

III a (Contd.)

violent protest or shook their heads doubtfully.

Well, dear Anne, you want to know ,how it has worked. After nearly ten years of married life,I should be able to speak ~~eg~~ on the question of "intermarriage".- First of all I have to admit- which I would not have done 10 years ago- that ~~it~~ is a problem ! In my personal case,it has worked well for a number of reasons. But in a great many cases it did not. I know about 40 cases of intermarriages between European girls with Indians.Only very few cases can be called really happy, several of them are definitely unhappy,some of them having ended in separation, the majority seems indifferent. On the whole-you will notice-the same picture as ~~is~~ when you think of any 40 couples you know. The percentage of really happy marriages among them will be the same,I suppose. But the effort ~~needed~~ to achieve this happiness seems to me to be greater in a marriage between a European girl and an Indian man.

The reason for this is not, I think, the racial difference. After all, what is this difference,but the colour of one's skin?- It is more the difference in language,in religion, in background. But all these differences can exist in many inter-national marriages between Europeans too.And even when two people of the same country marry,they often come from different worlds-especially if ~~the~~ social status of their parents is different.- The student we knew who married a working class girl-you remember?- the lady doctor who married a simple farmer-whom she had met in Italy, both took a greater risk than I did in marrying a man of a different race.

No, the reason,why I think it requires more effort to achieve success in marriage with an Indian husband,is the peculiar attitude of any Indian husband towards his wife-be she Indian or foreign. An Indian husband takes his wife for granted. You know,perhaps, that since time immemorial marriages always have been arranged in India and it has not been left to the young people to find each other themselves.

An Indian man has not to woo his bride,he gets her on his wedding day,carefully chosen by his parents. There is no preceding courtship, no endeavour necessary, he gets his wife when his parents think it to be the right time, without any effort on his part. Even to-day love-marriages,in our sense of the word, are extremely seldom.

If the parents are very modern they allow the young couple to meet-of course only in the presence of members of the family and have a look at each other,before the final vows are taken.-And once ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ the Indian young man has got his wife-without any effort- she is his for ever, as there is no divorce in Hindoo law. So,again, there is no effort necessary to hold his wife, to keep her affection alive-she has to stay with him for ever.-