

The Country Homemakers

Conducted by Francis Marion Beynon.

MEN INVADING WOMAN'S SPHERE

"Nine of the Cornell University men, among them one of the varsity baseball team and one of the glee club, entered the Domestic Science course this year—the first time any of the male students have considered that special line of work. Miss Brownell, the instructor, says that the nine have duly registered and spend the usual hours in the "kitchen," kneading dough and concocting various dishes, following instructions as carefully as the women students. They show a natural aptitude for this line of work, are painstaking and clever, and have become very proficient."

The above extract, clipped from the Delineator, is intensely interesting as marking an epoch in industry. Educated men studying domestic science. Liking it. Making a success of it. One of the old traditions of our race comes toppling about our ears.

Out of the myriad occupations our complex civilization has created, there has just been one that woman is acknowledged to be capable of filling—domestic labor. Here, for generations, she has been credited with supremacy, with a natural and instinctive gift. Up to the present day we have obstinately maintained this tradition, in spite of the fact that for many years it has kept us busy forgetting that many of the greatest cooks in the world are men.

Now we are faced with the fact that men are not just drifting into camp cooking by accident, but that certain educated men have deliberately chosen to study domestic science and are making good at it.

Is the inference that men are superior to women in every field of labor, even their own traditional occupation of domestic work, or is it that labor is sexless? Shall we continue in the face of these signs of the times to demand that every woman be a cook, a good cook and like cooking, or shall we give the woman who is a poor cook and a good carpenter boards and nails and set her to work at building?

Another very interesting phase of this movement of men into woman's erstwhile field of employment is that the women do not seem to resent it as men do the woman's invasion of their traditional occupations. When women have tried to enter the professions, men have protested loudly and emphatically from what they claimed were absolutely altruistic motives—the good of the women themselves, the danger to them of coming in contact with the world. Olive Schreiner points out here that when women went out to scrub offices and other public buildings, no protest was raised. That it was the cleanest, most profitable professions that were most fiercely guarded. Far be it from me to hint that it was fear of competition. I will leave that for some baser mind to suggest. But the fact remains that women seem to look on with indifference while men usurp their labors and men fight hard to keep women out of each of their special fields in turn.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON.

DIRECT LEGISLATION FIRST

Dear Miss Beynon:—As a reader of your page, I wish to speak a word regarding this new sentiment that is creeping over our land—votes for women.

Would it not profit women more and do more for the welfare of the country as a whole for them to petition the government for Direct Legislation instead of the ballot?

How much good would the franchise do them with the affairs of the state in control of a few moneyed men? They would have no more say in the government than they have now, unless they had Direct Legislation.

MISS POMEROY.

Mountain Chase, Sask.
I don't agree with you that our government is absolutely ineffective without Direct Legislation. If it were not for men's party affiliations they could have good government as it is.

All life is summed up in being, doing, and saying.

SEVERAL GOOD OBJECTIONS TO MOURNING

Dear Miss Beynon:—I have just been reading your article on the wearing of mourning. For a long time I have had the same opinion as you have. Of course, it is a custom and many do not like to go against it for fear of harsh criticism. But then, I think it would only be people who lack principle who would say anything harsh about one that did not wear it. I would say to them, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh at the heart. I believe if people showed more kindness to the living, there would be no doubt as to the sincerity of their grief, even if they did not wear mourning.



Mrs. Helen Ring Robinson, Colorado, the first woman State Senator

Mrs. Frances Willard Munds, of Prescott, Arizona, who led the suffrage fight there

Often mourning is only a show, an outward appearance.

Black has been said to be the most unwholesome color that can be worn. Why, then, should anyone wear it continually?

Then poor people can't afford to throw away good clothes and buy a new outfit of black. The colored clothes, if laid away, are out of style by the time custom says they can be worn again.

HOPEFUL.

WANTS ALBERTA PETITION FORMS

Dear Miss Beynon:—I have just been reading Mrs. Sulman's letter in The Guide. Like Mrs. Sulman, I am an Alberta woman and would like to see some movement started in Alberta to help women to get the franchise.

I was delighted to see so many letters from Saskatchewan women asking for petition forms. I wonder if our secretary, Mr. Woodbridge, would be kind enough to furnish us with petition forms like Mr. Green is doing.

I would gladly take petitions around to be signed myself, but I have a family of small children who need all my care and attention, but I shall be pleased to sign a petition for woman suffrage.

I would like every woman reader of The Guide, whether she believes in woman suffrage or not, to read an article in the July Pictorial Review on "How Equal Suffrage was Regained in Washington State."

That was a splendid article you published in March on the women of California and the ballot. I think The Guide is a splendid paper and is doing a great deal of good.

CARMEN.

ANOTHER OPPOSED TO MOURNING

Dear Miss Beynon:—I have just been reading your letter on "Do you think we should wear mourning?" I have often wished to hear a discussion on this subject. Your letter is just my sentiment. Just here I would say, because it is a custom, many who cannot afford it, to prevent ridicule, go in debt for it and their clothes, which otherwise were good enough, are laid aside. There are sorrows which come to us worse than death and we go about endeavoring to smother them within our own breasts. The dead have passed out of reach of aid. If they were prepared, we have reason to rejoice to think they are where

no sorrow or temptation comes, for this is indeed a wicked world. Let us shed light daily for the benefit of the living. To raise children and have them ensnared as they are in these days, sends a dagger to our hearts worse than death and daily we feel our blood ebbing away.

I wish the writer of "Used to be a don't care woman" would send me some information of how to unfold the secret of life to children. I have two little girls and they ask questions which are hard to answer, and yet I want them to learn in the best and purest way.

I believe every true mother is, as I will sign myself, a

HOME MISSIONARY.

PROMINENT WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS

It was not until this year that a woman sat in the upper house in Colorado.

Naturally, more or less uncertainty was felt concerning the person to whom a member from a mountain district referred as the "senatoress," but Mrs. Helen Ring Robinson had as one of her mottoes, "When you have a good speech on the end of your tongue, keep it there," and she soon won the confidence of even the least optimistic man. Senator Robinson was chosen chairman of the committee on education and educational institutions, and was placed on the judiciary and other important committees. She worked early and late, never missing a day and remaining until adjournment, even when all night sessions were held.

And after it was all over Senator Robinson went home to superintend the spring cleaning.

Mrs. Frances Willard Munds, State chairman of the Equal Suffrage central committee for four years, was a commanding figure through all the campaign for the franchise in Oregon.

THE BABY'S FIRST OUTFIT

Some months ago I was asked what clothing to provide for a new baby and had considerable difficulty in answering the question. Here is very full information which may be helpful to other expectant mothers:

It is vital for her baby's health for the young mother to fully realize that the infant exhibits a tendency to a wide variation of temperature due, among other reasons, to its undeveloped state of the heat regulating centres. Yet uniformity of temperature is essential to the comfort and well-being of the youngster, as without it, the proper bodily changes in the growing child are greatly interfered with. It is for the purpose of maintaining as nearly as possible a uniform temperature that clothing is employed. Evidently, therefore, the problem we have to solve with clothing is how we may maintain a uniform condition of body temperature in the infant without unduly restraining its free movements.

Garments must be warm and yet sufficiently light and loose to permit of the free use of the extremities and the muscles of the trunk. Further, they must be devoid of all irritating properties.

My experience has led me to believe that the baby's clothing is best made of light wool, and should consist of the following articles:

3 flannel binders for the first three

months of life (½ yard of 27-inch flannel).

3 shirts, wool or part wool with long sleeves.

2 flannel petticoats.

2 flannel or knitted sacques.

2 pairs of worsted socks.

2 dozen small size diapers.

1 dozen large size diapers.

4 slips of white cambric.

1 cloak.

1 warm cap.

1 pair mittens.

1 veil.

2 light wool blankets.

3 wool knit bands with straps over the shoulders to take the place of the band after the third month.

2 sleeping bags of flannel in place of the ordinary nightclothes.

Diapers of cheese cloth are best suited to the needs of the first few weeks of life, later cotton diapers should be employed. Flannel diapers should not be used. They get hard and rough, overheat the baby and make it chafe in warm weather.

At night be careful to take everything off the infant and put on a fresh binder, diaper, shirt and night slip, if the sleeping bag is not used, but I think the latter a very healthful article, insuring the baby's comfort in the coldest weather. The night slip may be used in summer. It should be longer than the day slip or dress and very roomy. Knitted wool boots should be used to keep the feet warm. The binder is made of soft flannel, four inches wide and long enough to go around once and half way again. It should not be drawn tight. When baby is three months old, the wool band above mentioned should be substituted for the binder.

In cold weather during the day a flannel petticoat should be worn. This is attached to a band of muslin or long-cloth which is held by straps over the shoulders. Over the petticoat is to be worn a muslin slip.

On chilly days a sacque made of knit worsted or flannel is frequently useful. Older children should wear the knit band, the knit shirt, the diaper of cotton goods, a flannel petticoat, a muslin petticoat, and long stockings of cashmere which are pinned to the diaper, and shoes of light kid. The muslin petticoat should be attached, like the flannel one, to a muslin band with shoulder straps.

On going out in cold weather the baby in long clothes should wear the following wraps: a long coat, cap, mittens and a knitted woolen or net veil. The older child in short clothes should wear, in addition to the wraps just mentioned, knit or crocheted leggings. The veil need not be used except when it is windy or the child is asleep.

In summer the flannel petticoat should be left off, the under shirt should be made of cotton and the cap of cambric, but the wool band should be retained until the child is past the teething age.

Some of the evil things which a baby should not be clothed with are: a pinning blanket, a restraining diaper, tight bands, padded clothing, tight sleeves, and tape and strings tied about the extremities.

GARDEN IS BACKWARD

Dear Miss Beynon:—I have read the Sunshine for some time past and like it fine. I think there are so many useful things printed there. I enjoy it best of all.

I hope Motherlove got a nice wee baby. It is very hot and dry just now, but it looks as if it would rain soon. My garden is rather slow this year as it was so dry when planted.

Now, Miss Beynon, I am going to trouble you. I would like to get the little booklets, "How to Teach the Truth to Children," for which I'm sending 5 cents; "Maternity," 5 cents; and "The Most Wonderful Story in the World," for which I am sending 10 cents. Hoping this will not give you too much trouble, I will ring off with best wishes to all the readers. I will sign myself

JUST ME.

Most of the worries and troubles of everyday life and innumerable domestic tragedies are the direct result of haphazard finance in the home.—Miss E. M. Tait.