

"Alternatives to marriage" af prinsesse Mary Karadja.

ALTERNATIVES TO MARRIAGE

Modern Girl's Outlook

By

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Denne artikel, som blev gengivet i flere af de australske aviser,
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All success to modern girls. I think they are delightful. I have employed girl secretaries and have come a good deal in contact with nurses and business girls, and I have learned to admire their splendid qualities. I know a little Paddington girl; whose weekly earnings are very small. Her devotion and unselfishness to her home people are superb. Girls, of her caliber are going to make fine mothers. The present generation has one characteristic which does not appeal to me. It is singularly - "dry!" By that I mean that it is lacking in sentiment and has reacted too violently from Victorian floppiness. Feeling is a womanly virtue, but one which many modern girls are ashamed to own. They suffer from emotional repression. It is the swing 'of the pendulum from the period of everlasting swooning on sofas. What we want for the present generation is balance. My generation was trained by mothers who gave their children a back seat. It was not altogether bad for us. Today it is the girls who are the domineering influence, and their mothers are the back numbers.

A Diplomat's Wife.

As a girl I was more fortunate, in a way, than many other girls of my time. I had exceptional opportunities for education. I married young and came into an interesting political milieu, my husband being a Rumanian diplomatist. My girlfriends, like myself, married young. There was nothing else to do, whether the marriage was likely to be successful or unsuccessful. The modern marriage ideal of being "good chums" is far more healthy. The best type of marriage seems to me to be made by common interests. A smooth married life can never be easy, even nowadays. A brilliantly endowed woman may marry a fifth-rate husband, and there is bound to be conflict unless he allows her scope for her activities.

The Alexandra Club was one of the first London clubs for women. When it opened husbands went home in a great state of indignation, declaring that it was too dreadful for women to be doing that sort of thing. Men were scandalized at the mere suggestion - that their wives should join it, and were busy prophesying that if women had liberty they would misuse it. No young men were allowed to enter the club except the man who wound up the clocks. No waiters were to be seen inside the place, which had no page boy. In those Grundy days women's sole idea was to please their husbands.

Frankly, I think the modern woman exceedingly nice and an infinitely happier being, than her grandmother. Her ideals are on a higher plane. The Victorian woman's ideal was to make a brilliant marriage and get provided for the best jokes were about match-making mothers. Then it was not a question whether you should marry, but when you would marry. Unless you were hunchbacked or there was something decidedly wrong with you, marriage was your inevitable fate. The life of the Victorian woman was either social (out of sheer vanity), or else was devoted to her family. If you indulged in a Victorian family, there was no time for anything else.

"If I Could Start Again".

Women's life nowadays is more intellectual than it was. It is capital to heat of young girls going into their fathers' offices and bravely seeking out so many new openings. If I could start again. today, I should start as a worker, no matter, in what position of life I should put my shoulder to the wheel. It is good to feel of use. The just lite I should choose would be that of a drone. It seems to me to lower one's dignity to drift about Feeding and dressing up. - The whole aim of life is development of character, whether the environment is a slum or palace. The little bit of work I am trying to do is to help the enormous number of surplus women who in their old age are being left stranded like pebbles on the bench of the ocean of life. I founded the White Cross Union to help bring them together, and we are going to have a wonderful center at Locarno. I shall be very glad to supply lonely women with further information.

There are many things in life I have never understood, and never will. The chief is how people can upend their lives playing bridge. It seems to me such a criminal abuse of existence. Another is how women can go to an eternal round of dinners and "feeds" of various kinds.

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