

THE NEW CITIZENSHIP

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Ideas are contagious and epidemic. They break out unexpectedly and without warning. Thought without expression is dynamic and gathers volume by repression. Evolution, when blocked and suppressed, becomes revolution.

At the present time there are many people seriously alarmed by the discontent among women. They say women are no longer contented with woman's work and woman's sphere. Women no longer find their highest joy in plain sewing and working in wool. The washboard has lost its charm and the days of the hair wreath are ended. Many people view this condition with alarm and believe that women are deserting the sacred sphere of home-making and the rearing of children; in short, that women are losing their usefulness. We may as well face the facts. We cannot drive women back to the spinning wheel and the mat hook. We do hear more of discontent among women than we once did. Labor saving devices have entered the home and women are saved the endless labor of days gone by, when a woman's hours of labor were: 5 a.m. to 5 a.m. The reason we hear of more discontent than formerly is that women have more time to be discontented. The horse on the treadmill may be discontented, but he has to keep on going, he has no time to tell his troubles to the horse near him.

But discontent is not necessarily wicked. There is such a thing as criminal contentment and there is such a thing as divine discontent. Discontent means the stirring of ambition, the desire to spread out, to improve, to grow. Discontent is a sign of life corresponding to growing pains in a healthy child. The poor woman who is making a brave struggle for existence, whose every energy is bent to the task of making