

100-Year-Old Dr. Morrison and His Bride

Miss Barney "Knew the Right Man Would Come Along in Time," and After 72 Years or More of Patient Hopefulness She Married a Centenarian

DR. ANDREW MALCOLM MORRISON is one hundred years old, and this interesting American centenarian has recently taken a bride in Los Angeles, California.

Miss Mary Augusta Barney, the blushing bride, gave her age on the marriage record as at least seventy-two. And then she added:

"I really do not know just how old I am—I stopped thinking about my age so long ago that I have forgotten the milestones of the years."

Whatever is the exact age of the new Mrs. Morrison, she is certainly no silly, giggling young thing. Her mature years of maidenhood have brought her to a very practical, if unromantic, view of matrimony. When asked if she thought that marriage at her time of life would be likely to promise happiness, she replied:

"Oh! I never believed in early marriages."

And the bride showed her cheerful, patient philosophy of life, remarking:

"Being an old maid never bothered me any. I knew the right man would come along in time."

Miss Barney was entirely right—a man did come along at last, after seventy-two years or more.

"But so many years of your allotted span of life," the reporter ventured, "have been lost that might have established you with a happy home and grown-up children, and perhaps grandchildren—or do you and Dr. Morrison expect that even now you will be blessed by—"

"It is ridiculous and insulting," the bride interrupted, "for people to come to us about raising a family. A man asked me to-day what I thought about goat glands and I ordered him out of the house!"

"Would you consider your courtship and marriage with your hundred-year-old husband to be what the novelists call a 'romance'?" the reporter asked.

"I do not believe in all this silly twaddle about romance. Marriage is a partnership, as I view it. We have entered into a covenant because the doctor and I have many interests and tastes in common and we can be mutually helpful to each other. This is a sufficient ground for marriage without the nonsense of romantic unrealities."

"After looking back over the rather wide expanse of years and considering the matrimonial experiences of your friends and relatives, do you consider that 'love matches' are not so durable as the less romantic marriages like your own?" the reporter asked.

"Young man," said the bride, fixing her gaze sternly upon the reporter, who had evidently awakened by this last question a train of thought in her mind, "a woman who dresses herself as most women do to-day, with disgracefully short skirts and immodestly low bodies and scantiness of material that displays every curve, should not resent whatever insult a man might see fit to give her. It is her dress that arouses the state of mind which would give utterance to such thoughts, and the way she flaunts herself leads him to believe that she is looking and longing for just such advances as he makes."

"Serious as is the menace to morals, there is still a graver danger to the health of the race in the way women dress themselves. There is nothing that a woman could do which so quickly and certainly undermines her own health and the vitality of her offspring as the wearing of high French heels. The unnatural tilt at which she must walk throws all the organs of her body out of their true position, and it is this which makes her tire so much more easily than her mother or grandmother did under the same amount of exercise or work. Women nowadays laugh at the little three-cornered shawls that their grandmothers wore, but those little shawls were one of the long-life preservers. They kept the nerve centres at the back of the neck warm and protected the exposed lung area in the back from sudden chills that come when the vitality is a little lowered."

"I feel young," Mrs. Morrison continued, "and I have kept young by forgetting about how old I am. When people begin at twenty to think I must look and act and feel such a way at forty and at fifty and at seventy they give themselves the subconscious suggestion that invariably works out the very conditions they have imagined to themselves, and then they begin to fear and to fight old age, which brings it on faster than ever."

"Women of to-day are burning their lives out in dissipation. They are dissipating their energies, chasing the rainbow of pleasure and fretting over the rule of the tyrant Fashion which they themselves have created."

"I have a great deal to do in the world yet and I expect to live to an advanced age. I do not feel any older than when I was twenty. I have never been married before, but Dr. Morrison is not my first lover. I have been interested in several men in my life, but none who had the

mental attainments and who were as congenial in every way as Dr. Morrison is.

"There is such a strong telepathic communication between the doctor and myself that I have had mental pictures of him thrown on my wall at night when I would be alone and thinking of him. Once I saw him ill and in need of attention, and I immediately went to him and found him in just the condition that the clairvoyant vision depicted."

"My parents and grandparents all lived to be very old. I don't know their exact age, but my grandmothers on both my mother's and my father's side reached the age of ninety. This life to me is simply like a day's span in which there is so much to be done, and I feel sure I will not pass into some other existence until I have completed the work I have mapped out for me here. I am now engaged in helping my husband write his new book on pantherapy, which we both feel sure is going to revolutionize the practice of medicine. We have both studied all the different schools of medicine and have culled the good from each and are putting it into definite form in this volume."

Dr. Morrison, the hundred-year-old super-centenarian, unfolded his philosophy of life with a merry twinkle in his eyes.

"There really is no such thing as dying," the happy bridegroom asserted. "Men let their minds stagnate and this causes the mechanism of their bodies to rust. When the wheels we call lungs, liver and heart become too rusty to function and co-ordinate the machine we call the body becomes unfit for use. It is then that the mind casts it aside and goes through the tedious process of getting another body. Whether it goes on and assumes a celestial body or whether it returns and takes up again another terrestrial body I am not prepared to say, but I know this, from the observation of the law of conservation of energy, man would save an enormous amount of energy and an incalculable amount of time for the life of the race if he would conserve and preserve the body he already has."

"I have kept my mind active and alert through speaking a number of different languages. To remember the vocabularies of Greek, Latin, Hebrew and Sanskrit, and to keep separate in the mind the many similar, but not quite identical, idioms of French, Italian and Spanish, keep the mind polished like a warrior's sword."

"Where the indolent average man lets his mind and body rust out, the successful business or professional man allows too narrow specializing to eat into his mainsprings like an acid. My profession is medicine, but that has not prevented me making a study of music, nor have I allowed it to interfere with my research into occult sciences, astronomy and metaphysics."

"Having a number of different interests keeps the mind poised and balanced. It also prevents insanity and aids digestion by allowing the organs to act automatically, which they do not do when the mind is concentrated on them in fear or worry over what has been eaten."

"One of the very best ways to prolong life is to find something to laugh at every day. Certainly this is not difficult in Los Angeles. If a man could walk up Broadway from First to Eighth street without seeing something in every block to make him smile, I would suggest that he needed the services of either an alienist or an oculist or both."

"Why, if a man cannot find anything else to laugh at let him laugh at his wife's temper; most of us could find a perennial source of mirth in this. Although this is my fourth marriage I have lived most of my one hundred years in single blessedness. My first wife only lived two years and my second wife one year. I have spent much of my life in travel and do not know whether or not I have any living children."

"I have made it a habit of my life not to get mad easily. I entertain kind thoughts toward my fellow men, I eat plain, nutritious food and try to select a balanced diet without too much starch or too much protein at one meal, but I have never made a fad or a fetish of my food. I think most people eat too much and sleep too much. I often read or write until quite late at night and then rise early in the morning. If I feel the need of sleep



Dr. Andrew M. Morrison, the One-Hundred-Year-Old Bridegroom, and His Bride, Who Was Miss Mary Augusta Barney.



A Sixteenth Century Royal Child Marriage for "Reasons of State."

Painted by J. A. Mitchell.

the next day I take a short nap in the afternoon.

"As well and strong as I feel to-day, I do not see any reason why I may not live at least fifty years more. I come of a long-lived race. Both of my parents lived to be over eighty."

"I have known the present Mrs. Morrison a great many years. She attended the University of Kansas, of which I was president, and there we became mutually attached to each other. But we had known each other through correspondence long before that. It is the mating of the mind that unites people. Her interests were identical with mine. She is a skilled musician and teacher of music, she has practised medicine for many years, and she has studied deeply into psychic phenomena. Our mutual knowledge of these

things has established a telepathic communication between us that few could understand."

"History records plenty of youthful marriages, but not many matrimonial ventures of centenarians. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries there were marriages of royal children for reasons of state, and the painting on this page by the artist, J. A. Mitchell, pictures one of them. The shocking child-bride custom of India is, of course, well known and prevails at the present day. The photograph reproduced on this page shows a thirty-five-year-old husband and his seven-year-old wife."

Human experience has shown that marriages within a certain range of age are the best for reasons which are manifest to everybody. In most civilized countries in modern times an age limit is fixed by



A Child Bride of India—the Man Is Thirty-five Years Old and the Little One Beside Him Is His Wife, Seven Years of Age.

law, below which it is not only improper but unlawful for marriage. There is no law fixing the other extreme age beyond which matrimonial contracts are forbidden.

But it often happens that the courts are called upon to intervene where superannuated lovers are about to become bride or groom. As a rule, the objection is made and the courts are called upon, to in-

terfere with the matrimonial plans because of property reasons. In many cases it is alleged that the elderly sweetheart is mentally incompetent or is being victimized by somebody who is trying to wheedle the superannuated but wealthy lover into a match for sordid reasons. This, of course, is not the case in the present instance. While Doctor Morrison is a man of some distinction in his profession and possessed of ample means, no aspersions can be cast upon his romance.

Of course, the Old Testament contains a number of examples of centenarians and over taking to themselves wives. In most of these cases it must be said that the wives were usually much younger than the husbands. There is no Biblical record of a woman becoming a bride when over the allotted span of three-score years and ten. On the other hand, there is a very interesting incident of Abraham and Sarah, who in extreme old age were blessed with offspring.

A very renowned scientist has said that time has nothing whatever to do with youth, middle age, or old age.

The old adage is, that a man is as young as he feels and a woman as old as she looks. The increasing tendency of modern times is toward later marriages, sociologists have recently pointed out. History shows that child-marriages are not very successful or desirable—it will be interesting to see how the centenarian marriage of Dr. Morrison and his bride turns out.

