

WOMAN'S SPHERE



Edited By
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WOMEN do not attack men's will.
They throw spells over their judgment.
—*Amelia Barr.*

Give most men a good listener and most women enough note-paper and they'll tell all they know.—*George Lorimer.*

THE discussion over the influence of books still waxes more or less (and more often less) merrily on. There is something, of course, to be said on both sides, but most of us will stand by one of our sex, Miss Agnes Repplier, in the views set forth in her recently published book of essays, "Compromises." In attacking the seemingly prevalent belief that books have a controlling—in fact, *the* controlling influence in the lives of our young people, she takes as a text Carlyle's acid sentence: "Not the wretchedest circulating library novel which foolish girls thumb and con in remote villages but will help to regulate the actual practical weddings and households of these foolish girls." She answers sternly: "More than this it would be impossible to say, and few of us, I think, would be willing to say as much. The idea is too oppressive to be borne. . . . Personally, I believe that a foolish girl is more influenced by another foolish girl, to say nothing of a foolish boy, than by all the novels on the library shelves." The writer remembers a time, dozens of years ago, when she was a "foolish" girl herself. She was eagerly reading "John Halifax, Gentleman." John was a good boy, he was a noble man, and

this foolish girl adored him. Yet another foolish girl—a not-much-loved foolish girl, either—came along and dared her to take a bite out of a cake of N. P. washing soap. And the first foolish girl did. Now, John would never have taken the dare. It would have been stronger to resist it, especially as the N. P. soap was not good to eat. And this foolish girl, remember, adored John, and knew him like a book. Only once do we read of his allowing himself to swear, and that was when he could not help it; but if he had known this foolish girl, and had been aware that she adored him, perhaps he would have let go of himself again.

Well, we have heard of mothers washing out their little boys' mouths when they have been saying bad words, and we can think of nothing more effective than N. P. washing soap.

• B. J. T.

DOMESTIC ROCKS PAPER III

THIS brief paper will deal with family fault-finding, or what might be called the *don't's* in the home. Of course every home knows the sound of this word; and, while it is a very good and necessary word at times to keep the baby from falling over the balcony, etc., used too often it becomes extremely hackneyed, and, like any other abused and overworked animal, it finally gets its back up and refuses to do its work.

"I never think of minding mother,"