

CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL

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Official Organ of the Women's Canadian Historical Society and the Woman's Art Association of Canada.

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EDITOR'S CORNER.

Welcome, THE inspiration that comes from Spring! the new season is by no means a matter of sentiment. Spring is welcome to everyone after the pent-up experience of a long winter. As the winter draws to a close we are apt to think it the longest and most tedious winter we have known. Memory is very short in matters of this kind, but the winter, whether a matter of fact or imagination, is always long enough. It is a wise provision of Providence that there should be these changes in the seasons, bringing with them new life and energy and fresh plans that take us each out of a rut. Even at this writing—and we are into April—the storm windows remain on and the March winds have dragged themselves into the Month of Showers. But a little patience and Spring will be with us, for the Master Hand has planned these things wisely and well, and the most despondent need not despair. The buds will burst out into new life, and this new life will make itself felt in the lives of everyone. Welcome, Spring!

Woman's Influence. A CORRESPONDENT down by the sea has written us a kindly letter, commending the position of the CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL touching the proposal of the women of Toronto to present to returning soldiers a punch bowl and cups. Our correspondent charitably concludes that the suggestion has been the outcome of thoughtlessness rather than intent; but this is just one of the cases where careful thought should be exercised. We have to say to our correspondent that the HOME JOURNAL will ever aim to take a wholesome, helpful

view of all questions that touch the home—and what touches the home touches the nation at its most vital point. It is a common-placism, but most true, that pure and healthy homes assured and a pure and healthy citizenship follows. This is work in which the Editor's Corner may start the suggestion and set the pace, but it rests with each individual reader to do his or her part in his and her own sphere—be it large or small.

The Craze for Wealth. WITH combines and trusts obtruding themselves at every turn, it is not surprising that the better instincts of a large majority of the people are made subordinate to the almighty dollar. First, wealth—money made however made—and then all other things are supposed to follow—a reversal of the teachings of the Good Book, that first something higher, and then shall be added to these all other things. It is a case of putting emphasis again on the old adage, not that money is the root of all evil, but that the love of it leads to many evils, and not least to the destruction of the higher elements of character and the crushing out of the best spirit of home life—for art and literature and travel, and the more simple but delightful forms of true happiness, have little swing when the larger share of thought is given to the mere matter of money-making.

Battles Nearer Home. THE morning paper still reminds us that South African hostilities are far from ended; and whilst it is only as it were yesterday since we welcomed home our boys in khaki, it is just another yesterday since there left our shores Canadian boys to join the Baden-Powell Police—a continuance of the defensive against the Boers. But the South African war as a war is over, and it does not command our thoughts as was the case some months ago. The khaki is being thrown off for the clothing of plain citizenship, and our young men are settling down again to their daily avocations. The military spirit is yet in the air, and sometimes we think that this military spirit runs much in the one rut, our people forgetting that there are Africans at home to be subdued. We find the enemy, it may be, within ourselves, or within the community in which we live. Perhaps it is a personal habit that has taken hold of us and will conquer us more surely than Kitchener is conquering the Boers. It may be a giant evil in our midst that it will soon so keep the nation within its grasp that, despite a constant calling out of reserves, the enemy will remain the conqueror. We may well ask, as a soldier did of Wellington before entering upon the dreadful task, "Give me a grasp of your conquering hand," for a Conquering Hand is needed to subdue the enemy of our own home. Fired by the battles of the South African veldt, and possessed of the experience of the actual fighting there done, now let the guns be turned upon some of these home enemies!

Day by Day.

"I DON'T believe I can ever make much of a Christian," said a little girl to her mother.

"Why?" her mother asked.

"Because there's so much to be done if one wants to be good," was the reply. "One

has got to overcome so much and bear so many burdens, and all that. You know how the minister told all about it last Sunday."

"How did your brother get that great pile of wood into the shed last spring? Did he do it all at once, or little by little?"

"Little by little, of course," answered the girl.

"Well, that's just the way we live a Christian life. All the trials and burdens don't come at one time. We must overcome those of to-day, and let those of to-morrow alone till we come to them."

For the CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL.

Woman's Work.

LIGHT is growing steadily on woman's work, in so far as domestic work is beginning to be looked on not as drudgery, but as a part of the sphere to which woman belongs primarily, and possibly altogether; for although some say unmarried women have no husbands or children, therefore they are free to go into any sphere they can and support themselves, surely she does not wish to separate herself from her class. If home is woman's sphere, then it is so whether she is married or single; in fact, it is the single women who have time and strength to make the home what it should be. One might as well say because a man has no wife and family to support he should not work in the office or shop.

Modesty, sweet attractive grace, contemplation, etc., are some of the virtues of women *par excellence*, and these have to be done violence to before women can face the world in shop or office. As for her ability to discharge public duties no one doubts it, but I think it is not her place, unless under exceptional circumstances. Consequently, let the twentieth century woman try to elevate her sex by encouraging in every way the development of her talents in womanly industries, making her employees in the home happy by taking an interest in their work and paying them properly for it. In seven or eight cases out of ten I think the housework is despised because it is not well enough paid. Custom is to grudge money on housework, the idea being that anyone is fit for it.

Let us all try, in the twentieth century, to go back to civilization, making home woman's sphere (a very complex one it is if properly done), and leave the offices for our boys.

A question occurs here to me: Is not the teaching of girls woman's work, and would it not be well to give our women their own sphere instead of having our girls taught by men? That women are fit for it no one doubts. Well, then, let us have our educational institutes governed entirely by women for women, and have a School Board of women to look after them. That, surely, is common sense, and would take some women out of offices, for they could teach all the subjects necessary to the proper management of the home, and girls could be trained to cook and sew and wash, and sing and play musical instruments. Why should our servants not have their mental faculties and spiritual needs developed? The cost in many cases could easily be met by saving off our own nodding plumes and bicycle costumes and dinner luxuries, and our homes and our children would feel the benefit of having refined beings around them.

A. C. M.