

5.00

THE RENO DIVORCE RACKET

*TAKING THE CURE
IN RENO*

*HOLLYWOOD'S
MARRIAGE MIX-UPS*

*48 STATES--
48 WAYS TO DIVORCE*

*ALIMONY--
ANOTHER RACKET*

*WHO GETS
THE CHILDREN?*

*MEXICO'S MAIL
ORDER DIVORCES*

*FREE LOVE VS.
COMPANIONATE
MARRIAGE*

*JUDGE LINDSEY'S
SOLUTION*



She changed Places with Her Husband's Sweetheart—and won back his Love!



You'll be fascinated by this story of a wife in name only who schemed to become her husband's mistress.



Just a Tiny Mole—but it Condemned Her to Death! Read how a wealthy merchant, to test his wife's virtue, wrecked three lives

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW LIFE Until You've Read the Greatest of All Forbidden Books!

YOU'LL never know the tremendous force of human passion—you'll never understand life in the raw, stripped of artificial conventions and hypocrisies, until you've feasted on the most thrilling Tales from that greatest of all true-to-life books—the immortal Decameron.

Here in the frankest, most revealing tales of love and intrigue ever written are situations so startling, so true to life, that we feel they might be happening today instead of centuries ago. Written in an age of plain speaking, they show us how real flesh and blood men and women act—the deep secret motives that influence our actions today no less than they did centuries ago.

And now for a short time only you can inspect these great examples of realistic writing—the stories which you have always longed to read—in your own home for five days, without obligation! Read all about this amazing offer, then send for your copy at once.

For centuries the Decameron has thrilled millions—has inspired countless great authors—has been lauded by the most discriminating critics. Rich in fascinating plots, vibrant with all the passions of the race, it has furnished forth plots for the world's great masters of literature—Shakespeare, Chaucer, Keats, Tennyson, Dryden and Longfellow. A large volume would be required to list the writers who have copied or adapted some of the plots. Hardly a great novel, or a poor one, exists, in which the plot is not in part or in whole

taken from the Decameron. No one can know literature, can call himself truly sophisticated, truly a master of life in all its infinite variety, until he has drunk from the bottomless loving cup of that genial old Italian, Giovanni Boccaccio.

These Great Writers Have Taken Plots From the Decameron

Shakespeare took parts of *The Merchant of Venice*, *Cymbeline*, *All's Well That Ends Well* and *Romeo and Juliet* from these stories. Lessing took the plot of *Nathan der Weise*, Chaucer the idea of his *Canterbury Tales*, Dryden, Keats, Longfellow and Tennyson wrote poems—all based on these great tales, which have outlived thousands of manuscripts written since their day.

Between the covers of these Tales from the Decameron you will find life itself—real, pulsating passionate life that refuses to be confined by paralyzing restrictions—life that refuses to follow the dictates of prudery. Far from being immoral, as many narrow minded people used to think, these Tales from the Decameron are in reality almost a text book for the earnest student of that greatest of all studies—human nature.

Boccaccio's stories have already lived five times as long as our United States—over twenty-four generations. They were the "best sellers" when gunpowder was scarcely known—and yet today they still delight us, still give us pleasure and instruction, with their immortal vitality, forever young, forever gay, forever thrilling. If you like to read a story of adventure, read one of these. If you want a charming love story, read another. If you look for tragedy, read a third. The fourth will make you weep.

The morals and customs of Italy of the fourteenth century are all laid before you—the way people lived, the hovels and palaces they dwelt in, their methods of travel—all are told with a wit and pathos that never crept between the covers of any book

penned by a historian. Thus the stories not only amuse and entertain, which after all is the first requirement of good fiction, but they give us the history of the manners and customs and morals of a long passed age. They constitute a landmark of literature, which must not be passed over, if you would broaden your vision—make yourself truly cultured.

SEND NO MONEY 5 DAY TRIAL

And now we are enabled to offer you these great classics—thirty-five of the best stories from the famous Decameron—for the amazingly low sum of only \$1.98! Send no money—just fill out and mail the coupon below. When the package arrives pay the postman \$1.98 plus few cents postage. Inspect this great book for five days then if you are not delighted return it and your money will be refunded. Mail the coupon this instant before this low price offer is withdrawn! Franklin Publishing Company, 800 North Clark St., Dept. K-1000, Chicago.

Franklin Publishing Co.,
800 N. Clark St., Dept. K-1000,
Chicago.

Please send me a copy of The Tales from the immortal Decameron by Boccaccio's. When package arrives I will pay postman only \$1.98, plus few cents postage. If not delighted I am at liberty to return the volume within five days and my money will be refunded.

Name.....

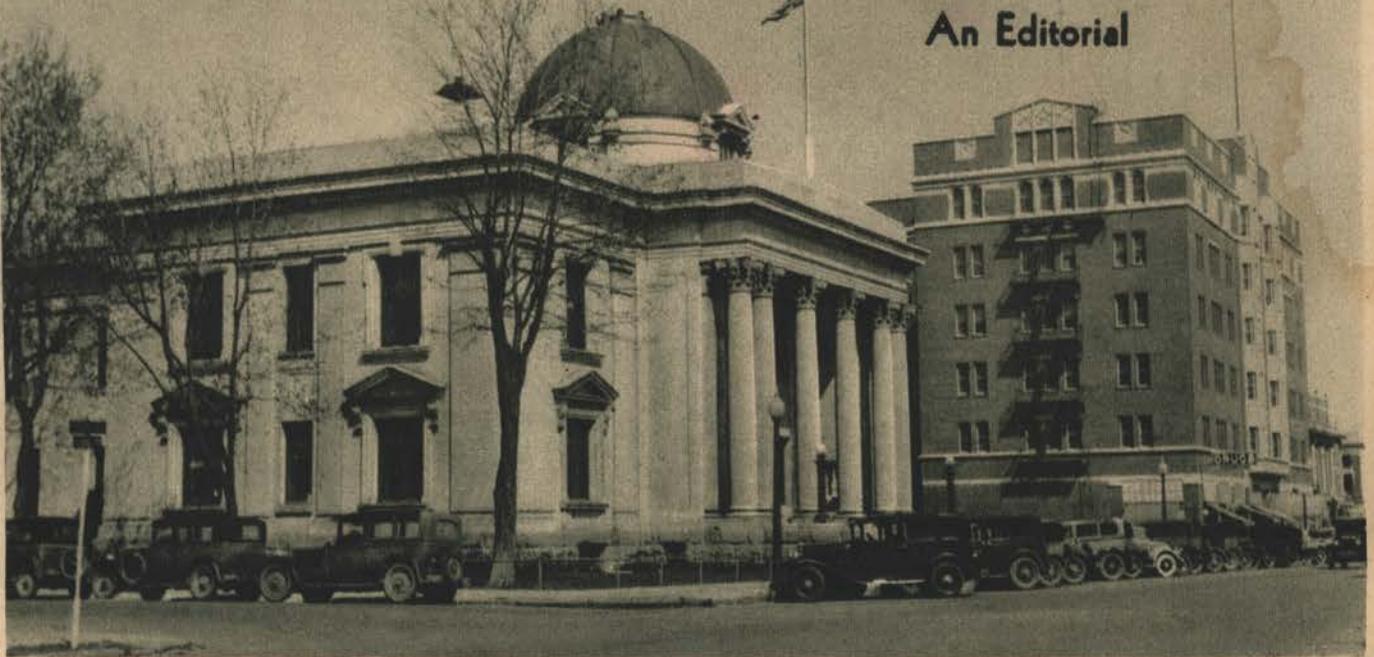
Address.....

City.....State.....

If you live outside U. S., send cash with order.

This Reno-vating Racket

An Editorial



Reno's courthouse, mecca in America's mad divorce mill rush.

OUR hysterical scramble for divorce, our mad race for sex freedom and return to paganism is a transitory phase.

It will pass. The pendulum has swung too far—it will return to a sane balance. Under the impetus of wartime emotions, a vast unrest grew and gathered momentum.

This unrest seeks more tolerance, more humane viewpoints toward law and conduct.

Rackets are a result of that unrest. The prohibition racket is part of a search for improvement—a wild lunge toward a better world. Cheap, quick divorces is part of that restless search for something different, something better.

Neither prohibition nor easy divorce is a solution to our problems of conduct. Both are pitifully weak and full of errors. Yet both have their backers, who shout loudly in approval.

Ten years from now, we shall have found a much better solution for current evils than the laws and customs now in force.

The stabilizing force of a great Church is checking the heedless rush into crazy experiments. Its very firmness is helping the pendulum to halt its wild swinging.

Women and men of this age are not content with makeshifts. Knowledge grows like a snowball, by reading and study. As the world moves, our imperfect contrivances will be replaced with better ones.

What will be the solution for the divorce evil? Is it necessary to permit the growth of legalized polygamy, where women pass from man to man via rapid-fire divorces? Is it necessary that children be bruised and battered between fighting parents? Must men languish in jail through default of high alimony?

That is for the future to decide.

For the present we must learn, observe, and then—act.

Thus will civilization move forward to its ultimate goal of liberty ruled by sanity, and happiness achieved by a regard for the rights of others.

Taking the Cure



Everyone wants to learn the truth about this astounding new racket—how a nation has gone mad over a scramble for new wives and husbands! In a fantastic race to win the divorce business, common sense has been thrown to the winds! In this chapter the fantastic laws of Reno are revealed, showing how it's done, what it costs, and how long it takes to "reno-vate."

GOODBYE WEDDING RINGS!

Tossing their discarded rings into the river from Reno's "Bridge of Sighs" are Mrs. Marjorie MacArthur (right) and Mrs. Dorothy Foltz, as they follow the custom of the liberated.



HERE'S THE CURE FACTORY

A gorgeous hotel, close to the dome of the court house, offers a home while you wait for freedom. Just a step to the judge for your "Liberty bond" and then you kiss the pillar, and run for the "Bridge of Sighs" to throw your wedding ring to the fishes!

in RENO

DIVORCES for sale, cheap!
There's a racket in the billion dollar class—quick profits, prompt turnover, and what's more, *legal!*

What a boon to a State that is hard put to raise taxes, invite settlers and send produce to the world's markets! Little wonder that competition is keen among states less favored by geography or conditions, to bring in revenues via the divorce racket.

Nevada, for years, has offered comparatively easy divorce, first with a six months residence law, later with three. But when competition got too keen, a new law was made.

It went into effect May first, allowing divorces on six weeks residence, and this summer has brought the biggest boom in divorces in Nevada's colorful history.

Thoughtful men and women are going over the disturbing news about Nevada's divorce mill with corrugated brows. Where is it all leading? Where will it end? The effect of legislation like this may be far reaching, with dire results. It behooves the calm thinking portion of the country to weigh and investigate, and learn the facts in the case. Too many citizens are indifferent to affairs transpiring beyond their own borders, to be prepared when those conditions are brought closer home.

Therefore, let us see what is going on in Nevada.

In the first month of Nevada's new law, five hundred and seventeen divorce suits were filed, and three hundred and thirty-one decrees were handed down. The first Monday in May, eighty-four divorce decrees were granted, and fifty more the next day.

Elsewhere in the country, divorce falls below the normal trend because of the business depression. People cannot afford to get divorces, or have their appendices cut out, or other light forms of diversion that multiply during times of plenty.

Yet at the rate Nevada is going, there will be a third more divorces granted this year!

Last year the total ran up to 2,109. What it will be in 1931 is hard to say, but the number should pass three thousand.

If the figures are impressive, consider the estimates on revenue! For attorney's fees alone, for one month, at least \$100,000 is paid in by men and women crossing "the great matrimonial divide."

That's just a tiny part of the money spent. Gambling is legalized now in order to offer further diversion to divorce vacationists, and a vast golden flow sweeps over the roulette tables and faro games.

But the income to hotel owners, merchants, and the working class in Nevada is even more generous. Although the poor get the same service at court, it is the rich that flock to Nevada. All good spenders, the process of taking the cure in Reno is made a merry one by a grand and glorious round of parties, high jinks, gambling, and sport.

So much for a glimpse at Reno.

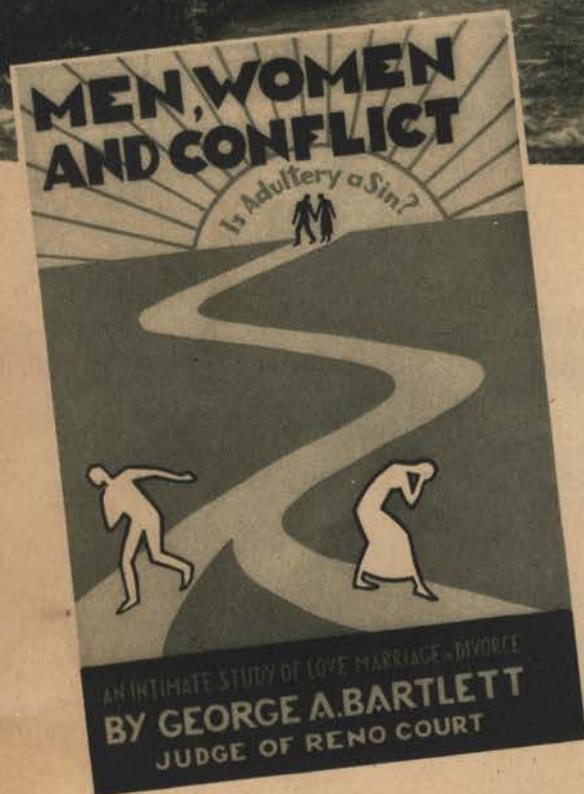
But we are more interested in the



Jack Dempsey (right) with his attorney, Robert Burns, at his Reno home where the world's most famous fighter went to take the cure after his disagreement with Estelle Taylor.



While Jack Dempsey was putting in his six weeks at Reno, the beautiful Estelle basked in her Hollywood home and made plans of her own regarding this divorce business. Thus outside interests disrupted the happiness of Hollywood's most popular couple.



Judge Bartlett, veteran Reno jurist, has written this trenchant commentary on his experiences with divorce and its problems. It's an exciting guide through Reno and a brilliant study of human emotions.

mechanics of the racket. How is it done—what is the routine?

Mrs. Jones Tries the Cure

LET us follow the adventures of Mrs. Jones (which may be her real name, for all we care) who decides that she can no longer endure the tribulations of matrimony. Whether the reason be another man, boredom, or just that her husband eats crackers in bed, is immaterial. The fact that she wants a divorce is sufficient in Nevada.

Mrs. Jones has one child, a lad of six who is in school. Of course she wants to keep him. And she wants alimony, until such time as she marries again—if she ever gets a chance.

Also she wants the boy to be sure of his education, and has other problems of more or less importance on her mind.

RENO'S RIVER OF DOUBT

But once the divorce hunter crosses the Truckee River on her way to the court house (beyond the Riverside Hotel) all doubts disappear and gay freedom beckons. Six weeks completes the cure.

So she drops in to see an attorney who is an acquaintance. The city is Minneapolis, Minnesota.

"I want a divorce," says Mrs. Jones.

This is no surprise to Mr. Stump, her attorney. However, he has a natural curiosity, and asks for further information.

Mr. Jones, he discovers, makes \$8,000 a year. Jones and his wife have talked the matter over, and are willing to quit on peaceful terms. He offers \$250 a month and will take care of the boy's schooling until he is earning his own way—providing the boy may visit him for a month at least every summer.

"What are your grounds?" asks Mr. Stump.

"Oh, nothing in particular," says Mrs. Jones. "I could raise the usual fuss—he has sworn at me a couple of times, and hit me once. It was accidental, though, to tell the truth. Anyway, I'm young and full of pep, and John is too tame. He's gone on a trip to New York and will stay there for a while with his brother."

"Well, in Minnesota, desertion is a simple grounds. It will take a year. You can marry six months after the divorce is granted, and—"

"A year! My dear Mr. Stump! I don't want to waste a year of my life!"

"Of course we can arrange a divorce sooner than that," Mr. Stump goes on, "if you want to bring witnesses to infidelity, or cruelty and so on."

"I'd rather get it over with quick. How about Reno?"

So her lawyer explains the situation in Reno. First, of course, you must be a resident of the State. To be a resident, one must actually live there for six weeks.

Grounds in Nevada

GROUNDINGS for divorce are more or less common to the laws of other states, but the grounds of cruelty cover a wider territory in Nevada, and is the cause usually chosen.

The complete list is:

Physical incapacity at time of marriage, continuing to time of divorce.



"A COTTAGE FOR SALE"

As tear jerkers go, the song about a cottage for sale is hardly more heart-breaking than the emotions of one who views the rows upon rows of snug little cottages in Reno where men and women go to cast off the last shackles of ruined romance and blasted dreams. These are at the Hot Springs.

- Infidelity, remaining unforgiven.
- Wilful desertion for a period of one year.
- Conviction of a felony or infamous crime.
- Habitual drunkenness.
- Cruelty.
- Insanity definitely proven incurable through a period of two years.
- Neglect to provide, except because of poverty which could not be avoided by ordinary industry.

"Now, Mrs. Jones, the simple charge of cruelty will suffice in your case, as the divorce will not be contested. If Mr. Jones doesn't want a bill of particulars, you won't even have to go into details regarding the charge of cruelty. Nevada doesn't believe in airing dirty linen or broadcasting divorce gossip.

Mrs. Jones nods her head, and the attorney continued. "What you will need is sufficient funds for your stay in Nevada, plus the costs of the attorney's fees and a few court incidentals. I can recommend Mr. Smith, who is an excellent attorney in Reno. He will arrange everything for a fee of \$300."

"That's rather steep, isn't it?"

"Well, some firms charge a minimum of \$500. It depends on the client. Some attorneys will handle the matter for a hundred dollars—but if you can afford to strike a medium I would accept the services of Mr. Smith."

"All right. Then what happens?"

"Mr. Smith will meet you on your arrival, and give you all instructions necessary. Of course, you may prefer to go to Las Vegas, Carson City, Sparks, or some other Nevada town. No? Then you go to Reno and Mr. Smith takes care of the rest. Will your husband be represented by an attorney?"

Mrs. Jones wants to know if that is advisable.

"Yes, it is. If only one side is represented in court, New York and possibly several other states might not recognize the divorce as legal. That doesn't matter much, however, due to a peculiarity of the law. You would have



Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., who tried out Reno as a cure for unhappy marriage, liked it well enough to stay. Now he is getting Reno divorce number two.

to avoid getting married again in New York, though, or you might be charged with bigamy. You can be married in one state, and unmarried in another, if you aren't careful.

"Suppose New York courts did not recognize the validity of your divorce, due to the fact that your husband was not served personally with papers, or did not appear in court? If you married in New York a second time, your second marriage would be invalid. But if you married across the line in New Jersey, your Nevada divorce would be invalid, but your New Jersey marriage would be valid."

"Heavens! Is it as complicated as all that?"

Mr. Stump permits himself a smile.

"Not if you go through everything properly in Nevada. But your husband should be represented by an attorney. He doesn't have to appear in person, of course. All he has to do is sign a Power of Attorney for some local lawyer in Reno, who can then accept the court's summons and file an answer to your suit. If this is done, everything is simplified."

Mrs. Jones had a sudden thought.

"Could a person get a divorce in Nevada without the mate knowing it?"

"Impossible," is the reply. "unless he has skipped the country or died. In that case you wouldn't be going to Reno, anyway. No, the other side of the case must be heard. If the husband doesn't file an answer, proving he knows you are getting a divorce, the court may not grant a divorce. At any rate, the court directs a search for the husband, insisting that the papers be served on him personally.

"If the husband can't be found, Mrs. Jones, then you have a longer wait. Notice of the summons must be published in the newspaper circulating in the locality where the husband resides, and the judge designates the paper. This notice is published for six weeks, and then forty days are allowed after the last notice appears in print, for the husband to reply to the suit."

The attorney then explains to Mrs. Jones that the husband may contest the suit if he so desires. In that case the divorce may drag on for months just as in any other state. Too, the husband can't go to Reno and get a divorce without letting his wife know, and if she wishes to contest the suit, he must



LIFE'S A GAMBLE—

Legalized gambling goes hand in hand with quick, easy divorces in the merry whirl at Reno. "Just like life," cries the croupier—"round and round goes the little white ball, and where she lights nobody knows!"

plenty of attractive men for escorts. The theatre, gambling, and other pastimes occupied the evenings.

Mrs. Jones drew up her complaint with her attorney a few days after her arrival, and another local attorney had already mailed her husband a Power of Attorney for his signature.

The complaint is written up by Mr. Smith, the attorney, ready to be filed with the clerk of the Nevada court. A copy of the complaint goes to Mr. Jones' attorney for answering.

Six weeks go merrily by. Now the case is "at issue." Mr. Smith has filed the complaint, and the husband's answer has been delivered also to the court.

On a bright and sunny Monday morning Mrs. Jones goes to the courthouse with her attorney. If Mrs. Jones doesn't want the court room cleared and the case heard behind closed doors, she is free ten minutes later. Otherwise it may take fifteen minutes.

Of course, she may not be at the head of the line, and by the time the judge gets to her case it's time to adjourn. The case is then heard on Tuesday, and Mrs. Jones misses the train. Contested cases are heard during the rest of the week, but Monday and Tuesday are left clear for fast action.

"Well, that was simple!" exclaims Mrs. Jones. "No testimony to be proved by a lot of witnesses—no disagreeable questions! The judge hesitated a little over the matter of the children, though."

"You were lucky," grinned Mr. Smith. "They are



Thousands of kisses have put the faint tinge of red lipstick around the pillars of the Washoe County Court House, as happy divorcees show their joy at receiving their freedom.

put up the money to pay her expenses and living costs for a trip to Reno to answer the suit.

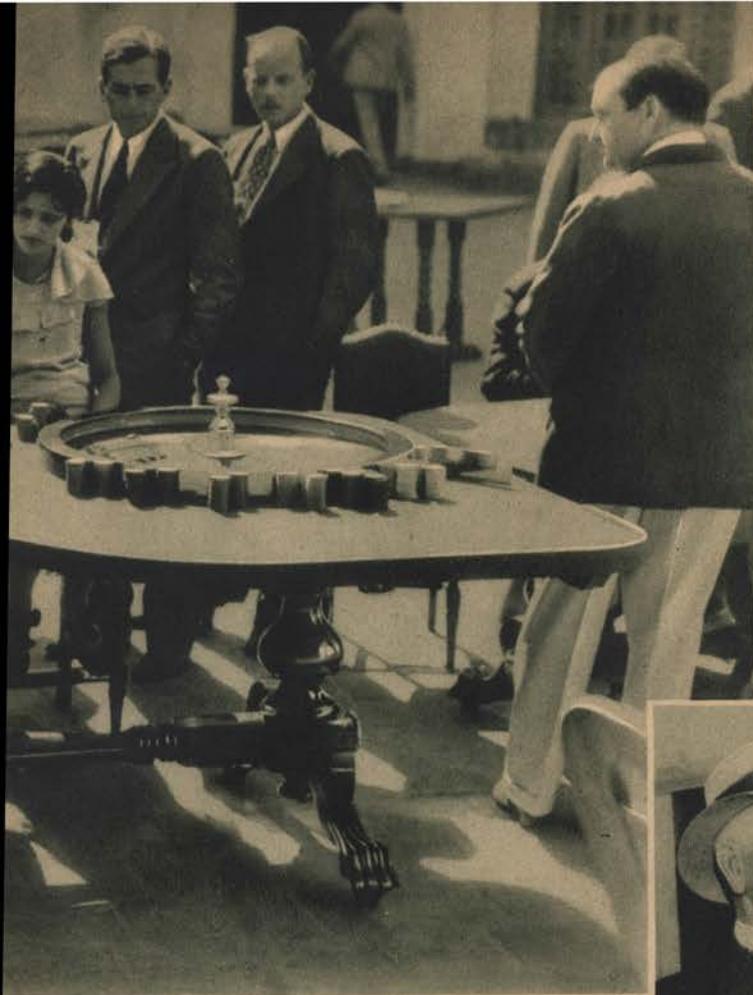
Off to Reno

HOWEVER, in Mrs. Jones case, both parties wanted the divorce, or were agreeable to it, and since it was a simple matter of routine "Reno-vating" Mrs. Jones packed up and hied to Nevada.

There her local attorney, Mr. Smith, met her at the train. She was taken to a hotel where she established her residence simply by registering.

There was plenty of diversion to be found in Reno. Every class and type was there, rich and poor—for Reno is not alone for the rich—and all were enjoying their tastes.

Mrs. Jones found several friends at once, women taking the cure and determined to make the most of their vacation. There was bridge and golf, riding and motoring and



PLAYED FOR BIG STAKES!

As wide open as its gates to divorce are Reno's laws on gambling, and its lack of laws on Prohibition. In the crazy dash to beat the rest of the world for cheap, quick divorces, Reno offers inducements for the thrill seeker.

pretty touchy about children out here. But the judge saw that both parties were satisfied with the disposition of the children, there was no squabbling over who should see them and how often, and their support was assured. If your husband had demanded custody of little Jane, for instance, or put up a plan different from yours, then your case wouldn't have taken any ten minutes, believe me! I've seen cases where the woman lost both children to the husband, in spite of her plans. One woman wanted to back out, after starting things, and found that wasn't in the rules of the game. You can't get away with anything that works an injustice on the children or the other party. Reno is only for those who have given up trying to get along together, and want to get it over with as quickly and with as little publicity as possible. And now, Mrs. Jones, here we are at the train. If you ever have need of my services again—"

"Thank you—I won't forget! Goodbye!"

And Mrs. Jones is off to whatever fate the gods decide.

Of course, many of the divorce seekers have their future decided upon before they ever arrive—a future with somebody else. If the third party of the triangle is present to make the time pass more pleasantly, that is no concern of the courts. There is nothing to prevent your getting married as soon as your "liberty bond" is delivered. Reno gets you coming and going!

Life in Reno sometimes proves so delightful that the customers at the divorce mill remain.

The servant problem is always easily solved—for at least six weeks at a time. Those who want to work their way through a divorce because of lack of funds, find employment as chauffeurs, cooks, maids, waitresses, and so on.

Sometimes both husband and wife come to Reno for their divorces. In that case the residence law is not in force, providing that the cause of action starts in Nevada. For instance, Mr. and Mrs. Foster arrive for a vacation in Las Vegas. Mr. Foster gets an edge on and slaps Mrs. Foster, or vice versa. They decide then and there to get a divorce.

So summons is made by Mrs. Foster, and her husband is invited to answer. If the two plotted the divorce beforehand, that's collusion, and the court won't grant a divorce.

But who knows what a couple plans? Pretty hard to prove collusion, even if some one should go to the trouble to bring that up. So the divorce is over within ten days, and that is that.

However, the divorce racket thrives on the six weeks residence cases, and most divorces follow the



Mayor Ed Roberts of Reno was the first to buy a fight ticket from Jack Dempsey, who whiled away the golden hours in Nevada promoting a ring battle. Jack and Ed are friends of 17 years, for both worked in the Nevada mines in the gold days.

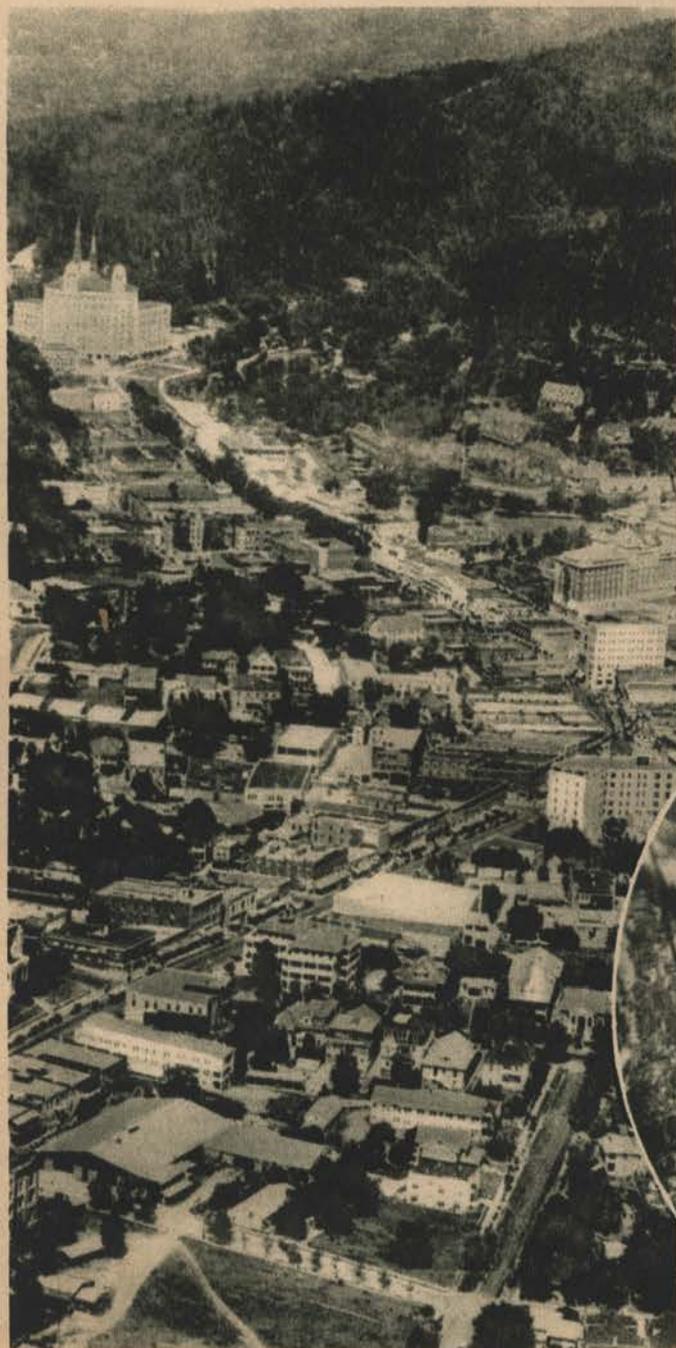
routine fashion, along the routine grounds. The divorce is cheap—or costly, depending upon the purse and habits of the persons getting it. A waitress could hire Mr. Smith's services for \$100, though Mrs. Jones paid \$300.

Of course, Mrs. Jones' case is not the whole story. Every divorce is fraught with its own complications, every case has different problems. Her case, however, is more or less average.

Children complicate the matter as much as property settlements. Some agree as to who gets the children, but don't agree on the alimony. In cases of dispute the case takes a longer time. Nevada courts spend four days out of six on the contested suits.

According to the Nevada law, the court cannot enter a money judgment or dispose of children when the defendant resides outside the state. But if the court doesn't like the disposition agreed upon by the husband and wife, it doesn't need to grant a divorce.

Behind the Scenes in THIS DIVORCE



HOT SPRINGS RIVALS RENO

Arkansas, clipping its divorce requirements to keep up with the pace set by Reno, has gone into the racket in a big way. Hot Springs is booming, with freedom seekers flocking in.

IN THIS year of Grace, 1931, we have seen the most amazing spectacle in the history of the race—a world-wide revolution in divorce laws and customs as momentous as the suffrage act and the prohibition amendment.

The hectic rush to revise laws and make new ones to liberate men and women from matrimony has reached fantastic extremes. Just as prohibition brought unforeseen results and evils, the divorce movement has grown to the proportions of an international racket, with cut-throat competition and ridiculous extremes everywhere in evidence.

Every revolution brings its fantastic elements.

The divorce racket is no exception.

Nevada put in effect, May first, a new law reducing its residence requirements to six weeks—gives gambling full reign, and broadcasts to the rest of the country that it is ready to do business on a grand scale.

On June 12, Arkansas ushered in a new era of divorce, offering the fastest service available in the southland, and Idaho proclaims a slash to three months residence requirements.



June 12 the new divorce law went into effect in Arkansas, and this Marion pastor put up a big electric sign to attract business among those looking for a new go at marriage. It's just a step from the divorce court to the altar again!

Reno leads the Dervish dance in 1931's dizzy divorce whirl, but Paris, Mexico, Cuba, and two American States are muscling into the racket, eager for the gold that flows from the pockets of the liberty seekers. Here's an up-to-the-minute account of the great divorce racket, taking you behind the scenes.

RACKET

On the heels of this wild and feverish revision of divorce codes in the United States, against which the Pope has cried out in a warning radioed to the world, Cuba enters the race with divorces in one day, and on such ridiculous grounds as an insulting remark!

Church federations, and the Catholic Church, rise in protest. It is the most dismaying spectacle in the history of marriage, and the year 1931 is ringed already in black because of the preposterous onslaughts against the sanctity and legal foundations of matrimony.

Paris, desperate because of the falling off in tourist trade, is shouting for the attention of the divorce seekers with its easy methods of cutting the bonds. No length of residence is specified, and grounds are liberal in the extreme.

Mexico, however, has surpassed all the divorce marts in the scramble to cut in upon the profits of the new racket. South of the United States border divorces can be obtained by mail! Russia, of course, offers its citizens a divorce so simple that the main problem is to prevent men and women from marrying and divorcing more than once a week.

That is a hasty picture of the divorce scramble and its international spread.

But to get back to more familiar grounds, let us see how it all began.

How The Racket Began

AL. CAPONE didn't invent the bootleg racket but he developed it to a point the original inventors never dreamed of. And Reno didn't invent the divorce racket. It merely turned it into a big business.

Sioux Falls, S. D., is said to be the place where the divorce racket originated. There are extant today time-worn advertising circulars proclaiming to the public the beauties of South Dakota as a vacation land and making coy mention of the fact that surcease from daily toil is not the only offering of the state.

A wag of an advertising man is said first to have insinuated into this literature mention of the fact that South Dakota's divorce law was one of the most liberal—perhaps the most liberal—of all such laws in the United States at that time. It may have been put in to brighten the tone of the pamphlet but the story goes that there was presently a marked increase in the number of men and women sojourning for extended vacations in the state of South Dakota and notably in Sioux Falls from which the pamphlets had emanated.

It took only amateur detective work to discover that the prospect of easy freedom from marriage ties had brought certain of these vacationers to the state. They came, they saw, they filed their papers and went back home good citizens of the State of South Dakota but no more subjects to the irksome regulations of the state of matrimony.



Why Paris Divorces Are Popular

While American states vie with each other in grabbing the divorce business, Paris continues to get its share. Here's one of the reasons—Mlle. Dargyl, dancer in one of the daring revues which attract the tourists to France.



THE MERRY ROAD TO ROMANCE IN RENO!

Down the Lincoln highway, named after the Great Emancipator, roll the ladies and men in search of freedom from the "slavery" of marriage. And new romances beckon on the road through the snow-capped mountains and green valleys. This is scenery you'll find between Reno and Carson City.

It was not long before South Dakota discovered that those who established residence in the state for purposes of marital liberation were for the most part men and women of means, that they spent money liberally in Sioux Falls and that they left fat fees in the public offices of that city having to do with divorce court cases.

From that moment, divorce became a business. And the foundation of that business was the wide difference in the divorce laws of the various states. South Dakota's laws happened to be generous both in the matter of grounds for divorce and in requirements for proving legal residence, more generous than most other states.

In New York there is only one valid ground for divorce—adultery. South Carolina countenances no divorces whatsoever. In other states there are rules of residence, recognized grounds, and provisions regarding remarriage that reflect nothing but the opinions of the legislators.

Some of the loyal citizens of Nevada and especially of Reno viewed with envious eyes the growing industry of the South Dakota divorce courts. They turned the pages of the revised statutes and discovered that salesmanship was putting South Dakota over in this lucrative field.

"It's a gyp," somebody declared. "The divorce laws of South Dakota are no better than the divorce laws of Nevada. Let's get in on this."

And so it came about that competition entered the divorce racket.

At about this time California was bidding for the tourist trade. California had everything, it proclaimed, that any vacation land should have.

South Dakota came back with the air-tight declaration that California's divorce laws had irritating provisions about the remarriage of divorced persons. In some cases interlocutory decrees were granted and the divorce did not become absolute—thus permitting remarriage—until the end of a stated term, sometimes as much as a year.

California, seemingly, had no comeback to this. It ignored the issue and went on bidding for tourist business. There were persons enough who were satisfied with their present mates to start a considerable caravan of vaca-

tioners on the trail of "49" and the California tourist boom was on.

Here it was that Reno entered the picture. For Reno is on the main line of the southern route to California from most of the thickly populated eastern centers.

It was possible, Reno pointed out, to stop off in Reno on the way to California and to have the marriage shackles struck off. Reno was represented as an interesting mountain resort at the gateway of the old gold-rush country and well worth a visit.

So it came about that the flood of well-to-do citizens who could afford the luxury of a trip to California began to add Reno to their itinerary. Those who had planned to see the Grand Canyon of the Colorado and the Big Trees of California, determined to stop and view the promised land of marital freedom.

The stamp mills of the old gold-rush days were not operating at capacity and some were not operating at all, but the divorce mill soon took its place and its product proved more popular than the nuggets that once had come from the gold lined streams.

South Dakota's principal advantage in bidding for the divorce business had been its requirement of only six months' residence to give its court jurisdiction, but Nevada had had a six-months' residence law since 1861.

When the good citizens of both states discovered what was going on, and when it was found that the world was regarding with amusement the divorce colonies both in South Dakota and in Nevada, there was something of a hullabaloo.

South Dakota put its foot down on the divorce business and ran the divorce mill out of the state. An attempt was made in Nevada to make the residence requirement twelve months.

But by this time Nevada had a great deal of money invested in the new industry. Reno merchants had stocked up with gowns and millinery, boots and haberdashery for which there was little demand except among the luxury-loving divorce-seekers. Reno builders had erected hotels and apartment houses especially for its divorce customers.



ROULETTE DRAWS RENO WOMEN

In the good old days the prospectors took long chances on finding gold and happiness—now the women have taken up the search. This time they gamble on the spin of the wheel and the turn of the cards while awaiting their divorce decrees.

In the end, business judgment prevailed in Nevada and the six-months' residence clause was left undisturbed, which gave Reno a stronger hold than ever upon the new racket.

The divorce mills ground merrily on. The divorce colony grew in Reno to an exclusive social set that by the very law of its existence was required to live in Reno and spend money there for the period of six months.

It was an ideal arrangement all around. Reno divorces were not too difficult but they were costly enough to confer some odor of social distinction upon those who obtained them. And in the process of entertaining themselves in Reno for six months while waiting for the benign jurisdiction of the court, the well-to-do soon-to-be residents tossed money lavishly into the laps of Reno's butcher and baker, candlestick maker and movie theater.

Nevada realized at last that it had a racket. And what a racket!

Matrimonial troubles have been wont since the beginning of the institution of marriage to descend alike upon the rich and the poor, but likewise since the beginning of the institution, the poor have been inclined to put up with them.

But the rich, perhaps because of the very qualities that make them rich, have been prone since about the same time to do something about all this. There are those who contend that the well-to-do haven't enough to think about and so they make up for it by discovering that they are unhappily married and worrying over it to the extent that they look around for a way out.

The best part of the divorce racket is that it is legal—at least in the state of the racket. For the marriage laws in the United States are left to the individual states. That is why they differ radically and that is why there is a movement on foot to effect reforms. The Federal Government hasn't a thing to say about state divorce laws.

For a great many years there has been agitation for uniform marriage and divorce laws in America and for



Mrs. Anne Stillman, whose famous divorce from the banker featured an Indian guide, and held the front pages of the papers for months, has been discovered making a new attempt at married happiness. She is honeymooning with Fowler McCormick, twenty years her junior and a pal of her son, Bud Stillman. Here's wishing them joy and long life!

just as many years the states that have gone into the divorce racket have been fighting that proposition for with uniform laws the divorce racket will disappear.

Foreign Competitor

NOT so long ago, while Reno was busy with its decrees and everything in the divorce business was as merry as a marriage bell, somebody looked over the divorce laws of France and got the grand little idea that a French divorce would go well in the American market.



Heigh-ho for Reno! Here's another member of New York's four hundred enjoying a salubrious stay in Nevada—Mrs. I. Henning Copeland. Horseback riding is a favorite diversion among the six weeks' residents.

Paris was a smart place to go anyway. There were those who strongly recommended it as a better place to spend six months or so than the thriving little gold-digging town of Reno. Residence requirements were favorable. The liquor was good. There was much to see. There were places to go. There were other lovely people to meet and all in all the soil was fertile for a good crop of American divorces.

It wasn't long before these ideas had spread, especially among the matrimonial malcontents, and Paris courts began to do a land-office business in divorce decrees.

The divorce laws of France are lineal descendents of the Code Napoleon, written by Bonaparte himself who had his own reasons for what he wrote and who is credited with the adage: "An honorable man never decides upon divorce unless it can be obtained without scandal."

Grounds for divorce in France are infidelity; violence, cruelty or gross insult of one party toward the other; or condemnation to a corporal and degrading punishment. And the catch in that is the term gross insult. Ninety per cent of the French divorces are granted on the grounds of gross insult.

This may mean that the husband has refused his wife the nuptial kiss, that the wife has not the encouraging disposition, that the wife is given to excessive disregard of the conventions or most any other conduct that can be termed offensive.

Not only does the French court decide on sufficiency of the grounds but it is also the only authority vested with power to decide when residence has been established. There are no hard and fast rules in Paris regarding residence. When the court is convinced that the parties intend to live in Paris the way is easy.

Natacha Rambova (Winifred Hudnut) got her divorce

from Rodolph Valentino on the grounds of gross insult when she showed that he had written a letter declaring he had decided to have nothing more to do with her.

The classic divorce case involving Americans in Paris is that of Frank Jay Gould, New York millionaire, and Edith Kelly Gould, of Great Britain. In this case the validity of the French divorce was threshed out and it was recognized by American courts.

French theory with regard to divorce is that society has as great interest in dissolving the marriage which occasions scandal as it has in safeguarding the marriage which does not.

Oral testimony in Paris cases is taken privately and the documents refer to co-respondents by initials only, besides being inaccessible to the public. The fact that the information usually leaks out is laid to the small salaries of the court clerks.

A peculiar feature of the Paris divorce is the fact that it is often necessary and generally advisable for both parties to the action to establish residence in Paris, since the question of domicile is involved.

The high cost of the Paris divorce has made it very stylish and the Paris divorcee is likely to have unquestioned entree to the best American society.

This was all very well for those who could afford the luxury of a trip abroad and it wasn't long before the Paris divorce threatened to become the fashionable divorce. The divorce racket took on international aspects and the foreigners began to "muscle in," as the saying goes in the best racket circles.

Good American Reno couldn't stand for that. It stood out for home industries and, there being no apparent way in which a protective tariff on imported divorce decrees could be involved, the Nevada city of the Great Divide,



The upper windows of this famous house in Reno are pointed out to visitors, for here, the tale goes, was the room where a prominent man kept his wife prisoner during their famous divorce trial in Reno. The three upper windows were covered with steel mesh.

sought to increase the inducements offered at its emancipation mart.

One of the strong factors tending to popularize the Paris divorce was that the blight of prohibition had never descended upon the French capital and those who sought surcease from the woes of matrimony could not only get reasonably fast action from the Paris courts, but could seek immediate forgetfulness in the boulevard cafes.

This was done in some instances to such an extent that, by the time the courts had got around to free the unfortunate American husband or wife, he or she had reached a point where it was with the greatest difficulty that he or she could remember the name of him or her to which or to whom he or she had been married if any.

When this condition of affairs was revealed, Reno took occasion to point out that Nevada was one of the five states of the so-called Union that had never passed a prohibition enforcement law. But with all that Nevada could do in this respect, the fact remained that the liquor in Nevada could not compare either in quality or price with the liquor in Paris though it packed a wallop guaranteed in a period of six months, if properly handled, to cause the divorce-seekers to forget that they had ever been married and in some instances that they had ever applied for divorce.

At about this point several other countries took cognizance of the new international racket. One of these was Russia which, since the dawn of the new Soviet day, had made something of a boast that the formalities of divorce had been reduced to a point where half the population of the country could be translated to a state of single blessedness within twenty-four hours or thereabouts if the officials were properly warned of the intention. Considerable publicity was given to the fact that the Russian housewife

could put the cabbage on to boil and dash to the divorce court without consulting her husband, returning with her freedom and perhaps even with a new husband before the cabbage was ready to serve.

This seemed to many Americans an ideal state of affairs but, owing to the fact that nobody really knew anything about the sticking qualities of a Russian Soviet divorce, that it was a long way to Moscow or wherever the divorces were available, and that nobody knew just how much the cost of a decree was in American money, the Russian competition did not cut in very heavily on the American racket.

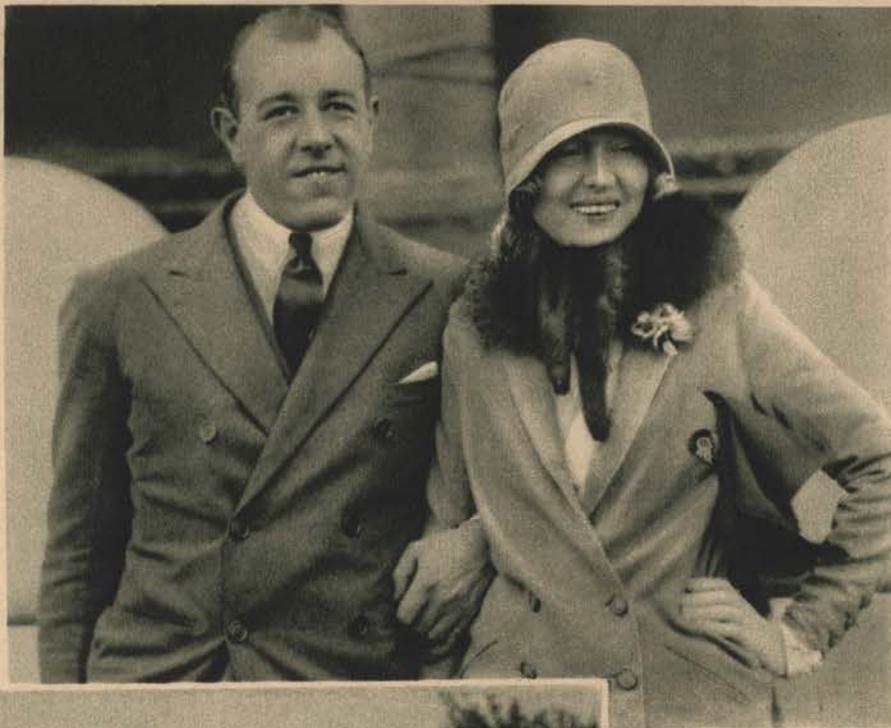
Then Mexico entered the picture, making many extreme changes in its laws on divorce.

Mexico Joins The Racket

SMART Mexican lawyers, having nothing better to do, figured out that marriage was a civil contract and as such, might be voided in Mexico just as any other civil contract was voided. The procedure in such cases, it appeared, was very simple.

Attorneys for the parties appeared before the courts in the presence of a representative of the national government whose duty it was to look after the government interest in the matter, and on a showing that the Mexican government was to be in no way defrauded by the dissolution of the contract, it was declared dissolved.

This being the case, the only other matter to be considered was the matter of entering into the jurisdiction of the Mexican court and this it was found could be done not only by meeting certain residence requirements that could be more or less complied with between drinks, but



Snapped on the beach at the Lido Venice, this pose of Peggy Hopkins Joyce indicates the charm that has made her the most courted woman.

The world's most famous divorcee—Peggy Hopkins Joyce. Here she is with Lord Northesk of England, mentioned not long ago as a possible husband for the much married Peggy.

by the purchase of an interest however small, in a Mexican business enterprise—a hot dog stand or a peanut wagon for example.

On this discovery a few whoops and a number of "vivus" must have gone up for it became clear at once that the way was open for that *ultimate thule* of the unhappily married—the correspondence or mail-order divorce.

This was going too strong for Nevada. If the Mexican divorce became popular, Reno's new gold mine was in a fair way to peter out like the Comstock lode. Something had to be done.

At first, whether inspired by Reno divorce racketeers or not has never been established, the cry went up that the Mexican divorces were like Mexican money and would not pass as legal tender or any other kind of tender on this side of the border.

But this argument was soon shot full of holes when the Mexicans pointed out that, under the unwritten comity of nations, the Mexican divorce was just as good as the French divorce and probably better than the Russian divorce when it was considered that diplomatic relations had never

been fully resumed between the United States and the soviets.

The point of whether service on a divorce defendant by publication in a Mexican newspaper could hold was voided by a slight change in the Mexican law which provided that such service was invalid and Mexico organized for a wholesale mail order business.

There was consternation in Reno when competent attorneys advised that the Mexican divorce appeared to have as good standing in American states as the divorces of other states, including Nevada. And there was greater consternation when it was discovered that an American woman, who was living in Italy, had written to her attorney in New York, divorced her husband who was living in Canada by means of a Mexican divorce by mail and then was married to an Englishman on a visit to Paris.

Something had to be done and Reno was all for doing it. But the eternal question "What?" rose to plague the Nevada city.

The situation grew acute when word came that the Mexican idea had seemed too slow to a New York woman who took a train for Chicago, arrived there at 9:45 a. m. and left for New York at 12:45 the same day with a divorce decree under her arm, remarking that she had never been there before in her life.

If Chicago was getting into the divorce racket, it was time to act, and high time. If Al Capone muscled in, no telling what would happen.

So Reno went into a huddle.

And it was well she did, for things broke loose on every side.

Idaho and Arkansas entered the race with ninety-day residence clauses and laid the foundations for red hot divorces right off the griddle in Coeur d'Alene and Hot Springs.

Cuba set the ball rolling toward a thirty-day residence clause which threatened to make it a real contender in the field, with legitimate liquor flowing through the Elysian fields of unraveling romance.

Disaster threatened apparently from every side. Divorce with vacation in the Coeur d'Alenes. Divorce with the revivifying baths and purgatives of Hot Springs. Divorce with bacardi among the dark-eyed beauties of Havana. Divorce among the traditional amusements of the Paris boulevards and divorce served with mescal, tequila, tortillas, frijoles, chile con carne and what not at the races at Tia Juana or by return mail from Mexico.

Woe was Reno. Woe and double woe was Reno.

Nevada Shoots The Works

WHILE these ills were still in the offing, Nevada acted. The six-months residence clause was cut to three. The divorce mills went back on full time but when the Arkansas, Idaho and Mexican threat was augmented by that Cuban menace, Nevada stepped out once again and delivered a blow for freedom and the racket.

The three-months clause had worked. With a lightning-like thrust, the three-months was cut to six weeks and gambling was legalized as it had been in the old days of the gold rush.

This was a shot at Cuba. Havana was too near to New York to take chances with. Reached by a salubrious boat trip from New York, flowing with legitimate though alcoholic stimulant, and with the added attractions of cock-fights and horseracing to say nothing the of the strumming guitars of the previously mentioned dark-eyed beauties, Cuba was a funnel-shaped cloud and a galloping nightmare on the horizon of Reno's gold-digging bonanza.

The Cuban bill had at this writing been finally enacted into law and it calls only for one day's residence with provisions for the relief of the customers from personal notifications and appearances.

In the meantime there is another menace looming on the horizon. Conservative New York, which has furnished the majority of the business for both Paris and Reno, is now making a move to modify its divorce laws. Other states are moving in the direction of standardized grounds for divorce and questions of residence qualifications will soon be of less and less importance.

There is rising throughout the nation a cry for abandonment of hypocrisy in connection with divorce. Already there is a plea for consent divorces with the claim raised that the only real grounds for divorce should be an establishment of the fact that plaintiff and defendant alike have determined to end the marriage relation.

Against this rising tide of protest against the sacredness of the marriage sacrament, Pope Pious XI has lately hurled an encyclical calling upon true Christians to maintain the integrity of their marriage vows.



Another famous divorce involved Count Salm von Hoogstraaten, and Millicent Rogers, daughter of the oil magnate. The Count is shown here with Mrs. G. Barker, at Cannes, France.



Millicent Rogers, whose marriage to Count Von Hoogstraaten electrified society, and produced another jolt when it ended in the divorce courts.

HOLLYWOOD'S

Who belongs to who this month? In the land of make-believe, where torrid love scenes from the studios are carried on into real life, divorce is a favorite pastime. From Mary Pickford, who first made Reno divorces famous, to Gloria Swanson, who has thrice tried a new husband, Hollywood folk have helped the racket along by seeking quick and painless divorces in Reno, Mexico, Paris and Cuba.

IN THAT madcap, hilarious, intoxicating town called Hollywood, where every day is a party day—and *what* parties—anything in the way of matrimonial matches and marriage mix-ups might—and does—occur. It is just part of the hectic, feverish, dazzling air out there.

Put yourself in the boots of one young groom who was recently forced to stand on the sidelines and watch his bride of a month being made torrid love to by one ex-husband in a picture directed by a second ex—all in the name of business! Is it strange that divorce follows quickly in the wake of real life drama like that? It would be stranger if it didn't!

In spite of popular conception to the contrary, it is not likely that movie people actually enjoy watching their marriages crash on the rocks; they don't deliberately plan to fall *out* of love with their own mate and *into* love with somebody else's. But sometimes when, as is often the case, a man and woman spend three, or four weeks on location making movie love to thrill their public, and it is summer, the moon is high and they are young and ardent—well, they forget to stop acting that love story, and begin to live it!

Because that situation has happened so frequently, human nature being what it is, Hollywood has accepted the matter with a certain degree of nonchalance. There may be a wife back home all right, but she isn't the self-sacrificing kind who has worn her fingers to the bone that hubby might prosper, for they don't grow that kind in Hollywood. The wife in any one of Hollywood's numerous entanglements is as apt as not to be making a salary



LOVE IS FICKLE IN FILMLAND

Hollywood's divorces come fast and furious—for a reason. How can you hold a husband who is off making love scenes on location, with a beautiful woman? Imagine Ina Claire, John Gilbert's last wife, watching him making love to glamorous Greta Garbo! Or Leatrice Joy, who was Gilbert's second wife, looking on a scene like this! No wonder that it's all a merry mix-up!

that runs into more figures than that of her husband. As a matter of fact, isn't that perhaps the crux of the whole matter of divorce? Hollywood independence coupled with Hollywood temptation!

When a husband falls out of love with his wife in Hollywood, the parties concerned get together, pretend a gay cynicism, crack wise and, over a couple of cocktails, followed by a fizz or a rickey, discuss briefly and with calm the ways and means to a quick parting of the ways.

If, in the privacy of their room, a few tears are shed and a few doubts enter to corrupt the resolve to part, next day they're forgotten. The mask is on again. Be gay! Be indifferent! It's all a part of the act. It's Hollywood. . . .

Mary Pickford's Reno Trip

HOLLYWOOD divorce leaped into prominence about the time Mary Pickford, America's sweetheart, separated from her first husband, Owen Moore. It is said Owen quaffed the flowing bowl frequently and had acquired the annoying habit of sojourning away from Mary except on salary days (hers).

Mary rebelled. Quietly she slipped away to Reno. That was in February, 1920. She, with her mother and

Marriage Mix-ups



Leatrice Joy divorced John Gilbert and is bringing up their little girl.

manager, took up residence with a ranch owner by the name of James Campbell. Things went swimmingly until three weeks later when Owen, her husband, turned up, ostensibly to take a group of "mining pictures."

Now, the Nevada law stated at that time, that the requirement for divorce was lifted at once if the defendant as well as the plaintiff could be found within a Nevada county.

Here were Owen and Mary in exactly that situation. Owen was immediately served with a summons and the case was regularly tried in open court. The trial was given glaring publicity in the papers and due to Mary's prominence, the entire public was up in arms. "Collusion," the press hinted, which is merely another name for implying that Mary and Owen had manufactured evidence. It didn't take Mary long, however, to satisfy the courts of her good faith and she got her divorce.

But what a blow all the publicity was to Mary's millions of fans!

Just about that same time—or a little sooner perhaps—Douglas Fairbanks decided that life with Beth Sully, daughter of the one time "cotton king," Daniel J. Sully, wasn't exactly the rosy dream of conjugal bliss that you write home about in spite of his great fondness for the

son of that union, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and he joined the trek of Hollywood's "misunderstood." Three months passed. Then, presto! Out of two dismal divorces came one shining marriage. Mary Pickford Moore became Mrs. Douglas Fairbanks.

Ten years have slipped by since Mary and Doug started making divorce history. Ten years during which the world and his wife have never ceased to smile benignly upon this famous couple who have worked hard and well for the motion picture industry. But of recent months—well, to be quite open and above board about it—indications point to new threatening clouds in the Pickford-Fairbanks sky.

It was Douglas who started the ripple when he went to Europe a few month's ago, *without* Mary. Think of Heifetz without his violin, Babe Ruth without his bat, and you can get some conception of the shock to the public when Doug calmly went off *without* Mary. It could mean only one thing. They were going the way of all flesh!

Mary squashed rumors—or thought she did—by joining Doug in London. And now, again the flower of Perfect Understanding apparently is grasped firmly in the Pickford-Fairbanks hands. But wise and worldly Lady Hollywood still lifts a skeptical shoulder, drops a knowing eyelid and murmurs inelegantly: "Oh y-e-a-a-a-h!"

Where Scandals Grow Fat

THE state of California recognizes only eight grounds upon which divorce may be granted; desertion, non-support, habitual intemperance, mental and physical cruelty, adultery, and conviction of felony. Hollywood has checked two favorite spots on the list. Mental cruelty and desertion. Oddly enough, there are very few divorces based on adultery or "the other woman" charges in Hollywood. That of the third Mrs. Tearle against Conway is practically the only one that we can recall.

In the state of California, divorce records are open to the public and anyone who wishes the illuminating facts on their neighbors' family life may find out by going to the county hall of records with a good pair of reading glasses.

The result is self-evident. Reporters who know how hungry is the world for news—*any news*—of the Hollywood stars, thumb the records to unearth unusual facts. Thus, while the rest of us can secure a divorce with practically no publicity, every young matron from Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strand, knows that Blanche Sweet left her husband, Marshall Neilan, because he brought home objectionable people at three a. m., and had the nerve to tell her that he was tired of her face and thought her smile idiotic; that Dorothy Mackaill proposed both marriage and then divorce to Lothar Mendes, and that Al Santell claimed that his only sanctuary from the barbed jibes of a jealous wife, was the bathtub.

Great copy! But more than a little unpleasant for the man or woman who has to face it.

Therefore, film star attorneys have had to acquire some canny methods of keeping all the causes for divorce, and the settlements, out of the papers on file.

Then, too, you can't get a divorce in California without going into full details, and how are you going to



Idol of millions, Rudy Valentino was the object of many a campaign for his affections, but his greatest love was for Natacha Rambova. Due to a rushed divorce, he was threatened with bigamy charges when he married Natacha after divorcing Jean Acker.

Today Natacha (above) operates a highly successful beauty salon in New York. An ardent believer in spiritualism, she claims to have heard Rudy's voice several times from the beyond.



After Rudy's unhappy divorce from Natacha, rumors grew that he was to marry Pola Negri. His death may—or may not—have ended a new romance.

prove cruelty unless you tell the story? So the star claims her hubby hit her, kicked her in the teeth, called her a trollop, and shoved her down the steps. And even if the yarn is all lies, the public reads it all as truth. So what a picture the rest of the country gets of Hollywood!

As a matter of fact, of course, there is no more of this real cruelty stuff in Hollywood than elsewhere. It just gets more publicity.

Desertion charges are perhaps the simplest and those most frequently resorted to now-a-days, but mental cruelty is a hearty favorite, too, for it can cover a multitude of sins. Betty Compson charged cruelty in divorcing James Cruze and Colleen Moore got her divorce from John McCormick on the same grounds. Betty, it seems, based her cruelty charges on the fact that her husband had "open house" every night. But petite Colleen's charges were just the opposite. John McCormick's cruelty lay in the fact that he drove people away by his grouches. In fact, he'd been known to invite guests and then fail to appear as host.

On the other hand, Olivia Burrell, John Gilbert's first wife, got her divorce from her handsome, lover-husband, on desertion charges, and with it, a \$5,000 settlement. Later, when she discovered that her erstwhile John was in love with Leatrice Joy, she asked and received \$5,000 more.

John Gilbert married Leatrice Joy, his second wife, in 1922. And what a sensation that caused! The striking Leatrice, who was at the peak of her popularity at that

time, and John, who was just coming into his own, dashed over the border to Tia Juana to tie the knot. But the wedding bells had no sooner started ringing than they were muffled by law—for the nuptials followed, by only two weeks, Gilbert's interlocutory divorce decree from Olivia Burrell, whereas California laws require a full 365 days of celibacy.

So the lovers were separated for eleven long months, were married again in Los Angeles at the end of that time; then separated! This time for good. Leatrice came home one night shortly before small Leatrice was born to find a disgusting party in progress. It was the straw that broke the camel's back. . . .

But John, as you all know, tried marriage a third

time. His impetuous wooing of the Broadway favorite, Ina Claire, could vie with Charlie Paddock's record for speed—of a different sort.

With the papers the world over, predicting John's engagement to Greta Garbo, John only grinned and slipped over to Las Vegas with the blonde and beautiful Ina on his arm and the two became as one. That is—comparatively speaking! It lasted, anyway, until they had enjoyed a nice, long, European honeymoon.

Now they, also, are divorced. They have what is known as the 1931 model—called the "divorce agreeable," which means in the King's English, "divorced but still friends." Or, to elucidate still further, that Ina and John will continue to go the same places, see the same people, move in the same select circles and end—no doubt—by marrying each other's best friends.

Gloria Tried Three Times

GLORIA SWANSON, she of the famous retroussé nose, is another excellent example of this new vintage of divorce, although, as a matter of fact, Gloria chose divorce as a marital solution long before the trail to Reno became the present day gold-paved road of Rolls-Royces.

In the days when Gloria was a stunned bathing beauty on the Essanay lot, she married Wallace Beery. It was a mistake and things happened. Her next venture was with Herbert K. Somborn. This marriage was of sufficient duration to yield a child who, though it was Gloria's

husband who brought suit against her on desertion charges, was awarded to Gloria when the final decree was granted.

The third and final marriage and subsequent divorce to date of the vivid Gloria was with that likable gentleman, the Marquis de la Falaise. Gloria's romance with Henri began in Paris in springtime and they were swept off their feet. Six months after they first met, they were married in Paris. Then it came time for Gloria to return to Hollywood and her career. She said to Henri (so the story goes) "I must go back to America and my work. You will come, too?"

To which Henri replied, in true loverly fashion, "I'd go to hell to be with you."

Which is so literally what he has done, that it isn't even funny! For the Swanson-de la Falaise marriage smash-up was one of real misery and heartache. They sincerely loved each other once, but adjustments, business worries, gossip—and, at the end of five years, the result was inevitable. Gloria's Marquis went back to Paris to obtain the final decree. At which point, Connie Bennett, oldest of the famous and talented Bennett tribe, enters the picture.

Connie, as you perhaps remember, eliminated the multi-millionaire Phil Plant from her marriage picture a few years ago. She was in Paris when Henri arrived there and they met—quite a lot in fact—on business.

The long ear of Hollywood heard the news and speculation started. Connie and Henri aren't married yet; chances are they won't be; but for all that, Gloria, Connie and the Marquis are one of Hollywood's most scintillating triangles.

But sometimes, Gloria has discovered, husbands, even ex-husbands, crowd up a bit on a person. Such was the case with Gloria not long ago when she found herself at a party with her ex-husbands peppered prominently all over the place. How did Gloria take her most embarrassing moment? With delicate indifference! She's that way. It was just another episode on this jaunt called Life.

HAVE you ever heard the wisecrack that goes like this? Marriages are made in Heaven but divorces are made in Hollywood? If you are the sort of person who likes lists of things and keeps up with them, you've maybe discovered that there is more than a little truth and not much poetry about the above statement. Study your lists from the big divorce centers. You will find neatly recorded there such noted names as Florence Vidor vs. King Vidor; Dorothy Mackaill from Lothar Mendes; Claire Windsor vs. Bert Lytell; Blance Sweet from Marshall Neilan; Helen Twelvetrees; Virginia Valli (from her first husband, not Charles Farrell); Billie Dove vs. Irvin Willat; Joan Bennett vs. John Marion Fox; Marilyn Miller from Jack Pickford and Jean Arthur whose marriage was annulled. And, after you're read your lists, if you're a thoughtful person, you may even go a step further and ask yourself, "I wonder why all these emotional blunders and marital mixups?"



John Barrymore's marriages and divorces have ended at last with his happy union with Dolores Costello. Above they appear with Dolores Ethel, their infant daughter. At left are his former wife, Michael Strange, playwright, with her daughter Diana, posing for this photo in 1925, before their divorce.

Is it because Hollywood has gone continental and has come to treat marital mix-ups with a wink instead of the sob and the loaded revolver? Is it the importance of the career that has started this parting?

Let us relate one story which concerns some more odd marital mix-ups—a tale which has been woven about the filming of Ernst Lubitsch's *The Marriage Circle*. *The Marriage Circle* was a brilliant, stinging little picture loaded with reel dynamite as well as real dynamite, for everyone of the six ladies and gentlemen playing leading rôles have subsequently been divorced. The cast included Florence Vidor, Marie Prevost, Kenneth Harlan, Monte Blue, Adolphe Menjou, Creighton Hale and Harry Meyers. It is the spectacular announcement like that, seeping into the press, that causes Mrs. John Smith out in Podunk to drop her dustcloth and rush to the neighbors lamenting the wildness of Hollywood.

But in all fairness to the Sin City, we say, "If your job, Mrs. John Smith, consisted of daily torrid love scenes before the camera, might not your business also easily become monkey business?"

There are, however, legitimate romances—and a lot of them—that have first budded beneath the big Kleig Lights, as witness Dolores Costello's romance and marriage with John Barrymore, of the handsome profile. John, searching for a leading lady, looked out the window one day, saw

Who's Whose in Hollywood

ODD, isn't it—if you stop to think about it—how Hollywood goes in for the numeral 3. Besides Barrymore and his three marriage ventures, we have the aforementioned John Gilbert and his three to-date, with Gloria rooting for the girl's side with her three husbands whom she loved, honored—and divorced.

The late Rudolph Valentino is a close runner-up on the three's with a series of European love affairs, two divorces and a contemplated third matrimonial venture with the fiery Pola Negri at the time of his tragic death.

Rudy was first married to Jean Acker, an actress. She divorced him on desertion charges and he married Natacha Rambova. Their marriage, it was claimed, was based not on mad and hysterical love—but on real companionship. Did that save it from crashing on the rocks? It did not!

Rudy and Natacha were married in Mexico. Directly afterwards, Rudy faced bigamy charges. What a juicy tidbit for his enemies! Their joy was short lived, however, for it was soon discovered that the charge was raised on a legal technicality similar to that experienced by John Gilbert. Because of it, nevertheless, Rudy and Natacha were forced to separate and maintain separate apartments for several months.

Their eventual divorce was just another tragedy that may be laid at the gates of Hollywood, most worldly of places on earth today.

The year before his death, Rudy was seen much in the company of Pola Negri. They admitted their love for one another. They indulged in that startling innovation—A Trial Engagement. This romance might have culminated in a lasting marriage. Who knows! We only know



Charlie Chaplin's divorces have been the most spectacular in Hollywood. His marriage to Mildred Harris (above) ended disastrously. His next venture turned his hair gray, for his second wife, Lita Grey, sued for divorce and custody of their two boys. Charlie's great affection for his sons, and his unhappy home life, made this a tragic affair.

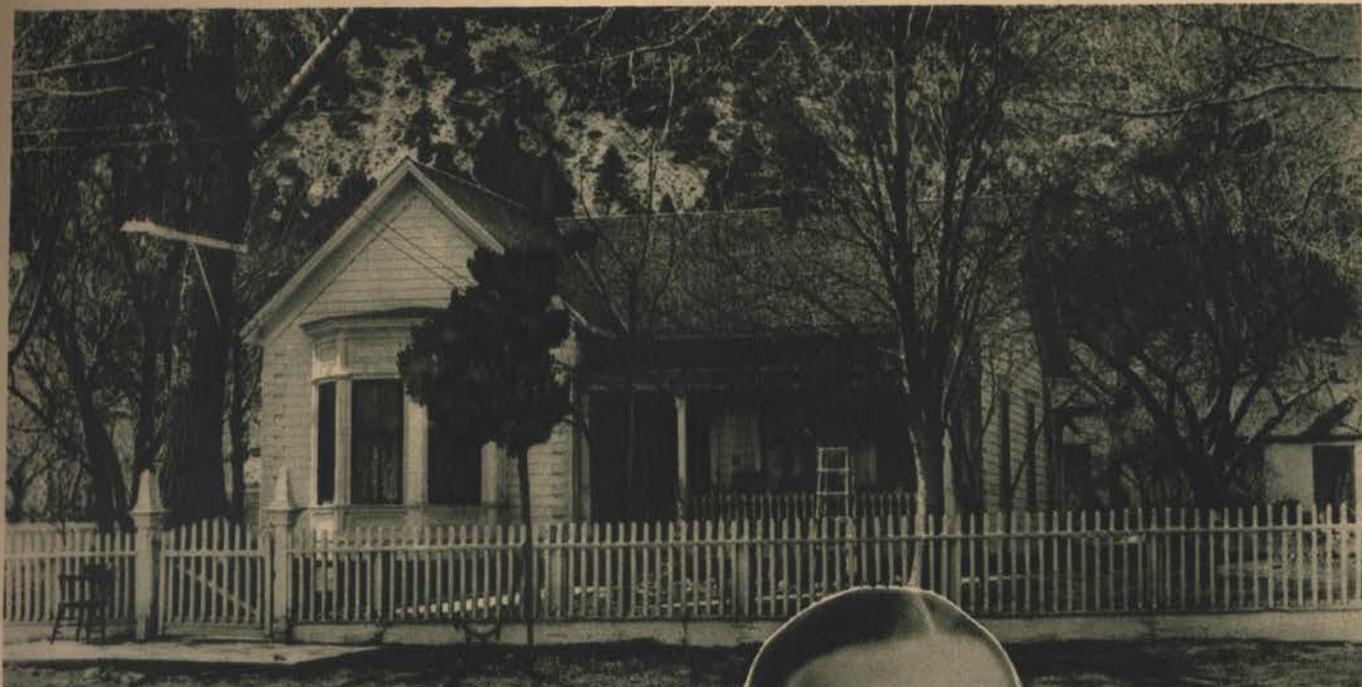


Dolores in a group of extras, sent for her, hired her and promptly fell in love with her. Today, theirs is one of the selected few really happy marriages in Hollywood, although John did not reach his present state of bliss without two previous matrimonial fliers, both of which ended in tailspins: The first with Mrs. Leonard Thomas; the second with Blanche Oelrichs, who writes poetry about life and love and disillusionment under the pen name of Michael Strange.

Remember how the whole world gasped at the time of the Barrymore-Costello nuptials? How screaming headlines stated that Barrymore could *not* marry the fair Dolores, since his separation from Michael Strange was only that—a separation.

Beseiged by reporters, John maintained a Coolidge calm. Michael Strange saved the day and the sanity of the Costello fans, with an eleventh hour despatch from her home in France, stating that the final decree had been granted several months previous.





Mary Pickford's Nevada divorce attracted the eyes of the nation to the opportunities offered by this state. At this pretty ranch at Genoa, Nevada, she completed her residence requirements, and served papers on Owen Moore.

that Pola was heart-broken when she heard of Valentino's tragic death.

Then there is Charlie Chaplin, whose book of life contains a couple of pretty black matrimonial chapters. Charlie, whose list of famous friends reads like a Hollywood Who's Who, when it came to marriage, fell for an *ingénue* doll baby, Mildred Harris by name.

When the correct moment came, Mildred's skillful mamma manoeuvred Mildred's divorce for her to the tune of \$80,000. Not so bad!

Divorce also followed closely on the heels of Charlie's marriage to another *ingénue*, a brown-eyed vaudeville trouser, Lita Grey. It took forty-two pages of vitriolic comment for the soulful Lita to tell all she knew about Charlie before the judge. Charlie, she averred with righteous indignation, had even admitted that he shouldn't exactly mind if she ended her own life.

Lita got \$625,000 out of her forty-two page treatise, with an additional four hundred a month for the two Chaplin heirs. Charles Spencer Chaplin, Sr., got—gray hair.

The Grey-Chaplin marriage was doomed to failure from the beginning. In the first place, it was a marriage of convenience. There was no honeymoon at all. Lita and Charlie went over to Mexico for the service, and, even while it was being read, so reports go, the lawyers who accompanied the bridal party, were in the rear of the church haggling audibly over the marriage settlements.

After the ceremony, Lita went back to Los Angeles with her mother, while Chaplin slipped away.

Lita, in her notorious divorce complaint, charged Chaplin with scandalous conduct, and Chaplin charged Lita with numerous affairs, coldness and deliberate taunts to the effect that she preferred other men to him. It was a terrible mix-up, and convinced Charlie that he was not cut out for marriage.

Dolores Del Rio, in speaking of her divorce from the late Jaime Del Rio, says merely, "I wanted to be happy. I wasn't with Jaime. Ours was a marriage of convenience."



Two unhappy marriages were stepping stones to the grand romance of Doug and Mary, filmdom's most universally known couple. Now threats of separation are whispered and this marriage may end disastrously.

She took the famous and familiar divorce route to happiness after she came to live in Hollywood and discovered that unhappy marriages need not be borne forever.

Raised in a strict convent, it took a little Hollywood experience before Dolores dared to take the bit in her own small teeth. Tragedy entered when Jaime Del Rio died, alone, on the continent, soon after the divorce was granted.

Now Dolores is trying marriage with Cedric Gibbons. Way off in the hills, far from the gossip of Hollywood, the Gibbons have built a modernistic home for themselves. There they live, with the birdies and moonbeams for company, and so far have managed to keep peace with one another.

Mexico's Mail-Order

Judge Melgarejo Randolph, formerly of Mexico, and now in New York, gives here the simple facts about Mexico's divorce laws, which allow all transactions to be carried on by mail, and grants a divorce which has all other courts beaten for speed and economy.

IF A husband and wife earnestly desire to become divorced there is no simpler or speedier method of severing the ties than the Mexican mail-order brand of decree. Not only is such a divorce easy and fast, but it is also binding and recognized in any state throughout this country.

On the other hand, if one of the parties protests the action and refuses to recognize the jurisdiction of the courts below the Rio Grande, complications are likely to arise. But they can be overcome, and have been overcome. A Mexican decree, by a decision of the United States Supreme Court, highest tribunal of this land, maintains a validity equal to a divorce obtained in Reno or Paris by non-residents.

As a former Justice of the Court of First Instance in the State of Chihuahua, Republic of Mexico, and also as Attorney-General in the State of Chiapas, I did much to mould the prevailing Mexican divorce code. Through my New York office I have handled the cases of hundreds of persons in recent years, scores of them from prominent walks of life.

I am going to tell you all about how the Mexican divorce mill grinds out its easy paths to freedom. As much as possible I will avoid lego-technical language. After all, it's a very simple process anyway.

It is pretty generally known that the Sonora and Morelos divorces have no impediments, so the first thing that is apt to come into a person's mind is the price of this liberty.

To begin with, I do not hesitate to say that a Mexican divorce is a luxury. Two years ago it was a form of legal extravagance which could be indulged in by the rich alone. At that time I got a decree for a famous opera singer for \$10,000, obviously out of the reach of the person of moderate means.

But since that time I have been fortunate enough to suggest legislation which has been approved and which has eliminated the burdens of heavy taxes. These taxes often amounted to several hundred dollars and were stumbling-blocks in the paths of persons who might otherwise have sought recourse in the Mexican courts.

Today a divorce may be obtained in Mexico for as low as \$500. That is the bottom price and if any practitioner offers anyone their freedom for less than that amount, they should consult the police for there is something phoney about it most likely. The average Mexican divorce cost \$750. Of that amount about \$450 is paid into the exchequer of the Mexican government in the form of taxes, and legalization papers in the United States and Mexico.

Nancy Carroll's Mexico Divorce

ONE of the most recent cases in which I was consulted was that of Nancy Carroll, the movie actress. A friend of hers and her husband, Jack Kirkland, asked me about the legality of the Mexican decrees. It was



Nancy Carroll, Paramount star, sought Judge Rudolph's advice when she and Jack Kirkland parted. They obtained a Mexico divorce and Nancy plans to marry Bolton Mallory, editor of *Life Magazine*.

DIVORCES FOR \$500!

Mexico's bid for the divorce business offers to cut the tie that binds for half the cost of other competitors, and what's more you don't even have to appear! It's all done by mail, and the postman brings your divorce, prepaid!



"Any local lawyer can take care of the matter by mail," says Judge Randolph, who specializes in Mexican decrees and who was active in obtaining new divorce laws south of the Border.

their particular wish to have an attorney go directly to Mexico and start the suit there personally instead of by mail.

I told the attorney that he would obtain an attack-proof, *bona fide* divorce if he went down there and started the action himself in behalf of Miss Carroll. As was publicly announced later, Nancy's husband was perfectly willing to give her a divorce and he interposed no objection to her suit. Their lawyer received \$2,500 and expenses in that case.

As a matter of fact, Nancy did not have to budge from location on the Paramount movie lot on Long Island, her husband didn't have to stir from his writing salon in the ritzy Hotel des Artistes in New York and their attorney did not have to make the long trip to Mexico. It could all have been worked out by airmail. But Nancy confided that there was some one she wanted to marry and she wanted to be positive that there never would be any comeback.

One might ascribe that attitude on Miss Carroll's part to a dash of temperament. I have found that many professional persons who have come to me for Mexican divorces have exhibited touchy dispositions. The case of Madame Frances Alda, formerly of the Metropolitan Opera House, who divorced her husband, Giulio Gatti-Cassazza, the impresario, was different. She was satisfied with the postman's delivery of her divorce papers.

The Mexican courts are exceedingly liberal in the range of grounds and causes for the commencement of an action for divorce.

The first ground for divorce is adultery, where either party can prove an act of infidelity on the part of the other. But since a Mexican divorce is rarely contested with any decree of bitterness, less drastic charges are advanced.

Unjustifiable desertion during six consecutive months may be a cause. One of the more popular grounds is cruelty—threats, mistreatment and insults of such a nature as to make united married life unbearable. This leaves much room to the plaintiff. The slamming of a door in one's face or a harsh name may constitute grounds under this clause.

By far the most favored basis for a Mexican divorce is incompatibility. That covers a multitude of sins, literally speaking. Most of my cases are advanced on that accusation. It spares both parties embarrassment. The world is not apt to scorn or censure too severely just because two people are not adapted to each other mentally, or temperamentally.

A SHORT time ago I secured a divorce for a woman who was married to a Wall Street broker. Before going into the financial world he was a minister in Philadelphia. His wife was from the Quaker City's smart set. She had been accustomed to the gay life of society.

Although she loved her husband dearly, and he was a handsome and dapper man, she could not expect to be in the midst of revelry while her husband wore the cloth. Finally she induced him to renounce the pulpit so that they could lead a more sociable life, after the fashion to which she had been accustomed.

After he forsook the church, where he was regarded as a genial and jolly man and the life of the party in a conservative sense, she found that he was not so hot, as they say in the vernacular, when it came to making

A Mexico Divorce Petition

MARGARET MAY VS. RICHARD ROE

To the Judge of First Instance of the Civil Branch:

Margaret May, of legal age, married, a resident of the County of New York, City and State of New York, and with domicile for the purpose of receiving legal notifications in this City, at 51 Elias Street, before Your Honor, with all respect appears and says:

That with this complaint I come to sue my husband, Mr. Richard Roe, asking the dissolution of our marriage through a divorce in an ordinary civil suit, basing my complaint on the following:

FACTS

I. On November 1st, 1912, I was married to Mr. Richard Roe, in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, which fact is proved by the marriage certificate hereto attached, Exhibit No. 1.

II. As issue of this marriage there is a minor child, living with me, and the "matrimonial association" between my husband and me has no common property.

III. Due to the irritable temper of the defendant herein, we could not understand each other and many troubles have arisen in our marital life. Finally, I was compelled to sue him before the Supreme Court of New York County, for legal separation and in 1918, a decree was granted in my favor, allowing me \$12.00 a week. A certified copy of such decree is hereby attached, Exhibit No. 2.

IV. Since March 15, 1928, the defendant herein has failed to send me the weekly payments ordered by the said New York Court, and for this reason the said marriage relations have been and are totally interrupted, and therefore, the plaintiff prays for Your Honor to entirely dissolve this marriage.

To all the above stated facts should be applied the following provisions of

LAW

First—Foreigners in the Republic of Mexico have the same civil rights as Mexicans, according to "Foreigners' Law of May, 1886." Consequently, although I am a foreigner, I have the right to apply for justice before the Tribunals of this Republic.

Second—According to Article 196, amended, of the Code of Civil Procedure, Your Honor is a competent judge to hear this case, because I expressly submit it to your jurisdiction.

Third—The separation of the spouses, with a total interruption of marriage relations for more than six consecutive months, is a cause for divorce, as is provided for in Section XII of Article 227 of the Civil Code, amended by Act 209 of June 30, 1925.

By reason of all the above stated and based on legal provisions hereinbefore mentioned and also the provisions in Articles 922, 928, 931, and 79 (amended of the Code of Civil Procedure) with all respect,

To Your Honor I Pray:

First—That this complaint should be admitted according to the Law.

Second—That the Court issue an order to give notice to the defendant, through his attorney in fact, Mr. Juan Robledo, at 116 Arispe Street of this City, directing him to answer this complaint within the time of nine days.

Third—That through the legal proceedings, final decree should be issued in my favor, dissolving this marriage giving me the custody of my child, a girl of 16 years of age, and directing the defendant herein to contribute to the support, maintenance and education of the said minor child of this marriage as hereinabove first mentioned.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGARET MAY.

whoopie on Broadway. He was terribly serious, somehow. She was just a carefree, madcap creature, yearning for new thrills all the time.

In time it became evident that they were grossly mismatched. That he never should have departed from the sacred confines of religion, and that she should have picked a man with kindred tastes when it came to gay rounds of parties. In the divorce complaint I drew up for this unfortunate lady, and against her more unfortunate mate, I represented that this couple sought a divorce on the grounds of incompatibility. That they were not suited to each other in the matter of tastes. The decree was granted.

If a husband disappears for more than one year, his wife may obtain a divorce, and also if he is convicted for a serious crime. That works the other way around too. Habitual intemperance, drunkenness, on the part of either person is also down as a justifiable cause for divorce.

Divorce By Consent

NOW I would like to delve into the type of Mexican divorce which we list as one of mutual consent. Although most often this kind of action comes under the heading of incompatibility, mutual consent in itself comprises grounds for divorce.

That is, if a husband tells his wife in writing that he no longer cares to be her husband and if she in turn expresses a similar desire for eternal separation, a Mexican court will recognize those expressions as sufficient grounds for divorce. The resulting decree will be 100 per cent valid, impregnable and unassailable. It remains binding for all time under all circumstances.

When the spouses file a petition for a divorce by mutual consent, a proper agreement as to the children and property, if any, are attached to the petition. It must be strictly understood that the courts differentiate between mutual consent and collusion. The latter implies that the parties are practicing fraud and deceit. Mutual consent is above that stigma in Mexico.

Two people who decide they have come to the parting of the ways and desire a divorce by mutual consent do not have to go beyond their city limits to get a Mexican divorce. Somewhere in their community or district there will be a direct representative from Mexico or an American lawyer who can arrange for Mexican decrees.

The papers are drawn up right in the home town of the parties seeking to be divorced. Then their legal representative will forward the documents to Mexico where his associate will file them with the clerk of the court there and the action will be immediately started.

There is such a thing as an overnight divorce in Mexico, but I would not recommend it. I would be skeptical of anything that came about so suddenly. Therefore I advise my clients to pursue the prescribed legal procedure which assures them their freedom in six weeks.

Six weeks is the fastest time on record for an unimpeachable, irrevocable divorce. It has the Reno routine beaten to a frazzle. Nevada requires six weeks residence and that is apt to work hardship on persons who have to travel almost all the way across the continent to become eligible. To say nothing of the inconvenience of being away from one's business and friends during that interval.

THERE is another feature about the Mexican system which I would like to stress. One can get a secret divorce there. The government down there frowns upon publicity and severe punishment is apt to be the lot of any person who makes public the proceedings of the divorce tribunal. Especially where neither party makes a

personal appearance, their case remains secret for all time. That is pretty generally the rule.

Getting back to mutual consent, a petition for divorce under this category cannot be filed until one year has elapsed from the date of the marriage. After filing the petition before the Court of First Instance, the judge will endeavor to effect a reconciliation between the parties. This meeting is also for the purpose of ascertaining whether they have applied for the divorce of their own free will. With the couple absent, the judge concludes that a divorce is the only way out. The attorney in Mexico, representing the plaintiff, proceeds with a formal request for a decree of divorce.

The Mexican Code of Civil Procedure reads as follows: "The interested parties or their legal representatives may appear in the action by themselves or through an attorney-in-fact, duly authorized with proper power of attorney."

In the case of mutual consent, the defendant, or person who is being sued for divorce, signs a paper granting this power of attorney to the plaintiff's lawyer or to an attorney designated to represent the defendant in Mexico. In this manner the consent becomes strictly legal.

The actual complaint which is drawn up in any Mexican divorce suit is a very simple document. There is nothing intricate or confusing in it. It merely states the names of the parties, when they were married, their ages and addresses, and the ground on which the divorce is sought may be stated in a single sentence. In other words there is no necessity for a lot of dirt, as they say. Sometimes I merely write "Incompatibility" next to "Grounds" on a petition.

Up to this point I have been dwelling on what is commonly known as the easy divorce. No hindrances ever crop up in the types of cases discussed up to now.

Contested Divorces

THE complications arise when one of the parties is unwilling to be divorced. One person may be madly in love with the other and determined not to lose his or her mate. Then again, a husband or wife may seek a divorce to shake one person to marry some one else. The one about to be discarded might try to block such an action just for pride or spite if for no other reason.

Lastly, there is quite apt to be a bitter contest where a husband tries to divorce his wife in a foreign jurisdiction without making any alimony provision for her, or where the custody of children might be at stake. As a result of actions for divorce started in foreign jurisdictions, local courts are cluttered up with suits over property rights, or legal battles for the custody of children.

One of the most spectacular suits of late has been that brought against Geoffrey Bonnell, a prominent New York financier. He came to me and asked me to get him a divorce in Morelos, Mexico. His wife opposed his suit. We had to serve her with papers in the case and she, in due process of law, was compelled to answer our action by retaining a legal representative in Mexico. Though she contested it, Mr. Bonnell got his divorce.

Immediately after he was granted the divorce, Mr. Bonnell married Dorothy Stuart Fargo, ex-wife of the heir to the Fargo Express millions.

I opposed Mr. Bonnell's original plan to obtain a Mexican divorce "by publication," that is, by notifying the defending party only by means of newspapers. This type of divorce is apt to cause future trouble. While Mexico's divorces are secret in that the world need not know any of the details, they are not intended to be secret insofar as they affect the other party to the action.

In other words, unlike the laws of some countries,



Jack Kirkland and Nancy Carroll worked their way to success together, but a new romance proved too much for their marriage. Kirkland met Nancy when she was an unknown chorus girl and he was a newspaper reporter, and they were married in 1924. They have one daughter, Patricia. Mexico got their divorce business. The suit was filed in Nogales.

both parties must be made aware of the divorce action.

While it is quite possible to obtain a divorce where the other party is missing, and cannot be served with papers, should that other party show up at some future time, he or she could make matters unpleasant.

Rather than risk unpleasant encounters with the laws of New York state, I have recommended to clients on the verge of making a second plunge into matrimony after obtaining a Mexican decree that they go to Connecticut or New Jersey for their second marriage.

In those states their second marriage cannot be held in dispute, since their Mexican divorce will have been obtained on grounds which would have been legal in those states. That is the way the courts have held. In New York state the only ground for divorce is adultery. A great number of my clients in New York state have resorted to Mexican divorces in order to escape the brand of adultery.

On the other hand, if the divorce was obtained by mutual consent, as in the case of Nancy Carroll, either party in the case may remarry without ever being molested in any way by the other. The second marriage is regarded as legal in New York state as well as in any other state.

Miss Carroll, the papers have announced, plans to marry Bolton Mallory, editor-in-chief of *Life*, whom she met during the Artists' and Writers' expedition to Cuba last winter. Mallory is 33, and like Kirkland, of attractive personality and literary talent. Nancy keeps Patsy, their five-year-old daughter.

Who Gets the

Father and Mother have their attorneys. But who represents the children? Their rights come first, instead of last, and the first duty of the State is to compel parents to take care of their offspring.

IN THE great upheaval caused by the divorce mania, the innocent sufferers are often overlooked.

What is to be done for the children in such a case?

Broken homes, whether by divorce or other reasons, are deplorable from the point of view of the reaction on the children. Fatherless children, statistics show, are the ones who most often go wrong. It is impossible to argue around the figures.

And who stands up for the kiddies when mother and father are fighting their personal battle in court?

Theoretically, the judge represents the children. Papa and mama each has an attorney. The judge acts as the attorney for the children.

Theory, however, is not always carried out in practice. And the judge is more or less helpless. If he denies the divorce, the children are doomed to life in a mad house of bickering and battle. If he grants the divorce, he must depend on a thousand and one complications to guide him as to the disposition of the property and children.

Most contested divorces are fought out over property. Who will get the house and how much alimony? After that's disposed of, the children come to mind.

It is the duty of the court to see that the rights of the children are protected. The judge must protect the citizens of the state from having to pay taxes to support children who have a father capable of doing that job himself.

As soon as children enter into a divorce case, the whole aspect of the matter is changed. Judge Lindsey is particularly bitter in his denunciation of married people who ignore the rights of children and obtain frivolous divorces. His famous companionate marriage theory is based on the idea that chance or intention will turn the marriage into a "family" marriage, and that his companionate marriage will then become something twice as enduring as the common, or garden variety of marriage. Easier divorce for childless couples, his motto, and more justice and reason in divorces involving children.

JUDGE BARRETT, formerly of the Reno courts, declares that the children are the paramount issue, and deplors the divorce that works a hardship on them.

"A child does not ask to be born," he says in his recent book, *Men, Women, and Conflict*. "Presumably it will live in its prime and be still alive when every adult in the court is dead and gone. Until proved otherwise, the child must be looked on as the precursor of genius. . . . That is something of the feeling that animates courts in their consideration of questions involved in the custody of children."

No matter what is the eventual decision regarding divorce, future generations will be confronted with the problem of lonely children, deprived of one or both parents by law, thrust here and there into schools or left in the care of relatives, to raise themselves by their boot straps. And the future generation will realize that children of divorce are the most pathetic creatures on the face of the earth, sub-



Children?



ject to all manner of temptation, drifts into shadowy byways, preyed upon and stepped upon.

Every woman contemplating divorce draws back from that step when she thinks of what it will mean to her children. She knows, if she is wise, that a child needs and wants a father.

She knows, also, that a court may say—"these children will live with their mother", but that the children may have different ideas. They may like their father very much. Then what happens?

The father becomes a martyr in their eyes. He is the suffering one—because he can't have his own children. He may be mean, he may have been unbearable to his wife, but his children think of him as a lonely man, who sends them gifts sometimes and whose kindly acts are remembered with joy.

The result is that the children lean toward the father, and regard the mother, who has to discipline them and live with them, as a being who is not half so attractive as their father.

Therefore the wise mother realizes that divorce and custody of the children is not always a happy solution. If the father brings the divorce action, and the children are old enough to realize that he is unworthy, the mental condition of the children changes. But it is human nature to feel tenderly toward the one who is most pitied.

Supporting the Children

LET us consider the case of a woman who obtains a divorce, custody of the children, and support money. Are her troubles over?

By no means! The husband may leave the state, marry again, come into a large amount of money, or refuse to pay alimony.

The children having been awarded the wife, he is not liable to criminal prosecution for deserting them. He might move to another state and leave no address. If found, the job of collecting from him is difficult because he is no longer under the jurisdiction of the state where the divorce was obtained.

Mrs. Andrews, as we may call her, obtains a divorce from her husband and custody of two children, and signs a stipulation agreeing to accept \$100 a month. A few months later her ex-husband starts a new business, which becomes highly successful. He can afford to pay four or five times the amount stipulated.

What can Mrs. Andrews do about it?

For herself, she can do nothing. She has signed a contract, the same as if she were contracting to work for someone, and the contract is valid. She can be held to it. Mrs. Andrews discovers that she has let go of a man worth a fortune, and it makes her more than a trifle sad.

However, the court, as we pointed out, considers always the rights of the children. They are not forgotten now. The court may hale Mr. Andrews before the bar and tell him to show cause why he should not increase the support money for the children.

No wife can sign away the rights of the child.

In this case Mr. Andrews was compelled to pay \$400 more a month toward the support of the children, and naturally the wife enjoyed some of the benefits since she was the guardian of the children.

Again, Mrs. Benton, also divorced, given the custody of the children, and an allotment of \$200 a month, had her support money decreased.

Mr. Benton married again, and his second wife bore him three children in five years. In the meantime, his first born had gone to work, and the boy was earning money in an orchestra.

Mr. Benton suffered reverses, and was able to show the court that he could not support both families. Mrs. Benton was forced to accept less money.

Another wife, who thought to live happily and in luxury with her little daughter following a divorce from her husband, was obliged

to go to work and live in far less attractive circumstances than before. Her husband remarried, failed in business, and moved to Canada.

WE HAVE mentioned the fact a husband cannot be prosecuted in Minnesota for deserting his children, if in his divorce the children have been awarded the wife.

This is a recent supreme court ruling, and settles a bothersome point of logic—how can a man desert his children when they are no longer in his home to desert?

Formerly, it was possible to send a man to the penitentiary for committing a felony if he left his wife and children, divorced or otherwise, without support.

Now, if a man refuses to pay for the support of his children, he can only be punished by a jail sentence if he is caught within the state, and then on the grounds of contempt of court for not paying the support money or alimony allowed by the court.

In any divorce action, the court regards the mother as the natural guardian of the children of tender age, unless it is proven that she is not a fit person to be entrusted with them.

Therefore a woman goes before a court with all the chances on her side that she will get the offspring which she has borne in wedlock.

Children over fourteen are deemed to have a mind of their own in most states. Indeed, boys of fourteen and girls of twelve may legally marry, without the consent of their parents, in Louisiana!

With the rights of the child in mind, the court may ask adolescent children which parent they may choose to live with, and take their wishes into full consideration. If a boy of fourteen expresses a strong preference for living with his father, and conditions are suitable, the mother may have to give him up despite the fact she is bringing the divorce action.

Usually the parents decide beforehand who is to be given the children, providing the court decides that one party has shown a right to receive a divorce. This is not collusion, it must be understood. Collusion, forbidden by all states, is the agreement between husband and wife that they will get a divorce by mutual consent. This form of divorce is allowed in Cuba, Mexico, and some foreign countries.

This agreement regarding the children usually specifies that one parent may be given the privilege of visiting the children. It is seldom that a court will forbid the divorced parent from seeing his own offspring.

However, the child's rights are carefully considered in this matter. If the child has been awarded the mother, as the parent most deserving of their custody, the court does not like the idea of allowing the children to leave the jurisdiction of the court to visit the father in another state.

In one case, the father was allowed to have the children one month out of each year, and they would go to visit him in New York. At the end of one visit the children decided to stay with him. The mother wasn't able to regain the custody of the children, particularly since her divorce wasn't recognized in New York as legal!

When Richard Barthelmess obtained a divorce from Mary Hay, he was given their daughter, Mary. Her mother preferred a career as a dancer to that of a house wife. Barthelmess is now married to Jessica Haynes Sargent.



Charlie Chaplin's boys are in custody of their mother, Lita Grey Chaplin. Sidney (left) and Charlie, Jr., are allowed to visit their famous father.



Presbyterian Church Assembly Brands NEVADA PAGANISM

"PAGANISM," is the cry of at least one of the established churches against divorce and the divorce racket.

Meeting in Pittsburgh on June 1, 1931, the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States denounced the competition of various states fighting for the divorce business.

With generous acclaim the assembly accepted the report of its commission on marriage and divorce.

"It is doubtful," this report says, "if anything is wrong with marriage today that was not always wrong."

"The fundamental trouble is that the attention of young people is generally directed through our newspapers and through the movies and plays to marriage at its worst rather than at its best."

"We are educated to demand our rights regardless of our responsibilities. We are witnessing a recrudescence of paganism with Hollywood blazing the way and Nevada prostituting its statehood and pandering to the weaknesses of human nature for thirty pieces of silver."

"What is needed more than companionate marriage or easy divorce or any other solution that follows the line of least resistance, is the establishment in our churches, schools and colleges of fundamental studies in marriage, which would teach our boys and girls how to make a success of marriage."

The commission did not stop at the recommendation of study for youth alone, but recommended courses of instruction for parents and for ministers as well.

Tightening rather than loosening of the marriage laws was recommended and the inclusion of health requirements in securing marriage licenses.

Correction of the evils of divorce by direct action, the report declares, is practically hopeless because of the deplorable competition recently noted between the legislatures of some states to cheapen and commercialize divorce.

Applause greeted the announcement at the hour set for debate that the portion of the commission's report recommending approval of birth control when practiced because of economic stringency or maternal health had been eliminated.

A chorus of "noes" was heard together with a scattering of applause when Phillips Elliott of New York moved that the assembly express regret that the birth con-

trol report had been eliminated. This motion was tabled.

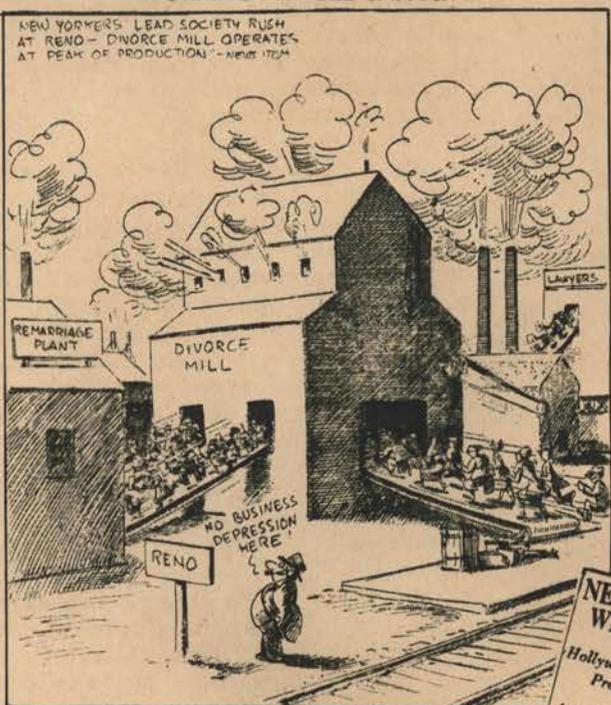
A LEGAL shot is taken at the Reno divorce mill by Superior Judge Desort of Chicago who handed down an injunction restraining a Chicago man from procuring a divorce in Reno.

He served notice that the Nevada decree could be held invalid in Illinois when granted to a citizen of Illinois.

The injunction was granted Mrs. Edith Sylvan against Joseph Sylvan. The Sylvans have been married twenty-one years and have six children.

"If the grounds in Nevada were the same as those in Illinois," the judge declared, "the defendant, according to the complaint, could not procure a decree of divorce. He left the jurisdiction of his state for the sole purpose of evading its laws and depriving his wife and children of the opportunity of protecting their interests which they could do were the action brought here."

WORKING AT FULL CAPACITY



—Cartoon in New York World Telegram.

NEVADA LINKED WITH PAGANISM
 Hollywood Also Scared in Presbyterian Report
 Assembly Says Moral Life Getting No Worse
 Birth Control Wiped Out of Recommendations

Newspapers in many parts of the country have entered the controversy and have turned their guns chiefly on the "machine gun speed" of the Nevada divorces and those of other states. The Los Angeles Times declares that probably nine-tenths of the divorce decrees granted in Reno courts are void or voidable.

The whole question of divorce and birth control is a hot one in church circles.

Papal encyclicals not long since threshed out both subjects and one of the Protestant denominations has already astounded its bretheren by issuing a proclamation in favor of voluntary limitations of the size of families in certain cases involving health or finances.

Ancient Jewish laws relating to divorce have for the most part been abandoned by the Christian churches because the ancient law said: "Whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

ALIMONY—the side

Cut out alimony and you'll cure most women of that yen for divorce, say attorneys who ought to know. Alimony constitutes a profitable side-line in this divorce racket, and is the joy of the gold digger who marries for money and then wriggles out of her share in the matrimonial bargain.

LIKE every good racket, divorce has its sidelines. Prohibition has its playful little by-products, such as bombing and kidnaping.

And divorce has alimony.

Of course, like its mother racket, alimony is quite proper and legal, but in the hands of a capable gold digger or an unscrupulous lawyer, alimony can be a horrible travesty on justice.

Any attorney will tell you that if it weren't for alimony, divorce would fall away into an insignificant problem. And they will tell you that the most glaring injustice being worked by the assistance of our courts is the granting of alimony to childless ex-wives.

Attorneys aren't thinking of the idle rich when they make that statement. Millionaires can afford luxuries such as changing wives every year and writing fat checks for alimony.

But the average divorce is something else again. Here's the situation in a nutshell—it's the woman who asks for divorce, and she wouldn't ask for it if she didn't have a chance to make her husband pay a large share of his income to support her in idleness.

Figures prove beyond doubt the attorney's contention that women seek divorces rather than men.

And the first question asked is: *how much can I get in alimony?*

Would women give up some comforts and a provider on the bare chance of finding a job or another man? Not so, not so! She figures that she can get alimony, find a nice little apartment, go shopping, eat out all the time, and enjoy life without having to submit to the duties of a wife. It's an attractive prospect, and the divorce racket makes full use of it.

Interviewing an attorney on the matter, he recalled one case that was actually ridiculous in the way justice miscarried. The case was taken before a judge who was particularly partial toward women who asked for divorces, but who would seldom grant a divorce to a man. Being a man himself, he probably had little sympathy for the frailties of his own sex.

Be that as it may, the case involved a man earning \$100 a month. If he were earning more, nobody knew about it, and depend on it, the attorneys leave no stone unturned to find out how much the husband is making.

Convinced that this amount was all of the man's monthly income, the attorney drew up the usual stipulation for alimony, setting down the amount of \$125.00 a month alimony! The judge usually cuts a requested amount down to a fair sum, after reviewing the case. Generally the reduction expected is 50%, just as in a civil suit where \$5,000 damages are asked, and an award of \$50 gratefully received!

But the judge granted the \$125 alimony from the man making \$100!

This was indeed odd, and of course cases like that are rare. Yet it illustrates the possibilities for miscarriage of justice in alimony.

Let 'Em Rot In Jail

SUPPOSE that the man is given an order from the court to pay his ex-wife a certain sum in alimony, and he fails to do so.

In most courts, the man will go with his lawyer to see the judge, and explain the circumstances, and fair treatment will be accorded him. However, this year the general business depression knocked the props out of a great many business men. The fat alimony checks dwindled away and died. Friend ex-wife begins to threaten action.

The husband-upon-a-time tells her his troubles.

"I can't pay that much this month," he declares with tears in his throbbing voice.

She doesn't believe him. The old liar—wasn't she married to him and doesn't she know him well enough? He's holding out on her.

So she gets her attorney busy. The attorney gets the court busy. And the court gets the sheriff busy. They hail the husband in for contempt of court. The theory is, that he is in contempt because he doesn't do as the court orders.

"See here," says the judge, "you made ten thousand dollars last year. Now why can't you pay up?"

"Your honor, I'm in the red this year. I can't raise it."

"I sentence you to thirty days for contempt of court. A stay will be granted for ten days. If you haven't paid at the end of that time you will go to jail."

And that's that. Maybe the husband gets sore and won't pay, chafing with his strong sense of the injustice in the world. Maybe he actually can't borrow the money, or even steal it. So to jail he goes.

The judge can keep him there as long as he wants.

Let the poor fool rot in jail—it will keep him out of mischief!

But, you say, how can he earn the money to pay the alimony if he is kept in jail?

That's for the poor sucker to worry about while he peeks through the bars. Naturally, there are not many judges who would be so cruel. But they have the power, and believe us, it is used. You read about cases ever so often about men sitting for the past five years in the jail-house—"alimony row," wondering what it's all about.

That stuff harks back to the middle ages, when they burned you at the stake for talking to witches. Or sent

racket of DIVORCE

If ex-hubby won't pay those shopping bills and bridge debts, toss the blighter into jail! That's the merry motto of the divorcee who has won a neat chunk of alimony and has the courts to back her up. It's the man who pays—and pays—and pays!

you to prison for debt. Yet it exists today in our courts.

Fortunately, the judges sitting on our benches are willing to listen to reason. They will, unless corrupt, give heed to the justice of the affair, and if a man can prove he can't pay, will put him under a sentence but stay the sentence. Of course, the idle ne'er-do-well who won't work, goes to jail.

Alimony And Support Money

THERE'S a big difference between alimony, and support money. Few have any quarrel with the theory of support money, though bitterly denouncing a system that allows an idle parasitic wife to set herself up in an apartment and live like a leech on her ex-husband.

Support money is awarded where there are children.

No one questions the justice in demanding that a husband support his offspring. This amount is usually decided by stipulation, in other words, by agreement between the divorcing parties.

If the court goes over the matter and finds that the stipulation regarding support money for the children appears fair, he will approve it.

The minimum amount is about five dollars a week for each child. There are cases where this is reduced to four dollars, where the man is a common laborer and particularly common at that.

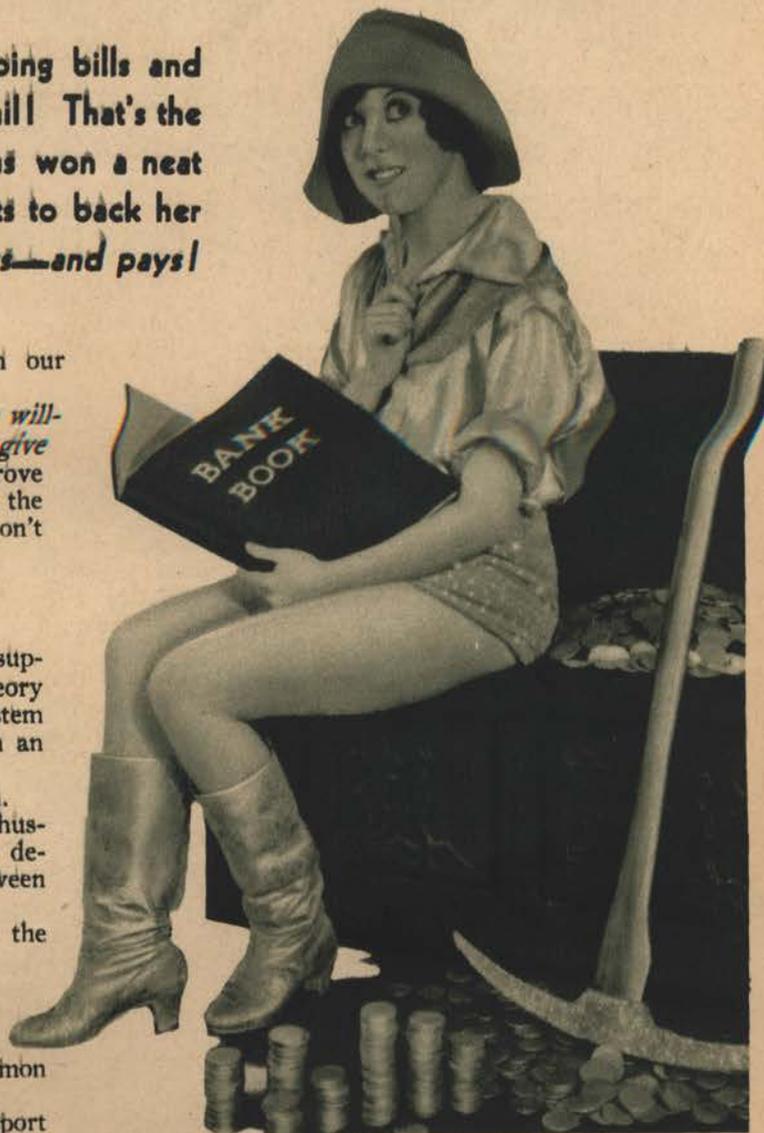
But the man in average circumstances must pay support money that will enable his ex-wife to clothe, feed, and educate the children in a manner befitting the father's station in life.

Then there is another sum required for the support of the wife. This, too, depends on the husband's ability to pay. If a woman has had several children, she has less chance to either remarry or go to work, than if she were single, and the courts see to it that justice is done. Hubby isn't going to live in joyful bachelorhood, spending his money in riotous living. He has to pay, and he deserves to pay. He has taken the best years of a woman's life, and she has full right to indemnity.

The law, then, is on the side of the woman. She can enjoy a gay girl bachelor existence, and hubby pays for it. But let hubby try the same—!

The Separate Maintenance Gag

IN MOST of our states it is possible to obtain a separation, rather than a divorce. You have to go through the same routine as in obtaining a divorce, but in this case neither party, of course, can remarry.



"Gold Diggers of Broadway" dramatized the racket for the movies. Here's Nancy Welford posed in deep contemplation of the victim's bank book. There's gold in them thar Broadway Bills!

And that, our little gold diggers soon found out, was another swell sideline.

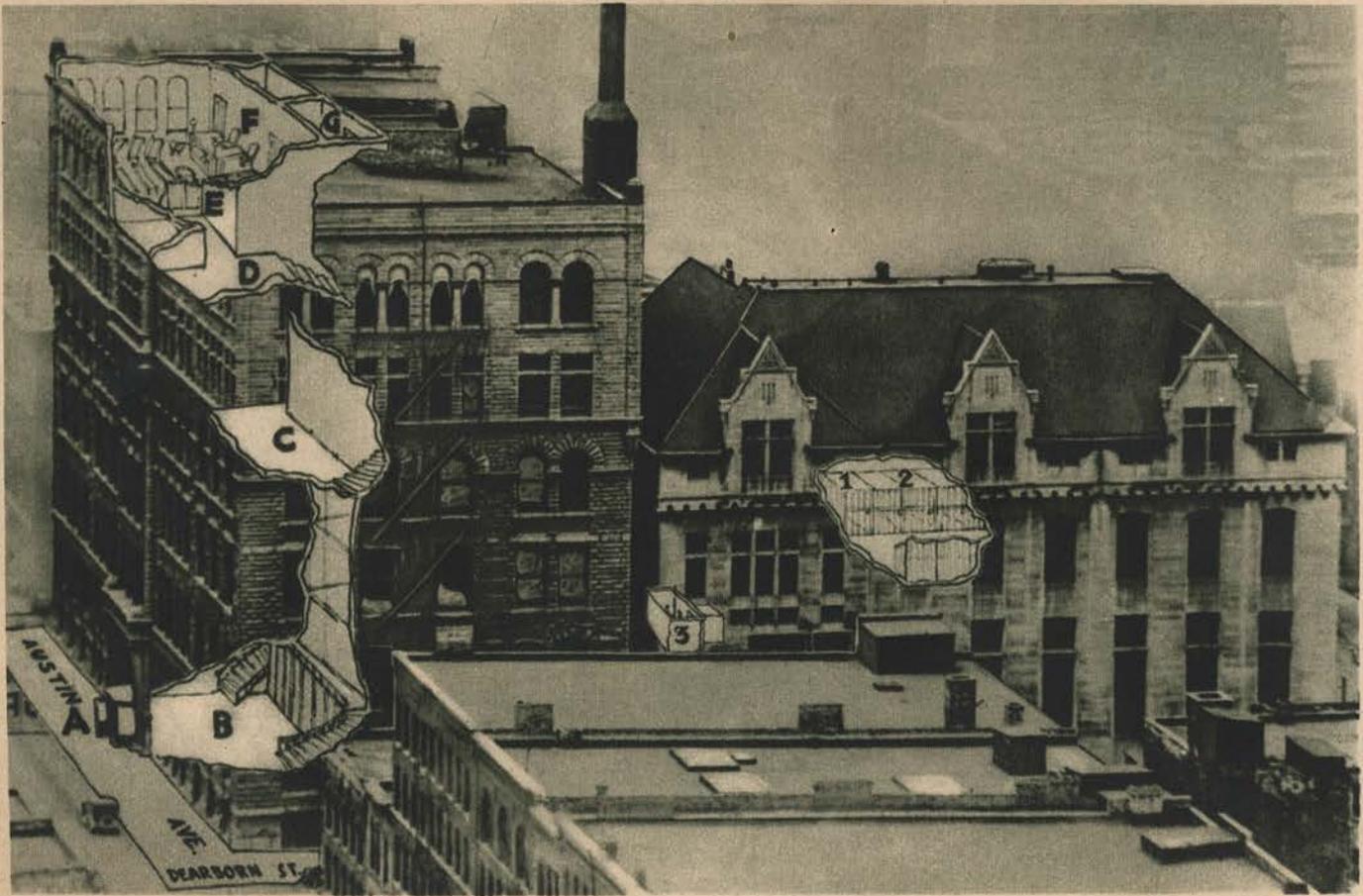
All you have to do is pick out a rich old boy, marry him, and get a separation.

Firmly clutching the liberation document, the wife then proceeds to draw big alimony, and prevent the husband from looking afiel for another woman to marry and spend his money on.

If the husband gets weary of the idea, and thinks his wife is having all the fun, he may try to obtain a divorce. But that isn't so easy, since the court has heard his case once and given him a separation instead. If he doesn't like to travel he is out of luck.

This racket is being worked extensively in South Carolina, California, New York, and other states where divorce is hard, and separation is easier to obtain.

Since the husband can't get married again, there isn't



It's a great old system, this divorce business! Just like a game. The artist shows you the court house entrance, A, up which you climb to tell your marital troubles to the judge, at F. Then if hubby doesn't pay alimony, the next move is to put him in one of those little cages marked 1, 2, or 3.

the chance of having alimony cut down. He might remarry, raise a couple of youngsters, and prove to the court that he should not have to pay his childless ex-wife so much money.

Alimony is, generally, decided after a fair study of a man's income, and the court usually orders him to pay an amount which wouldn't work too great a hardship on the man.

The simple reason behind this is—the court doesn't want to charge more than the tariff will bear, because it wants to enforce its orders. If you can't enforce the order except by sending a man to jail, the system defeats itself.

And the man might get wise to it all, and simply move out of the state.

Then where are you?

When Hubby Leaves Town

THE court can't send a man to jail when he is elsewhere, on an alimony charge. He can only be sent to jail when he is in the jurisdiction of the court. The only other way to get at him is to attach property he has in the state, or get a civil judgment against him in the state where he now

resides. Then you can collect the judgment by the usual civil means—maybe.

That is why Nevada, Mexico, and other divorce marts are offering so many other advantages in luring women to their heart mills. Nevada can't enforce alimony on a man living in New York. Mexico can't tell a man in Nevada how much he must pay for the support of his children.

Where the man brings the action for divorce, and obtains it, the court may assign alimony to the wife at the court's own discretion.

If the wife remarries, then alimony stops automatically. Of course, if she has signed a stipulation to the effect that a lump sum settlement be paid, by the installment plan, then she can continue to collect this settlement until it is paid, even though she has remarried.

Alimony is filled with complications, injustices, and mis-uses. Yet it plays by all odds the most important part in the great divorce racket. Indeed, it sometimes would appear that alimony, like the chicken or the egg puzzle, might have been the originator of divorce. Which comes first is hard to say.

Ted Cook, famous columnist, takes a jibe at the racket

Let us consider the State of Nevada,
Mecca of malcontents, wiser and sadder.
Where sheriffs are tolerant, magistrates kind,
Nevada, indeed, is a nice State of Mind!
Silver and gold are among its resources,
And so are roulette and chain lightning divorces
While the river at Reno, among other things,
Is dredged every evening for old wedding rings.

—Los Angeles Times.

SOME STARTLING FIGURES ON DIVORCE



OF EVERY 100,000 population 166 Americans are divorced each year, 70 French persons, 60 Germans and only seven English people.

Consent divorces are already legitimate in Mexico and Russia, and Nevada is said to be considering steps in this direction if the new provisions of their laws are not sufficient to maintain the divorce racket at its peak.

Reno has already provided for the secrecy of divorce evidence so that its customers may avoid scandal which may account for some of the popularity of her divorce marts and for a gradual increase in divorce in this country.

That there are other causes for this increase, however, is indicated by the fact that statistics since 1887 show an almost constant increase from 47 to 166 per 100,000 population.

The year 1929 recorded 16 divorces for every 100 marriages in the United States but it was still continuing to become a married country for the increase in marriages was 4.2 per cent as compared with 1928 while the increase in divorce was only 2.8 per cent over that year.

Either because of masculine chivalry or feminine cupidity, divorce appears to be a woman's business, for 12,020 wives won decrees from their husbands in 1929 while only 4,679 husbands won freedom on their own initiative.

Most divorces are found to be granted in the first six

years of married life with the third year apparently the hardest hurdle to leap.

Cruelty remains the principal ground for divorce. Desertion comes second and infidelity third. Husbands are most cruel in the second year of marriage and are apt to be cruel up to the 17th year. Infidelity on the part of the husband may continue to the 21st year of marriage while the wife is likely to remain true to her husband after the 18th year.

In uncontested divorce cases, Reno is said to have attained the record speed of a divorce every ten minutes during certain sittings of the court, but New York, stricter regarding grounds, has on occasion, come near to beating this record, though a New York divorce is not made final for six months.

The product turned out by Reno is by no means warranted to stand all tests. In fact it has been said that nine tenths of the Reno decrees are voidable if tested in any other state. The fact remains, however, that few are so tested.

Unless the defendant is served in person in the state of Nevada, a Reno divorce court takes no jurisdiction in money matters and alimony or support for the family becomes a matter for agreement between the husband and wife.

Within the first month after the six-week divorce law went into effect, 517 divorce cases were filed in Reno and 331 were granted in that time. It is estimated that Reno will average 300 cases monthly during the year.

Among the charter members of Reno's divorce club may be named Princess Sidi Wirt-Spreckels-Chakir-Gardner, Mary Pickford-Moore-Fairbanks, Leonard Kip Rhine-Lander, Mrs. James H. R. (Delphine Dodge) Cromwell-Baker, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., Lady Mary Heath, Lucy Cotton Thomas-Ament, Irving T. Rush, Nan Barclay, former wife of the artist, McClelland Barclay, Florence Rice Smith, daughter of Grantland Rice.

Cuba's One-Day



In Cuba you step into the old World, with its narrow streets, balconies where señoritas sun themselves, and ancient Ford taxies scoot hither and yon.

EASY—QUICK—SURE!

Get Your Divorce in One Day

Surprise Your Husband or Wife
with One of Our Gilt-edged
Divorce Decrees!

THAT'S the sort of an advertisement a bright young attorney might prepare to ballyhoo the amazing new Cuban divorce law.

Down in the land of free beer, horse races, everlasting summer, and eternal romance, divorce is just a matter of a few minutes' work. With fifteen causes for divorce listed, you don't even have to use your imagination.

And what's more, even your wife or husband need not know you're getting the divorce!

That's carrying things to the far edge of extremes, for even in Nevada where anything goes, you've got to tell friend husband and give him a chance to defend the action.

Cuba gets around that little matter very neatly. Hubby could find out, if he happened to subscribe to a copy of the *Official Gazette* of Cuba (printed in Spanish). In the *Gazette* is published the notice of your divorce suit for all who savvy *Espanol* to see. This notice can be seen by hubby if you call his attention to it, and go to the bother of translating the notice. That's all the "service of summons" there is to a Cuban divorce.

And all that's done before you even go to Cuba. Everything is handled with neatness and dispatch, so that when you step off the boat, you can trip up to the courthouse and get your decree.

If you want to get all the particulars, the Havana Divorce Office, 81 Aguiar Street, Havana, Cuba, has printed a pamphlet telling all. Along with it comes a brief statement of the salient points.

This brief will inform you first of all that the new divorce law of Cuba recognizes fifteen causes of absolute divorce. Look them over and take your choice. You will find such touching bits as "insult", drunkenness, gambling, desertion, non-support, cruelty, and "even though the petitioner be at fault," separation for five or more years. And then there is what is charmingly called "mutual dissent".

And, ah, here is something that shows up the racket in Cuba.

You have to spend at least one day in Cuba.

Then follow the instructions on how Americans may obtain Cuban divorce.

It is first necessary to obtain a copy of the marriage certificate and to have it legalized by the Cuban Consul. Cuba is taking no chances on divorcing persons who have never been married.

This is to be forwarded to your Havana attorney and if you haven't a Havana attorney, you may ask your local lawyer.

The documents can be drafted in readiness for your signature upon arrival. You have to go to Cuba, but it is

Divorce While You Wait!

Cuba jumped into the divorce racket this year with true Latin impetuosity—divorce in one day, and for any excuse, and you don't even have to tell hubby! If he doesn't subscribe to the *Official Gazette of Cuba*, and if he doesn't read Spanish, he'll never know!

only for a day. All arrangements may be completed within a single twenty-four hour period, it is said, inclusive of establishing domicile and empowering the attorney to conduct the suit.

Thereafter the presence of the parties will not be required at any time during the suit for all necessary appearances may be by attorney and all evidence may be introduced by deposition. But, of course, you may want to look about Cuba since you are already there.

No one need know about your action for divorce—even the defendant. For the only publicity required is the service of summons by publication in the *Official Gazette of Cuba* and that is printed in the Spanish language. The whereabouts of the defendant "matters not" according to this brief.

And then follow, in due form the directions for getting to Cuba.

Havana, the pamphlets point out, may be reached by rail from Washington, D. C., in 39 hours and from New York in 44. But if you are not in so great a hurry, commodious passenger steamers ply regularly between Havana and the principal ports of the United States, "some offering ten day tours from New York at \$125, including all expenses."

If you are in a rush, however, you are reminded that air mail and passenger service is in daily operation between the two countries.

Havana affords every convenience and the visit is both interesting and instructive.

It is here the brief falls down for it makes no mention of free beer in Havana. That is left to other mediums. Neither is any mention made of the other drinks that are served in Havana, entirely legally and without undue restraint for there isn't any prohibition in Havana.

THERE is no ban on cockfights either or on horse racing or on certain games of more or less chance and the Spanish or Cuban *senoritas* may be seen on every arm.

Ah, Cuba! What a place to spend a couple of weeks vacation including one of those ten day tours for \$125! What a chance to surprise that husband or wife of yours with a nice new divorce that he or she knows nothing about.

But wait. There are catches in the Cuban divorce if you have depended entirely on the brief and haven't tried to make out the English translation of the Cuban law.

On the subject of "insult" for instance, read:

"The injurious state of the fourth cause (insult) shall

be understood to be subsistent whatever may be the time which shall have transpired and whether the parties be united or separated, it not being shown, once the injurious state is proven, that the parties have lived without new discord for a period of not less than six months from the last disagreement, in the greatest cordiality and harmony."

Try that one on your English vocabulary.

And watch out for the new marriage.

"The new marriage, as well of the innocent party as of the culpable one, cannot be celebrated until after one year from the date of the final decree."

Oh, oh!

But Cuba isn't going to follow you around to prevent your remarriage.

And look out for that "mutual dissent" business. There is special procedure for that. Two efforts at reconciliation will be made and "pfft" goes the divorce if either of the parties doesn't show up. Not only that, but the first effort is six months from the filing of the suit and the second is six months after that. Another year after the decree and you are all set for new romance.



All you have to do is ask for it! The sign says in English: "Don't ask for beer, ask for Tropical. Free here with our compliments!"

FREE BEER IN CUBA!

48 STATES—

Every State has its own ideas about



SHE'S A GOLF WIDOW

Wives whose husbands spend too much time on the links find sympathy in Reno, as Mrs. Gloria Goodwin Staniford, former actress, discovered. She has a daughter, age five.

DIVORCE laws vary with every state in the Union. Some places allow more grounds for divorce than can be collected in a library. South Carolina stoutly maintains that there are no grounds for divorce, and so grants none.

New York's single ground is notorious. It has given rise to some of the most undesirable practices known to the entire racket.

If a man or woman is unfaithful to his mate, then, and then only, may he obtain a divorce in New York state. In almost all the other states in the union, this is but one ground among many.

The way it works out in New York is simply the establishment of another side racket—the business of providing grounds. It is quite easy to hire a young woman companion who is willing to be the “grounds” for a divorce action.

She accompanies the gentleman to a hotel, where they register under any name that comes to mind, as man and wife. Going to the room, they sit down and wait for the arrival of the detectives who are to prove that the man was guilty of adultery.

It is only necessary to establish that they registered together in one room at the hotel, to prove the case. The detectives depart, the gentleman tips his hat to the lady and leaves, and the divorce follows in due course.

The court would be scandalized to learn of such fraud, of course—but no one appears to put the judge wise to what really happened.

In general, all states will recognize that adultery is grounds for divorce—providing that such act or acts of infidelity are not forgiven.

If your wife is unfaithful, and you forgive her, the trespass she has committed ceases to be a grounds for divorce. But if, upon discovering the fact, the husband packs up his bag and leaves the house, he may proceed at once to the nearest court house and win his freedom.

Infidelity can be proven upon circumstantial evidence alone. If witnesses declare that a man's wife remained over night in a hotel with another man, it is assumed at law that an act of unfaithfulness took place. The registry on the hotel ledger may be all the exhibit offered.

If a man finds out that his wife is guilty, and obtains proof of it by the testimony of someone who saw her go to the rendezvous, such as a hotel clerk or some acquaintance, he has grounds for divorce. But if, in spite of this knowledge, he continues to cohabit with her, his excuse for a divorce is gone. He has, by the fact that he remains with her in the capacity of man and wife, indicated that he has forgiven her.

New York has another way of getting around its bothersome limitation for divorce, however. A marriage can be annulled in New York for several reasons, and the number of annulments mount yearly. These grounds are

and 48 WAYS

dissolving the fretful bonds of matrimony

shown elsewhere in a thorough analysis of the divorce laws of the various states.

In several states the court has the assistance of an official in determining if the grounds, as set forth by the complaint, are *bona fide*.

In Michigan, the Friend of the Court investigates, on behalf of the court, the conditions surrounding a divorce. Thus the court, which is always considered an interested party in a divorce proceedings, has the advantage of ascertaining the actual facts in the case, and does not have to rely entirely upon the one sided stories put up by the husband and wife.

Wisconsin has a Divorce Counsel which functions in disputed cases. The Counsel may visit the neighborhood, go into the matter thoroughly with an open mind, and discover whether or not the parties to the action are telling the truth in their depositions. Where fraud is suspected the Counsel advises the judge. After obtaining a report from this investigator, the judge is in far better position to pass on the merits of the dispute. If in doubt, he may grant a separation instead of a divorce, or refuse to take action.

In most states the defendant in an action can demand a jury trial. Some states do not allow trial by jury.

Marrying your mother-in-law is grounds for divorce in many states, and the laws of affinity and consanguinity are in general so arranged that blood relations or close relations by marriage cannot marry. If such a marriage is carried out, suitable grounds for divorce are provided.

It is a common practice to treat marriage contracts much the same as civil contracts. You can appeal, to a higher court, the decisions, and you usually have six months to perfect an appeal. This accounts for the general usage of the six months clause preventing remarriage. After the divorce is granted, the theory is that the defendant should have six months to perfect an appeal. This is not generally enforced, however.

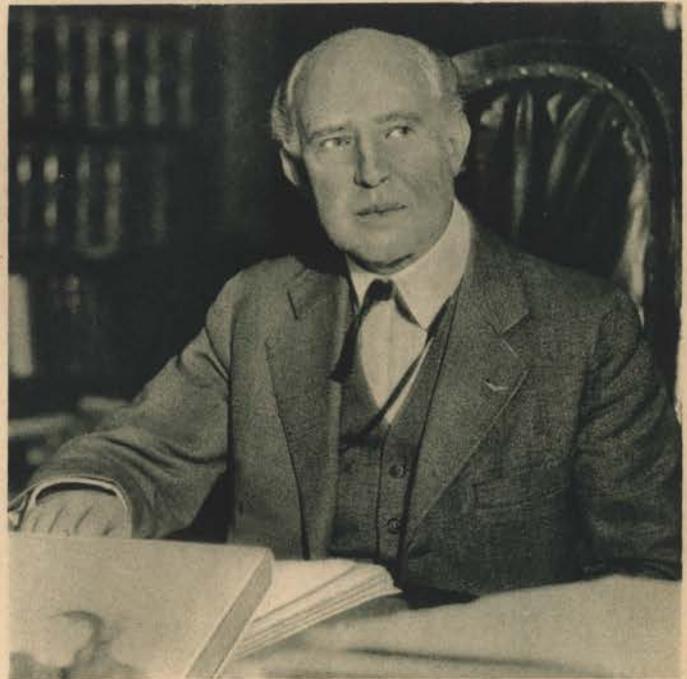
Now let us delve into the vast library of laws compiled by the various states, to determine as well as we may, what are the practical problems of divorce in our forty-eight commonwealths.

Alabama

IF YOUR husband spent twenty years in an Insane Asylum, you can easily obtain a divorce in Alabama. Those who argue in favor of this strange ruling point out that, after all, the marriage vows call for living with your spouse "for better or for worse, in sickness or in health." Certainly insanity is "for worse" and should not be different from any other sickness.

For those lacking the patience to wait twenty years, there is no recourse but to change states, if the mate is insane.

But the wife whose husband is cruel can get a divorce,



HE GRANTED 20,000 DIVORCES

Reno's most famous figure is ex-Judge George Bartlett, who has granted nearly 20,000 divorces in twelve years on the bench, and who is now on the other side of the bar acting as attorney. He authored a book on Reno.

and Alabama is not lacking in sympathy toward the unhappy wedded couples. One to three years residence is required before starting a divorce.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Incapacity.
 2. Adultery.
 3. Abandonment for two years.
 4. Imprisonment in penitentiary for two years.
 5. Crime against nature.
 6. Habitual drunkenness contracted after marriage.
 7. To husband when wife is pregnant at time of the marriage without consent or agency of husband.
 8. To wife for cruelty on part of husband.
 9. To wife when husband is a narcotic addict.
 10. Incurable insanity after twenty years in insane asylum.
 11. Two years non-support of wife.
- Recrimination, condonation, or connivance is a defense.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Marriages between whites and blacks are void without annulment.
2. Marriages where men are under 17 years or women under 14 years are voidable merely.
3. Incestuous marriages must be annulled.



Though Florence Vidor is now married to Jascha Heifetz shown with her above, she is still a good friend of her former husband, King Vidor, the motion picture director.

Alaska

BEING a territory, Alaska is under the jurisdiction of the Federal government, and the laws regarding divorce are strict. No appeal is allowed after a decision. If the Federal judge refuses a divorce, that ends it. And after his decision is made, the other party can raise no objections.

There is no provision regarding remarriage.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Impotency.
2. Adultery.
3. Conviction of felony.
4. Willful desertion for one year.
5. Cruelty impairing health or injuring life.
6. Personal indignities rendering life burdensome.
7. Drunkenness.
8. Willful neglect by husband for 12 months.

No appeal in actions for divorce.

Arizona

Reno's principal gambling street under its new wide open laws is Douglass Alley. You can take any kind of a chance here while awaiting a divorce

AFTER getting your papers in Arizona, you have a long wait ahead before you can remarry. Twelve months is the minimum.

Clauses preventing or limiting remarriage, in most states, are gotten around by going out of the state and looking up a minister. Unless such action is punishable by imprisonment specified by the law, it is unlikely that anyone will object. This practice in America has given rise to many "Gretna Greens", little towns across the border where you'll find more ministers than business men, and honeymooners flock in every lane.

Arizona is not particularly lenient in granting divorces, as its grounds indicate.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Physical incompetency.
3. Conviction of felony.
4. Willful desertion for one year.
5. Habitual intemperance.
6. Extreme cruelty.
7. Husband's failure to provide common necessities for one year.

One year residence required.

No remarriage until 12 months after divorce is granted.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Any marriage may be annulled because of the existence of any impediments rendering the marriage contract void.

Arkansas

AMID a grand flurry, Arkansas liberalized its divorce laws early this year, and is touting Hot Springs as a second Reno. The year's residence clause was reduced to three months, and there is no clause regarding remarriage.

Hot Springs offers many inducements, for it is a famous health center.

Attempts to get horse racing into the state, by allowing gambling, failed. So Reno chuckles, having legalized gambling, and reduced the chances of losing its divorce trade to Arkansas.

Factions opposed to fostering the divorce racket are getting ready to demand a general referendum on the new law, to be conducted in 1932.

Grounds are liberal enough, and Arkansas is now recognized as a leader in the race for easier divorces. All you have to do is find a "barbarian" in your family, and you can sue.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Impotency.
3. Desertion for one year.
4. Husband or wife by former marriage still living.
5. Conviction of felony or infamous crime.
6. Habitual drunkenness for one year.
7. Cruel and barbarous treatment endangering life.
8. Indignities rendering conditions intolerable.

Three months' residence required.

No statutory restrictions as to remarriage.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Incapability of consent from lack of age or understanding.
2. Incapability of physical cause.
3. Marriage obtained by force or fraud.

Common law marriages not recognized in Arkansas.

California

STRICT laws on divorce drive away the business from California, and force the poor distressed movie stars to look elsewhere for freedom.

The usual grounds given are extreme cruelty—not just ordinary cussedness, mind you. That's why you read about such terribly cruel treatment the stars get, who go after a California decree and have to find good grounds.

Another setback for easy divorce is found in California's interlocutory decree. After getting this decree, the court waits a full year before granting a final decree. During the year you are still man and wife, even if not on speaking terms. If you should change your mind, though, you've saved the expense of remarrying your spouse, for you have only to tell the judge and the case ends. California figures that there is a chance for reconciliation, where the parties remain man and wife for a year, and the idea isn't bad. But it's inconvenient! If you try to get married before the final decree is given, you're in hot water.

For another thing, California allows any co-respondent to come into court and state his or her side of the case. If you name another man as having won your wife's af-



One of Mexico's famous divorce mills is shown here. Two thousand Americans have found freedom at Quernavaca, Morelos, in this picturesque building.

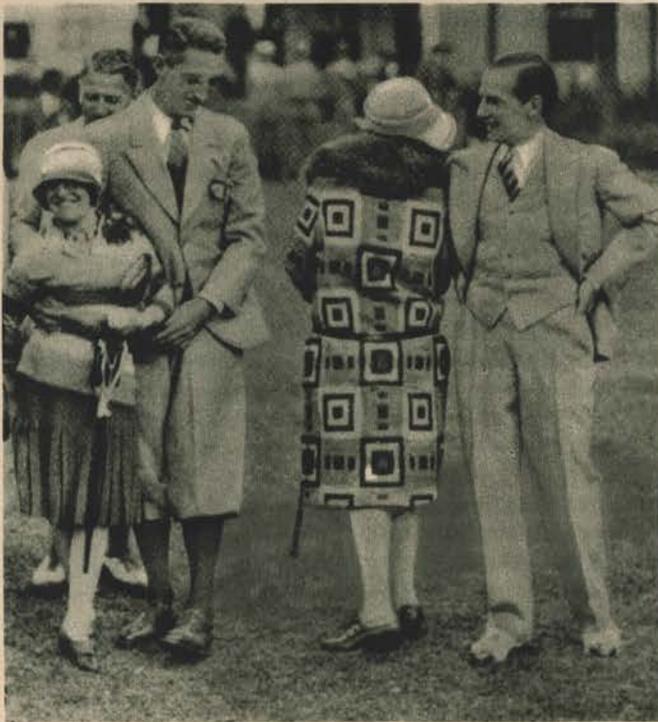


THAT RENO HABIT!

Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., married Mary Weir Logan after they both got Reno divorces, and bought a home in Reno. Then Peter Arno, New York cartoonist, came into camp and great excitement reigned recently when Vanderbilt chased him away with a gun—and hied to the court to get another divorce.



Stanley Joyce, who gave Peggy Hopkins Joyce her most famous name, seen here with Nelle M. Joyce. This marriage also ended in the divorce courts.



When Consuelo Armour sued Tommy, the famous golfer, he replied that he had beat her to it with a Mexican divorce, and was already married to the lady in the sporty coat—not the lassie he is hugging.

fections, the other man may come in and defend himself by cross examining the witness, and make an attempt to uphold his good name. For this reason you can't name names on mere suspicion.

California has the usual annulment laws. In this regard, it is often asked whether or not children are made illegitimate when a marriage is annulled. California, as with other states, does not throw a cloud upon the life of an innocent child by making it illegitimate where a marriage is annulled.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Extreme cruelty.
3. Willful desertion.
4. Willful neglect.
5. Habitual intemperance.
6. Conviction of felony.

One year's residence required.

Interlocutory Decree of Divorce entered and upon the expiration of one year, the Interlocutory Decree becomes the final judgment.

Parties are still husband and wife during the period of the Interlocutory Decree.

Where a co-respondent is mentioned in pleadings, the co-respondent must be served and has a right to appear as a party of the proceedings.

No restrictions as to remarriage after final judgment.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Under-age.
2. A former undissolved first marriage.
3. Either party being of unsound mind.
4. Fraud (Free cohabitation, after knowledge of the fraud, bars this grounds).
5. Consent obtained by force (Free cohabitation will bar this cause).
6. Physical incapability.

Adjustment of annulity does not affect the legitimacy of the children.

Colorado

THIS state operates somewhat as does California, in its waiting for a period before granting a final divorce. The court has to decide within forty-eight hours, however, as to the disposition of the case. Then, instead of California's year long wait, Colorado imposes a six months period. If at the end of that time you're still in favor of your divorce, and nothing has come up to prevent it, the judgment stands.

Another important point about Colorado divorces has to do with its requirement that the court appoint an attorney to represent the defendant. The defendant may not give a rap about defending himself, but the law says otherwise. The attorney appointed can dispute the case quite heartily, if he so desires, and what is more, the plaintiff has to pay his fee.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Impotency.
2. Husband or wife living.
3. Adultery.
4. Desertion for one year.
5. Failure to support for one year.
6. Habitual drunkenness or drug fiend for one year.

7. Cruelty.
8. Conviction of felony.
9. Insanity.

One year's residence required.

Court must make its Findings and Conclusions within 48 hours after trial.

Divorce becomes operative, providing there is no motion to set aside at the expiration of 6 months.

In uncontested Divorce cases, the defendant is provided with an Attorney, for which the plaintiff pays.

Either party may remarry after Final Decree.

Annulment of Marriage:

No grounds for annulment, specified by statute, except if there is a husband or wife living and undivorced. Common law grounds for annulment, however, are recognized.

Common law marriages recognized.

Connecticut

THE three-year residence clause puts this state away from any chance of competing with Reno. Staid old Connecticut, however, waives the three-year clause if, after moving into the state, your husband or wife gives you grounds for divorce. But you can't move in for that purpose.

Life imprisonment is a good grounds for divorce, but there are also more lenient causes, such as neglect of duty.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Fraudulent contract.
3. Willful desertion for three years.
4. Total neglect of duty.
5. Seven years absence and unheard from.
6. Habitual intemperance.
7. Intolerable cruelty.
8. Sentence to life imprisonment.
9. Any infamous crime involving a violation of conjugal duty.

Three years' residence required unless cause for divorce arose after removal to state.

That plaintiff was domiciled in state at time of marriage and has returned with the intention of remaining permanently.

Defendant has resided in state for three years and was actually served.

Annulment of Marriage:

Procedure and powers of Court in annulment cases are similar to those in action for divorce.

Delaware

THE decree *nisi* is the same as the interlocutory decree of California and Colorado. Here, as in the land of sunshine on the west coast, you must wait a year for the final papers.

If you are charging adultery, or bigamy, Delaware allows immediate action, regardless of length of residence, but for other grounds the residence requirement is two years.

In this state, a marriage may be annulled on grounds of insanity.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Bigamy.



New York's most famous divorce suit was brought by Edward W. Browning, who charged his sixteen year old wife, "Peaches", with desertion. Her reply to the suit was startling, to say the least.



Oriental Park race track in Havana is one of Cuba's arguments in favor of its "new Spanish custom" and divorce law.

3. Imprisonment for two years.
4. Extreme cruelty.
5. Willful desertion for two years.
6. Habitual drunkard for two years.
7. Complaining party under age of consent at time of marriage and not confirmed upon becoming of age. A Decree *nisi* which does not become absolute until after a period of one year.
Action for divorce may be brought by any *bona fide* resident for adultery or bigamy, but two years requirement for any other causes.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Impotency.
2. Consanguinity.
3. A husband or wife living at time of marriage.
4. Fraudulent force or coercion.
5. Insanity.

District of Columbia

COMING under Federal laws, the District of Columbia is strict on the question of divorce.

As in New York, only one grounds is recognized—adultery. A separation (or limited divorce) is granted on more lenient grounds, such as cruelty, but of course you can't remarry.

Another catch in the law here is this—only the innocent party in the divorce action can remarry!

The interlocutory decree is granted in ninety days—but three years residence is required. So don't think you can get a hasty divorce here!

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Absolute divorce granted only for adultery and only the innocent party may remarry.
2. Divorce from bed and board may be granted for drunkenness, cruelty or desertion.
Interlocutory Decree entered, which become final after 90 days.

Three years' residence required.

Decree of Nullity may be entered when parties are in the prohibited degrees of relationship if either party's previous marriage is still in effect.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. If either party is insane, under age of consent, or physically incapable of entering into the marriage state.
2. If the marriage shall have been procured by fraud.

Florida

HUSBANDS or wives who fly off into tantrums aren't fit companions for marriage, according to Florida laws.

So if you want to hold your mate, hold your temper!

As with all states, adultery is sufficient grounds for an immediate divorce. If you and your mate move into Florida, and the next day one commits an act of infidelity, divorce may be granted at once. Otherwise the two year residence rule applies. Florida, despite its natural attractions, has made little effort to attract the divorce business.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Parties within degree prohibited by law.
2. Natural impotence.
3. Adultery.
4. Extreme cruelty.
5. Habitual indulgence of violence and an ungovernable temper.
6. Habitual intemperance.
7. Willful and continued desertion.

Divorce in any other state or county if either party had a husband or wife at the time of marriage. Two years' residence required, except where adultery is committed while within the state.

Annulment of Marriage:

No statutory grounds for annulment.
Common law marriages recognized.



Winter at La Playa beach in Cuba is enough to take the sting out of blasted romance while you're after a Cuban divorce.

Georgia

A STRANGE situation exists in Georgia—every case must be tried *twice*, before two different juries, at two different terms of court, before a divorce can be granted.

There's no such thing as divorce by default in Georgia. Listing eleven grounds for divorce, such as marriage to a person of low intelligence, or threats, either an absolute divorce or a separation may be granted. But it all has to go before two juries.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Relationship prohibiting marriage.
2. Mental incapacity at time of marriage.
3. Impotency.
4. Force.
5. Menaces at time of marriage.
6. Pregnant at time of marriage.
7. Adultery.
8. Willful desertion for three years.
9. Conviction of crime involving moral turpitude.
10. Cruel treatment.
11. Habitual drunkenness.

In which cases the jury may grant absolute divorce or divorce from bed and board.

12 months' residence required.

Verdict of two juries at two different terms of Court necessary before absolute divorce is granted.

Default judgments not allowed.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Marriages may be annulled where the party was fraudulently induced to consent or where there has been no subsequent consent, ratification, or cohabitation.



It has been three years since Evelyn Brent divorced Benny Fineman, but she still goes to him for advice. She's married now to Harry Edwards, a Paramount writer.

Idaho

IDAHO, this spring, joined the stampede for easier divorces, and cut its residence requirements to ninety days. Nevada, however, went to bat on this matter *after* Idaho and Arkansas pulled their coups, and so had a chance to better the mark by a few weeks.

Although Idaho does not list adultery as a grounds for divorce, states omitting this clause cover it by "cruelty" and thus save some of the scandals that otherwise stalk the courthouses.

Where marriages are annulled, they affect only the parties involved, and not the children.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Extreme cruelty.
2. Willful desertion.
3. Willful neglect.



Jack Dempsey lived in this house in Reno while that famous matrimonial tiff was at its height this year.



After a stormy career on the sea of matrimony, which almost sunk the ship several times, the James A. Stillmans (shown here) finally got a divorce. Mrs. Stillman was quietly married to Fowler McCormick this year, but a reporter found it out.

4. Habitual intemperance.
5. Conviction of felony.
6. Permanent insanity.

Residence: Where cause of action arose outside of state, plaintiff must have resided in state for three months.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Persons not of age.
2. Former husband or wife was living and marriage still in force.
3. Either party of unsound mind.
4. Consent obtained by fraud.
5. Consent obtained by force.
6. Physical incapability of either party.

Various Statutes of Limitations with reference to nullity action.

Form of nullity affects only the parties to the action and those claiming under them.

Illinois

GANGSTERS in Chicago no longer worry about the common law wife problem. Their "molls" can't lay claim to their property by virtue of the common law racket. Their children would be legitimate only if one of the parents marries.

Unlike most state laws, Illinois includes a ruling on social diseases, making it grounds for divorce on the statute books. However, this is sufficient grounds in most states, even though it is not put into writing.

Also, Illinois is original in that it allows no annulments of marriages.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Impotency.
2. Other husband or wife living at the time of the marriage.
3. Adultery.
4. Desertion for two years.
5. Attempt on life.
6. Extreme and repeated cruelty.
7. Conviction of felony or infamous crime.
8. Communication of venereal diseases.

One year's residence required.

No restrictions to remarriage.

Common law marriages are abolished but children of such marriages are legitimized by subsequent remarriage of parents.

No provisions for annulment of marriage.

Indiana

THE prosecuting attorney must interest himself in every divorce which is not contested. He takes the place of the Friend of the Court, the Divorce Counsel, and other such officers appointed in several other states.

It is his duty to see that the defendant in a divorce action, whether he wishes it or no, be represented in court and his side of the case presented. He can, of course, subpoena witnesses, and go into the matter thoroughly, but it is usually a perfunctory matter.

Indiana requires two years' residence, and has no restrictions on remarriage.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Impotency.
3. Abandonment for two years.
4. Cruelty.

5. Habitual drunkenness.
 6. Failure to support for two years.
 7. Conviction of infamous crime.
- Two years' residence required.
 Prosecuting Attorney must resist every uncontested divorce.
 No restrictions on remarriage.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Courts may annul marriage of parties incapable of marriage on account of lack of age or understanding. Children begotten before annulment are legitimate.
2. Marriage procured by fraud annulled.

Iowa

DOWN where the tall corn grows, you have to obtain the court's permission to remarry a third party, following your divorce—unless you wait a year.

Otherwise Iowa is fairly lenient toward the sad eyed sisters who want their freedom. If your husband happens to be in Iowa so that you can serve papers on him, you need not show a year's residence.

Iowa invokes the old unwritten law, as does most commonwealths, in regard to pregnancy. Some protection from the woman who, becoming pregnant, promptly sought a husband, had to be devised. If the husband discovers that his wife married him to give her child by someone else a name, he can obtain a prompt divorce.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Desertion for two years.
3. Conviction of felony.
4. Habitual drunkenness.
5. Cruel and inhuman treatment, such as to endanger the life of his wife.
6. Husband may secure divorce when wife is pregnant by another man at the time of marriage.

Unless plaintiff is a resident of the state and is personally served, plaintiff must show one year's residence.

Unless permission and decree is given, there is no remarriage permitted to third person for one year.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Where marriage is prohibited by law.
2. Where either party is impotent.
3. Where either party has a husband or wife living and not divorced.
4. Where either party is insane or idiotic at time of marriage.
5. Children of marriages annulled because of consanguinity or affinity are illegitimate, but where annulled for under-age, insanity or idiocy, children are legitimate.

Kansas

THE lawmakers of Kansas saw no reason for halfway measures in the matter of granting divorces. You can't obtain a "separation" in Kansas. If you are through, you're through, and that's that.

And what's more, if you remarry a third party within six months of getting your divorce, you can be prosecuted for bigamy, which rather effectively puts a ban on running across into the next states to remarry before your time is up.

A common law marriage is recognized, but who wants to bring that up if you are punished for it? Kansas, you



Here's an example of speed in this fast age! Percy C. Healy wooed and won Edith Belpusi in an airplane, married her, and a year later she had a Reno divorce.



IT'S CATCHING!

First the pretty Mrs. Carrie Green Kearney (above) who was married at eighteen, got a divorce. Then her father, Fred B. Thayer, shown here with his daughter, got the bug and sailed for Paris to get his divorce.



Nobody loves a fat man, wailed Paul Whiteman, king of jazz—and so he got his divorce.



Billie Dove divorced Irvin Willat, and now 'tis rumored she will marry Howard Hughes, youthful producer of *Hells Angels*.



It isn't the original cost—it's the alimony, as the boys who flit from wife to wife find out.

see, puts some teeth into its laws. If you are a common law wife, and want to collect on the property and be recognized, you can do so, but you can go to jail for it also. Living with a man outside the bonds of matrimony constitutes a felony in most statute books, and the persons guilty are charged with fornication.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Either party having husband or wife living at the time of marriage.
2. Abandonment for one year.
3. Adultery.
4. Incompetency.
5. Wife pregnant at time of marriage by other than her husband.
6. Extreme cruelty.
7. Fraudulent contract.
8. Habitual drunkenness.
9. Gross neglect of duty.
10. Conviction of felony.

No provision for divorce from bed and board and parties must be actual residents for one year.

Neither party may re-marry for a period of six months from date of Decree of Divorce, and to do so constitutes bigamy.

Annulment of Marriage:

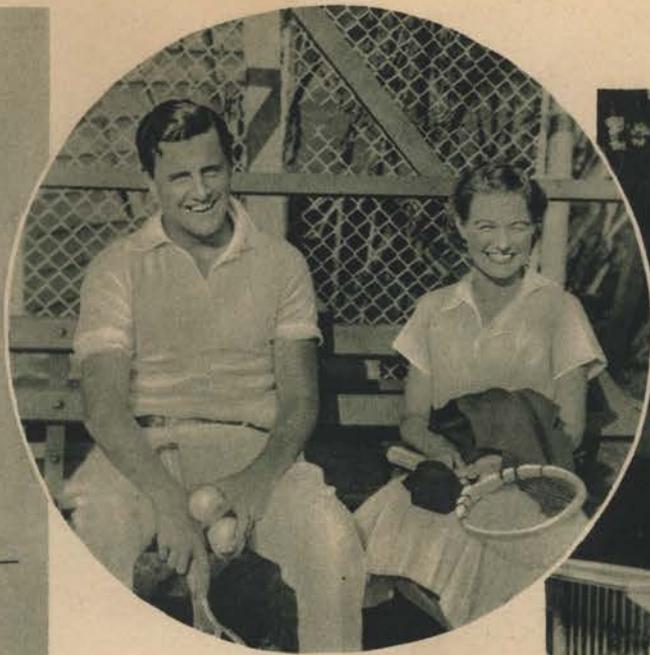
1. Where either party is incapable, under age or understanding the marriage may be declared void. Children begotten before marriage is annulled are legitimate.

Common law marriages are recognized but parties are punished for disregarding the Statute.

Kentucky

THE state made famous by its horse races, its beautiful women, and its mint juleps, also has some colorful divorce laws.

For instance, down in Kaintuck the laws are made by



Grantland Rice's daughter, Florence, enjoyed but a brief married romance with Sydney Smith of New York society—then she hid to Reno.



After divorcing her husband, Ruth Roland married Ben Bard. But Ruth still has her first husband manage her business affairs!

gentlemen of the old school who believed that men had some rights, and they kept 'em. Under Kentucky law, the husband can get a divorce from his wife if he can prove that she has conducted herself in a manner not befitting a moral lady, even though he has no proof that she has been unfaithful.

On the other hand, the wife must prove that her husband is *living in adultery*, to obtain a divorce on similar grounds. That is far different from a single act of infidelity.

However, a wife can sue for divorce if her husband indicates a settled aversion to her, beats her up, or acts in a manner not befitting a gentleman. So a man can be a gentleman and still step out occasionally. That's the code of the South, suh!

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Such impotency or malformation as prevents sexual intercourse.
2. Living separately without cohabitation for five years.

Divorce may be granted to party not in fault for:

1. Abandonment for one year.
2. Living in adultery.
3. Condemnation for felony.
4. Concealment from the other party of any loathsome diseases existing at time of marriage.
5. Force, duress or fraud in obtaining marriage.
6. Uniting with any religious society requiring a renunciation of the marriage covenant or forbidding cohabitation.

Also to the wife when not in fault for:

1. Drunkenness for one year, accompanied by wasting of his estate and without providing for his wife and children.
2. Habitually behaving towards her for at least six months in such cruel and inhuman manner as to indicate a settled aversion to her and to destroy permanently her peace and happiness.
3. Such cruel beating or injury, or attempted injury



SHE ACCUSED HERSELF!

England permits divorce on one grounds, so when beautiful Mrs. Margaret Lytton of the London stage fell in love with Sonny Hale, she told the court she was guilty of misconduct with him and wanted a divorce! But Sonny is still married to Evelyn Laye, so she must wait until he also wins his freedom.



"The Willows" is a famous rendezvous for divorce seekers in Reno. Here gambling of all kinds is available.

of the wife as indicates an outrageous and ungovernable temper and a probable danger to her life or great bodily injury.

Also to husband for:

1. Pregnancy of wife by another man at time of marriage.
2. Adultery, or such lewd, lascivious behavior on wife's part as proves her to be unchaste, without actual proof of an act of adultery.
3. Habitual drunkenness for one year.

One year's residence required.

County Attorney must resist every action for Divorce.

No jury permitted.

Judgment of Divorce entitles either party to remarry.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Court may annul marriages obtained by force or fraud or by instance of any next friend where male is under 16 years of age at time of marriage, providing there has been no ratification by cohabitation after age.

Louisiana

WAY back, Louisiana belonged to France, if you remember your history. Therefore the old laws of the Napoleonic Code still regulate affairs in the delta commonwealth, with the result that divorce laws differ considerably from other states.

For one thing, Louisiana has trial divorce—proving that the idea isn't so new, after all.

If you want a divorce, you've got to try it out for a year, first. (Unless you committed adultery or an infamous crime.) If, at the end of a year, where you have separated from bed and board, you still want a divorce, and you have sufficient grounds, the court will think it over.

Should the court grant a divorce, you can't remarry for ten months.

To punish the man or woman who commits adultery, the law says that the guilty person cannot marry the para-



Lew Cody is one of Hollywood's oft married figures. He was divorced twice from Dorothy Dalton, and then married the late Mabel Normand.



Agney Fraye of Hollywood filmdom asked for a divorce three months after marrying Logan Metcalf, rich broker. Madge Bellamy divorced Logan in 1926.



Playing chuck-a-luck at "The Willows", legalized by Nevada's new law.

mour. This harsh law puts a damper on "affairs" and it has many supporters among the conservative old families. So far Louisiana has escaped most of the reforms put in by flaming youth and the newer generations that are seeking easier divorces.

One of Louisiana's laws regarding marriage should be copied everywhere—the law requiring a physical examination of the male before marriage.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Condemnation of any infamous crime.
3. Habitual intemperance.
4. Cruel treatment, excesses or outrages if such conduct is of such nature as to render living together insupportable.
5. Public defamation.
6. Abandonment.
7. Attempt on the life of the other person.
8. When one of the persons is a fugitive of justice on the charge of infamous crime.

Except for the first two causes enumerated, no divorce can be granted unless a separation from bed and board has been decreed and one year has elapsed without a reconciliation.

When married persons have been living separately and apart for more than seven years and either party has resided in the state for seven years or more, she or he may sue for an absolute divorce.

Where a divorce is granted on account of adultery, the guilty party may not marry his or her accomplice.

Wife may not re-marry for 10 months after divorced.

A medical examination of the male is a condition precedent to marriage.

A marriage contracted in good faith produces all of its civil effects as relates to the parties and the children, even though later declared annulled, if one of the parties act in good faith, the children are legitimate.



Now they're flying to Reno to speed things up! Mrs. Thomas Tape boarded a plane in New York when she decided on a divorce.



Jeanne de Rouse Kampmann said her husband insisted on taking his children by a former marriage on their honeymoon, so she went to Reno.

Maine

DIVORCE is difficult in Maine, with few grounds allowed other than the usual gross ones. Unless you were married and lived as man and wife in Maine, you must wait a year before filing suit for divorce.

Children of marriages forbidden by law because of blood relationship are illegitimate, and the marriage is annulled.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Impotency.
3. Extreme cruelty.
4. Desertion continually for three consecutive years.
5. Gross and confirmed habits of intoxicant from use of liquors, opium or other drugs.
6. Cruel and abusive treatment.
7. Gross and wanton neglect to provide for wife.

One year's residence required unless parties married and cohabited in Maine and are actual residents of Maine.

No restrictions on re-marriage.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. A marriage may be annulled upon suit by either party where the marriage is questionable. Where marriage is prohibited from degrees of consanguinity the children are illegitimate and in other cases the children are legitimate.

Maryland

LIKE other southern states, marriage between white and black races is not tolerated in Maryland. Divorce is far from easy, and not many are granted. A separation may be obtained, however, on grounds of cruelty.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Impotence.
2. Any cause rendering marriage null and void *ab initio* under Maryland Laws.
3. Adultery.
4. Abandonment for three years.
5. Unchastity of wife prior to marriage and unknown to husband.
6. Cruelty and excessive and vicious conduct and desertion.

The last coming into a different classification, being equivalent to a limited divorce.

Two years' residence required.

No provision as to re-marriage.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Any marriage may be declared void within prohibited degrees, or any second marriage where the first is subsisting.
2. Marriage between blacks and whites void.

Massachusetts

THIS state restricts divorced couples in their plans for forming another marriage, by setting forth a two-year celibacy clause, preventing the guilty party from remarrying within that period.

Also, the court may, if desired, appoint an attorney to examine the facts in a divorce suit, and report to the court.

Where a divorce suit is brought charging adultery, the court may order the co-respondent into court to contest the suit, as is done in California.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Impotency.
3. Utter desertion for three years.
4. Gross and confirmed habits of intoxicants.
5. Cruel and abusive treatment.
6. Gross and cruel failure to support on part of husband.
7. Sentence for five years in a penal institution.

The Court may appoint an Attorney in the Divorce cases to examine and report and to defend the action.

A Decree *nisi* as first grounds, which becomes absolute in six months, unless the Court orders to the contrary.

After absolute divorce, plaintiff may re-marry, but defendant may not re-marry for two years.

A co-respondent may be named in a divorce proceedings by order of Court and may contest the suit where adultery is charged.

Where a marriage is declared void by annulment by reason of a prior marriage, if it appears that the second marriage is made in good faith believing that the prior spouse had become deceased, the children of the second marriage are legitimate.

Michigan

ONE provision in the Michigan statutes does away with tedious formalities, and is worth copying. Where a mate is sent to prison for life, the marriage is automatically dissolved. Should the mate be pardoned, the marriage is not restored.

To prevent persons from coming to Michigan for a divorce, there is a provision that, where the grounds occur away from the state, two years of residence are required.

In no way can Michigan be accused of catering to the divorce racket, as its grounds prove.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Physical incompetency.
3. Desertion for two years.
4. Habitual drunkenness.
5. Extreme cruelty.
6. Non-support.
7. Sentence to imprisonment for three years or more. Sentence for life dissolves marriage and pardon does not restore it.

If grounds for divorce occur outside of state, two years' residence required.

Two years is the required period if the cause arose within the state.

No restrictions as to re-marriage.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Marriages may be annulled but if the parties re-marry before age of consent and separate before age is obtained, the marriage is void without any Decree of Annulment.

Minnesota

DIVORCES in Minnesota are not particularly hard to obtain, but this state makes no bid for the business, maintaining a sane, conservative attitude toward divorce.

In suits based on adultery, a divorce is refused if the defendant can come into court and show that the plaintiff is guilty of the same charge.

Remarriage is not permitted before six months have



Recently all three of Gloria Swanson's ex-husbands were seen dining at the Brown Derby—though not at the same table. Left to right: husband No. 1, Wallace Beery; No. 2, Herbert Somborn; No. 3, the Marquis Henri de la Falaise, whom she met and loved in Paris. When husbands get together in Hollywood, there are no hard feelings. At left is Gloria Swanson, beautiful and popular as ever.

elapsed after a divorce, but as there is no provision for punishment, the person getting a divorce can drive over into South Dakota, marry mate number two, and return. Brookings, South Dakota, gets many of these marriages, as Wisconsin and Iowa, adjoining states, have laws similar to Minnesota.

In 1929 insanity was added to the list of grounds for divorce in Minnesota.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Incompetency.
3. Cruel and inhuman treatment.
4. Either party sentenced to state prison or reformatory.
5. Willful desertion for one year.
6. Habitual drunkenness for one year.
7. Incurable insanity for at least ten years.

Divorce for adultery denied when offense was committed by procurement or connivance by the plaintiff.

Where there has been an expressed forgiveness or voluntary cohabitation with knowledge of adultery or where the action was not brought within three years after discovery of the offense or where plaintiff is guilty of adultery such as would entitle the defendant to divorce if he or she were innocent.

One year's residence required.

No re-marriage within six months after Decree. In case of such marriage, the Court may revoke the Decree.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Where either party incapable of assenting through want of age or understanding, or consent obtained by force or fraud, and there is no subsequent voluntary cohabitation, the injured party may obtain annulment dating from time of adjudication.

Mississippi

MISSISSIPPI goes almost as far as Louisiana in its punishment of adultery. At the discretion of the court, the guilty party may be prohibited from remarrying. Here, children by a marriage that is annulled are de-

clared illegitimate, since the annulment is in effect, when pronounced, with the date the marriage took place. Grounds for divorce are strict, and consequently statistics show a low rate in this state.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Natural incompetency.
2. Adultery (unless collusion or condonation).
3. Sentence to penitentiary.
4. Desertion for two years.
5. Habitual drunkenness or habitual and excessive use of drugs.
6. Habitual cruel and inhuman treatment.
7. Insanity or idiocy at time of marriage.
8. Prior marriage undissolved.
9. Pregnant by person other than husband at time of marriage.

No provision against re-marriage, but in cases of adultery the Court may prohibit re-marriage of guilty party.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Where marriage is illegal, such as marriages between whites and blacks or within degrees of consanguinity. Decree of annulment declared void *ab initio* and children are illegitimate.

Missouri

FAIRLY liberal grounds are allowed for divorce in Missouri. If your husband is a vagrant, or barbaric in his treatment, you have the sympathy of the law makers.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Impotency at time of marriage.
2. Prior undissolved marriage.
3. Adultery.
4. Desertion for one year.
5. Conviction of felony or infamous crime.
6. Habitual drunkenness for one year.
7. Cruel and barbarous treatment and endangering life.
8. Personal indignities rendering conditions intolerable.

9. Vagrancy of husband.
 10. Pregnancy of wife to different party unknown to husband.
- One year's residence required.
No statutory provisions against re-marriage.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Prohibited marriage within degrees of consanguinity and between blacks and whites, or between imbeciles are absolutely void.
Common law marriages contracted after March 31, 1921, are null and void.

Montana

NO DIVORCE is granted in Montana on grounds of insanity.

In cases of adultery, a time limit for bringing charges is set, and if the defendant can show that the act was forgiven, or was a put up job, the defense is sufficient to prevent the court granting a divorce.

Marriages annulled do not affect the legitimacy of children.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Extreme cruelty.
3. Willful desertion.
4. Willful neglect.
5. Habitual intemperance.
6. Conviction of felony.

Connivance, collusion, condonation or recrimination is sufficient defense.

One year's residence required.

Action in cases of adultery must be brought within two years after discovery.

In cases of conviction of crime within two years after sentence.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Under-age of consent.
2. Former marriage of one of the parties still in force.
3. Either party of unsound mind.
4. Consent obtained by fraud.
5. Consent obtained by force.
6. Physical incapability of entering in marriage state.

A judgment of nullity is conclusive only against the parties and those claiming under them, and doesn't affect the children.

Nebraska

YOU can't get a divorce in Nebraska if you are both guilty of violating the marriage code. If the husband can prove that the wife is as cruel as she claims, he is, then all bets are off.

For six months after obtaining a decree, the divorce must hang fire, and the court may change its decision. After that time the divorce becomes final and you may remarry.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Physical incompetency.
2. Sentence to imprisonment for three years.
3. Willful abandonment or utter desertion for two years.
4. Habitual drunkenness.
5. Extreme cruelty.
6. Gross wanton and cruel neglect or failure to provide for wife.

No divorce granted where based on collusion or

where plaintiff is guilty of same crime or misconduct.

One year's residence required.

Decree is not final or operative until six months after decision and may be vacated or modified at any time during such six months period.

No restrictions on re-marriage after the six months period.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Marriage annulled when either party is under age or consent and separation during consent or where obtained by force and fraud and there has been no voluntary cohabitation.
2. On grounds of insanity or idiocy.
3. On grounds of incapacity.

Children deemed legitimate even though marriage annulled, except where marriage is within prohibited degrees of consanguinity or between whites and blacks. In such cases the children are deemed illegitimate.

Nevada

NEVADA, stormy petrel of the divorce game, has already been covered by this publication, and we merely give the grounds as listed by the statutes, together with the provisions for annulment.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Impotency at time of marriage and continues after marriage.
2. Adultery remaining unforgotten.
3. Willful desertion for one year.
4. Conviction of felony or infamous crime.
5. Habitual drunkenness.
6. Cruelty.
7. Neglect of husband for period of one year.
8. Neglect to provide common necessities.
9. Insanity existing for period of two years.

No divorce can be granted unless either the plaintiff or the defendant are residents for six weeks, unless the cause of action accrued within county while both parties were domiciled therein.

Personal service or six weeks' publication required if defendant not represented in court.

Appearance of the defendant by Attorney or in person is equivalent to personal service.

No restrictions as to re-marriage.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Under age or understanding.
2. Fraud and no voluntary cohabitation, in which case the marriage is void from date its nullity is declared.

New Hampshire

CROPPING up here and there in the grounds for divorce listed by the states, one finds the following peculiar provision:

Joining a religious sect which forbids cohabitation.

This religious sect, almost unknown to the younger generation, was sufficiently strong to get itself written into the law books as a menace to marriage, and fit grounds for divorce. It is, however, a dead letter on most statutes, as fortunately the sect no longer flourishes. It appears on the New Hampshire books as seventh in the list of grounds.

No trial by jury is granted in this state, though it's a

custom in most states to give such a trial if the defendant demands one.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Impotency.
2. Extreme cruelty.
3. Conviction of a crime.
4. Treatment so as to endanger health or reason.
5. Unheard absence for three years.
6. Habitual drunkenness for three years.
7. Joining any religious sect or society which professes to believe the relation of husband and wife unlawful and refusal to cohabit for six months.
8. Abandonment and refusal for three years to cohabit.
9. Absence for three years without consent of the other.
10. Absence without suitable means of support.
No jury trial granted.
One year's residence by plaintiff required unless defendant is personally present in the state and personally served.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Marriages prohibited by reason of consanguinity.
2. Marriages of males below age of fourteen and females below age of thirteen are void and need no annulment.
3. The statute provides for annulment where parties are under the age of consent and where it centers under duress, fraudulent representations or where one of parties is insane, etc.

New Jersey

VERY strict laws govern divorce in New Jersey, with only three grounds given. Cruelty must be present in an extreme form before the third grounds for divorce is even considered.

One woman sued for divorce on basis of extreme cruelty, after her husband chased her for six blocks with an axe, loudly shouting that he was going to cut her head off.

The divorce wasn't granted, however, because the man didn't catch up with her! If he had laid hands on her, she could have gotten her divorce—that is, if she had lived to sue for it.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Impotency.
2. Willful, continued and obstinate desertion for two years.
3. Extreme cruelty.

The New Jersey courts have been strict in definition in what constitutes extreme cruelty; in other words, to obtain a divorce on this ground there must be extreme cruelty in that state.

Two years' residence required subject to certain exception a decree *nisi* is entered which becomes absolute three months later unless appealed from.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. When either party has a spouse living by an undissolved prior marriage.
2. When either party is physically and incurably impotent.
3. When one of parties is incapable of consent.
A Decree of nullity does not render the children illegitimate except in cases where one of parties had a former spouse living by a prior undissolved marriage.



All the world listened to the tale of Kip Rhinelander's marriage and divorce, for it involved a girl of negro ancestry. Kip and his attorney, Harley Harmon, of Las Vegas, Nevada, are shown here preparing for Kip's Reno divorce.

New Mexico

NEW MEXICO demands a strict proof, so if you take your case to court be sure that the facts are provable!

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Impotency.
3. Cruel and inhuman treatment.
4. Abandonment.
5. Pregnancy of wife at time of marriage by other than husband.
6. Conviction of a felony.
7. Habitual drunkenness.
8. Failure to provide on part of husband.

Strict proof of facts are necessary to warrant a divorce.

One year's residence is required.

No statutory charge against re-marriage.

Annulment of Marriage:

Action of annulment of infant under age of consent may be brought by infant, his or her next friend, his or her guardian, parents, or the country attorney.

New York

AFTER looking over the New York divorce law, you will see why Reno gets the business! With only one grounds for divorce allowed, there isn't much chance to use your imagination, and that stuff about hubby throwing a beer bottle at you won't do at all.

However, New York is not so strict regarding annulments. There's always an out, if you look far enough, in any law.

Marriages can be annulled on the grounds of cruelty for instance, and if hubby said he was making sixty a week,

when he was only making forty, that ought to be good grounds for a fraud action.

Also, separations can be obtained in New York—and there the gold diggers thrive. Separations can be obtained on grounds similar to divorce grounds in other states, but the parties can't remarry. So the alimony goes on and on—unless the court decides to grant a final divorce—after a lapse of three years and proof that the divorced party has behaved himself!

There is but one ground for absolute divorce in New York: to wit, adultery.

No divorce where the offence of adultery is committed by connivance or procurement or where the offence has been forgiven, forgiveness may be proven affirmatively or by voluntary cohabitation after knowledge.

Action must be commenced within five years after discovery of offence.

No divorce granted so long as both parties are guilty of adultery.

A co-respondent may defend in the divorce action so far as the issues affect him.

Divorces from bed and board forever or for a limited time are granted:

1. For cruel and inhuman treatment.
2. Unsafe and improper conduct.
3. Abandonment.
4. Failure to support wife.

Guilty party may not re-marry during life of plaintiff unless court granting divorce grants permission after lapse of three years and proof of good conduct.

Re-marriage between parties not prohibited.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. If either party is under eighteen.
2. If either party is incapable of consent for want of understanding.
3. If either party is incapable for physical reasons.
4. If the consent was obtained by reason of force, duress.
5. Incurable insanity for a period of more than five years.

Marriages may be declared void by the Court when within certain degrees of consanguinity. If a marriage is decreed annul the Court in its judgment may decide that a child of the marriage is the legitimate child of either or both of the parents.

North Carolina

NORTH CAROLINA, like New York, is most strict in its divorce laws, while being more liberal in the matter of separations (limited divorces).

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Natural impotency at time of marriage and continuing.
3. Pregnancy of wife by another at time of marriage without knowledge of her husband.
4. Continued separation for five years.

North Carolina has strict grounds for absolute divorce. There are many more grounds, however, for limited divorce or for divorce from bed and board.

Two years' residence is required except where the divorce is brought for five years' desertion in which case the plaintiff must reside in the state the entire five year period.

No restrictions as to re-marriage.

Annulment of Marriage:

Marriages between whites and negroes and within certain degrees of consanguinity are absolutely void.

North Dakota

IT'S up to the court to decide, after a divorce is granted, whether the parties may remarry. Its eugenic restrictions regarding marriage are far in advance of other states—but we are concerned here with what comes after marriage.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Extreme cruelty.
3. Willful desertion.
4. Willful neglect.
5. Habitual intemperance.
6. Conviction of a felony.
7. Incurable insanity for a period of five years.

Twelve months' residence required.

The Court granting the divorce specifies in order for judgment whether parties shall be permitted to re-marry and if so, when.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Parties under age of consent.
2. Former husband or wife living by a prior undissolved marriage.
3. Either person being of unsound mind.
4. Consent obtained by force or fraud.
5. Physical incapacity.

Ohio

OHIO takes a slam at Nevada and its wide open divorce laws, by a law which protects the innocent party from a Reno decree.

If hubby dashes out to Reno and gets his divorce, in spite of wifey's contesting it, then she can have recourse to the Ohio court (provided she is a resident).

The Ohio court can grant her a divorce on her own terms, simply on the grounds of showing the court that her mate has obtained a divorce outside the state. In this way the wife can protect her property rights and have the law back of her.

Grounds for Divorce:

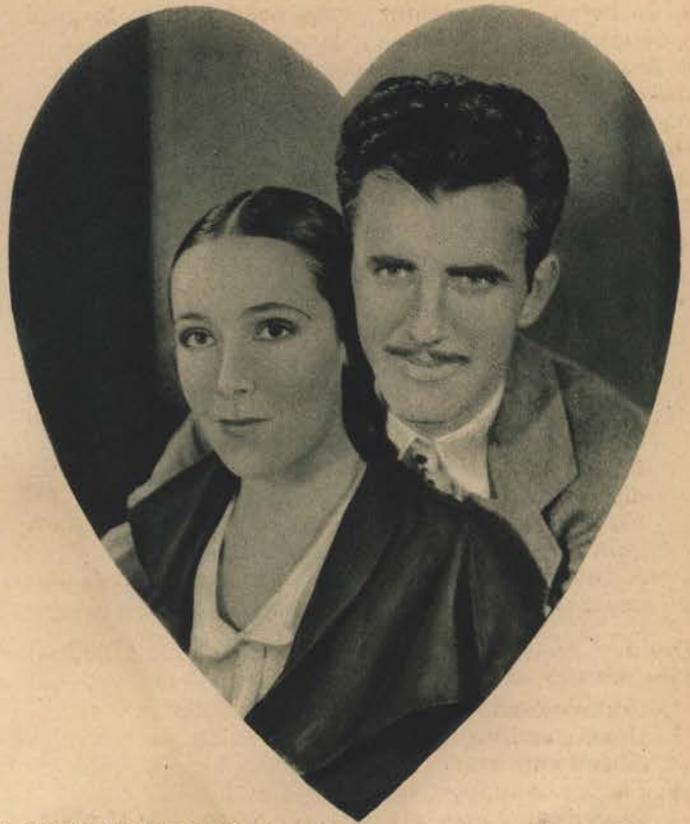
1. If either party has a husband or wife living by a prior undissolved marriage.
2. Willful desertion for three years.
3. Adultery.
4. Impotency.
5. Extreme cruelty.
6. Fraudulent contract.
7. Any gross neglect of duty.
8. Habitual drunkenness for three years.
9. Imprisonment in the penitentiary.
10. The procurement of a divorce without this state by a husband or wife by virtue of which the party who procured it is released from the obligations of marriage while the same remaining binding upon the other party.

Residence required, one year.

Parties have an absolute right to re-marry.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Apparently the only recognized cause of annulment is where the contract is made where one of parties is insane.



TRAGIC LIFE AND LOVES OF DOLORES

Beautiful Dolores Del Rio has had a tragic life, but the future appears sunny at last. She married Jaime Del Rio when a young girl, and Mexico City applauded the wedding of a rich bachelor and a beautiful maid. Then Carewe, the director, urged her to come to Hollywood and enter pictures—and Dolores blossomed into fame, the fame that is heartless and demanding, and has no regard for broken hearts. She divorced Jaime in Mexico; some time later he died in Germany, and Dolores was heart broken. For a long time serious illness enforced her retirement from pictures, but recently she married Cedric Gibbons, and they live happily in a modernistic home in Hollywood.

Oklahoma

IF THE bride was too dumb to know what she was doing, her marriage can be annulled in Oklahoma, and her children will be legitimate.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Former husband or wife living and undivorced at time of marriage.
2. Abandonment for one year.
3. Adultery.
4. Impotency.
5. Pregnancy of wife at time of marriage by other than husband.
6. Extreme cruelty.
7. Fraudulent contract.
8. Habitual drunkenness.
9. Gross neglect of duty.
10. Conviction of a felony.

One year's residence is required.

The decree does not take effect until six months after date of judgment and neither party may marry during such period except to the other party. Where either party was incapable because of lack of age or understanding the District Court may annul the marriage.

Children begotten before annulment are legitimate.

Oregon

RENDERING life burdensome to the other member of your household makes you liable to a divorce in Oregon, and as may be guessed, the law is not so strict here as elsewhere. If, after a divorce is granted, the de-

fendant appeals the decision, the other party can't re-marry until the appeal is decided one way or the other. Six months is allowed for an appeal to be filed.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Impotency.
2. Uncondoned adultery.
3. Conviction of a felony.
4. Drunkenness of one year.
5. Willful desertion for one year.
6. Cruelty or indignities rendering life burdensome.
7. Permanent insanity and where party has been in institution for five years or more.

One year's residence required.

Neither party capable of re-marriage for six months or if an appeal is taken until such appeal is decided.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Marriage is voidable at suit of injured party if procured by fraud or force or where party was under age of consent or of insufficient understanding.

Where parents have cohabitated as husband and wife any children are not considered illegitimate even though marriage is declared void.

Common law marriages not recognized.

Pennsylvania

IF A man is divorced from his wife in Pennsylvania, on the grounds of adultery, he isn't allowed to marry again during the life time of his wife.

Another point that distinguishes the divorce law in this state requires that the court appoint a Master to hear the suit—unless the suit is brought before a jury for trial.

Grounds are fairly liberal, as "barbarous treatment" is capable of wide interpretation.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Incapability of procreation.
2. Subsisting prior marriage.
3. Adultery.
4. Desertion for two years.
5. Cruel and barbarous treatment endangering the health of the other.
6. Indignities to the person of the other rendering condition intolerable and life burdensome.
7. Uncondoned fraud, force or coercion.
8. Conviction of a felony.
9. Consanguinity or affinity.

One year's residence required.

Unless cause for jury trial is shown all divorces are heard before Masters appointed by the Court. Either party may re-marry except that defendant guilty of adultery may not marry the other party to adultery during the life of the plaintiff.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Bigamous marriages may be annulled.
Common law governs effect as to legitimacy of children.

Rhode Island

YOU can be legally dead in Rhode Island, and therefore, even while still alive and kicking, be divorced without having a chance to raise your voice.

Persons may be declared legally dead under the old common law which contained such provisions in regards to criminals. A felon loses his rights to citizenship and property under some conditions—and they may be divorced.

Marriages cannot be annulled in Rhode Island.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Full divorce granted when the marriage was originally void or voidable by law or in case either party is for crime deemed to be or treated as if civilly dead.
2. Impotency.
3. Adultery.
4. Extreme cruelty.
5. Willful desertion.
6. Continued drunkenness.
7. Habitual use of drugs for a period of at least one year.
8. Gross misbehavior or wickedness of either parties repugnant to and in violation of marriage covenant.
9. Or in the discretion of the Court when the parties have lived separate and apart for a space of ten years.

Two years' residence required.

Decree of Divorce does not become final and operative until six months after the decision during which period neither party may re-marry.

Annulment of Marriage:

The Courts have no jurisdiction to annul marriages in proceedings for that purpose; the remedy is by divorce.

South Carolina

NO DIVORCES!

And that, as you can see, is final. Separations, however, are allowed.

Divorce from the bonds of matrimony is not allowed; proceedings may be brought for separate maintenance and alimony.

Annulment of Marriage:

Courts may decree marriage void for lack of consent or other causes showing that no real contract of marriage was entered into provided there has been no cohabitation.

South Dakota

TIME was when South Dakota had a finger in the divorce racket, but those days are gone. The first divorce mill was started in South Dakota, but in 1908 the residence requirements were raised from six months to a full year, and the business was ruined.

Taking a cue from Pennsylvania, South Dakota doesn't permit the guilty party in an adultery suit to re-marry during the life of the innocent party.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Extreme cruelty.
3. Willful desertion for period of one year.
4. Willful neglect for period of one year.
5. Habitual intemperance for one year.
6. Conviction for felony.
7. Incurable insanity for five years.

One year's residence required.

Where divorce is granted for adultery, guilty party may not re-marry during the life of innocent party.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. When one of parties is under age of consent.
2. Former spouse living by an undissolved marriage.
3. Unsound mind of one of parties.
4. Fraud, within four years after discovery.
5. Force, within four years after marriage.
6. Physical incapacity, within four years after marriage.

Tennessee

IF A man resides for two years in Tennessee, and can't induce his wife to join him, the state will grant him a divorce.

And what's more, if a wife acts cruelly toward her husband, he can get a divorce.

Strangely enough, the wife isn't mentioned in these two clauses as having much to say about the matter. Apparently only a husband can put forward charges of cruelty—but if the husband makes an attempt upon her life, and she survives, she can enter suit for divorce.

Wives don't run away with things in Tennessee!

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Impotency.
2. That either party has knowingly entered into a second marriage.
3. Adultery.
4. Willful or malicious desertion or absence for two years without cause.
5. Conviction of an infamous crime.
6. Conviction of felony.
7. Attempt upon life of the other.
8. Refusal by wife for two years without reasonable cause to remove with husband to this state.
9. Wife was pregnant at time of marriage by another without husband's knowledge.
10. Habitual drunkenness.
11. Husband may obtain absolute divorce by reason of cruel and inhuman treatment or conduct toward him by wife.

Two years' of residence required.

No restrictions on re-marriage after divorce except that defendant guilty of adultery may not marry person with whom offense was committed during the life of his former wife.

There are no provisions for marriage annulments.

Texas

SANE and fair laws govern divorce in Texas, where, if life becomes difficult with the spouse, the courts are empowered to grant relief.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Where either husband or wife is guilty of excess cruelty or outrage toward the other of such nature as to render their living together insupportable.
2. In favor of husband where wife has committed adultery or where she has voluntarily left his bed and board for a period of three years with the intention of abandonment.
3. In favor of wife where the husband has left her for a period of three years with the intention of abandonment or where he has abandoned her and lived in adultery with another woman.
4. In favor of either when the other has been convicted of felony.
5. where the parties have lived apart without cohabitation for a period of ten years.

Condonation and connivance are good defenses in a suit for divorce on the grounds of adultery and no divorce may be granted where collusion exists. No action for separation exists in Texas.

Twelve months' residence required.

No restrictions as to re-marriage except that neither party may re-marry after twelve months where divorce is obtained on grounds of cruelty.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. May be annulled for natural or incurable impotency at time of entering into the contract or any other predicament that renders such contract void.

Utah

GREAT mental stress caused by the man or wife is grounds for divorce in Utah. Like California, decrees are given subject to the final decision of the court. The interlocutory decree, however, ends after six months and then becomes an absolute divorce.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Impotency.
2. Adultery.
3. Willful desertion for one year.
4. Willful neglect to provide common necessities.
5. Habitual drunkenness.
6. Conviction of a felony.
7. Cruelty causing bodily injury or great mental distress.
8. Permanent insanity for a period of five years.

One year's residence required.

An Interlocutory Decree is rendered which becomes absolute after six months unless reversed; re-marriage prohibited during interlocutory period.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Marriages may be annulled if obtained by force or fraud where male was under sixteen years and female under fourteen.
2. Marriages within the fifth degree of consanguinity computed according to the civil law are incestuous and void *ab initio*.



James Cruze, the noted director, and Betty Compson, obtained a divorce in spite of their mutual love. Cruze couldn't change his habits, and Betty couldn't get used to a houseful of visitors every night, so their romance ended.

Vermont

LIKE the granite hills of Vermont, its laws are just as inflexible. And divorce, among those Puritan descendants, is something that a self respecting state tampers with as little as possible.

"Intolerable severity", which conjures up visions of some of the boys from the backwoods, is a grounds for divorce, and if such a one is divorced by his wife, he has two years of loneliness ahead of him to repay his orneryness. For mark you, if he should remarry before that time (unless his wife dies) he can be sent to jail for from one to five years!

Vermont is a stern state, when it comes to divorce and other frivolities.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Confinement in state prison for three years.
3. Intolerable severity.
4. Willful desertion for three years or absence without being heard from for seven years.
5. Failure to provide for wife.
One year's residence required.
No jury trial allowed.

Re-marriage by defendant prohibited for a period of two years unless former spouse dies in the meantime and to re-marry constitutes a crime punishable by one to five years.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. A marriage contract may be annulled at the time when either party had not attained the age of sixteen years.
2. Marriages prohibited by law on account of consanguinity or affinity or on account of prior undissolved marriage is void if performed in this state.

Virginia

YOU'VE got to make up your mind within five years after discovering your wife or husband to be unfaithful, if you want to use that for grounds for divorce in Virginia.

The courts may then forbid the guilty party to re-marry.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Impotency.
3. Sentence to penitentiary.
4. Conviction of infamous offense before marriage.
5. Being a fugitive from justice, charged with felony and absent for two years.
6. Willful desertion for three years.
7. Pregnancy of wife by another at time of marriage and unknown to husband.
8. Prostitution of wife prior to marriage and unknown by husband.
Condonation, connivance, and in suit for adultery, lapse of over five years, will defeat divorce.
One year's residence required.
Either party may not re-marry for six months after divorce and in case of adultery guilty party may be forbidden to re-marry.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. Marriages between white and colored persons and marriages prohibited because either party had a living consort are void without any legal decree.
2. When either party is under the age of consent and there has been no subsequent cohabitation.

3. Other prohibited marriages are void on date of decree declaring nullity.

Washington

THE interlocutory decree is in force in this state, with a waiting period of six months before a new marriage can be contracted. Common law marriages can't be considered legal in Washington.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. When consent was obtained by force or fraud and no subsequent voluntary cohabitation.
2. Unforgiven adultery in cases where application is made within one year after knowledge of the act.
3. Impotency.
4. Abandonment for one year.
5. Cruel treatment of either party by the other or personal indignities rendering life burdensome.
6. Habitual drunkenness or neglect of husband to suitably provide for family.
7. Imprisonment in penitentiary.
8. When parties have lived separate and apart for five years or more.
9. Incurable insanity for period of five years.
One year's residence required.
Final decree is not entered until expiration of six months after the Interlocutory Order.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. In an action by either party upon proof of facts rendering a marriage void a decree annulling the marriage may be granted.
Common law marriages cannot be contracted in Washington.

West Virginia

FIVE years sentence to celibacy is the penalty for the guilty party in a divorce action based on adultery. With only three grounds on which to sue for a divorce, the business does not thrive in West Virginia. Given a few more grounds, however, divorce would not be difficult, as no residential period is set forth in cases where both parties are within the boundaries of the state. All in all, this state frowns heavily upon divorce.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Imprisonment for felony.
3. Desertion for three years.
No divorce is granted for adultery where there has been condonation or where it was committed by procurement or connivance of plaintiff, or committed two years before the institution of suit or where there has been no collusion.
No residential period required where personal service can be had within the state.
In other cases one year's residence is required.
In cases of adultery the guilty party may not re-marry for a period of five years; in other cases the Court may forbid the guilty party from re-marrying for a period not to exceed five years.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. One white person and the other negro.
2. If either party had a former living and undivorced spouse at time of marriage.
3. Parties related to each other within degrees of consanguinity or affinity.
4. Either party insane, feeble minded, an idiot, im-

becile, epileptic, or afflicted with disease rendering marriage unlawful.

5. Natural and incurable impotency.
6. Either party under the age of consent.
7. Either party without the knowledge of the other convicted of an infamous offense.
8. Wife without knowledge of husband pregnant by another, or notoriously a prostitute.
9. Husband a licentious person.

Wisconsin

A DIVORCE isn't final until a year after it is granted in Wisconsin, and parties must wait a year before they can remarry. A special counsel is appointed by the judge to investigate all suits for divorce or annulment.

A "cruel and inhuman" treatment clause opens up avenues for obtaining a divorce upon warranted grounds—certainly more liberal than the rock ribbed states along the Atlantic.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Impotency.
3. Sentence to prison for three years or more.
4. Willful desertion for one year.
5. Cruel and inhuman treatment.
6. Habitual drunkenness.
7. Whenever husband and wife have lived separately for a period of five years.

Two years' residence required except in cases of adultery or bigamy.

Divorce counsel provided for to act in behalf of state.

Divorce counsel in default cases must appear in open court and make impartial presentation of the case to the Court. Judgment of divorce is not effective to determine status of parties until expiration of one year.

Persons may not re-marry for a period of one year.

Annulment of Marriage:

Special counsel provided for as in divorce cases; he must report to the Court.

1. Incurable impotency.
2. Consanguinity or affinity when parties are nearer than first cousins.
3. When either party had a husband or wife living and undivorced.
4. Fraud, force or coercion.
5. Insanity.
6. When husband is under eighteen at time of marriage.
7. When wife is under sixteen at time of marriage.

Wyoming

A GENEROUS list of grounds makes Wyoming a liberal in the roster of divorce, but a year's residence clause prevents it from offering any competition to Nevada and Idaho.

Grounds for Divorce:

1. Adultery.
2. Physical incapacity.
3. Confiction of a felony.
4. Willful desertion of one year.
5. Habitual drunkenness.
6. Extreme cruelty.
7. Neglect of husband to provide necessities for one year.



The Count and Countess Salm (Millicent Rogers) ended their matrimonial career in the Paris divorce courts. Wealth and social position did not help them to find happiness.

8. Indignities rendering condition of endangered party intolerable.
9. Vagrancy of husband.
10. Conviction of a felony or infamous crime prior to marriage where facts are unknown at time of marriage.
11. Pregnancy of wife at time of marriage by person other than husband and unknown to husband.
12. Incurable insanity for five years.
One year's residence required.
Either party may re-marry within one year after Decree.

Annulment of Marriage:

1. May be only where either party was under age of consent and did not cohabit after reaching age of consent.
2. Where consent was obtained by force or fraud and no subsequent voluntary cohabitation.
Proceedings are much the same as those for divorce.

FREE LOVE vs.

"The most thrilling experience in life is love—the most important human relationship is marriage; yet sex ignorance and decadent laws are turning these vital adventures into misery that ends in frenzied divorces and ruined homes," declares Judge Ben B. Lindsey. The noted jurist tells here some of his experiences and ideas in advocating Companionate Marriage, and urges a "House of Human Welfare" as a solvent for many divorce tangles.

By JUDGE BEN B. LINDSEY

I DO not believe in free love. The popular understanding of "free love" seems to be that people in love with each other can have the same sex life that law and convention recognize as proper only when they are married.

A fine type of young girl said to me, "John wants me to marry him. I do not believe I will." And then she added, without the slightest embarrassment. "But I may decide to live with him."

I said, "What? You really mean that you will enter into such a relationship with John, without the formality of a marriage?"

"Well," she said, "why not? Why marry?" Then she added thoughtfully, "Since I left school, five of my girl friends have married. In less than five years, three of them have divorced their husbands. Only one is happily married. Divorces cost a lot of money. They lead to embarrassing newspaper publicity. If John and I cannot get along, we will not have the trouble or expense of a divorce. We will quit. Chances are we will stick, because he will treat me better than the legal husbands of my girl friends treated them."

"In other words," I said, "you have come to the conclusion that your relationships with John are to be substantially what is known as 'free love'?"

"Exactly," she replied. "That's what I mean, why not?"

This girl's experience—and similar experiences—I have heard many times during my thirty years of work with young people. It illustrates the mental attitude toward sex relations of a certain part of the younger generation. It would be absurd to condemn them for it, even though one disagreed, as I certainly do disagree. It would be useless to scold and to threaten, because that sort of thing is not effective with modern youth. Youth demands toleration, charity, sympathy and understanding. Only so can we wisely lead and direct them.

In some of our cities, even now there are actually filed in the courts nearly as many separation and divorce cases annually as there are marriage licenses granted. There is probably as much immorality in marriage as out of marriage. For these conditions the older generation is responsible. It is only natural, in the face of such facts, that many fine young men and women should have a strange mental attitude toward sex and life. It is not a part of the "new freedom." It is a part of the new thought because of new facts.

I said to that girl: "I understand you, Mary. I know that marriage is not perfect. But, my dear child, I know of nothing that is perfect. I admit the failures you de-

scribe. I see them constantly. But the 'free love' plan you propose is no remedy, and it is dangerous for women. I would oppose it upon that ground if no other. In sex life we should be much more concerned about women than men, for women suffer far more than men from the mistakes, failures, ignorance, unhappiness and tragedies of love. For social and biological reasons, there is at present no escape for women from this inequality. Under the moral conventions of our time, 'free love' makes the purposes, joys, difficulties, responsibilities and happiness of sex relations far more hazardous and uncertain than lawful marriage. For whatever the failures of lawful marriage, its successes are larger."

After I had talked it all out with Mary she took my advice. She gave up her idea of a "free love" experiment with John. She decided upon a "companionate marriage" instead. For the first two years, she and John worked as usual, saved and planned together. Then John had quite a raise in his salary. Mary was able to give up her job for the more interesting one of mother.

We had given them books, as well as advice, that helped educate them for marriage. They had, in those two years, learned many things about love and life they had never dreamed of before. It helped them to avoid many mistakes. Now, Mary comes to us for books about babies and pre-school age children. She and John are happy.

MARY'S marriage called for certain sex education and instruction in the art of marriage. It called for intelligent and scientific direction of the customs of marriage. In all of this, Mary soon found that "free love" was without justification or even temptation.

Mary also discovered that "Companionate Marriage" was not free love; it was not trial marriage; it was not the marriage of high school children who would be supported by their parents until they grew up; it was not a permanently childless marriage built upon a philosophy of self-indulgence; it was not a childless marriage with divorce obtainable as easily as the license for the marriage; it was not a marriage by contract or for any definite time; it was not a form of marriage under which the husband and wife would each earn their own living and remain independent of each other economically; it was not a marriage that would permit of no alimony in case of divorce; it was not a socially sanctioned unmarried union to be followed by legal marriage only in case the woman became pregnant; it was not a marriage that called for any new or special kind of ceremony; and there were a dozen other things which Mary found it was not; but that it had been

Companionate Marriage



When Cuba entered the divorce business, its publicity department pointed out that not only is there gorgeous Havana, but paved roads beyond lead to all sorts of romantic havens. Here is a scene where tropical palms shade the wide smooth roads.

called all of such things, much to Mary's confusion, before she read our book and had our talk and then found herself companionately married by a minister in the church. Mary now only laughs when unscrupulous publicity seekers try to confuse "Companionate Marriage" with "Free Love" and "Trial Marriage."

Mary now knows that Companionate Marriage is just *modern legal marriage*—the kind that is performed by the clergy or civil magistrates wherever marriages are performed. It is not a new kind of marriage. It is nothing to be frightened about. It is nothing to raise a fuss about, were it apparently not for the fact that it seems to be a sure way to add to the gayety of nations, and, incidentally, to stir up trouble for oneself by deciding to call something important by its right name. For present church or civil marriage is, and for a long time has been, nothing in the world but "Companionate Marriage." But all this calls for the explanation you will get, probably for the first time in your life, in this article.

SEX relations in marriage are two-fold, and may be classed as (1) *procreative* and (2) *companionate*. The *procreative* sex relation in legal marriage is with the deliberate intention of begetting children. It was out of this sex relation that the institution of *the family* originated. The *companionate* sex relation in lawful marriage is *not* for the begetting of children. It is for the spiritual, physical and healthful satisfaction of sex relations between lovers in lawful marriage; not that there will never be any children, *but only desired children*. Among domestic animals, for example, there is only *one* sex relationship, and that is the *procreative*. It is strictly limited to their mating time and is for the sole purpose of begetting their species.

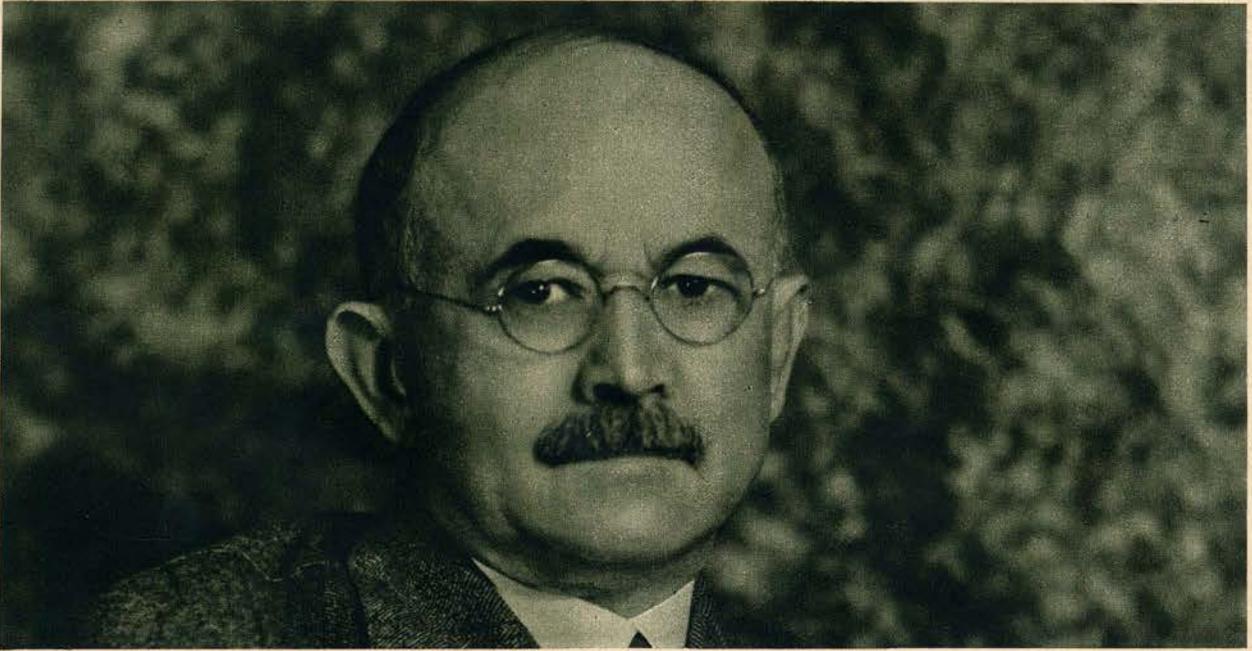
But, unlike the animals, sex relations among human beings are both *procreative* and *companionate*. The great majority of the sex relations between married couples in all church and civil marriages are deliberately *companionate*. There was a time when marriage was fixed by the ceremony; that is, the couple were married 'til death do us part. If they afterwards changed their minds, it

made no difference. This rule has been abolished by the State, and the ceremony is now only the evidence of the marriage. Modern marriage must now be judged by the habits and customs of the people who are parties to the marriage. These habits and customs are fixed by what the majority do. While most of the sex relations of couples in modern church or civil marriage are *companionate*, few people seem to understand that it is still under the ban of the most ancient and powerful of the churches. These churches contend the *companionate* sex relationship is lust and sin. This is on the theory that sex is sin unless such relations are confined to the begetting of children, or, which is practically the same thing, that no artificial means shall be used to guarantee the *companionate* sex relation against the *procreative* sex relation. While it is true that these churches know, or ought to know, that *companionate* sex relations are the sex relations mostly practiced in lawful marriage, they still attempt to forbid them. Through their influence with governments, they have effected a union with the state, as far as possible, to enforce their ancient codes. This is done by the laws popularly known as the laws against birth control.

Since the reactionary elements of some churches also oppose divorce on any ground, or the single ground of adultery without the right of remarriage, and frank sex education, they are against "The Companionate Marriage" program. *To thus oppose is of course their right, which I respect. But to legalize the customs that make most marriages, including those performed in these churches, companionate, would not interfere with any person's religion, since that would require no-one to practice these customs of modern marriage if they did not wish to. But they have no right to laws to compel others, who differ with them, to follow their example.*

I also want this understood: When I speak of the marriage rules of Church and State, it is not intended as being hostile to either. I respect the churches, of which I am a member in good standing. And, of course, I believe in loyalty to the State. But this is not inconsistent with an honest difference of opinion as to their ancient rules. There is no progress without such differences of

Judge Lindsey's Solution Gains Support



—Photo by Edwin Bower Hesser

To every puzzling matter involving the relations between the sexes, Judge Lindsey brings to bear a fearless, straight thinking attitude of common sense that has gone far to smooth a thousand domestic troubles.

honest opinion and I believe that a large majority of the members of all the churches will favor this social program when they understand what "The Companionate Marriage" really means.

In Wainwright Evan's and my book called "The Companionate Marriage," we make two distinct and different uses of the word *companionate*. One of these is the use of the word *companionate* in marriage to describe the non-procreative sex relationship already mentioned. Since no one in his right senses disputes that the great majority of married couples indulge in the "companionate" sex relation which (though forbidden by Church and State—as far as they can forbid it) intentionally avoids the begetting of more than a chosen number of children, or if so desired, none at all, it must be conceded that as judged by the *customs* of marriage, *modern marriage* is "*companionate marriage*." This, being the case, I have also used the term "companionate" as a label or title for the four-point constructive marriage program described in our book. I call this constructive program for the improvement of modern marriage "The Companionate Marriage." Thus "The Companionate Marriage" is neither free love nor a new kind of marriage. It is a constructive program for legalizing and scientifically directing the actual present *customs* of modern church or civil marriage.

THESE customs that already exist and are commonly practiced in legal marriage are four in number. But they are bootleg and illegal. Because they are bootleg, illegal and without scientific direction, they are causing devastating difficulties in the love life and married life of women.

The first of the four customs is the constant effort of married women to guarantee the *companionate* sex relation against becoming the *procreative* sex relation. This is accomplished by what is known as contraceptives or *birth control*. But it is mostly bootleg and illegal, because women get information on this subject from corner drug stores or other unreliable sources—information which frequently endangers their health. Now, the first point in this

constructive program of "The Companionate Marriage" is to repeal the laws that exist in most of the states and that are also embodied in a federal statute that applies to all of the states, forbidding doctors and specialists to furnish safe and scientific contraceptive or birth control information to married women. No power of Church or State is going to stop the womanhood of this country from getting information on this subject. The question is, shall they have access to scientific and reliable information, or to this bootleg and unreliable information? The womanhood of this country should know that according to the testimony of some of the ablest physicians in America and Europe, a safe and healthful (as near one hundred per cent perfect as anything ever gets to be in this world) contraceptive or birth control remedy has been perfected. This should be accessible to all married women. Women will never be free until they have such information. There can be no justice and equality for the womanhood of this country in the economic competition with men, into which they have been forced, until in their sex life they run no more danger of unwanted parenthood than a man does as a result of the relations of the sexes.

This will not contribute to immorality. I am positive it will contribute to a more wholesome morality than anything ever known in this country.

The second bootleg custom of modern marriage that the program of "The Companionate Marriage" proposes to legalize is divorce. When lovers get married, they naturally expect to stay married and do not think of divorce. But we know that divorce is now a necessary part of our marriage system and probably always will be. There are many legal grounds for divorce. But under present marriage *customs* the ground upon which most divorces are granted is not legal at all. It is just as bootleg as birth control. That is, the very large majority of all cases are fixed up in advance by mutual consent, but granted on other grounds, through subterfuge, collusion, perjury or fraud. But like the bootlegging in birth control, this illegal custom of granting most of the divorces is, in its way, just as devastating in its results.

So it is proposed, as the second point, that divorce should be granted by free and easy mutual consent. It proposes that divorce shall be placed on a scientific basis before a commission of experts from the medical and legal profession. In my book and lectures I have described this commission as "The House of Human Welfare." A discordant couple could take their troubles to "The House of Human Welfare" instead of to the lawyers and judges. However well meaning lawyers and judges may be, they are not trained or educated for the work such cases really call for. This commission's effort at reconciliation would probably succeed in a very large percent of such cases, thus reducing divorce. If it should fail, the couple would be entitled to an honest divorce by mutual consent.

THE third point demands that we shall abandon our custom of trying to keep people good by keeping them ignorant. It asks that the State, through proper channels, undertake the education of youth and married couples in the art of love, the laws of sex and life to better equip them for the duties of marriage and parenthood. Marriage is an art, and as such, it should be taught to youth. One of the tragedies of modern life is that fathers and mothers have never been equipped to properly instruct their boys and girls on the sex side of life. They should not only be taught the truth about sex and everything that pertains to sex, but at an early age they should even understand it scientifically from the viewpoint of physiology and biology. They should be prepared to understand the responsibilities and obligations of marriage before they enter it, and having entered it, they should have expert assistance in straightening out such of their intimate problems as they cannot settle themselves. As I said before, I propose that they should be given this help by the commission of experts in what I have called "The House of Human Welfare." This commission of experts should be free and accessible to all.

The fourth point in this constructive program of "The Companionate Marriage" relates to support and alimony. Now, I have had the honor to write, and with the help of my good friends, to get through the legislature in my state (Colorado), what are said to be the finest laws in this country for the protection of women. But I do not believe that the womanhood of this country who now have the right to economic competition with men, want to insist upon the old arbitrary law that compels the man to support the woman regardless of what the facts and circumstances might be in the particular case. Yet this was the law, and still is the law, in many of our states. I have known a young couple mutually agreeing to a separation, but not a divorce, bringing their difficulties into one of our domestic relations courts with the result that the young man was compelled to pay alimony to his childless wife at a time when she was earning \$150 a month and he was earning only \$100 a month. The result was that the young woman in question, who, for religious reasons, opposed a divorce, was receiving \$200 a month, and the young husband, from whom she had been separated for more than a year, was living on \$50 a month. Surely that sort of thing under arbitrary laws is not in the interest of the womanhood or childhood of this country. The abuse of our arbitrary alimony and non-support laws is one that is recognized everywhere, while under "The Companionate Marriage" program all these things would be settled on the basis of what is just and fair in each case.

Thus you will see that "The Companionate Marriage" is a four-point program to legalize, socialize, scientifically and honestly direct the customs in our present system of modern marriage that already is companionate marriage.

(1) Birth control, (2) collusive, easy, mutual consent divorce, (3) sex education, (4) new alimony laws. They are all confused with illegal practices, bootleg expedients, hypocrisy and dishonesty, and without the slightest scientific or social direction. All of this is devastating to the institution of marriage. If it continues, it may destroy it altogether. There are eminent thinkers in the world today who predict that kind of marriage within less than a century if the present conditions continue. I do not wish to see the institution of marriage destroyed. It is for this reason that I proposed the program of "The Companionate Marriage."

WHILE I believe that young people should marry young, I do not think that they should marry too young. Generally speaking, the ages for girls should be from eighteen to twenty-five; and for boys, from twenty-two to thirty. But for economic reasons, as I have already pointed out, very few men today marry before they are twenty-five, and only about one-third of them before they are thirty. When you stop to consider that society demands celibacy of these young people, more than one-half of them unmarried at the mating age, you can readily understand how, practically forced to live outside of legal marriage, immorality, vice, crime, perversions, promiscuity and disease increase as a result. Marriage of young people at a reasonable age is a natural and desirable thing. To delay marriage as we are now doing in this country is one of the most serious social problems that we are facing. It is far more serious than any political problem.

I do not suggest that the program of "The Companion-



America's most famous divorce lawyer, Dudley Field Malone, snapped on board the *Paris* returning from England. He is an international figure in divorce proceedings.



Everything from roulette to slot machines goes in Nevada under the new law which speeded up the wheels of the divorce mill.

ate Marriage" is a panacea or a cure-all, but I do know it would be a great help.

Nothing more tends to disrupt a marriage and induce discord in a home than an advent of children with poverty ruling the roost. "The Companionate Marriage" gives them a matchless opportunity to lay foundations that will be firm and lasting. Let them take it. And if they find they can't lay such a foundation, let them go their ways in honesty and not in lies and hypocrisy as at present, and without risking the lives of helpless children.

"THE Companionate Marriage" does not in the slightest way imply that it should be a childless marriage. On the contrary, it is much more likely, if once legally established and directed, to result in more marriages and more children, but children when they are wanted, and so spaced, through the scientific practice of the companionate, as to promote both the health and strength of mother and child.

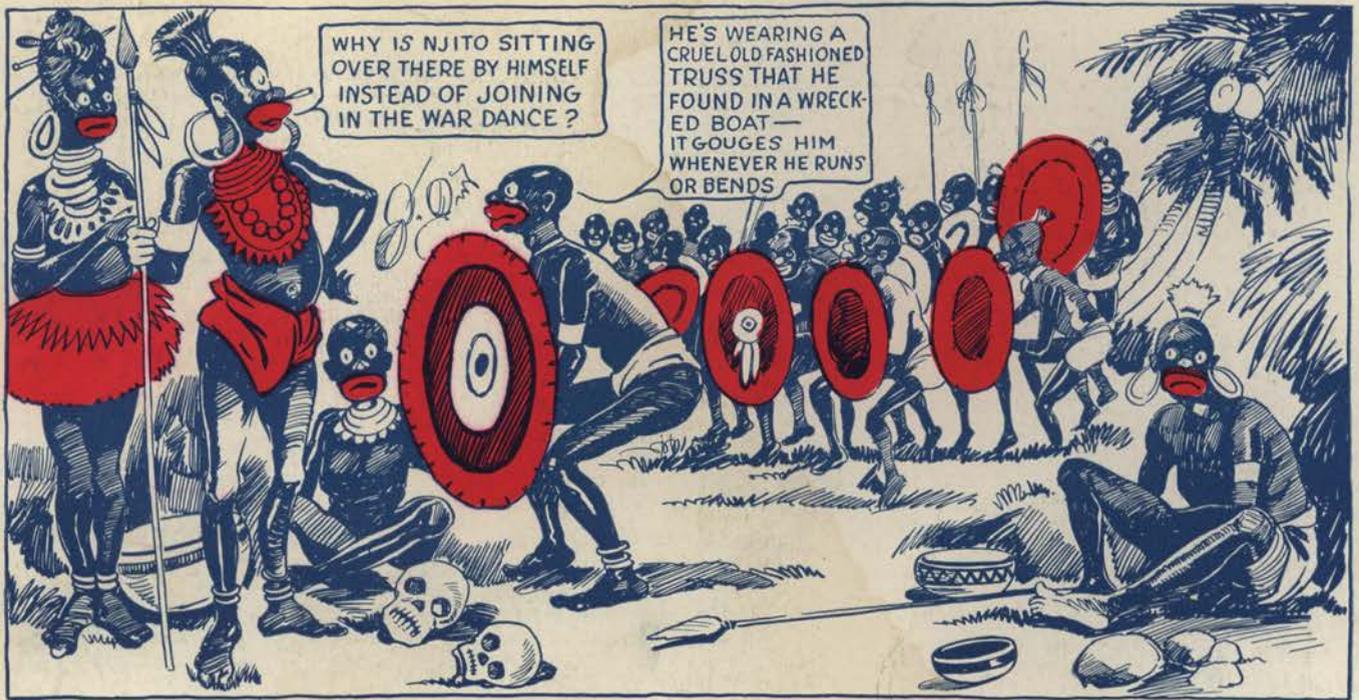
After the companionate relationship was legalized in Holland there was actually an increase in the birth rate. This was because more young people were freed from the psychic fears of unwanted pregnancies with the result that they got married and eventually had some children, just as in this country, if two-thirds of the young men between twenty and thirty who are now unmarried should be guaranteed against unwanted pregnancies of their wives, and the right to limit their families with reference to their economic ability to care for them, more of them would get married, with the absolute certainty that we would have more children, because we had more families; these families would seldom number eight or ten children, but most of them would number one to three children.

Similarly, when a marriage and divorce system very much as I propose for "The House of Human Welfare" in this country, was legally established in the Scandinavian countries, there was a positive strengthening in the permanence of legal marriage, instead of the orgy of free and easy divorce which the critics of "The Companionate Marriage" have predicted.

In the year 1926, in Sweden, there were 29/100 divorces to every thousand of population, in Norway, 21/100, in Denmark, 57/100; while in the United States of America, the figure was 1.52/100. As I have pointed out, they have what is practically a legalized companionate marriage. We have the unlegalized bootleg article. They have decency, we have puritanical hypocrisy and superstition. And the difference in these figures tells the story.

In addition, these enlightened countries have no "obscenity laws" against sex education, contraceptives, and other civilized methods of decent living.

When "The Companionate Marriage" program is accepted, one of the most important fights in history for the rights of women and children will have been won. It calls for the proper understanding and enthusiastic support of the younger generation. And for that I do earnestly appeal; especially to the girlhood and womanhood of America. It will establish the beauty, the glory and the joy of *wanted motherhood*, through real satisfied love in legal marriage, as distinguished from sex in the accidents of its mere physical satisfactions. It will establish the precious rights of helpless unborn children, to be really wanted when loved to life in the yearning arms of mothers. Thus I am now, as I always have been, enlisted in the cause of humanity, and most of all, the most precious part of it—its women and children.



Savages Don't Wear Trusses

**5,000 Surprise Packets FREE..
Exciting Invention!**

WHY don't savages wear trusses? These poor benighted creatures never heard of this "blessing" of civilization. They would likely look with wonder and amusement at "civilized" people wearing pads and cushions that gouge the flesh and never give a moment's peace. They would probably look on such inhuman punishment as some sort of sacrifice which ruptured people were offering up to sacred idols.

If you're not afraid of being shocked—if old ideas haven't got too strong a grip on you—you will be interested in a free book which a scientist will send you. He will tell

you enlightened facts about rupture that will open your eyes. You may be tempted to throw away your old-style truss at once, if you are wearing one. You will be told of an exciting invention that makes possible this amazing new rupture freedom.

This scientist is also giving away 5,000 "surprise packets" containing an actual sample of the material used. No dopes, no freakish form of truss—but a method so simple you will wonder why it has never been so well presented before.

Delay and indecision has never cured or comforted a rupture yet. Rupture may rob you of vigor—clumsy trusses sometimes ruin "in-

sides," possibly beyond the hope of relief. Wearing ox harness is taking an unnecessary chance. Many have worn contraptions for years and are no better. What will you be wearing twenty years from now—or will you send for this free book and free packet at once?

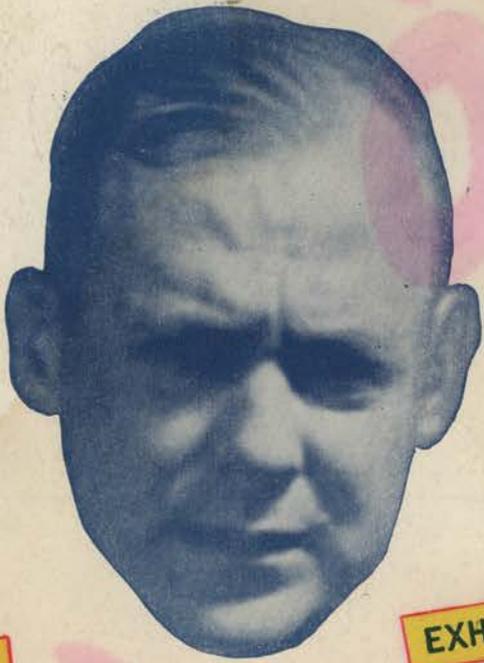
NEW SCIENCE INSTITUTE
6987 Clay St., Steubenville, Ohio

New Science Institute,
6987 Clay St., Steubenville, Ohio.
Send me one of your surprise packets, also your free book of rupture facts. This without obligation to me.

Name.....
Address.....
City.....State.....

131 - 7.50

This Little Gland Robbed Me of Sleep and Health



HEADACHES



SCIATICA



NIGHT RISING



EXHAUSTION

Until I Discovered a New Hygiene for Men Past 40

IT had been coming on for years—this devilish thing called "Prostate Trouble!" I gave it little thought at first, because I figured that all men experienced a certain change about my time in life. That was my big mistake. I thought it was just the breakdown of on-coming age and that I would have to put up with it. I did for a while, but a year later, my condition went from bad to worse at an alarming rate.

These Common Symptoms

My sleep was broken a dozen times every night. In fact, one hour's fitful sleep was a luxury. Pains had developed in my back and legs, and I was chronically constipated. I was run down in body and almost broken in mind—practically an invalid at 58. I talked to scores of men. In fact I talked to practically every man I met or could get to listen. As I look back now I think I was practically insane on the subject.

Faces Surgery

It has been my experience that a majority of men past 60—and a surprising number even at 40—had one of these distressing symptoms, but few men had it as bad as I did. I had seen my doctor, of course. But he could offer me but little relief. I spent hundreds of dollars in an effort to avoid an operation, for I had learned that gland surgery was usually dangerous. This insidious little gland that robbed me of sleep and health now threatened my very life.

The Turning Point

Then I read one of your advertisements. I admit I mailed the coupon without the slightest hope. There probably never was a more skeptical mind than mine. But this simple little act turned out to be the biggest thing in my life.

I can never thank you enough. I am now sixty. I can go to bed at ten o'clock and sleep straight through. My doctor has pronounced me in normal health. My entire body is toned up, and I feel almost like a youngster. I have had no return of the trouble, and now use your pleasant treatment just fifteen minutes a day, over one or two months, just to make sure that I keep my perfect health.

Millions Make This Mistake

When I was at my lowest ebb, I encountered so many prostate sufferers that I know there must be millions of men doctoring for sciatica pains in the back and legs, bladder and kidney weakness, chronic constipation, loss of physical and mental capacity and a host of supposed old age symptoms, *who should probably be treating the prostate gland!* In fact, I learned not long ago that certain medical authorities claim that 65% of men at or past middle age suffer from disorders of this vital gland.

My advice to these men is, not to make

the mistake that I made. Send the coupon for that little book, "The Destroyer Of Male Health." Find out the facts about this little gland, which the book contains. It explains a prominent scientist's discovery of a new home hygiene—explains how, without drugs or surgery, without massage, diet, or exercise, this method acts to reduce the congestion and combat the dangerous symptoms.

Scientist's Book Sent Free

See if these facts apply to you. Learn the true meaning of these common complaints and see why these ailments in men past 40 are so often directly traceable to a swollen prostate. The book, "The Destroyer of Male Health" is sent without cost and without obligation. Simply mail the coupon to

W. J. KIRK, President,
2243 Morris Ave., Steubenville, Ohio.

If you live West of the Rockies, Address The Electro Thermal Co., 305 Van Nuys Building, Dept. 22W, Los Angeles, Cal. In Canada, Address The Electro Thermal Co., Desk 22W, 63 Yonge St., Toronto, Canada.

W. J. Kirk, President,
2243 Morris Ave., Steubenville, Ohio.
Please mail me at once your Free booklet, "The Destroyer of Male Health," and full details about the new home treatment. I am not obligated in any way.

Name.....
Address.....
City..... State.....