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THE PATCHWORK QUILT

--MARY H. DUPREE

Life is like a patchwork quilt; it is made up of a little of this and a little of that. Its sections lack unity. Some parts are round, some elliptical; some are square, some cater-cornered. Each day as a person reaches for a fresh piece of material, he may well come up with a bright orange circle with which to patch the rosy, right-angled rent in his quilt of life.

Does anyone manage to combine the colors with clashing or to make the edges meet without pulling or puckering? Perhaps some thinkers do.

Once long ago I made a quilt. It featured a bed of lavender flowers on a background of white. I chose the colors carefully and measured the parts precisely. All through that summer I sewed on the quilt, periodically examining my handiwork from this angle and from that and admiring it greatly. When all was finished, I concluded that here was the prettiest quilt that I had ever seen. Moreover, it was fully wide and was long enough for the biggest of beds.

Not so with the quilt of life. Cold, one often hitches up this quilt to his chin, only to find that his feet are sticking up bare below. Or he may pull it to his back, only to feel his stomach open to the breezes before. One may have kept to pretty pastels or to bold blues, but more often he finds that he has thrown together a hodge-podge of colors. Whereas in the morning of life one may have begun with a particular pattern in mind -- whether

of face, or flower, or filigree -- he may well find that his motif has run riot and become ludicrous by the noon or evening of life.

Once when Great-aunt Rachel was mortally ill and the doctor had told us to prepare for her demise, we were surprised to see her recover her strength temporarily.

"I was making a quilt for little Janie," she told me. "I had to finish it, you know."

Yes, life is like a patchwork quilt, a smattering of this and a smattering of that. Laugh at this quilt one must. Finish it in due time one will.

HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Patients this week at Highlands-Cashiers Hospital include: Eugene Stewart, Marlene Pelski, Betty Jo Mills and baby boy, Carl Robinson, Julia Shepherd, Florence Porterfield, Nannie Myers, Agnes Talley, Annie Murphy, Dave Wiley, Clarabell Stewart, W. R. Distes, Margaret Kline, Florence McKinney, Mrs. Frank Pidcock, Nellie Zoellner, Dorothy Russell, Margaret Aiken, Violet Henderson, Lillian Shaw, Marshall Burnett, Hal Crane, Bessie Henry, Inez McKinney, Stella Talley.

Discharged were: Julia Monteith, Addie Scoloro, Eunice Brownlee, Johnny Keener, Ethel Forbell, (CON'T P. 21)

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