

Is THIRTY the Love? Deadline!

Dr. George A. Dorsey is a great scientist, and a great student of human nature. For years he has studied human beings, not only in the civilized drawing rooms of the world, but in savage jungles, strange tropical lands, inaccessible Arctic countries. His recent book, "Why We Behave Like Human Beings," shows a startling insight into every process of the extraordinary mechanism we call man. Doctor Dorsey is married.

By GEORGE A. DORSEY, Ph. D., LL. D.

"No man over thirty can fall in love," isn't that just like a philosopher! But perhaps Doctor Durant never said it. Or perhaps he was merely trying to establish an alibi. I don't know the facts in his case, but I can see how a man married at thirty-one and cooled off at thirty-two, might counter his wife's "You don't love me any more!" with: "I try, but I just can't; I never did love you, I only thought I did. No man over thirty can fall in love."

Why is there no fool like an old fool? Because he was a fool to fall at all, but the older he is the harder he falls.

Five years ago I met an old friend on the fast St. Louis-New York train. I had known him all my life, but never had I seen him so radiant in countenance or so resplendent in new clothes and shiny shoes. My random "You must be on your way to your wedding" made his old pink cheeks the only sixty-five crimson, and caught in the act as it were, he could only stammer: "How did you know?" I didn't know, but all that I know of human nature and of the significance of being born human led me to believe that this nice old widower hadn't blossomed out for nothing. I could think of nothing but love that could drive him out of his rut and rusty routine into the radiant and an excess fare train to New York.

A few weeks later I met the bride. She could not have been more than sixty, but she was as radiant as had been her lover on his way to claim her. Today, after five years, they are as much in love with each other as ever, and—note this point—his devotion is such as would fiddle the vanity of the most exacting girl of eighteen married to a youth of twenty.

I said "note." It is bad enough to say that no man over thirty can fall in love, but to add that he cannot become devoted to a woman is to suit the wound to human capacity.

More is known about what man can do than about what he can't. In fact, to put an arbitrary limit on man's capacity is to disclose the limits of one's understanding of human nature. An ordinary man of thirty can grow no taller; the pituitary gland normally sets limits on increase in stature after twenty-five. The exceptional man can grow taller after he is thirty; his pituitary has not yet limited his growth. Normally, and speaking biologically, men can fall in love till they are fifty or sixty, a few till they are sixty or seventy, but some reach sex exultation before they turn thirty. There is no arbitrary or fixed limit to the functioning of the love impulse—certainly no arbitrary limit at thirty years of age.

The depth of a man's love for a woman could well be believed to be greater at forty than at thirty, or at fifty than at twenty. The usual flare-ups of youth have been well styled "puppy love"—playful, fleeting, hesitating, ephemeral, and too often deaf, dumb and blind. Even savages recognize the fact, and some do not consider a man fit for enduring love and whole-hearted devotion until he is thirty years of age. They think, and not without reason, that love cannot ripen until the man has married.

Cannot fall in love? Speak for yourself, Doctor Durant. Some can, I know. How do I know? I am reminded of the man who called up a lawyer to explain his trouble with the officers of the law. "But they can't put you in jail for that," replied the lawyer. "Maybe they can't; but I'm in!"

I'm in—for life, committed at the age of fifty-five. And as for "true devotion," perhaps I'm not the one to speak; but if forced to answer, would ask first: Just what do you mean by "devotion?" Doctor Durant—if you really said it? Conjugal fidelity? Or such constancy for the welfare and happiness of a loved one as amounts to a zeal only to be surpassed, if at all, by devotion to a helpless child? If the former, age has nothing to do with it; if the latter, I don't know how old a man would have to be not to be able to become truly devoted to a woman.

Why don't I know? By the same token that prompted the old colored woman who, when asked how old a woman had to be before she could no longer fall in love, replied: "I dunno, honey; you'd have to ask somebody older 'n I is."

Fire Fanned by Rocks

Coal mine fires that rage underground long after all attempts to subside them have failed, are kept alive by "breathing rocks," in the opinion of Prof. W. Spencer Hutchinson, metallurgist of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. By "inhaling" air when the barometric pressure is high, the rocks in Popular Science Monthly, these porous rocks fan the underground fires.

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nesses. The advertiser must produce as advertised or he will surely fail.

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orator of his day, and he spoke for two hours and a half. No one remembers a single sentence of his oration today. The other man spoke less than five minutes, and every school child has at some time learned Lincoln's Gettysburg address and remembered more or less of it all his life.

Advertising should be as sim-

ple and direct as the Gettysburg speech, the Lord's prayer and the twenty-third psalm.

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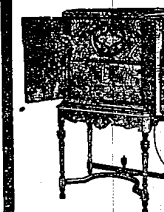
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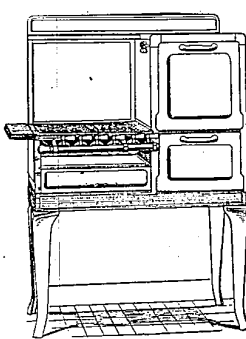
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