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Side Talks by Ruth Cameron

WHO WORKS THE HARDEST—MAN OR WIFE?

Which works harder in the average family, the man or the woman?
A Letter Friend asks me to discuss this question. She says they have had rather heated discussions of it in her own family and she would like to hear my opinion.

She did not tell me which side her husband took in the debate. It is awfully difficult to guess, isn't it?
Well, here is one more chance to prove my sex to my doubters.

The Wife II—

If by an average family we understand a family in which there are several children, the wife does not keep help, and the husband holds a position in which he does not have to work more than nine hours a day and does not do work of an extraordinarily responsible or exhausting nature (I can see where all my masculine readers file their exceptions on that basis) I think the wife works infinitely harder.

Come to think of it, that needs one more qualification, and that is if the wife really fills her position as mother and homemaker and does not merely muddle along anyhow, shuffling off all the duties she can. Of course if a woman lets her children run the streets, dirty and untrained, if she buys delicatessen food and shoddy ready made clothes which with her husband's salary she cannot possibly afford, if she lets her house go, she may not work as hard as her husband.

The Real Mother Has An Endless Job.

But if she tries to train and discipline and mother the children, if she keeps her house in order, feeds her household nourishing and appetizing food, and does some sewing, I doubt if she gets anywhere near the time to herself that a husband working nine or ten hours a day has.

In the old days the poet sang "Man's work is from sun to sun, woman's work is never done." Man no

longer works from sun to sun but there is many a family in which woman's work is never done.

And however hard he works on week days the average man has one blessed day absolutely to himself, nothing to do but rest and recreate himself for another week's toil.

How much change and rest does Sunday bring to the average woman? How would it seem to her to have once a week a day in which she did not get a meal or dress a child, nor make a bed?

Let the man who contends men work harder consider this.

But Don't Forget This.

On the other hand, I am not going to leave the case entirely with the plaintiff. Before I close I want to bring up two or three facts on the defendant's side. You will notice that in putting the case I said "the woman with several small children." Now children cannot remain small forever. Some of them must eventually reach an age where, if properly trained, they will contribute their help to the household. Eventually most of them must grow up and leave the home nest. To most women, after the age of 40, 45 or 50, there come easier days. But the husband can scarcely hope for any shortening of hours, any change in his working day unless he is 60, 65 or 70.

Again, men have the ultimate responsibility of supplying the financial wherewithal for the family and the anxiety and strain that this feeling imposes far often a heavier part of man's burden than the average woman realizes.

Two Curious Fishes.

A Danish naturalist recently described two special kinds of fishes whose habits he had been studying in various parts of the world. The first was what he called a "singing" fish, although he admitted that this description was a trifle too poetical. This fish, which is to be found in several of the rivers of South America, is able to produce certain sounds which are distinctly musical, although they cannot be called notes. The "swim" of these fishes is provided

with a number of minute fibres, which beat against the interior surface of the swim and cause it to vibrate—after the fashion of a drumstick beating the parchment—and produce these curious musical sounds. Then there is a "climbing" fish, or anabas, a native of the islands of the Malay Archipelago. The credit of discovering this fish is apparently due to a Swedish naval officer, but its habits have been studied by several naturalists. Although prepared for a strange sight, the scientist could not repress a feeling of astonishment when he saw the anabas apparently walking along the branch of a tree, in close proximity to a squirrel and a bird. Climbing up the tree—a palm—he caught the fish and found that the tail and some of the fins were furnished with sharp spikes or thorns, with the ends turned to form hooks. It is thus a comparatively easy matter for the anabas to climb a tree. The question at once arises: "How does it manage to remain so long out of its native element?" An examination of its mouth revealed a strange apparatus, hermetically closed; the fish fills this with water, and is thereby enabled to breathe by moistening its gills. So long as the water lasts, the fish can remain on the tree.

Making Speech Visible.

A wonderful new invention called the Lioregraph enables one to make accurate vibrations of sound in articulated speech. The instrument is worked by motor power.

When a vowel sound is uttered the room becomes full of vibrations, and each different sound gives vibrations of a different shape. In the presence of the Lioregraph a person saying "Ah" would record upon paper a wobbly, symmetrical line. The principal involved is similar to that of the phonograph, but, by means of delicate mechanism, the effects of speech are enlarged an enormous number of times.

It is believed that with this new invention, aided by mathematical formulae already in use, it will be possible ultimately to read and translate any foreign or unknown tongue of which these lines are the record.

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Making Volcanoes Work

It is proposed that the heat from Kilauea, a volcano on the island of Hawaii, shall be made to provide electric light and power for every part of the island. This volcano has a perpetually active crater, and is an awe-inspiring spectacle for tourists.

A request has been addressed to the Legislature of Hawaii asking for the appropriation of \$25,000, which, with a like amount from the Hawaiian Volcano Research Association, will be used for borings and other preliminary work. It is hoped that sulphur, copper, and other materials may be recovered from the gases of the crater, while it may be found possible to use the power generated to extract nitrogen from the air.



IF I WERE RICH.

"If I were rich," said my Uncle Jim, And many a lesson I've learned from him, "I'd spend a part of my golden pool Sending a few poor boys to school, And never could Iolly lay me flat Or ruin my future for doin' that."

"If I were rich, with a heap of gold I'd warm a few houses that now are cold, I'd give away what I didn't need, But look for some invalid to read, Or scatter a little happiness An' that wouldn't ruin my life I guess."

"If I were rich I would keep away From the scarlet haunts where the lights are gay, An' where some buy shame I would try to buy A grateful look in a mother's eye, With the extra coin which I had to spend Somehow I'd willingly play the friend."

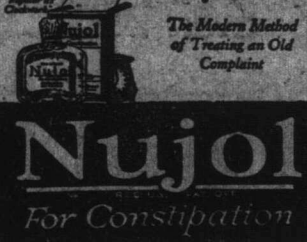
"A fool is he," said my Uncle Jim "Who lets his money bring shame to him. He can scatter it here in a thousand ways Which would bring him glory an' words of praise, An' his gold, if only he understood, Is his greatest chance for the greatest good."

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WANTED—A Marine Novelist.

VANCOUVER.—(Canadian Press.)—There is inspiration for a Stevenson yarn on a lonely sandbar off the coast of Oregon to-day, where the wreck of the freighter Canadian Explorer wallows in the sea, settling by inches into a grave of her own digging. A dozen men chosen by the salvagers for their record as sailors, toll through all the day light hours to recover as much of her cargo and gear as possible before the sea claims its victim. And the story of their pluck and perseverance is inspiring. When she sailed the sea the Canadian Explorer was worth a sum running into six figures. On August 2 last, three days after striking the Willapa Spit, eight miles from the Oregon Coast, the Canadian Government's Merchant Marine Freighter broke clean in half and was deserted aboard in the teeth of heavy seas. The wreck was sold, lock, stock and barrel, for \$25,000 to the Premier Lumber Company, which sent Percy A. Sills from Vancouver with a crew of salvagers under the command of Capt. J. C. Jensen, a seasoned coast-wise skipper, five weeks ago to glean what they could from the wreck. They found the after part of the ship impossible of salvage. The forward half has been stripped of cargo, a steering engine, anchors, winches, fourteen tons of anchor chains, cargo booms, and two lifeboats, and even a compass has been recovered. Wreckers had taken salvage to the value of \$25,000 before the legal salvagers arrived. Much of this has been recovered. One man was caught in the act of drawing out a very long wire cable, which he was winding about his deckhouse as it came aboard his tug. The cable led him fast while the police boat came alongside and served him a summons for theft. The work has taken five weeks and will be abandoned in a few days. Next spring the salvage company may attempt to float the forward half of the vessel, unless she settles too far into the sand. When Capt. Jensen and his men first went aboard, they took a donkey engine, which was swung into place with the Exporter's derrick and winches. Steam was supplied through flexible pipes connected with the tug boats alongside. Now they generate their own steam. Fresh water for men and engines is carried in a lifeboat towed daily from shore eight miles away. The lumber which comprised the bulk of the cargo was bound with wire ropes, cast adrift and allowed to drift shoreward, where it was picked up by fishboats. Lifeboats supplied by the United States stand by day and night. The salvage undertakings is considered very hazardous in view of the position of the hulk. Those who have visited the spit since the Explorer stranded, mention particularly the weird noises which proceed from the wreck day and night. As the great waves roll over her, forcing air through the ventilators, it is easy to fancy the bulk peopled with noisy demons. Anchor chains rattle and timbers groan, and the little band of sailors work and sleep in a constant din of whistles, groans and shrieks. When the wreck broke in half her siren blared by some freak of displaced air. Like echoes of that uncanny cry, weird cries from the ship in the throes of disintegration disturb the wonted silence on Willapa Spit. There are humorous interludes in the work of salvage. John Heino, a Finlander, has strength to burn, but his fellow-workers were tickled to see him plunge into the sea to recover his hat one day. It was a bad sea at ebb tide and the tossing raft threatened to crush him against the hulk. But he recovered his hat. "That's a dam good hat" he explained as he came ashore.

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Corticelli Wools.

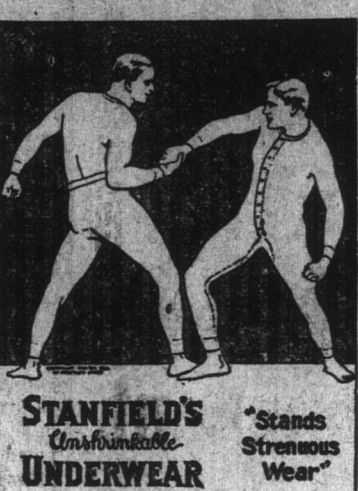
Just opened another shipment of Corticelli Wool, comprising the following shades: Mauve, Golf Green, Dark Reseda, Navy, Deep Rose, Cardinal and Purple. Special Price, per ball 25c.

Children's Ribbed Hose.

To fit ages 4 to 14 years. These you can have in either Black or Dark Tan; made specially for present fall wear. Don't fail to see this line. Sale Price, pair 25c.

Children's Gloves.

Just arrived a lot of Children's Gloves in sizes 3 to 6. These come in Cream, White, Navy, Brown and Black, fleece lined. Good value. Sale Price, per pair 30c.



Men's Wool Singlets.

A line of Men's Wool Singlets in Stanfield's Green Label make. These are slightly soiled; sizes 36 to 44; shirts only. Special Price, garment \$1.85

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