

Our Competition

"What Is The Secret Of A Successful Marriage?"

OPINIONS varied considerably on this debatable question, but I think you all agreed on three things: the secret of success in marriage lies in the ability to give-and-take, respect for one another, and the possession of a sense of humour.

First prize this month to "Fairfield," Hamilton, and second to "A.M.D.," Inglewood. Close behind comes "Sally" of Otago, and "Civis," Gisborne. Successfully married? I do hope so, but in any case, here's how our wives are making a success of the most important business of their lives.

First Prize

HOW tragic it is that so often the happy experience of the uniting of two lives should be followed by disillusionment, broken hearts, and broken homes. And yet it is too often so. Why is not every marriage a success, we wonder? Perhaps the fault lies partly in the haste with which this important step is taken. Frequently, in the glamour of romance, the future is hardly considered, neither is mere fleeting passion discerned from true and lasting love, which alone will stand the test of time. Real love is based upon an appreciation of each other's characters, and it is as well that these characters be thoroughly known and their compatibility tested before this solemn step is taken. It is not necessary to harmony that colours be of the same hue, but they must be of the same tone to blend successfully. Thus it is with human lives—there must be things in common, even if all tastes are not identical. Especially is this necessary in things of the spirit, wherein lies the true depth of life, and the rock foundation of human love.

After marriage, it is sometimes found that the "vision splendid" has faded, and in the humdrum round of daily life petty irritations and grievances

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Happy childhood—happy because her parents have found the secret of a successful marriage.

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spoil the harmony of the home, and love begins to wilt. Wherein lies the secret of continuity of love that will lighten the home, and make it a precious sanctuary? As far as the wife is concerned, as the home-maker, it is her privilege to set the standard high, and guard the ideals with which they first commenced married life. A man appreciates a home where he finds brightness, sympathy, and understanding love, where he finds relief and recreation from cares and worries, and where he sees in his wife a real helpmeet, ready to share his interests, and show by her thoughtful unselfishness the depth of the unflinching love she has for him. This will draw from him the best, too, and he will share the burdens, joys, and trials of home life. Above all, trust each other implicitly. Remember that trustful love springs from respect and honour, and is something which no-

thing can crush or diminish through all the events of life, helping a man and a woman to be not only husband and wife but lovers always and forever.—"Fairfield," Hamilton.

Second Prize

TO MY mind, the real foundation of a successful marriage is give-and-take on both sides. Selfishness on the part of either husband or wife is sure to lead to squabbles and dissatisfaction. Children are another important factor in married life. It is a well-known fact that the divorce court deals with nearly three times as many divorcees of couples without children as of those with children. A child is the strongest link in the family. If one is unable to have children, then the next strongest tie is the joint ownership of something, whether it be a farm, a house, or even a pet canary—something really shared.

A great stumbling-block in the path of married happiness today is the independence of the modern woman. Very few wives care to be dominated by their husbands, and yet the average man expects his wife to live

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### Christmas Is Coming

I KNOW you'll probably think, "Only it seems the other day since last Christmas," when you read this, but Christmas is not far away now. What are you going to make this year for gifts? Economy in giving is going to be a big problem this year. What is your way of making a Christmas gift? We all have our own pet ideas of what to make.

"How I make my Christmas Gifts"

is our competition subject this month.

So send me your entries before October 20th, and you may win one of the two prizes: First 10/-, and second 5/-.

"Mary"

C/o "Journal of Agriculture,"  
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practically for the home alone. Happy the wife who can do this, but how many of us can? We feel we must have outside interests or stifle. It is said that the modern craze for twin beds is merely a sign of woman's independence, but it is the forerunner of the severing of the nuptial knot in more cases than any woman would admit. I think the ideal marriage consists of a democratic partnership, and this is what most of us must aim for if we are to have any kind of happiness and security in our married life.—A.M.D., Inglewood.

Be An
EGGSPERT
PRESERVE EGGS
with
NORTON'S
EGG PRESERVATIVE
LIQUID OR PASTE