The Marriage Problem

By JESSE LYNCH WILLIAMS

Author of "Why Marry?" and "The Married Life of the Frederick Carrolls."

Marriage Will Increase, Not Diminish

THERE are radicals who say, and even believe, that in the future there will be no such nonsense as marriage at all. There are conservatives who say, and try to believe, that in the future there will be no change in marriage whatever.

Both, of course, are wrong. They are merely voicing their preferences. That is all most of us use our minds for, anyhow—as mere accomplices to our prejudices and desires. So long as we have not only the mating instinct but the gregarious instinct, we shall have to have an organized society. And so long as we have an organized society we shall have to have some rules and regulations for the control of mating.

So marriage we shall always have with us. In fact, in the future, in my opinion, there will be more marrying than ever; and, instead of no marriage at all, there will probably be at least two different kinds.

I will touch on that again. But, first, before we look into the future, we must take a glance at the past in order to understand the present. There is already today a tremendous change taking place in marriage right under our very eyes, though some of us are not aware of it, because, as yet, this change has not been incorporated in the rules and regulations of the game.

In fact, there are two enormous changes which really reach the dimensions of a revolution in our ideas and in our practice of our most ancient and most important institution.

Sex has always been a bit of a puzzle to civilization, a problem which it has never satisfactorily solved, and probably never will.

We no longer regard the love of man and woman as an unfortunate weakness. Just as a plain, unromantic matter of scientific fact.

The old view of the matter is now considered not only unworthy, but as a kind of blasphemy against the Creator, who knew what he was doing when he made these arrangements for life and the continuance of it.

This higher, healthier and nobler conception of sex love has come to stay, and is now shared by nearly all enlightened people, even by the church itself.

In fact, in modern times the reactionary view of love as something purely, or impurely, physical is seldom proclaimed, except by reactionary young writers, who, strangely enough, consider themselves advanced.

The other and still more notable revolution which is taking place in modern marriage, and will be a tremendous factor in determining the new marriage forms of the future, is due to what is called birth control or voluntary parenthood.

This matter is still in a controversial stage. The moral issue involved does not concern our predictions as to the future of marriage.

In the future there will be a sufficient number of childless marriages to be regarded as the established habit of such a large class that special laws will be required for them.

Let us see what will happen. As matters are arranged today, youth is the time for love, but not for marriage. All of the forces of nature say, "Come!" All of the forces of civilization say, "But you mustn't!"

In the high tide of youth comes the natural mating time, and it is the actual mating time in all forms of life except the highest. Among professional men, for example, the average marrying age is nearer forty than twenty.

The evils and misfortunes of this state of affairs need no expansion; they suggest themselves. Besides, we see them all about us. In the future I see young people marrying at the natural age.

Now the corollary to early mating is undoubtedly a considerable amount of mismating, and, therefore, remating. That will be unfortunate but inevitable. Easier marriage must mean easier divorce. Regrettable but true.

As for the family marriage, there will always be plenty of couples who desire children. Pessimists need never fear in regard to that.

Parenthood will be regarded as such an important privilege that it will be limited to a few, and they the fittest.

And that does not mean merely the physically fittest, but also the mentally and temperamentally most fit.

In short, we shall have an aristocracy of parenthood, and it will be the greatest aristocracy and the only sound one the world has ever known.

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Calcutta . . . Construction of additional long distance telephone lines throughout India is now under way, Trade Commissioner George C. Howard reports in Foreign Communications News of the U. S. Department of Commerce. Prominent among these new trunk telephone circuits are lines connecting India and Ceylon. Also lines are now being operated between Calcutta and Bengal and Darjeeling, summer capital, a distance of 369 miles. The Mysore Government, Mr. Howard reports, is studying the question of further extension of the Bangalore dial telephone system.

NEWS ITEMS IN AND AROUND GALENA

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Cochran and children, of Philadelphia, Pa., spent the past week end with his mother, Mrs. Wilson Cochran.

Misses Nellie Dempsey, Kathyrn Thornton and Miss Mary Stevens, of Millington, left on Monday on a motor trip through the South.

The Ladies Aid met at the Chapel last Tuesday evening.

Mr. L. R. Vansant visited his daughter, Mrs. Terry Mitchell in Waynesboro, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Stevens visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Jarman over the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Reynolds and niece Carolyn Coxe, of Philadelphia, Pa., visited the latters parents, Mr. and Mrs. Heston Coxe.

Among the 4th of July visitors over the week end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Betz were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Shelton and son, James, of Wilmington, Del.

Mrs. Amelia Shelton returned to the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Betz, after spending some time with relatives and friends in Wilmington, Del., and Massey, Md.

Mr. Merritt Haley, of Still Pond, Md., spent the week end with his mother, Mrs. John Betz.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ruane and family moved last Thursday to Baltimore, Md.

Mrs. G. E. Hicks and Ella Mae spent several days last week with relatives in Baltimore, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Sennett and her mother, Mrs. Jerome McCauley were week end guests of relatives here and in Georgetown, Md.

Miss Ethelie Prettyman, of Baltimore, Md., spent the past week end with her mother, Mrs. Ida Prettyman.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Burnie, of Baltimore, Md., spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. James Scotten.

Mrs. Micheal Burns, of Baltimore, Md., spent the past week end with her brother and sister in law, Mr. and Mrs. James Mulford.

Miss Mary Scott, of Baltimore, spent the past week ed with her sister, Mrs. James D. Davis, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Josph Craddock and family, of Prospect Pak, Pa., and Mrs. Sarah Garey, of Middletown, Del., spent the past week end with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Clem West, of Norwood, Pa., Mrs. Robert Chambers and little daughter, Cecila, of Verona, N. J., and Miss Peg Mullin, of Chestertown, Md., spent the past week end with their father, Mr. John Mullin.

Mrs. Mathilda Anderson, of New York, has opened her summer home near Galena.

Mr. and Mrs. Grover Moore and son, Clyde, of Baltimore, Md., visited Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fogwell over the past week end.

Messrs. Jed, Robert and Aron Welch of Washington, D. C., were week end guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Welch.

Miss Margaret and Jack McCauley, of Philadelphia, are spending the summer months with their father, Mr. John A. McCauley.

Mr. Ernest Towler, of Wilmington, Del., visited his brother, Mr. Wm. Towler over the week end.

Mr. Lewis Justis, of Philadelphia, Pa., spent several days last week with his grand mother, Mrs. Walter Hadley.

Mrs. E. A. Scott is visiting friends in Elkton, Md., and her daughter, Mrs. G. W. Zieders in Baltimore, Md.

Mr. Price Stradley left on Wednesday to attend the M. T. Camp, at Fort Meade, Md., for six weeks.

Mr. Keith Cochran, Sr., and son, Gene, of Wilmington, Del., spent last Sunday with his family, Mr. Cochran is employed in Wilmington, Del.

News was received this week of the death of Mrs. May Nickerson Gross, of Pennsgrove, N. J., she was formerly of Galena and a niece of Mr. Wm. T. Wood.

Miss Clara Virginia Davis is attending the Girls Camp at Camp Wright, near Easton, Md., for two weeks.

Mrs. Mary Smith, of Millington, Md., is the guest of Mrs. Ella Caldwell.

Mrs. Nellie Way, of Baltimore, Md., spent several days last week with her niece, Mrs. James D. Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. William Statts, of Wilmington, Del., spent the past week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bolton.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Holton Parr, of Baltimore, Md., visited their aunts, Miss Jennie Parr and Mrs. Harry Todd, last Saturday.

Miss Margaret Mulford spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. Burgess Schrieber in Chestertown, Md.

Mr. Warren Gillespie, who is attending summer school at University of Md., spent the week end with his family.

Dr. Earle Gilfillan and family his mother, Mr. Edna Gilfillan and cousin Mr. Howard Darlington, spent the holidays at the formers cottage at Crystal Beach, Md.

The Always Faithful Sunday School Class held a Doggie Roast and swimming party at Crystal Beach Manor last Thursday evening.

Little Kay Heighe Ahern returned to her home last Sunday after visiting her aunt, Mrs. Terry Mitchell in Waynesboro, Pa.

Mr. William Pennington, of Baltimore, Md., and Mrs. Eugene Hungerford, of Sharptown, Md., spent the past week end with their mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Wamsley.

Mrs. George R. Jones, Sr., and daughter, Florence, are visiting friends in Baltimore, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Coleman and family spent the past week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Blount.

WORTON

The Sunday School Picnic will be held at Tolchester, Wednesday, August 19h. This is an all day picnic.

Louis Cruickshank, of Galena, was the guest of his sister, Mrs. Marvin Williams several days last week.

Mrs. Henry Rasin and Helen Christopher visited Mr. and Mrs. John Money, of Kennedyville, Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. George and children, of Easton, visited her sister, Mrs. Carter Rash, Saturday.

Mr. George Clayville, of Dover, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Clayville.

George B. Rasin, Jr., left Thursday to visit relatives in New York and hopes to get employment during vacation.

Mrs. W. S. Gardner, of Baltimore, and Mrs. Fannie Edwards, of Chestertown, are visiting Mrs. R. A. Loud.

Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Hadaway entertained Mr. and Mrs. Walter Starr and family, of Pomona, Sunday.

Miss Louise Wolf, of Baltimore, and Miss Helen Brown, of Havre de Grace, visited Mr. and Mrs. Marion Rash Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hickman had as their guest over the fourth, Mr. Walter Hickman, of Wilmington, Mr. and Mrs. Houck and children, of Baltimore Mr. and Mrs. Jack Whitcher, and daughter, Audrey Jean, of Milford, Del.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Rouse and daughter, Ann, of Aberdeen, visited her mother, Mrs. Henrietta Rasin over the week end.

Mrs. May McCloskey and friend, Mr. Moore, of Wilmington, spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Crouch.

Mrs. Wm. Caudrey an dson and Mr. Stanley Matthews, of Wilmington, visited Mrs. Julia Matthews Sunday.

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FOR THOSE WHO REMAIN

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We consider this part of our work as important as any other. Our highest aim is to have our patrons look upon us as trusted friends, ready and anxious to render sympathetic assistance to those who remain behind.

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