

Fatal Kisses.

Fatal kisses are not mere figures of speech. In many a case they have literally been the cause of death. Perhaps the most fatal kiss ever known was that given by a young Spanish sailor to his fiancée nine years ago, for it brought about the decimation of a town. A Spanish vessel put into the little seaport of Candelo, on the coast of Florida, flying the yellow flag, and was accordingly ordered to remain in quarantine, for more than one member of the crew exhibited symptoms of bubonic plague. But the sailor disobeyed orders, and put off in a boat for the shore one evening, where, having sought out his fiancée, whom he had not seen for some years, he kissed her. A few days later the effects of the kiss became painfully evident. The girl succumbed to the plague, which spread through the town so rapidly that more than two hundred persons died out of a total population of 1500.

Kisses once cost the lives of many brave soldiers in the British army. The beautiful Duchess of Gordon, in 1794, raised the famous Gordon Highlanders by giving 1000 recruits a kiss and a golden guinea apiece. The men were then sent out against the French, and, in the very first battle in which they took part, more than 250 fell, either killed or wounded.

Previous to this, in 1718, a war was brought about by a thoughtless kiss on the part of a young Bavarian prince. During a visit to a neighbouring State he inadvertently kissed a beautiful member of the royal household, Princess Thyra, ignorant of the fact that she was already affianced. Her betrothed happened to be standing near, and witnessed the incident. High words ensued, followed by blows, and a duel was arranged, which led to the discontinuance of diplomatic relations between the two nations. A war broke out ultimately, and resulted in thousands of deaths before there was peace.

The Japanese University in Tokio, exclusively for women, is approaching completion, and will be opened some time this year. The institution is the outgrowth of advanced ideas held by Japanese families of education.

Courtship and Marriage Queries.

KNOTTY POINTS DISCUSSED.

Is it possible to keep a man a friend and no more?

I doubt very much if it is possible, if the man has his mind set on trying to cross the line from friendship to love.

Somehow, as a rule, a man "awakes" to love first, and it is his business and pleasure to awake an answering chord in the woman he loves. Sometimes the woman realises what his object is, and wishes he wouldn't. She likes him as a friend, pure and simple, but she has no wish or desire to go any further.

In nine cases out of ten you must make up your mind to lose your friend sooner or later. If the man has developed from friendship to love, he is bound to tell you. You may, by infinite tact, put off the evil day, and try and cheat yourself into the belief that all is well. But it won't last.

Only, don't bother your head unnecessarily. Perhaps he is not in love at all—only a rather urgent friend.

Am I justified in marrying a man against the wishes of my brother, who is my only near relative?

It depends entirely on the motives that have inspired your brother's objections, and on the amount of affection there is between your brother and yourself.

Of course, if his views are likely to be purely selfish, you would be quite justified in disregarding them. You have a right to live out your own life to the full, and you are bound to consider your fiancée's happiness.

But if your brother is really fond of you, and his objections are on unselfish grounds, then give his opinions some weight. He probably knows far more about the world than you do, and there may be things against your lover of which you have no notion.

It is always a hard point to decide. I should advise you to open your heart to your brother. Let him see you want to do what is right, and then he may put things in a plainer light for you.

ANOTHER KNOTTY POINT DEALT WITH.

"Amethyst" has got into a thor-

ough muddle and wants me to help her out of it.

She knew a man and a girl (B). They were great friends. Presently the man told "Amethyst" he had "met the one woman in the world."

"Amethyst" had no doubt that he referred to the girl B. "Amethyst," in a spirit of absolute kindness, told B.

Up to that time B. had only looked on the man as a friend; but the knowledge that he cared for her waked an echo in her heart, and she gradually came to love him heart and soul.

A short time ago the man came to "Amethyst" and said that things were prospering so with him that he meant to put his fate to the touch; and then, to "Amethyst's" horror, mentioned the name of another girl altogether. "Amethyst" now wants to know what to do.

1. Shall she tell the man?
2. Shall she tell her girl friend B?
3. Shall she do nothing?

I suppose "Amethyst" will say she was following my advice in trying to put things right? If she will look back she will see that I only suggested the "helping friend" where the girl and man cared, and the girl was rich and the man Quixotic. "Amethyst" ought never to have acted as she did. Why did she not leave the man to fight his own battles?

However, it is no good crying over spilt milk. The question is, What is to be done now?

Whatever happens the man must not be told. What would be the good? He will certainly not refrain from proposing to the other girl, and besides the other girl may care for him.

It is no good spoiling three lives.

I think "Amethyst" must tell her friend B. My impression is that the moment B. finds that the man does not care for her half her dream about him will go.

Love on a woman's side is largely due to reciprocal action.

There is no reason for B. to feel humiliated.

She merely gave away some gold by mistake in exchange for a cheque which subsequently proved to represent nothing but paper.—"Home Chat."

Indefinite Instructions.

Lady (to clerk in clothing store): "I want a pair of trousers for my husband." Clerk: "What size, madam?" Lady: "I don't know the size, but he wears a fifteen collar."

Sick Gems.

Many people have an idea that precious stones are always in the best of health. They make no complaint, it is true, but too much sunshine and exposure to air will often damage them as much as it would the milk-and-roses complexion of a fair lady. Emeralds, rubies and sapphires may be reckoned as hardy gems, but even they will lose colour if exposed to the air. Two rubies of the same size and shade were kept for a couple of years, one in a showcase and the other in a dark box. At the end of the two years they were compared, when it was discovered that the first had become lighter in colour.

Topazes and garnets are far more quickly affected by light. The garnet will become much paler in a short time, while the topaz assumes a darker shade, and even loses the brilliancy it had when first cut.

The most sensitive stone in this respect is the opal, which draws its marvellous rainbow reflections to numerous minute clefs that allow the light to pass and reflect it in different directions. Often an opal will stand the process of cutting and polishing well, and then some sudden change of temperature or other accident may cause it to split. Wearers of opal rings should, for this reason think twice before warming their hands at the fire.

Pearls very easily deteriorate. In the fire they rapidly become lime, pure and simple; and in vinegar or other acid they will dissolve.

Diamonds are less sensitive, but it is a wise precaution not to take them too near the fire.

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