

PRODUCTION NOW A NATIONAL CONCERN.

Soon production and manufacture and distribution were no longer home or municipal, but national concerns. That is where we stand today. It is indeed a far cry from the conditions prevailing when almost every need of the members of a family was supplied by self-produced articles, to the present state of affairs when the preparation of food is almost the only, so-called, creative work left to the home, unless we include the supreme work of developing manhood and womanhood.

A DEFINITION OF ECONOMICS.

A word often in our ears and on our lips of late is Economy or Economics. Economics treats of the relative value of things. As an abstract subject, dealing with intrinsic values alone, Economics admits of two great divisions — Production and Consumption. In the past, production has been pointed out as the important side of any economically sound enterprise. Of late years the conviction has grown that the use made of money after it has been acquired is of equal importance. In other words, the problem is now as much one of wise consumption, as of successful production. This emphasizes the important place of the home in Economics, as will be realized by those who consider how largely the home is the center of the consumption of wealth.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONSUMER.

In the days when the housewife made her own linen and candles and cheese and carpets, and corned beef, and dried apples, she and her family suffered from any lack of care and skill in the process. Equally so now, when the problem is choosing and buying these products, the family purse and the family health are both endangered by ignorance or carelessness or poor judgment on the housekeeper's part. And farther than her family, reach the results of faulty discrimination in buying. When we buy a certain article we set the seal of our approval upon it, we endorse its manufacture. Why? It is the consumers who determine what the factories shall make. If no one bought willow plumes or the cheap grades of silk would there be 168,000 children in the United States alone at work on these and other products, do you think?

WOMEN THE "PRIESTESSES OF BEAUTY."

If every woman who patronizes a grocery store takes the trouble to insist upon absolute cleanliness, with the loss of patronage as an alternative, would there be as much filth in some country "back stores" as we know exists now?

If more of the women of the world followed the example of the New York and Chicago women in their method of keeping the price of eggs down, would eggs I wonder bring five cents each in the markets of a rural community? Truly since the days when nursery rhymes were made, times have changed — now *hens* lay golden eggs and