

1920 FEBRUARY 1920						
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The Action Free Press

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1928

MIDDLE-AGED

I'm not getting any richer in the sense of minded gold. But the more I get the better off I am. And the more I hold the more I have. For the joy of living depends with the heart, not with the head. And now, I begin to get his hearing again. Oh, I've had my share of trouble, but the life is bitter, cups are filled with laughs now. But the kids are growing up!

I have done with youthful pleasures, but I've turned to old things. And there's nothing like it. There's some interest that it brings me but there's something to be watched for. That's all I can say about it. Some humor to feed, some humor to feed. A friend may be coming, or a task I want to do. That's all I find it living in a world that's ever new.

So I give no sign for pleasure that have lost their charm. But it's not so bad. It's not so bad. I'm no longer young as once I used to be? That my football days are over is a fact. But this life in place of football gives me other joys to live. And I'm happy in the morning with some new delight in store. And I'll swear I'm just as happy as I ever was before.

—Edgar A. Guest.

"Say Dad"

DO THEY LIKE TO BE SICK?



"Dad, Dad, why do people like to be sick?"

"They don't, Dick."

"Oh, yes, they do, Dad! You can't have noticed. They're always bragging it even when they get it. The regular game is with some of mother's friends. Three or four of them draw their chalk up together, and one starts telling how sick she is on Thursday. Another interjects her own trouble, and that was nothing to the spell she had two weeks ago Sunday. Then—"

"I know. Then it's a free-for-all, and everybody talks at once and each remembers what the other has said. This was the nearest death's door, and wonders how the rest can make such a time over their silly little ailments."

"Then you have noticed it, Dad? You said that the doctor's office is a place where they like to talk about it. The best of them are after sympathy and admiration. They hope to hear someone say, 'Poor dear Mrs. Martin, it's certainly rough. Through a frightful ordeal—but how brave she was!' The worst of them are after the thrill that comes to the morbid, when discussing fever and pain and disease and operations. Such persons are abominable, to seek the abnormal in conversation. Some queer quirks in their brains makes them think, 'They're a pest to every decent-minded person who can't avoid their gruesome revelations.'

"It's always the women, Dad?"

"Not always; but men as a class like to be thought strong and healthy. After a serious illness, a man may tell everyone he needs that he came near passing out; but unless he's unmanly, he won't boast of it. The worst of them are after the thrill that comes to the morbid, when discussing fever and pain and disease and operations. Such persons are abominable, to seek the abnormal in conversation. Some queer quirks in their brains makes them think, 'They're a pest to every decent-minded person who can't avoid their gruesome revelations.'

"They hurt themselves, Dad, but they don't hurt us."

"Don't they, though? If I'm swinging down the street some fine crisp morning, and see a man carrying a load, one of those hark-from-the-tomb individuals stops me, and pours into me the story of his life, his health, his family. Really they're slightly deranged, and we must pity them, but those they afflict with their long faces and doleful foreheads deserve more than pity—they they ought to be called pests and abominable."

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