

INTRODUCTION

A SPOILED LIFE BECAUSE OF IGNORANCE

Love seeks mutuality, and grows by the sense and hope of responses

—H G WELLS

California

DEAR MRS SANGER

I have read your book *What Every Girl Should Know* and can truthfully say I found it very helpful. But there is only one fault to find. I did not read it soon enough. I matured very late—at the age of 17. After I reached the age of puberty I commenced going out with boys. I was very poor so could not have the pretty clothes so I took them from the young men. I went with—giving myself in payment. Now here is the problem. The last young man I went with gave me a sickness. But I did not know this at the time. (I am now 24 years old)

Then I met the one man for me. We went steady for six months secretly of course as I will explain later. He proposed and I told him all concerning my past. He loved me enough to excuse it so we eloped leaving a note for my mother. We were married in San Francisco. About ten days afterward I found I had given him my sickness. I did not know that I had the sickness until he told me. My husband still loves me and does not blame me. He lays the blame to my parents. They were old fashioned strictly so. No young men were allowed to visit my home and I was not allowed to go out. The only way to go anywhere was to sneak out after the family was in bed. My mother was 45 years of age when I was born. She is now 69 years old. I don't know as it is helping matters any but I want you

to know exactly how matters are My mother is very religious To go on—I was pretty popular and a good dancer and I do not wish to be vain but am telling the truth much sought after My dances were always taken I could not keep my things at home so kept them at the home of my chum This girl was the same only she had had no mother since the age of seven She did all the work of the house and her father who was indifferent to what she did

Now dear friend what can I do My husband loves babies and we are looking forward to the time when we will be able to have one but of course we can have none in our condition I am willing to give all I have to my husband as I love him dearly and would willingly kill myself if it would make him well

We live in a small town and have very little money My husband works by the day and we cannot afford to go to a good doctor and we do not want it known that we are sick as we are very popular with people

Let me hear from you as soon as possible and tell me to the best of your knowledge what is to be done We would be very thankful Anxiously awaiting your answer

Mrs R B K.

INTRODUCTION

THIS book aims to answer the needs expressed in thousands on thousands of letters to me for help in the solution of marriage problems. The suggestions and answers offered in each individual chapter are based upon the study and observation of these cases for a period of many years. I have been forcibly struck with the repetition and recurrence of the same questions, the same tragedies, the same problems in a large majority of these cases. On the basis of this experience I have assumed that these problems to a greater or lesser extent are present in most modern marriages. In this little book I offer solutions that are the outgrowth of observation of individual cases.

In seeking to solve any single problem of married life we have often found that some new or unforeseen problem takes the place of the old one. Thus as intelligent women seek to escape the trap of unwilling and enforced maternity to change their position from that of docile, passive child bearers to comrades and

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partners of their husbands they realize the need of a more abundant and deeper love life. As they attain equality in professional and social relations they become conscious of the need for equality and fuller expression in the more sacred intimacies of the marriage relation. Husbands as well as wives today realize the importance of complete fulfillment of love through the expression of sex. Unfortunately, due to the traditional conspiracy of silence in a phase of life in which more than anywhere else enlightenment is our crying need, marital happiness and lives are foredoomed to failure.

Light—more light is more necessary here than in any other of life's activities. The real and happy consummation of marriage between men and women cannot work any injury to morality. Nor can it destroy the institution of marriage. On the contrary, happiness in marriage—the complete union of body and mind—can only reinforce and strengthen the ties between man and woman. This is the only enduring solution to marriage problems. Only thus can we prevent the recurrence of those tragedies of marriage to which we have today as a nation become so cynically calloused and indifferent.

The question will inevitably arise—"Is not a book like this a danger to the morals of the young and unmarried?" No Emphatically No The young of today are demanding knowledge that will help them in life

As I have two sons still in the adolescent age it is my desire to spare them the failure and bitterness, disappointments, disillusion and heartaches that some of us of this generation have known I want my sons to realize and to know what the past generation should have known on the threshold of life

The great tragedy of today and of the past is that men and women have learned the great primary lessons of life too late Let us do everything in our power to prevent among the rising generation the useless repetition of the tragedies of wrecked lives

I believe that many mothers feel dissatisfied with the books that have been published because they lack the frankness and simplicity which should accompany the introduction of the sex subject

Knowledge of sex truths frankly and plainly presented cannot possibly injure healthy, normal, young minds Concealment, suppression, futile attempts to veil the un-

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veivable—these work injury, as they seldom succeed and only render those who indulge in them ridiculous For myself, I have full confidence in the cleanliness, the open mindedness, the promise of the younger generation Instead of seeking futilely to obstruct the creation of a new world, let us help them in their forward march into the future