

TO KISS OR NOT TO KISS AGAIN UP FOR DEBATE

Osculation Warned Against—
Doctors Say Habit Spreads
Disease.

THE VICTORIAN METHOD

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

WASHINGTON — The ancient war against kissing as an extra-hazardous sport, has recently broken out again.

Since the last election, the Board of Health has issued pronouncements on the deadly possibilities of un-hygienic osculation.

From Paris comes the report that even a new disease has been caused by kissing, and that the malady is spreading. From the fragmentary information given, the disease seems to be something like pyorrhea, for the teeth are loosened and the gums are sore.

At the moment, a doctor in this country urges that if people must kiss, at least they should forget indulging in the morning kiss as germs—especially the germs of tuberculosis—are apt to be most virulently active in the mouth then.

Medical objection to kissing in the morning might be made a convenient excuse for avoiding the perfunctory peck of duty expected by some of your neighbors. Even down to the family physician would be glad to furnish a certificate showing that you were not to engage in osculation until 1 o'clock.

The doctor in question was probably chiefly concerned with the kissing of children, a practice which has long been looked upon with disfavor by sticklers for a germless existence. Children are much more susceptible to certain kinds of disease germs than grown people. There are great many so-called children's diseases, often unnecessary, and while there are no figures some doctors hold that these diseases are frequently contracted by kissing.

DISEASE GERMS COLONIZE
ON HUMAN LIPS.

The number of bacteria you can catch by one kiss has been carefully calculated by a Viennese physician. He found, probably to his own surprise, that there are at least 40,000 microbes on one square centimeter of the human lips. These bacteria may include the germs of scarlet fever, typhoid, diphtheria, tuberculosis and other dreaded diseases. It has been observed that the mouths of children who have fully recovered from diphtheria, are filled with the germs for a long time afterward.

To kiss such a child, and especially for the first time, would be to invite the disease, according to doctors opposed to kissing. They admit that it is possible to kiss a mouth teeming with all sorts of microbes and escape if your body is strong enough to throw off the poisons. But then again you may be in a susceptible condition, and the results are disastrous.

Very impressive all of this. But even while your brain is struggling to picture the horde of 40,000 bacteria hidden in human lips, along comes another doctor and says that a thimbleful of milk contains more bacteria than that, and a drink from an ordinary glass is far more microbic (there is such a word) than a kiss from an ordinary person.

At any rate, what can be done about it? History shows that the desire to kiss is deeply ingrained in civilized humans so that it would be difficult to eradicate it. It is true that if no one had taught us how to kiss we might never have discovered it for ourselves. It is not an instinct, but a learned habit.

Some savage tribes know nothing of it. They do usually, however, have some method of outwardly indicating affection, such as the Malay kiss which consists of two people rubbing noses together.

ANCIENT KISSING
CUSTOMS RECALLED.

But though kissing is an integral part of conventional conduct, it does seem to be taking a smaller place in the social life of civilized countries. It used to be the custom in England for a girl's partner to kiss her before giving her a kiss in return, and the other man.

Farther back, the lady of the feudal castle kissed the feet of beggars, even leprosy beggars, on certain religious festivals. And to bark still further back into history, the worship of many pagan gods and goddesses prescribed kissing some of the images.

The kiss of devotion, kissing between men, and indiscriminate kissing at social functions, have fallen off. Likewise, the kiss of casual friendship, which is still prevalent among girls, is slowly losing popularity.

At one time in England it was customary for the hostess of the mansion to kiss her guests, men and women, on their arrival, departure and whenever else she was courteous. This custom has long since died out, so far as the men are concerned.

There remain with us chiefly the kisses of love and those of duty. These seem permanent to our civilization. Yet even they change. Here are the rules laid down by an authority on etiquette of the Victorian Age for the perfect kiss:

"When a gentleman discovers that everything is in order, he will politely take the right hand of the lady in his, then pass his left gracefully over her right shoulder, and diagonally down to her sweetness with the man who looks warm, clasps, full of magnetism and respect. He will not be in a hurry, for such loving experiences always come to an end too soon, and never with complete satisfaction."

And here is how the damsel is supposed to retaliate:

"After playfully delaying to comply with the gentleman's advances, the lady will gradually show willingness by resting her head trustfully on his shoulder. A glow will come to her cheeks and blushes will appear. These are the never-failing signs of readiness to share her sweetness with the man who has bravely into her half-closed eyes, while manfully drawing her to his bosom like a hero."

Any one who wants instruction in the art as it is now practiced can do better by studying skilled professionals who give simple methods at close range in one moving picture play. This is the one field where the kiss is gaining ground rather than losing it.

The stage kiss used to be a palpable

AMUSEMENTS.

WOULD ADD STATE ENGINEER

Lieber Advocates New Line of
Service.

The vital need of adding an engineering division to the State Department of Conservation in order that the beautiful lakes and streams be protected.

But now the moving pictures and a passion for realism on the stage have changed the rules, so that what passed for a soulful embrace with a willful audience a year ago would be greeted by jeers if offered as a sample of emotion today. In fact, so intense did film actors become in their efforts to be convincing that the censors of some States had to regulate the number of feet over which a kiss could be extended, the idea being that there are limits beyond which a kiss becomes either tiresome to look at, or too personal for screen use.

Caruso Recovers From Throat Injury

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Enrico Caruso, who broke his all blood vessel in his throat Saturday night, had completely recovered and expects to sing at the Metropolitan Opera House tonight, it was announced today.

FISHERMAN DRAWS FINE.

It cost S. D. Whitaker, 40 North Franklin street, just \$51 for having a spear and fish trap in his possession. Whitaker was arrested by game wardens of the fish and game division of the department of conservation, and was found guilty in the court of Justice of the Peace Glass.

AMUSEMENTS.

BERKETT'S

OPEN FOR INSPECTION
MON. DEC. 13

A Home With Ultra Modern Improvements
Housing a Young Musical Comedy—It is Occupied by
Frank Sinclair—Cliff Dixon—Mary Collins

And All the Hosts of Charming Visitors.
It's a Mountain of Fun.
George Choos Sublets It by the Week.
YOU OWE A VISIT TO



EDDIE FOYER MARGARET FORD

The Man of 1,000 Poems. Singer of Songs of Today.

A LIVE-WIRE COMEDY

JIM TONEY AND ANN NORMAN
In Their Comedy With Songs.
"YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN"

VALENTINE AND BELL THE LE GROHS
The Furniture Removers.

RAYMOND BOND
With JANET MOORE AND COMPANY in a Comedy Classic of Stage Life—
"STORY BOOK STUFF"

KINOGRAMS BARGAIN MATINEES DIGEST TOPICS

SUPERIOR MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA PRODUCTIONS
NOW PLAYING AT THE

PARK THEATRE
ALL WEEK
THIS COUPON AND 10 C. WITH 3 C. WAR TAX
ENTITLES LADY TO RESERVED SEAT IN
BALCONY OR DRESS CIRCLE AT ANY MATINEE
MON., TUES., WED., THURS., FRI. OR SAT.

GROWN UP BABIES
Billy Spellman WITH Eddie Shubert
DANCY-WHIRLY-MUSICAL GIRLY
EXTRAVAGANZA

MOTION PICTURES.

Alhambra
First Half This Week
Alice Brady
IN
"THE
NEW YORK IDEA"

ISIS ENTIRE WEEK
Lois Weber's Special Production
"To Please One Woman"

MACK SENNETT'S "Love, Honor and Behave"
5-REEL SUPER COMEDY
Tom Moore in "STOP, THIEF!"

CIRCLE OF NEWS
OVERTURE

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TO DECIDE BY TOSS OF COIN

Anti-Jewett Council Majority
to Name President.

Present indications are that the presidency of the city council, which is to be conferred on some member the first meeting night in January, will be parceled out by the anti-administration majority to the one of their number who wins the toss of a coin.

"Hoosier streams today are open sewers carrying the waste and filth of our numerous industries and cities. Miles of our rivers are so polluted as to prohibit fish and prevent the use of water for humans. What once was a source of food, recreation and health has now become a public menace."

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