

# THE TIMES-STAR FEATURE PAGE

## Dorothy Dix

If It Comes to a Showdown Between the Two, a Woman's Duty to Her Children is Greater Than to Her Husband—But It is Not Part of "Duty" to Sacrifice Her Husband or to Neglect Him.

A CORRESPONDENT asks:  
"Is a woman's duty greater to her husband or to her children?"



DOROTHY DIX.

I think that a woman's duty is incomparably greater to her children than it is to her husband. Her husband is the man with whom she entered into the marital partnership, and her duties to him are specific and well defined, and dependent, more or less, on his conduct and how he fulfills his part of the bargain with her.

UNDER certain conditions, it seems to me that her moral obligations are wiped out. It is certainly no part of a wife's duty to love and honor an unfaithful husband, or to work and make a comfortable home for a drunkard who defiles her roof with his debauches. If a woman still continues to give affection to the man who has been disloyal to her and to cherish the one she has to fish out of the gutter, it is of her grace, and not because he has any right to expect or demand it of her.

In a word, when a husband fails in his duty to his wife, by that same token he cancels her obligation to him; but no matter what a woman's children do, her duty to them never ends because her responsibility never ceases. She brought them into the world. She not only thrust life upon them, but she shaped their lives. She gave them their heredity because she picked out their father for them as well as sending her own blood through their veins. She made their environment. It was her influence that was predominant in their formative years. Therefore a mother's first duty is to care for these hostages she has given to fortune. It outweighs all other obligations, and when the good of the children demand it she should not only sacrifice her husband to them, but herself.

I SEE no reason why a childless woman should endure the martyrdom of a marriage that is a hell on earth, nor why it is her duty to put up with insult and abuse from a brutal husband who abuses her. But if a woman has children and has no way to provide for them, I think that it is her duty to endure any misery that may be her portion in marriage in order to secure for her children the food, the clothes, the education, the start in the world that their father can give them.

I think, however, that most women overdo their duty to their children, and underdo their duty to their husbands. They sacrifice their husbands needlessly and carelessly to their children, which is one of the main reasons why, in the end, so many husbands default on their marriage obligations.

IT GENERALLY begins with the first baby, when a young woman is so anxious to be a good mother, that she forgets that she has an obligation to be a good wife. Before the arrival of the little stranger who is to be her husband's fatal rival she has spent her time catering to her husband. She has doted herself up so that she may look good to him. She has spent her evenings amusing and entertaining him, and going about with him. She has been lover and comrade.

But with the advent of the baby only too often all this is changed. She sets herself get shabby and sloppy because baby pulls at her clothes and smudges her hair. She has no interest in anything but the baby, no conversation about anything but baby. Wild horses couldn't drag her away from the cradle, and she is frankly relieved when husband goes out by himself on an evening and leaves her to perform her rites of infant worship in peace.

Now, these cases, and they are plentiful, of the sacrifice of the father to the child are unnecessary. It does a child no good for a mother to sit and watch it sleep, while her whole happiness and the ultimate welfare of the child depends upon her watching her husband and seeing that he does not stray away from his own bedside. In search of the society his wife is too much absorbed to give him. Many a wife forgets that, while she can hire a reliable woman to take care of her children, there is no woman she can trust to take care of her husband, and while she is in the nursery holding little Johnny's hands some vamp is generally holding hands with her husband.

FURTHERMORE, this process of making father a goat for the children does not end with the cradle. It continues. A woman justifies themselves in shutting their husbands and going away for two or three months at a time in the summer and leaving their husbands alone in the city by saying that they do it for the children. The children must have their air and coolness and room to play in, and so the mothers, calmly hugging this alibi to their breasts, go forth to summer hotels, with their offspring and then feel themselves grievously ill-used because their husbands finally rebel at being sacrificed to the children and console themselves after the fashion of summer widowers.

And there are other mothers who enslave their husbands for their children and who literally work their husbands to death to give their children fine clothes, fine cars and a thousand frills that they cannot afford. We all know households in which the husband is the shabbier member of the family, a person pushed about from place to place, his happiness and pleasure rendered unnecessary by a bill payer.

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## Woman Faces United Church Ordination

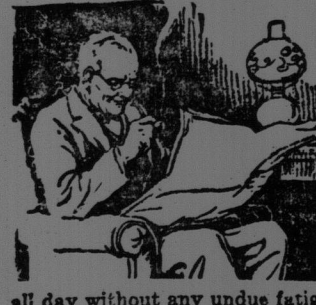
Is Lydia Gruchy, Pastor At Kamsack, Who Has Been Working Among Doukhobor Settlements, Invited By Presbytery To Determine If She Can Take Oath of Ministry

REGINA, Sask., Oct. 21.—After spending the last two years doing sterling work among the Doukhobor settlements at Kamsack, Miss Lydia Gruchy is now in Regina attending the United church conference and may be ordained as the first woman to be admitted to the ministry of the United Church of Canada.

Miss Gruchy is pastor of Verigin United church at Kamsack, whence she comes at the bidding of the Presby-

## "I was greatly Distressed With Pains in the Back"

Mr. Alfred McNeill, Chapel Rock, Alta., writes:



"During the winter of 1920-21, I was greatly distressed with pains in my back and felt tired and weary. I tried several different treatments without success, until finally I began using Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, and they relieved my condition before I had finished the first box. I am feeling better this summer than I have for years, and although in my 67th year, can work all day without any undue fatigue."

DR. CHASE'S KIDNEY-LIVER PILLS

35 cts. a box, at all Dealers. The Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Co., Ltd., Toronto, Canada

## Key Figures In European Security Conference



Representatives of the European powers meeting at the Security Conference at Locarno, Switzerland, to establish a Rhineland Compact and discuss the admission of Germany to the League of Nations. Dr. Luther, left, the German chancellor; and Dr. Stresemann, German foreign secretary, are shown above. Aristide Briand, French foreign minister, is shown at the right. He heads the French delegation in negotiating with the old enemy and with the assembled powers in trying to avoid another war over the Franco-German frontier.

## Fashion Fancies



By Marie Belmont

THE costume—that is, a frock and coat to match—may be said to be at the height of fashion for fall.

Because of this, the early fall street dress which simulates a costume is decidedly smart to wear when the weather is still warm enough to permit of a frock without a coat.

The dress above is an exceedingly smart one of the type mentioned.

Older green wool crepe is the material used, and the embroidery is done in various fall colors.

## LITTLE JOE

NO ONE HAS SO MANY FRIENDS HE CAN AFFORD TO TURN EVEN A PURP DOWN

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