls more than one degree during the day. Late in the afternoon the temperature is highest, and in the morning, lowest. Muscular activity tends to elevate the temperature, while starvation and loss of sleep tend to lower it.

The greatest amount of heat within the body is due to the use of the muscles. Over three-fourths of the total energy set free during the action of a muscle appears as heat. A smaller amount is produced when the different organs of the body are active. For example, during the digestion of a meal, the work done by the stomach and intestines causes a certain amount of heat to be formed. Since heat is produced so easily, there must be some ready means by which an equal amount of heat can be lost.

About eighty per cent of heat is lost chiefly through the skin in the form of sweat, a small amount being lost in warming the air that is breathed in.

The sweat is a clear, colorless fluid composed of ninety-nine per cent water. It is excreted through the sweat glands which are present everywhere right under the surface of the skin. As soon as the temperature of the body



A—Cold Atmosphere Causes a Contraction of the Blood Vessels in the Skin So That Only a Small Amount of Sweat is Formed by the Glands.
B—Hot Atmosphere Causes the Blood Vessels to Widen So That a Greater Amount of Sweat is Formed.

rises a half to one degree above normal, the process of sweating begins. The loss of heat from the skin can take place in any or all of the following ways. The waves of heat can pass into the atmosphere in all directions; the heat in the skin can be transferred to objects with which it is in contact, such as the clothing; finally, the heat can be lost by evaporation. The greatest amount of heat, in fact, is lost when the sweat is evaporated.

How the Temperature of the Body Tends to Remain at Normal

Sweat is continuously being formed on the surface of the skin. The extent to which it is formed depends upon the activity of the body and the temperature of the surrounding air. In cold weather, when the body is at rest, the least amount of sweat is formed. For that reason it evaporates so quickly that its presence is not noticed. As the weather gets warmer or as the muscles of the body do more work, the perspiration forms so freely that it becomes more apparent. Evaporation takes place more quickly when the air is dry than when it is moist.

The amount of blood passing through the vessels of the skin determines the amount of sweating. The blood vessels are controlled by an automatic nervous system which regulates the width of the vessels, permitting more or less blood to pass through. When the air is cold, the width of the vessels becomes so small that only a little of the blood can pass through. As a result, the small amount of sweat that is formed does not rob the body of its heat. However, when the air is hot, the vessels become wider, more blood enters the skin, perspiration becomes profuse and the surplus heat of the body is gotten rid of. At birth this temperature regulating mechanism is not fully developed and it is necessary to keep the surrounding air warm or to wrap the infant in warm clothing so that the body does not give off too much heat.

By CLARE MURRAY—Girl Poet-Artist

Tested



"The clock in the tower is striking the hour."

THE moon is a luminous ball tonight
Afloat on an indigo pool,
What were you saying, my love, my dear?
Why do I act so cool?
(The stars are drowned in the indigo pool,
Leaving the moon alone.)
The night wind ill, from over the hill,
Chills me through every bone.
(Oh, to be rolling through liquid space,
Hot on the lunar trail!)

YOU told me before of your latest deal,
Of your greatest property sale.
* * *
(Far from the world of wealth and woe,
Time would mean naught to me!)
The clock in the tower is striking the hour.
I must leave your company.
* * *
(A brave, true love would ride by my side....
Ah, I am home at last!)
A storm is brewing. Goodbye, my dear.
(Our love is over and past...)