

the labor of going up and down steps and carrying in pails, for some distance, all the water we require; or, as is often the case and is very much more laborious, we must set out barrels and tubs every time the weather looks like rain. The wasted time and strength in one year would more than pay for a cistern.

Our houses, too, are so badly planned that we waste miles of travelling in a year. Very often the store-room and flour bin is up a flight of stairs from our baking table. Our cellars are not supplied with dumb waiters, and we have steps innumerable which might be saved. It is the same with outdoor work.

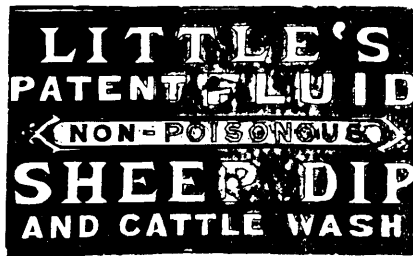
I have seen a woman walk some distance to the barn carrying two pails of food for the pigs, and the three men of the house, immediately afterwards, go empty-handed. Now, someone says, "Let her, if she is such a fool." It is not that the men are weak or lazy or unwilling to do such work, but it has been a habit of hers for, perhaps, forty years and no one thinks of a change.

It is not that men want to treat their wives with less consideration than they treat their stock. They do not realize that many times on nearly every farm this is done. We would call that man a fool who would keep on working a sick horse, but time and again we see the ailing, suffering wife, working, and often doing unnecessary work, when she should have the best stall, so to speak, and the best of care, of food and of attendance. What is she doing? Why does she do it?

Perhaps she is baking pies and cakes because John likes them, perhaps she is on her knees scrubbing for fear the neighbors might drop in, perhaps she is ironing the children's "frilled" clothes because she wants to be equal in appearance to other people.

We do not treat our husbands as they treat their stock. They feed the most nourishing food at the least expense, to be had; we overwork ourselves preparing expensive foods which contain little nourishment, just because the men have learned to like these foods. There are lots of things we like that are not good for us and anyone is unkind who provides them for us.

Then, too, we sew and sew, quilt patches, carpet rags, and other expensive luxuries. This fall when Mary brings out her bundles of rags to cut and sew in what should be her resting hours, if John would confiscate the whole lot, run them through the cutting-box and put them in the manure-heap, he would be both money and comfort ahead. A nervous wife is not comfortable to live with, an overworked wife is always nervous. Blankets and one-piece comforters are much better than patchwork quilts. Every housekeeper and indoor worker needs rest and change of scene and not to be everlastingly tied to the kitchen. Such rest will save very many dollars from the doctors and



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