

PSYCHOLOGY—SOCIOLOGY

How to Find a Husband

A Specialist in Marriage Problems Offers Advice To Intelligent Girls and Tells of Their Handicaps

By MARJORIE VAN DE WATER

"GETTING your man" is a serious business, and girls should treat it seriously. They should give at least as much time and thought to it as they do to careers.

That is the advice of a famous specialist in marriage problems, Dr. Paul Popenoe, general director of the Institute of Family Relations, at Los Angeles, Calif.

Speaking recently at a scientific gathering, Dr. Popenoe offered some very practical hints to the girl, particularly the intelligent college girl, who would like to marry but who does not have proposals from men she would choose for a lifetime partner. Some of his suggestions apply as well to the young man seeking a desirable wife.

First, the young woman must make herself attractive and alluring to the sort of man she considers desirable. Then she must develop her technique for landing him. On both these points, Dr. Popenoe has helpful advice to offer.

An important part of being attractive or marriageable lies in being sexually normal. The most happy marriages are between womanly women and manly men, Dr. Popenoe says. Mannishness, or old-maidishness, to the extent that they are caused by psychological factors, are preventable or curable. Cultivate feminine ways, is Dr. Popenoe's advice.

Must Be Adult

Next, if a girl would be attractive to potential husbands, she must be emotionally grown-up. At the Institute of Family Relations, Dr. Popenoe found that the infantile girl is likely to have a fear of sex, unconsciously perhaps, that prevents her from desiring or attaining a happy marriage, just as a mother fixation is responsible for the celibacy of many old bachelors.

A suspicious or stand-off-ish disposition is a serious handicap in the attempt to become attractive to marrying men.

A college girl must not make the mistake of relying on her diploma to charm desirable potential husbands. When 250 happy, educated married couples were asked what they found most admirable

in their respective mates, most of the women stressed intellectual companionship. But the husbands were pleased with something quite different—it was the wife's ability to do her job and be equal to the responsibilities of marriage.

A girl to be attractive as a wife must appeal to the man's emotion, she must be able to enhance his ego, and she must have domestic competence. If she lacks these assets, she can not offset the deficiency by putting forward a quality that he does not particularly want—capacity to satisfy him intellectually.

"An outstanding difficulty of some men in winning a mate is self-centeredness, and their inability or unwillingness to offer that comradeship which the intelligent woman covets," Dr. Popenoe said. "But an outstanding difficulty of some women in winning a mate, is their tendency to try to act like second-class men instead of first-class women.

Should Study Sex

"A realistic study of the psychology of sex, beginning in the high-school period, would prevent the celibacy to which some educated young women are now doomed."

The college girl is really seriously handicapped in the competition for the most desirable husbands, Dr. Popenoe points out. In the first place, her age tells against her. "She will probably not graduate from college before 22; at that age one-half of the native white women of the United States are already married. Each year of delay impairs her chances doubly; first because the available men are diminishing in number by marriage to other girls, and second because the average disparity in age of spouses increases steadily."

Men usually marry younger women; at 25, a man will marry a girl of 22, but at 35 he will marry not one of 32, but one of 28.

"If the college girl takes a job for a few years after graduation, her statistical chances of marriage may vanish," Dr. Popenoe said. "By the time she is ready to wed there are (statistically speaking) no men left to marry her.

"The educated girl who wants to

marry successfully should begin to consider the subject seriously from her early college years. She should not confine her "dates" to fellow-students of her own age, but should cultivate the acquaintance of men a few years older than herself, who would be established in their businesses or professions and ready to marry her as soon as she graduates. On graduation, she should make it her first concern to marry, letting a "career" take second place or, if necessary, no place at all."

Want Bright Men

The tendency of girls is to want to marry men superior to them in intelligence while men, on the contrary, prefer girls of inferior intellect. This is hard on the educated, superior girl, for it narrows seriously the group from which she would like to pick her future husband.

"The college girl sometimes has standards that are fantastic and unattainable," Dr. Popenoe said. "But even if she would be content with a man no better than herself, she is still handicapped, for the men of her own level are marrying girls slightly below her level. There are too few men, above her level, to go around.

"Instead of lowering her standard year by year to conform to reality, she sometimes raises it as she becomes more independent economically and culturally. Taken in connection with her own increasing age, this makes inevitably and fatally true her complaint that she never meets any bachelors who are worth marrying."

Occupational segregation of the sexes is another handicap for the educated girl. Meetings resulting from business or professional contacts form one of the main sources of marriage selection, Dr. Popenoe has found. Yet most of the superior girls seem likely to become teachers, librarians, or nurses, and meet only other women as their occupational associates.

"In selecting a career to follow after graduation, girls might sometimes do well to consider more carefully its matrimonial opportunities," Dr. Popenoe advises.

"The irregular geographical distribution of marriageable men further complicates the picture. Some of the northwestern states have two or three times

as many such men per 100 unmarried women, as do some of the southeastern states. Cities are likely to have an excess of unmarried women, farming areas of unmarried men. In some instances, one seeking a mate would do well to move to a more promising locality.

No Chance to Meet

"Even where, in a given area, there are many young men and young women well suited to each other, they may suffer from the lack of social machinery to bring them together. 'Pick-ups' and casual encounters at places of commercial amusement play an important part in the lives of youth of lower socio-economic strata, but not with the educated class. The educational system itself is the most important matrimonial agency for the latter; but if they have not found partners in high school or college, if their occupations do not throw them with possible mates, and if they lack an assured social position in the community based on the contacts of their parents and other relatives in a settled population, they may receive very little help in making those acquaintances which are as necessary for their mental hygiene as for their matrimonial prospects.

"The various dormitories (Y. W. C. A., business girls clubs, and the like) in which girls congregate often make no effective effort to provide a normal social life, and by remaining in them the girl becomes more and more adjusted to a world of one sex, and less and less able to make the acquaintances she desires. Dormitory life for men is even worse. Church young people's societies are often of little help because too small and cliquish.

The Girl Friend

"Too often a girl thus gets into a rut which she never leaves. She forms the habit of going around with some other girl in like case, thus making it all the harder for a man who might like to strike up an acquaintance with her.

"To escape from this wilderness, she must travel alone and study the map.

"She must, in the first place, go where men are, but these must, in the second place, be the right kind of men; and in the third place, conditions must be favorable for acquaintance. It is no use to go to a motion picture, merely because there are men in the audience. Even a cut-in dance is likely to be unprofitable; she may meet a dozen men, but the experience of exchanging commonplaces with them for two or three

minutes is not likely to lead to a permanent friendship.

Wider Acquaintance

"The higher one's standards, the wider must be one's range of acquaintance, so that one can live up to these standards. Too frequently, this relationship is reversed. The girl with the highest standards knows the fewest men. Again her 'statistical position' is unfavorable.

"The best way to improve it is to join groups in which young people share some common interest. In every city there are almost countless organizations, public and private, devoted to sport, recreation, religion, art, philosophy, music, literature, science—everything under the sun. One who wants to make acquaintances should canvass all such groups in which he has or can take an interest; visit them one at a time, drop them at once if no 'worthwhile' young people are found, cultivate them further if they promise to be worth cultivation. Such groups are usually anxious to get new members who share their enthusiasms, and the newcomer who travels alone and endeavors to be appreciative will find a hearty reception, whether it be from a club of amateur astronomers or a choral society, a group of hikers or an organi-

zation to promote more fluent conversation in Spanish.

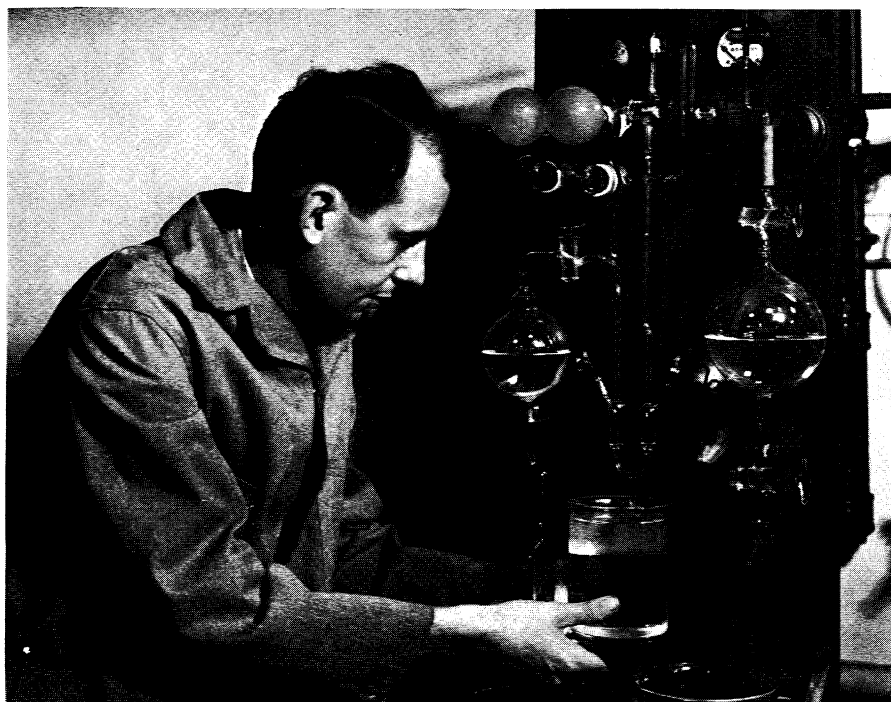
Taking two a week, a young man or woman in a large city could visit a hundred such groups in a year. It would be surprising if at least one of them did not repay the effort!

"At the same time, one must develop one's own personality. Many unmarried persons who are otherwise superior have become so self-centered, and so much afraid of themselves and other people, that they cannot bring themselves to seek new acquaintances or to interest those that they do chance to meet. Friends make an effort to introduce them around, only to find that the effort is wasted by non-violent non-cooperation, as Gandhi has it.

Develop Personality

"Such persons would profit by systematic psychological help, if such were accessible; but much can also be done through the excellent popular books on the development of personality, the art of making friends, and related subjects, of which at least a dozen have been published in recent years.

"The shortage of bachelors to serve as potential husbands for the educated and unmarried women is partly offset by the widowers and divorcees who, if they re-



HEAVY HYDROGEN "FACTORY"

Simplified, all-glass apparatus producing a liter of heavy hydrogen every five hours has been developed by Dr. Charles M. Slack, physicist of the Westinghouse Lamp Company. The heavy hydrogen is obtained from heavy water by electrolysis.

marry, usually prefer a maid to an older woman of their own status. Unfortunately the divorcees, who are most plentiful, are to some extent biological inferiors and discards who are worthless matrimonial prospects. Their rate of remarriage is hard to calculate, but it is probable that only a minority of them ever remarry. Those who do remarry represent the more normal and desirable of the group, and the Institute's studies show that their success in a second marriage is not very much less than that of the rest of the population in first-and-only marriages. Divorcees should be scrutinized critically, therefore, but not necessarily rejected, although widowers by death rather than widowers by law, to borrow the terminology of the matrimonial bureau, are probably better 'prospects.'

Having made herself attractive and marriageable and having sought out the acquaintance of a large number of eligible men to whom she has taken a friendly attitude, the girl should pay strict at-

tention to her "technique." She should be careful to avoid the pitfall of too much aggression in the courtship or proposal, Dr. Popenoe warns.

The role of the female as seductive and alluring rather than aggressive goes back in evolution not only far beyond the human, but far beyond the mammalian stage; it is unlikely that it can be disregarded with safety at the present time.

"One of the common complaints of unhappy husbands is that their wives are too aggressive, of unhappy wives, that their husbands are not aggressive enough," Dr. Popenoe found.

"No law now prevents women from proposing, but every-day observation shows that it is not worthwhile for her to do so.

"The woman who is not clever enough to maneuver a man into a position where he will propose, is probably not clever enough to hold a man after she gets one."

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PALEONTOLOGY

Sea Serpent's Skull Found By California Student

A FOSSILIZED skull of a mosasaur—huge serpentine sea-reptile which lived during the upper Cretaceous geologic period, some 60,000,000 years ago, has been found near the town of Gustine, Calif., by Allan Bennison, a sophomore in the University of California. It is the first mosasaur skull to be found west of the Rockies.

The skull is about two feet long, and is six inches in width at its broadest point. It was found embedded in a sandstone formation on the side of a hill, just west of the town. It has been given to the University's museum of paleontology for study.

S. P. Welles, field laboratory assistant in the museum, has informed Science Service that the reptile was about

18 feet long, with a slender, snake-like body. Its limbs resembled paddles with which it propelled its way through the water. Its tail was somewhat fan-like in shape, and served as a scull to guide its passage. In appearance, Mr. Welles said, it was a "cross between the present day sea-lion and sea-snake."

Its habitat was the ocean. But like the whale, it had to come to the surface for air. It had large, sharp teeth and probably was a fish eater.

Paleontologists at the university are planning an expedition to the region in which the find was made, in the hope of recovering the remainder of the skeleton. It is believed this will necessitate tunneling into the side of the hill, as the skull itself was found on a steep slope.

Some two years ago, Mr. Bennison found a dinosaur in the same region, and this discovery led him to make a careful survey of the area, with the result that he uncovered his present find.

Science News Letter, August 14, 1937

The Romans got their first taste of food made from rye and oats when they encountered northern Europeans.

ASTRONOMY

Supposed "Ghost" Comet Claimed To Be Real

WHEN reports were received in April of the discovery of a new comet in the southern skies by W. F. Gale, an Australian astronomer, and great observatories in Europe and America were unable to locate it, the assumption was made that it was a "ghost." It was near the brilliant planet Mars, and often reflections from such a bright object, inside the eyepiece of a telescope, cause these ghosts, which look like comets.

The comet was real after all, according to a claim in a letter from Mr. Gale to Dr. A. C. D. Crommelin, published in the *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*. Mr. Gale states that he fully recognized the likelihood of its being a ghost, and made careful tests to determine its reality. The telescope, he says, never showed such ghosts before, and the comet was seen best when Mars was completely out of the field. It was observed by several others, and through other telescopes, over a period of nearly a month, during which it moved as a comet should.

As he found the comet to vary considerably in brightness, it may be that it happened to be very faint when the northern observers looked for it. Also, it was much better placed for viewing in Australia, for there it was nearly overhead, while in Europe and North America it was low in the south. After the word was circulated that it could not be found, and northern astronomers decided that it was a ghost, no further search was made.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

Man Himself is Feature Of New Style World's Fair

IMPOSSIBLE as it may seem, a new style in world's fairs and expositions is being set. Industrial, territorial and colonial expansion and, more recently, scientific achievements have dominated world's fairs in the past. When the New York World's Fair opens in 1939 the new style, with emphasis on man himself, will come to full flower.

The general theme of this fair will be "Man and the World of Tomorrow." But if man is to dominate the fair generally, he will reign supreme in the building which will house exhibits displaying the latest scientific knowledge of medicine and public health.

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