

families in every walk of life. Visitors from other countries are often surprised to find that the wives of many cabinet ministers, top civil servants and highly paid executives do their own "housework". In some cases, women wishing to entertain rely on persons paid by the hour to cook and serve a meal or cater for a reception.

The "baby sitter" has taken the place of the nurse maid of the past. High school and college students of both sexes, older women, or housewives, who want to earn a few dollars a week without being tied down, will come to a house and stay with the children when the parents want to go out. Many "baby sitters" are only willing to sit in the living room reading, doing lessons or watching television. Others, for an extra wage, will wash dishes, mend, and sometimes cook and take over for a week-end. In most cities, a home-maker's service is available in case of illness and visiting nurses will also come to the house when necessary.

The housewife's job has also been made easier by the "shopping centre". Even quite new suburban communities are now being served by especially built centres which usually include a self-service food store, a bank, a hair-dresser, a dry cleaner, a druggist, and often a branch of a big department store. These centres usually have large parking lots which mean that many housewives rarely need to go into the heart of the city.

The shopping centre has become a social meeting place, rather like the village well in Asia or the back fence in small towns, at which busy women talk together for a few minutes. This is particularly true of the cash-and-carry chain store where the shoppers themselves select the merchandise they want to buy. A large variety of food is carefully packaged and displayed on convenient shelves in these large "super-markets". Wire express wagons, often with a seat for a baby, are supplied at the door. Women wheel them around helping themselves to cereals, canned goods, frozen fish and vegetables, milk, cheese, and a great variety of cake and biscuit mixes. Large meat counters hold all cuts of meat already weighed and wrapped in cellophane but butchers are also in attendance to supply special demands. Improved storage and transportation methods make it possible for Canadian housewives to have a supply of fresh vegetables and fruits throughout the year.

#### Education

Canadian women in increasing numbers are seeking a higher education. In the universities the number of women graduates has quadrupled since 1919, while the number of male graduates has increased only two and a half times. University women are still specializing in the subjects which have, in the past, been favoured by their sex. In 1954, 47 per cent of them graduated in arts and letters and 42 per cent took degrees in household science, social work, education or nursing. It is of interest to note, however, that women students were increasingly numerous in courses such as medicine, pharmacy, law and commerce, once considered the exclusive preserve of men.

#### At Work

Most Canadian women expect to work when they finish their formal education. During the past fifty years there has indeed been a dramatic increase in the number of Canadian women who hold paid jobs. In 1901, only one out of every