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Look At It This Way: Questions Youth Are Asking Today

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Look at It This Way

Questions Youth Are Asking Today

Mervyn Maxwell

AGE AND BACTERIOPHAGE

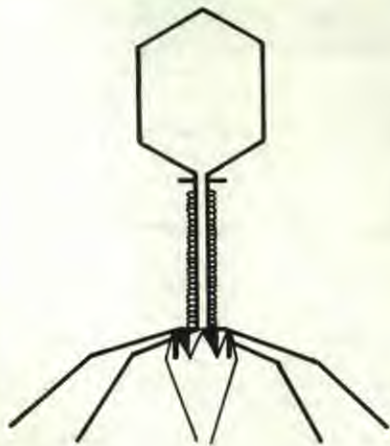
I was a youth some 60 or 70 years ago. Now I'm 80. A friend gave me a copy of your booklet, "Man, What a God!" I found it very interesting, especially your brief description of the T4 bacteriophage virus. I'd like to know a LOT more about it. I'll be glad to send a substantial deposit to guarantee return of any publications you could send me. Or perhaps you can refer to works that might be in my local city library. Thanks in advance.

Your best introduction to the fascinating T4 bacteriophage is an article in *Scientific American*, February, 1965. Subsequent issues have carried further information. Almost any city or high school library should have *Scientific American*.

Incidentally, this is what one of these friendly little bacterium eaters looks like, magnified 300,000 times by an electron microscope.

You've got billions of them inside you.

So has everyone else who reads this column, young or old.



NO HANDS FOR BEGINNERS

I'm 14, and yet my mother is so old-fashioned she tells me it's a sin even to hold hands. What does she think I am, a baby? It's so silly.

If you really were a baby, it would be OK for you to hold hands with a boy!

My earliten picked up this burst of wisdom at school yesterday: It's good to shop around before you settle down—but remember, when you're shopping, don't handle things. If you mess them up, you know who has to pay.

Maybe even window shopping is the safest way to begin.

COMMUNION FOR CHILDREN

At Communion my little boy cries for the bread and wine. He makes such a fuss that it spoils the service for me and, I am sure, for everyone else. Several of us young mothers who have the same problem were discussing it at our Home Improvement Class today. We decided to ask you: first, do children need to wait till baptism before partaking of the bread and wine; second, if they do, how can we explain this to them?

The Scripture says very seriously that a person should "examine himself," and then partake of the bread and wine worthily, "discerning the Lord's body." 1 Corinthians 11: 28, 29.

Just as children should be old enough to "believe" in Christ personally before they are baptized (Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:18-20), so they should also be old enough to "discern" Christ's death on the cross before participating in the Lord's Supper.



So what can you do? For tiny babies, have their bottle handy or a small crumbless cookie. For slightly older children, keep a special soft toy just for this occasion. Still older children should have the service explained to them by their parents the day before. Of course, all children should hear the story of Jesus told and discussed over and over again at home from the first dawning of their intelligence onward.