

hot water, and that makes another big cut-off in hard work. There are numerous sanitary appliances for the home, all of which make life easier and pleasanter, and allow more time for other work.

SOME WOMEN ARE CONSERVATIVE.

Then why is it women in town and country have always, everywhere, the same old story to tell—too much hard work in the home, on the farm particularly? Why is it that experts and specialists are working and thinking to find some way to make house-work less of a bug-bear to the average woman?

There are several answers to the question. One is, that until recently, women have not thought it possible, or worth while trying to make house-work easier. Some of them think that way still. They have been using their grandmother's brains all these years instead of their own. They have been following her methods in spite of the fact that times have changed and new conditions have made many of these methods obsolete.

The second reason is, because living has been getting more complicated year by year, until now something must be done to make it even passably livable for this and future generations.

A third difficulty in the way of progress is that comparatively few women have taken the trouble to systematize housework, or to think enough about the importance of any branch of it to decide whether it is wiser to continue it, or to eliminate it from the regular routine of daily or weekly duties.

A fourth difficulty—and it is the saddest of all—is that many women are exceedingly conservative and absolutely refuse to change their methods, or to adopt appliances for lightening labor, even if they have been proved to be genuine labor-saving devices.

A final reason for lack of progress in housekeeping methods is one for which the men are chiefly responsible. They hold the purse strings, and sometimes they positively refuse to unloosen them for anything in which they cannot see a direct advantage to themselves. Nine times out of ten this last reason exists because of lack of education, lack of thought, lack of forehandedness, and sometimes a bad "bringing up" for which women were largely responsible.