By Mrs. K. Gladys (Bonner) Clappison

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. K. Gladys Clappison holds B.S. and M.A. degrees as well as being a registered public health nurse. A grandmother, she is now taking some special course work here at Iowa State College. She was one of Iowa’s pioneers in the field of marriage counseling.

IN IOWA, THESE ARE TEN LEGAL STEPS BEFORE MARRIAGE:
1. The man must be sixteen; the girl, fourteen years of age.
2. The couple must be capable of making a contract.
3. They must not be blood relation, and in some cases not related by marriage (affinity). First cousins may not marry.
4. There must be a blood test, proof to be presented when the application for a license is made that each is free from syphilis.
5. If under age, permission must be given by the parents or guardian. If parents are divorced, the one having custody gives permission.
6. The license to marry is obtained from the clerk of the district court in the county where the ceremony is to take place.
7. A blank is attached to the license that is to be filled out by the one who solemnizes the marriage and is returned within fifteen days. It is the husband’s responsibility to see that this is done.
8. The ceremony must take place within twenty days of the issuance of the license. If not, it becomes void.
9. The clerk must require at least one affidavit from a disinterested person that the couple are competent to contract a marriage. If the clerk knows the couple, he may file such a certificate himself. Taking a witness with you prevents any difficulty.
10. The ceremony may be conducted by a justice of the peace, mayor, judge or some minister of the gospel, ordained and licensed according to his denomination.

The couple will each be granted a marriage certificate. These should be regarded as very valuable papers.

EVERYWHERE – THESE ARE TEN DESIRABLE STEPS BEFORE MARRIAGE
1. The couple should be mature enough to be able to meet the responsibilities marriage brings — and they are many.
2. A mate should be wisely chosen. Let your “head rule your heart.” Romantic love is not the only criterion of a sound basis for a marriage.
3. Plan wisely. “Know your partner around the calendar.” Choose someone of similar background. Your good marriage will depend upon companionship, adaptability and determination to succeed.
4. Have a complete physical examination. If an abnormal condition is found, have necessary treatments. Tuberculosis, a kidney condition, or a heart ailment will complicate pregnancy.

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Pre-Marital Examination
On Up-Swing
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Gonorrhea, another venereal disease, is very devastating in marriage. It may cause sterility, blindness in the new-born, operations, and systemic conditions. Like tuberculosis, it is often found in the young age groups. More than 52% of the cases are in the 15-20 age group. Diabetes, often undetected, is a treatable condition. It comes under the Mendelian law of inheritance; two diabetics marry, all their children will be diabetics. Know your family histories.

5. More and more mothers are taking their daughters to a gynecologist for an examination and advice before marriage. This may forestall trouble in the marriage relation.

6. Approval of the marriage by both the families is highly desirable. This may forestall much of the in-law trouble that wrecks marriages.

7. A course of study in family relations, the reading of some of the excellent literature in this field, and consultation with a marriage counselor will help you immeasurably in your adjustments.

8. Although marriage can be solemnized by a civil official, the ceremony done by a minister emphasizes the sacramental nature of the vows. Many ministers are excellent marriage counselors as well.

9. A married woman, in most states, retains full rights to any property that she may own. "The best dowry a bride can bring to marriage is the habit of happiness," says a leading counselor.

10. A good marriage doesn't just happen. It is not as much a matter of "falling in love" as it is "growing in love." This includes shared interests, prevention of conflicts that embitter, having children and growing in maturity in many areas. Time is an important test. May you, June bride and groom, have a good marriage—one that will stand the test of time.

Television to Play Part
In Education
(Continued from page 6)

Current statistics show that the population of the world will have soared to an all-time high in the next twenty-five years, and it is assumed that the country will become very education-minded. There will probably be many more children who attend colleges and universities. Because of the crowded classroom conditions and lack of teachers, many classes will be conducted over television, and so it is quite possible that your child may get part of his education from television programs, in addition to attending classes. The trend in education will be more towards personality development, preparation for a career and perspective.

These changes will definitely cause many problems in addition to all of the conveniences they will bring. It is up to you, as a home economist, to prepare yourself today for this coming era in modern living.

God, who is in every place, sees you...
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will it be said, that you were hurried in the dust of your sins. And remember, my daughter, that, though no man shall see you, nor your husband ever know what happens, God, who is in every place, sees you, will be angry with you, and will also excite the indignation of the people against you, and will be avenged upon you as he shall see fit.

My dear daughter, whom I tenderly love, see that you live in the world in peace, tranquility, and contentment, all the days that you shall live. See that you disgrace not yourself, that you stain not your honor, nor pollute the lustre and fame of your ancestors. See that you honor me and your father, and reflect glory on us by your good life.

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