

Prohibition Cocktails

A Series of New Apéritifs, Minus Apt Alcohol's Artful Aid

BY ELSIE JANIS

PROHIBITION has cast its sombre shadow across our bright young lives, and Vanity Fair was one of the first to realize that something must be done about it. It could not bear the thought of that dry and dreary time when life, like Heaven, would be one long Sundae; when a Bronx would mean only a remote province of New York, and an Orange Blossom would be just something a bride wore. No, things could never reach that stage—someone must step in and save the day; someone must invent a new series of cocktails, each innocuous enough to be far within the law, yet each with its distinct and unmistakable exhilaration.

Of course, it would take a genius to do it. Vanity Fair quite realized that. So it went directly to Elsie Janis, and asked her to make life worth living again. She was finishing a vaudeville engagement, hunting up some new imitations, and writing a dozen new songs, so she had plenty of time to dash off a few recipes for stimulating but non-alcoholic cocktails. And here they are!

The "Engagement" Cocktail

This is extremely intoxicating, especially at first. The after-effects, however, are sometimes inclined to be rather unpleasant. Never mix with breach-of-promise, the most expensive drug known to science.

One quarter gambling instinct. (*The "Try-anything-once" brand.*)

One half propinquity. (*The "desert island" sort is, of course, the strongest, but if that is unobtainable the winter resort kind will do.*)

One dash of impulse. (*This always figures largely on the witness stand.*)

Two drops of moonlight. (*Will go directly to the head of even the most hardened.*)

One pinch of madness. (*Any ill effects are always blamed on this.*)

A heaping spoonful of flattery. (*It is advisable to put in as much of this as possible, as the supply may cease when marriage sets in.*)

A dash of innocence may be added, if desired, although many experienced epicures believe that it makes for insipidity.

The "First Marriage" Cocktail

This brew is, unfortunately, never without its morning after. One should drink the cocktail while it is still effervescing.

Two parts youth. (*Any kind of youth from seventeen to seventy-seven, inclusive.*)

One part love. (*Since this does not come under the Pure Food and Drug Act, great care must be taken to see that it is not adulterated.*)

One dash of curiosity. (*This is becoming scarcer among women every day. Will soon only be found in women under ten.*)

One large measure of faith. (*This may dissolve rather abruptly.*)

Two drops of illusion. (*Very old stock, vintage of the early '70's.*)

The "Divorce" Cocktail

As with olives, caviar, and aesthetic dancing, one must cultivate a taste for these cocktails. Give the drinker a delightful sensation of freedom.

Two fingers of monotony. (*Domestic kind.*)

One large piece of selfishness, divided in two.

One dash of regret. (*The "Oh-Why-Didn't-I-Marry-Alfred" brand.*)

Let these ferment a while, then shake.

Remove all grounds.

Add two measures of collusion—but don't let anyone see you adding it.

Drop in one co-respondent and one thin piece of evidence, squeezed dry.

Add slices of alimony to suit station in life.

The "Second Marriage" Cocktail

This should be taken only after the effect of the other cocktails has worn off. If desired, use a "Second Divorce" cocktail as a chaser.

Two parts sophistication. (*A sophistication which must be at least thirty years old.*)

One part bank account. (*The length of the drink depends entirely upon size of the account.*)

One dash of common sense. (*The cocktail will not be a success without it.*)

A spoonful of experience. (*This adds a slightly bitter flavor.*)

Two drops of sense of humor. (*No more than two drops, on any account. It is a dangerous commodity. If there were more of it in the world nobody would marry at all.*)