

Strings to Charity Bar Many Needy

'What About Me?' Group of Women Beyond Aid Scope.

BY GRETNA PALMER

NEW YORK, Aug. 2.—Several years ago the stylists got together and devised a line of "What about me?" clothes—dresses designed for the woman whose figure fell into nine of the established misses' or women's sizes.

Perhaps some philanthropist will appear, in this grimmer emergency, to set up a "What about me?" fund of relief for those persons who have so far seen ignore.

Certain types of workers in certain industries are being re-employed every day by the provisions of the national industrial recovery act. Certain worthy and indigent heads of families are being provided with home or work relief by the city.

Unemployed women under thirty may go to Camp Tera, the Bear Mountain summer camp sponsored by Mrs. Roosevelt.

Indigent Protestant women above a certain age limit can receive help from the Greater New York Federation of Churches. But there are still many unemployed workers who must say, "What about me?"

Barrier of Age and Sex

There must be many women whose sex bars them from the reforestation camps, and whose age prevents their going to Camp Tera—women who have no dependents and must therefore yield to the men who have half a dozen mouths to feed; women whose particular capacities are not among those which will be called for in the next few weeks when re-employment on a large scale begins. What about them?

It is quite an uncomfortable process to starve alone as in the company of three or four dependents. It is just as wrenching an experience to be homeless and without funds for a woman as a man. Catholics and Jews suffer from poverty as deeply as the women who are offered aid by the churches. Does no one care about them?

There are certain practical considerations which make it wise to draw an age limit when the personnel of a summer camp for the unemployed is being planned. But need that mean that the women who fall without the limit are left high and dry to starve on city streets?

It is the tendency of all of us, even when we are being most generous, to determine that our gifts shall go to the particular sort of people we prefer. Wills which are filed in the probate court show this tendency every day. And college catalogues, with their listing of scholarships open only to "the daughter of a Baptist minister from the State of Maryland" show to what extremes such a prejudice may go.

Charity—with Restrictions

But when we—as individuals or as a state—offer charity with restrictions, it is well for us to consider what is going to happen to the needy person who does not fall within the letter of our requirements. When the welfare organizations insist, as they so often do, that the applicant for help must be a worthy, godly case, we have a right to ask them what fate they intend for the man or woman who is "undeserving" of aid. Undeserving and drunken and shiftless, perhaps—but quite as hungry as the person who fits into the charity workers' idea of what a worthy person ought to be.

There are those who will not give a nickel to a beggar if they suspect he wants it for a drink. Why not? If they are moved to pity by his plight—if they see the signs of distress in his face, their act of donation is a generous one. And if he chooses to spend his nickel in a way of which they do not approve, that is, it seems, most definitely his own affair. It is his nickel, now.

There is something peculiarly ugly in the aspect of generosity with a string tied to it—with the spectacle of the giver who gains in holiness in his own eyes and at the same time assumes a pose of omnipotence in deciding how his alms shall be spent.

And there is another and far graver objection to the discriminating sort of help which the state and the charities are offering today. There is the risk that many hundreds of suffering women will be left out in the cold, with no one willing to listen to their question, "What, you please, about me?"

AINSLEY-GERTCHEN RITE ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Ainsley have announced the marriage of their daughter, Miss Dorothy Lucille Ainsley, to William E. Gertchen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gertchen. The ceremony was read by the Rev. John Collins at 6:30 Saturday night.

Miss A. Burgmann was matron of honor and Mr. Burgmann best man. Mr. and Mrs. Gertchen are on a wedding trip and will be at home after Aug. 15 in the city.

A Day's Menu

Breakfast—

Cantaloupe, scrambled eggs and thin sliced ham, whole wheat toast, cream, coffee, milk.

Luncheon—

Chicken à la king on toast, watercress salad, cottage pudding with lemon sauce, tea, milk.

Dinner—

Watermelon cup, veal steaks, baked potatoes, broccoli with Hollandaise sauce, deep dish cherry pie, coffee, milk.

Party at Club Attracts One Hundred



Women's Garden Club to Meet at Vestal Summer Home

Vestal cottage, the summer home of Mrs. George K. Vestal on the Brookville road, will be the setting for the annual guest day meeting of the Irvington Women's Garden Club Aug. 18.

Husbands of club members will be special guests and Lawrence Sheridan, landscape architect, will speak to the group. A picnic supper will be served with Mesdames Clarence Hughel, George Price and Mrs. Vestal in charge of program and arrangements. Mrs. W. N. South is club president.

Plans are being formulated by the group for the second of its garden exhibits to be held in the early fall. Fall flowers, particularly dahlias, will be displayed. The Marion County Dahlia Growers Association will have plants on exhibit.

The first show this year was held June 3 in Irvington with an attendance of 2,000. The entries were judged in the morning and were open to the public from 1 until 9:30 at night.

Manners and Morals

BY JANE JORDAN

All readers who feel moved to write in agreement or disagreement with the letter published below are invited cordially to do so.

Dear Jane Jordan—Your statement that birth control is not wicked is rather too much, after you have said that you keep away from the religious side of things.

Birth control is thought wicked or not, according to one's religious beliefs, and who are you to decide? I think it is right in some cases, where the mother's health is at stake, or for financial reasons, but in 90 per cent of the cases, people practice birth control so they can have an automobile and swell clothes, or when they want to discard one husband or wife to take on another.

Dear Jane Jordan—I went with a fine fellow two and a half years. He wanted to give me a diamond, and was I thrilled? But he said, "No babies." When I asked why, he said he didn't want the responsibility; he didn't want to be tied down; or children's sicknesses. So I passed him up.

Six months later he married and now has a baby 10 months old, a darling child. He never notices it when he comes in the house. He never talks to the baby or plays with him. He wants his wife to sell the child. The poor wife is grieving herself to death. If they all got on, their family wouldn't have to worry. They'd sure have the depression licked."

Flapper Is Right

The flapper is right. She doesn't get on.

"That's all for today." And the women, weary from standing almost three hours, and tired from the nervous strain, file into the street. Some go home. Some start out for a new factory. And some just walk. "Coffee and do-nuts won't set very well, but it's sure better to eat afterwards," confides the flapper to Sarah, as they move across to the summer school, after spending several days in Indianapolis.

Many factories are starting up again full time and they're working hard. They ought to be taking on girls. Sarah names a couple.

"Yeah," she is reminded, "They won't take on anybody but foreigners—they'll work without kicking—or former employers."

Another Day Jobless

"Well, I'd work hard, and I'd be willing to take time off without pay. I heard one girl kicking because she had to take a week off. Well, I'd take it," promised Sarah. "I've got to get a job and I haven't any experience—sounds like a cat chasing its tail."

"Ever think house work?" the flapper questions.

"You mean—washin', ironin' and takin' care of kids—and scrubbin'? Gee, I do that without gettin' paid. I got five brothers and sisters."

"Well, if it came to a showdown between starvin' and being proud—P-A-D-O-U-S-K-E-W-O-R-K."

Coffee and do-nuts gone—another jobless day.

"Well, the flapper powders her nose; rescues her gum, 'so long. Guess I'll go and look in the windows and spend my first pay check—aint that a laugh?"

CLUB MEMBERS TO BE GUESTS

Mrs. Adelaide Edwards, 3465 North La Salle street, will entertain members of the Woman's Club of Roberts Park Methodist church and their guests at a picnic supper on Thursday.

Mrs. James H. Smiley will preside at the short business meeting scheduled at 3. The supper will be served at 6:30 on the lawn, with Mrs. C. F. Williams as hostess.

A GRANDMOTHER. Answer—Religious beliefs also determine whether people eat fish on Friday and whether they cook with pork grease. Yet dietary matters are not hooked up in my mind with religion; neither is birth control.

I do not think people need any better reason for remaining childless than the fact that they do not want children. An unwanted child is a pretty sorry time of it in this world. I'd hate to see any child handicapped by parents who preferred an automobile to a baby.

It would be even worse to have a little one dropped into a home where parents were bent on changing partners every whip stitch.

I do not expect this will be published, not even half of it, as I realize it is not the kind that gets in print.

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