

INTERESTING

A Feature Page of Interest to Everyone

INSTRUCTIVE

Dorothy Dix

Mother Works Ninety Hours a Week to Father's Forty-eight and Could Get at Least \$39 for Her Services Outside the Home—So, Friend Husband, Don't Grudge Her Pocket Money She Earns.

WHAT is a wife worth?

According to Holy Writ the price of a good wife is above rubies, and certainly no man who has ever been blessed with one will dispute the valuation.

No money can pay for the love and tenderness that never fails; for the loyalty that makes of a wife a haven of refuge to which a man may turn when all the world is against him; for the devotion that sticks to him through sickness and poverty, and even through disgrace.

No money can pay for the constant thought, the study of his comfort, the little sacrifices, the invariable putting of his pleasure and happiness before her own, that a good wife gives her husband.

These finer things of wifehood can only be paid for in the golden coin of appreciation. But there is also a very material side to wifehood, whose value can be computed in dollars and cents, and it is to this that I wish to call the attention of men.

DOROTHY DIX

Particularly do I desire to call to the attention of those gentlemen who puff out their chests vaingloriously when they speak of "supporting" their wives, and who seem to think that matrimony is a gain for women, and that their wives who have nothing to do but stay at home, and do their housework, and bring up their children, lead lives of sybaritic ease.

According to the census report, only one family out of thirty-one in this country keeps any sort of a domestic servant. That throws all the work of the remaining households upon the wife and mother, and a student of home economics has recently prepared the following table, showing the number of hours the housewife labors, and what she would earn in actual cash if she were a hireling, instead of a wife and mother, whose labors are given gratis to her family.

In a week the average housewife spends: Thirty hours in cooking and dishwashing, which would be cheap at \$10. Laundry work, twelve hours, \$4. Sewing and mending, six hours, \$3. Housecleaning, fourteen hours, \$7.50. Managing and marketing, seven hours, \$7. Care of children, twenty-one hours, \$7.50.

According to this scale, the housewife spends ninety hours a week working for her family, and earns \$69 at the task. This is computing her services on an unskilled-labor basis, although in actuality the woman may be a blue-ribbon cook who could get a chef's wages in any kitchen except her own, and an expert cultivator, besides being a miracle worker, who can get so much out of a dollar that she would be the Secretary of the Treasury if she had her just deserts.

Nor does it make any allowance for the wife's services as a sick nurse. Yet there are few families in which a five or seven-dollar-a-day trained nurse would not have to be called in several times a year if the wife did not see to it on the job. Neither does it take into account a wife's social services, the work she does as hostess, and her labors in making friends who are valuable to her husband in his business. Yet the price of press agents comes high.

MOREOVER, the wife job is one that has no holidays, nor time off on Sundays, in which it differs from that of the average man, who works from forty-four to forty-eight hours a week in contrast to his wife's ninety-hour week.

These figures will doubtless be surprising to many husbands who feel that all that their wives are entitled to their board and clothes, and that it is preposterous for them to expect to be given a few dollars a week to spend as they please.

They never look upon wives as working women who are entitled to a pay envelope on Saturday night. Still less do they think of themselves as the manliest sort of slave drivers—domestic Simon Legrees—when they refuse to give their wives even a small percentage of the money they have earned with such faithful and exhausting labors.

Yet there are many men, who consider themselves honest and honorable, and who even delude themselves into believing that they are good husbands, who practice this sort of peonage on their wives.

BEFORE they were married they talked in a large and generous way to the girls about being courting about their sharing everything when they were married. They swore at the altar to endow their wives with all their worldly goods, but after they were married the wives found that they could not collect on those rosy promises. They found that they had been slaughtered into matrimony, and that they were expected to work without wages.

There are thousands upon thousands of women married to well-to-do men who never have a single dollar of their own. Sometimes they have charge accounts at the best stores, and can buy whatever fancy thing they want, but they have no money in their purses, and they have to give an itemized account of every cent that passes through their hands. They have no money that comes to them as their own right, with which they can gratify a personal taste, or help their poor relatives if they desire to do so.

IS IT any wonder that such women, knowing that they have earned a good salary, and that they are being cheated out of the wages that rightfully belong to them, come to hate the husbands who are so unfair to them, and feel themselves justified in padding bills, and going through their husband's pockets? Many a man's penuriousness makes a liar and a thief of his wife.

It is only after the average man's wife dies that he realizes she was a financial asset instead of a liability. When he has to pay some other woman the wages of cook, and nurse maid, and governess, and housekeeper, and seamstress, and shopper, he begins to reflect that perhaps his dead, dead Maria did earn her board and keep, after all.

ONE of the reasons why widowers so often are in a hurry to remarry is because they discover that a wife's labor is scab labor, and that she is the only worker in the world who doesn't have to be paid.

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Menus for the Family. MENU MINT. Breakfast: Malted Oats, Milk and Sugar, Hot Rolls, Coffee. Luncheon: Vegetable Soup, Bread and Butter, Celery, Apple Sauce, Cookies. Dinner: Sauages and Potatoes, Creamed Carrots, Swiss Chard, Bread and Butter, Tea, Peach Pudding.

TODAY'S RECIPES. Sauages and Potatoes—Make your sausage in little cakes, then in a greased roaster put a few potatoes, cut in

Things The Flapper Needs

A FEW OF THE NEW FLAPPER ACCESSORIES. WHAT DICKY LOOKIN' PRACELETS I WONDER HOW YOU GO ABOUT GETTING A PAIR LIKE THAT? SHORT SKIRTS ARE O.K.—PUT NOT SHORT SLEEVES—ONE'S ARMS MUST BE PROTECTED! A "DOW" AT THE NECK—CAPE SHOULD BE TAKEN IN THE SELECTION OF MATERIAL! DOWNS "OUT" ALMOST INDISPENSIBLE AT TIMES—AND IT USUALLY WORKS. SAVE PRACELETS GET NOVELTY INTO YOUR COLLECTION.

DAILY MOVIE SERVICE

Mickey Goes East After More Cinema Honors

NINE-YEAR-OLD Mickey Bennett, who two years ago scored a hit by his performance in Paramount's production, "Big Brother," is in New York to play one of the principal roles in W. C. Fields' first starring effort, "It's the Old Army Game." The child actor will play Jimmy, nephew and chief tormentor of the star in the J. F. McEvoy story based on the author's "Comic Supplement," which Edward Sutherland will start next week. Mickey comes of a theatrical family. He first appeared on the stage at the age of four and a half years in Morris Beza's "Chu Chin Crowing Goat," introduced the youngster to Jesse L. Lasky and the lad was cast as a child Thomas Bagshaw in the letter's "Cappy Ricks." Then followed a period of great screen activity for Mickey, who was much in demand by film producers. His record includes appearances in "Marriage and Morals," "Second Youth," "The Man Who Played God," "Flattered Meeting," and "Mighty Lak a Rose." After his success in Rex Beach's "Big Brother," Mickey made numerous personal appearances and also did some radio broadcasting. In "It's the Old Army Game," Mickey will share honors with Louise Brooks, who has the principal feminine role opposite Fields.

FLAPPER FANNY

HERE'S a new one from the cloak and suit belt. Moe and Abe had entered a "sins and soods" partnership. They were discussing the terms of the partnership. "Well, I'll take a one-fourth interest and you take a one-fourth interest," suggested Moe. "Yes, but you become of the odder half!" demanded Abe. "Well partners has got to have something to fight over, ain't they?" BROADWAY records that Mabel Normand is at last under way to a comeback. Throughout the winter she was to be seen wandering aimlessly about the night club belt, appearing here and there. Surely no stage mortal ever played in harder luck. Now, they tell me, Al Woods will have a play for her next season and, meanwhile, she will again romp in the galloping colluloids.

Little Joe

HALF THE PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE OTHER HALF ARE DOING—WHICH PROTECTS A LOT OF US. LENTEN DISHES. A peanut celery loaf is made with half a pint each of chopped celery, soft stale bread crumbs and chopped peanuts. Season with salt, pepper, a pinch of thyme and a teaspoon of onion juice. Add half a pint of hot milk in which one egg is beaten and add to dry ingredients. Bake 20 minutes, serve with peach juice or cream.

A Thought

The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established forever.—Prov. 29:14.

MABEL NORMAND CLEARED.

CHICAGO, March 25—Mabel Normand, screen actress, has "long since been completely exonerated of any connection with the murder of William Desmond Taylor," said District Attorney Keyes, of Los Angeles, today. He said queries he had planned to ask her, upon his return to Los Angeles, were "only of minor importance and of a general nature."

THE proper time to buy coal seems to have been ten years ago.

ADVENTURES of the TWINS

HOW THE CRACKNUTS GOT SPRING CLEANED. Now everybody knows that Mister Cracknuts is the neatest person in the world. "Yes, sir. There's one here, and one over at his aunt's for the winter, and one over at his—" Mrs. Cracknuts started to say, when the March Hare interrupted her. "I'm just after the one here," he said. "He has to go and get spring-cleaned at Mister Rubadub's house in Scrub-Up Land before he can go to the Land-Where-Spring-is-Coming. Live the Fairy Queen's orders." "Don't I know it," cried Mrs. Cracknuts. "But I can't get him up. What am I going to do?" The March Hare thought for a minute. "I have a plan," he said. "Let us see your little boy, Mrs. Cracknuts, will you? But be sure and call me 'Doctor' when I'm in the room." "Certainly," said Mrs. Cracknuts. So they all went into the Squirrel's house and up to Scamper's room. There lay the little squirrel boy in bed with the covers up to his chin. The March Hare went up to the bed and put his hand on Scamper's forehead. "He's got a fever, Mrs. Cracknuts," he said. "A high fever." "Dear me, Doctor!" said Mrs. Cracknuts. "Stick out your tongue, young fellow," said the March Hare. Scamper stuck out a red tongue. "Back, very bad!" said the March Hare. "I think he has appendicitis and pneumonia and whooping cough and typhoid fever and mumps. Give him six spoonfuls of castor-oil and keep him in bed two months." Scamper bounced out of bed in a hurry. "I'm not sick at all!" he shouted. "Then come along and get your neck and ears washed, my boy," said the March Hare. "And his wife!" said the March Hare. "Yes, sir! That's me!" "And are there any children over six but he went."

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