

HUSBANDS PREFER PLAIN WOMEN

I HAD always considered my acquaintance Z an extremely lucky man, because although he himself was really quite an ordinary, unsuccessful little chap, he had a most beautiful and charming wife. She really was lovely, fascinatingly so, and dressed exquisitely.

But recently they asked me to visit them, and I have now changed my views. I still think that she is one of the most beautiful and charming women I have ever met, but I do not think he is at all lucky. Because their home is quite one of the most neglected and inefficiently run I have ever encountered, and I have a shrewd suspicion that Z has to get his own breakfast every morning, as I gathered that his wife, for beauty reasons, never rises before nine-thirty. Her toilet, to be as perfect as it obviously is, would, I imagine, occupy at least another hour, and she informs me that she rested every afternoon from two to four.

“If only every woman would do this,” she said with charming candor, “they would never have wrinkles, and I do think it is every woman’s duty to make the most of her appear-

ance, don’t you? Looking one’s best is quite as serious a business as any other, and if women will persist in doing their own housework and pottering about the garden they cannot expect to have beautiful hands, can they?” glancing appreciatively at her own satin-white and exquisitely-manicured ones.

Expensive beauty-treatments, coiffure, and visits to dress-makers must occupy quite a considerable proportion of her day, and as they kept only one not particularly brilliant servant I can fully understand why Z is inclined to be dyspeptic and harassed-looking. And why he so seldom has a new suit or decent hats and shoes. And why they have no children. And why . . . but why continue?

Yet I suppose he is fairly happy and very proud of his wife. And if he were a rich man he would have every reason to be. But that is just the point. He is not a rich man and is never likely to be. He is just an average, pleasant little chap.

Would he have secured a better bargain or a fairer deal if he had married a plain woman?

It does not follow, of course, that because a woman is plain

that she is capable, or that she possess compensating qualities such as "niceness," strength of character, intelligence, personality, or charm—but you will generally find that she does. Some plain women spend all their time futilely trying to remedy Nature's niggardliness; others are merely careless of it. Many, more intelligent, cultivate or develop compensatory qualities, such as a pleasant voice, a good figure, or sporting prowess.

I once knew two girls—one most scintillatingly attractive named Esme, and the other an extremely unprepossessing and uninteresting person whose name does not matter.

"Heavens!" exclaimed Esme one day, "why doesn't that girl do something about herself? Why doesn't she go in for physical culture to improve her voice and make herself more popular at parties, take advantage of the hundred-and-one aids to beauty today within the reach of everyone, and get an expert to tell her what to wear? Look at me. I loathe exercise, but I take it religiously. I detest lettuce and spinach, but for my complexion's sake I simply gorge the beastly stuff." I looked and found it easy.

But if plain women are not necessarily capable, neither are beautiful women necessarily in-

capable, even though at cocktail parties they may occasionally be drunk.

Still the more homely woman is less likely to live solely for her appearance. Her home and husband *and* children would probably receive a fair share of her time and attention. And she would not have to be continually humored, pampered, and admired. A ravishingly beautiful woman must frequently cause her husband poignant pangs of jealousy when her too dazzling smile is turned in other directions. Could he ever feel really sure of her? In the case of a plainer wife he would probably have few fears on this score at least.

Has the raging beauty an unfair advantage over her less favored sister? Apparently not, because many plain women possess the most model husbands and hold them. It is said that several of Hollywood's most dazzling male "stars" are married to comparatively plain women, and that theirs are the happiest and most permanent marriages.

Good looks may attract in the first instance, but they do not hold regard for long without sounder and more stable accompanying attributes. Beauty, alas, has a time-limit; character lasts. And if loveliness is a woman's sole asset and she

has no other weapons in her armory she is going to be pretty defenseless should she lose it. There is nothing more tragic than waning beauty, and with it waning affections. But its passing is going to be of small moment if in the first place it was other attributes than this which attracted. As the plain woman never relied upon appearances she has nothing to fear from or lose by the toll of the years.

Physical beauty is a glorious thing and I unabashedly wor-

ship at its shrine, yet, if I had to choose, I think I would prefer to live with a beautiful nature. And beauty can be just plain, blank, or it can be spiritual and intellectual.

Marriage based solely on physical attraction seldom survives the first year or two, except as an uninspiring "arrangement."

So that, all things considered, plain wives can probably compare more than favorably with breath-taking belles.—*Martin K. Hind, condensed from Outspan, South Africa.*

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Eyebrows and Why

SCIENCE, it seems, is stumped in trying to account satisfactorily for human eyebrows. What are they for? Some scientists have suggested that the hair surviving on the ridges above the eyes serves as a sort of cushion to soften blows at that point. Another theory is that hair formerly grew on the brows "for the purpose of shading early man and his ape ancestors from the sun." The most popular and most logical explanation seems to be that eyebrows were placed in their position so that when man does hard physical work the sweat of his brow, containing the strong waste acids secreted by the sweat glands of the skin would be caught by the hair, deflected to either side, and not run down into the eye cavity to sting and injure the tender tissues covering the eyeball.—*Parade.*