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WHEN A BUSINESS GIRL MARRIES

BY FRANCES E. GALE

DON'T know what it should do," grumbles an employer of women, "I know what it does do," and his disgusted expression tells without further words the direction of his thought.

words the direction of his thought.

Aren't you ashamed of yourselves, girls?
That is, if the gentleman is right. But is he right? Does the possibility, the very strong probability in fact, of your being called in a few months or years to manage a branch of the most important business existing on earth make you now neglect not only the work you have undertaken to do to-day but an invaluable opportunity of training for that future position? position

No, I'm not a bit crazy. Right here, in front of your ledger, or desk, or typewriter,

Ro, I'm not a bit crazy. Right here, in front of your ledger, or desk, or typewriter, or counter, you have an opportunity of training for the business of managing a home that you could get in no other way.

Do you realize that the office, shop, factory or professional waiting room exists for no other purpose than the maintenance of the home? Marriage is a business partnership as well as a social partnership, and a man's wife is more closely his business partner than is the man whose name appears beside his upon his letter-head. The latter may have in charge the expenditure, may do the "financing" of the money making end of the business, but practically all the fruits of his labor are finally turned over to the money-spending partner of each individual member of the money-making firm, and the accomplishment of the real object of all the work begins.

For, leaving aside

all the work begins. For, leaving aside the favored—or unfavored—few, of means so vast that outside occupations and pleasures leave no time for the enjoyment of home, the man who is representative of manhood as a whole finds in his home the completion of all his toil, the reward or condemna-tion of every effort, the success or fail-ure of his life.

It is not the mere

It is not the mere possession of money for which men strive. It is the satisfaction which that money ought to purchase that is the purpose of their effort; and when that purpose when that purpose fails, of what use has been the effort?

In the hands of the home-maker— the money-spender

the money-spender
—lies the final disposition of the greater part of all that is accumulated in the ordinary business; therefore in her hands lies the final success or failure of that business, and therefore is she the most important partner in the firm.

If women realized this, and if men realized it before they asked women to be their wives, there would be fewer domestic failures. Of the money-spender in a life partnership it is perfectly fair to expect the highest degree of satisfaction possible to be obtained from the disbursement of the funds that the money-maker provides. She deiberately, assumes that task when entering the marriage partnertask when entering the marriage partner-ship and her failure to perform it should be regarded in the same light as would the breach of trust of that other partner of her husband who shares with him the burden of the money-making end of the husiness.

When one thinks of it soberly it is almost past belief that a man will toil for years, lay his plans with foresight, choose his business associates with the greatest care, will amass by hard struggle sufficient to the test of home and test will everlage the to start a home, and yet will overlook the fact that in the partner with whom he then allies himself for life must rest the real success of all his efforts; that it is more needful for her brain to be shrewd, her judgment clear and her conscientious ness strong, than for these attributes to exist in the male partner from whom, if exist in the male partner from whom, if necessary, he may separate without the total destruction of the undertaking in which they are both engaged. Yet it is true that he frequently makes this stupendous mistake and spends the rest of his life regretting it.

Nevertheless, a good many men, even before marriage, are "getting wise" to the advisability of placing their income, be it small or large, in competent hands for disbursing, and the business girl who realizes that marriage is not escape from business, but promotion to a business partnership in which her responsibilities

will be much greater than in any position she has formerly occupied will not call forth the criticism so often aimed at less far-sigleted young women that the expectation of marrying renders them negligent and unambitious in what they regard as mere temporary work.

Now, consider in detail why a period in a practical place of business may be made fully as effective training for home management as the same time spent in the study of domestic science. A bold statement that, isn't it, when so many people are insisting that the entrance of women into business means the deterioration of the home?

In business punctuality is insisted upone willingly the study of the same time spent in the study of the home?

women into business means the deterioration of the home?

In business punctuality is insisted upon. Willingly or unwillingly you must be on time in order to do your work satisfactorily. No less necessary is punctuality in household affairs, but it is not forced upon the housekeeper except by her own recognition of its necessity, and it is a habit not easy to acquire without compulsory training. Suppose then, that instead of thinking: "I must do everything on schedule time now, but I'll be late or early as I please when I am mistress of my own house," you were to think: "If I get the habit of punctuality now it will come easy whole household."

Then there is the systematizing of work in business houses, the entire principle of which and many of the methods can be carried with advantage into every household. Perhaps you find it irksome to have to follow in the rotation and execution of your tasks a

tion and execution of your tasks a system mapped out by someone else who by experiment and experience has found such system profitable. But look at it this way! In your future position of house manager you will be retion of house manager you will be required to map out a system for yourself and others to follow, and although that system will form the framework for truth for work for tasks of a different nature, the principle will be precisely the same.
You are not very much interested in checking the bills

checking the bills or making entries in the books that re-

making business you are engaged in. An eseing that before long you expect to be where books and bills will cease from troubling. Oh, you are going to take care of the disbursing end of some other business without keeping accounts of any kind? Well, some women do it, and some homes are in constant turmoil over the discrepancies between income and outgo, and some humbered. homes are in constant turmoil over the discrepancies between income and outgo, and some husbands become bankrupt; but do you want to be in that category? The keeping of accounts is easy when you are trained to it, but mighty hard when you are not

are trained to it, but mighty hard when you are not.

And the little matter of managing a bank account. Haven't you often pitied the poor, puzzled woman who shrinks before the lordly eye of the bank clerk as she clumsily essays to draw a check or make a deposit slip, and stuffs her monthly statement into her hand-bag with only the vaguest notion of what it is given her for? The thought may console her that she is ignorance, but her embarrassment is none the less real and her "femininity" won't protect her from her husband's impatience protect her from her husband's impatience when her check stubs and her bank book are fifty dollars at variance. No such troubles as these need be yours.

But the thing that is going to help you most in your home life is the study of men and the life of men during their working hours that you now have the opportunity of making. For in that business in which you are anticipating a partnership your you are anticipating a partnership your partner will be a man, a business man of some sort, and the more intelligently and some sort, and the more intelligently and sympathetically you can enter into his trials and triumphs in the money-getting department of your joint business the more intelligently and sympathetically he will enter into yours in the money-distributing department. Women often say that men know nothing of household economics and are unreasonable through ignorance, but are unreasonable through ignorance, but unless the wife has before her marriage

(Concluded on page 34)



A man will toil for years, lay his plans with foresight, choose his business associates with the greatest care, will amass by hard struggle sufficient to start a home, and yet will overlook the fact that in the partner with whom he then allies himself for life must rest the real success of all his efforts.