

DOES THE HOME-PLUS-JOB WOMEN SACRIFICE THE HOME

For women to work is no new phenomenon, and for the married woman to work is certainly no twentieth century marvel. Since the Comagnon days and possibly longer, in order to insure peace, woman has done her share and frequently more than her share of what was to be done. Among the savage people, woman tilled the soil; wove the cloth; made the clothes—when there were any; harvested the crops; and did many other things that were set aside later as man's specific work. Even in the days of Solomon: "She maketh fine linen and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchants."

Gradually the old system of society gave way to the new. The individual with his small home shop was replaced by large factories, employing thousands of people. Money became the medium of exchange rather than tobacco, eggs, and other commodities. Steam supplanted water power; electricity took the place of home labor. In such ways, a number of chores which were originally done within the home have been replaced by outside organizations and by modern improvements made less laborious. For instance, there used to be a day set aside in most households as baking day. Today, the bakeries make baking in the home a waste of time and energy. In a like manner the invention of the sewing machine and electricity, and with it many labor saving devices; such as the vacuum cleaner, the dish washer, the electric iron, the electric stove and innumerable devices, have had a marked influence upon home labor. The dress goods industries and the canning factories have also worked a marked change in the home; and to be very modern, the day nurseries and community kitchens are gradually showing an influence. These improvements and inventions have so revolutionized the business of housekeeping that the intelligent housekeeper finds herself in a similar predicament as that of a very superior child in a class of dullards. House-keeping no longer occupies all her time. If she is a college trained woman, she will, no doubt, seek to find something in addition to housekeeping to keep her brain active. Furthermore, these improvements have increased the cost of living so greatly that the man's income is rarely sufficient to maintain the home.

In spite of social and economic changes of the world, there will always be people who will agree with Tennyson when he said: "Man for the field and woman for the hearth; Man for the sword and for the needle she; Man with a head and woman with a heart; Man to command and woman to obey."

There are, no doubt, many women who deplore the onrush of many breath-taking changes brought about by the industrial revolution; and there are many women who prefer the blissful picture of the fireside mother to the bustling, nerve-wrecking atmosphere of the professional woman. However, women must make a choice. On account of the more expensive manner of living, many women are given no alternative in the matter. They must work or starve. The instinct of self-preservation is one of the strongest. Is woman not more admirable in reacting to this instinct by doing something constructive, rather than by sitting with folded hands? There are many women who prefer to walk in the steps of their mothers and grandmothers; but to do this is scarcely possible. For, as Ralcy Husted Bell puts it:

"It seems that the knell of woman's bondage has sounded; and that her economic standings never more will be the same."

There are many causes for the woman's being in business today. She had, before the World War, begun to enter into this field; but the war acted as dynamite to the slowly igniting flame. The war cannot be directly called a cause for woman's entrance into business. It acted merely as a swift means of her entrance. Why are women in business? Some women enter business because of a love for adventure. Certainly there is a diurnal newness about business that is not found in housekeeping. In a profession, there is an eternal scramble to keep one's head above water—to match one's wits against the other fellow's. Again, some young women use business as a means of bridging the period between the graduation day and the entrance into matrimony. However, the one really great "why" for the woman in business—and it really over-shadows all other reasons—is the need of financial assistance in the home, caused by the ever increasing cost of living.

In the "Woman Citizen" of October, 1925, Mary Anderson writes: "Women are in industry for one purpose, and for one purpose only—to provide necessities for their families and to raise their standards of living."

In the "Independent" of February 17, 1910, Simon N. Patten wrote: "Forty years ago, a man could live comfortably on \$1,000 a year. Under the magic of his wife's hand this \$1,000 became \$1,500 or \$2,000. The wife created more value by industry in the home than her husband did out of it. Now, all things are done outside the home and must be purchased with the \$1,000 income. The wife no longer contributes to the family income by creating values, and with the increased standards of elaborate dressing, she often is its burden."

Again, Dr. Patten wrote in the "Independent" of December 1, 1904: "It is plainly bad economy to assign to a person who has proven capacity in world goods the sole task of spending an income so small that no choice or saving can be made on it."

In the "Survey" of December 1, 1926, Mary Ross says that doubtless numbers of people will not everything—that there are intangible values in the constant indignantly chime that money is presence of homemaker that cannot be reckoned in cash. But, she states, most of us must consider the business of living before we think of the art of living. The interested homemaker's attention is likely to be concentrated on the petty tangibles of economies of the cash-and-carry store, dragging the baby along as she shops, rather than upon the child's recreational needs.

From the census of 1920, there were approximately 2,000,000 married women occupied in business of some wage-earning nature. Are they in business to stay? Judging from the increase in the past several days, the married woman in business must be accepted as one of the economic changes of the twentieth century.

What effect does the absence of the homemaker have upon the home? Frequently, from the standpoint of care, the home suffers. However, everyone knows of instances in which the home of the business woman shows as good management as that of a woman of the leisure class. This idea is, of course, contrary to good reasoning and reflects upon the good judgment of the second woman. There is much argument against the woman in business from this angle; but, the success and care of the home are in proportion to the interest and good taste of the homemaker in the home. She may easily employ and train good servants to act in her absence, if this is necessary. Many women are doing this.

The next greatest consideration of the business woman is the husband, if she has one. What is his attitude toward her working? It is usually an admitted fact that a man likes a small wife—small not only in stature, but in other respects. He likes to have her tickle his ego by thinking that he is all powerful. He likes to have her come to him to ask for money; for that, too, pleases his vanity. He likes to bring her gifts so that she may, as Little Riding Hood, say: "Grandmother, what large eyes you have!" Usually, he likes to assert his instinct to dominate in her direction, for it may be only in her direction that he may assert it at all. If a woman is tactful, she can handle a man of this kind and hold her job, too. She must be careful not to mention the amount of her salary or any promotion. If the husband is more modern, does not possess the foregoing traits, and is in sympathy with his wife's working, he may be afraid the neighbors will say that he cannot afford to support her, which fact may be true; but the condition is a family skeleton and must not be discussed by neighbors. Again the wife, by making her own money, may consciously or unconsciously dominate her husband. She may cause him to become discouraged in his work. Frequently she points out that she has bought this piece of furniture, or that article with her own money. Of course, she lacks good judgment if she does this. However, she boasts at the expense of her husband's pride and ambition. He feels that she can give herself everything she wants and would not value his gifts.

In the "Atlantic Monthly" of December 1924, Jane Littell says: "There are many problems that the wage earning wife must face. The biggest thing that worries all of us is what our husbands think about it all and how they are affected by our independence."

The greatest problem at all to the job-plus-home woman is the presence of a small child. In many cases it becomes necessary for the mother to leave the child with some relative or nurse, or she may leave it at a day nursery. Without exception, it is find-

ing that the mother with a small child should be with that infant. Many professional women relinquish their professions until their children become of school age. If she must work, let the mother seek a part time job. Of course, this absence must show in a decreased efficiency of the woman if she must resume her work later.

One writer says in answer to a questionnaire in the "Woman Citizen" of March 1926: "While it seems unfair to have to give up ten or fifteen years at the beginning of married life to the business of raising children, especially if one has specialized in some scientific or other professional field, we don't have our children with us very long—and one wakes up some day to the realization that one's major work with them is practically over."

In the issue of the "Literary Digest" appearing on November 11, 1922, the editor publishes replies to a letter formerly sent out and addressed to the married women, whose names appeared in the current edition of "Who's Who" in America. The letter pertained to A. S. M. Hutchinson's novel, "This Freedom," the best seller of that season. In this novel, the woman had her career; but all her children came to a bad end and her husband continually complained because he had no "home life." These letters were from such women as Carolyn Wells, critic, Mrs. Benjamin Harrison, wife of the twenty-third President of the United States, Nazimova, actress, Anne Roger Minor, President General of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Galli Curci, opera singer, and many others.

The consensus of opinion, with a few exceptions, seemed to be that a business woman may be a successful home maker and mother. However, her success depends upon her intelligence, her physical endurance, the cooperation of her husband, the proximity of her home to her occupation, and the temperament of the woman. In almost every instance, it is agreed that, if the woman is a mother, it is much better if her work does not remove her from the home. With regard to the business mother, Ellen Spencer Mussey, Honorary Dean of the Washington College of Law, said: "I have seen more neglect by the mother in the so-called leisure class than by the industrial mother or the professional one."

Galli-Curci, opera singer, wrote in answer to the question: "The children might be, to a certain extent, deprived of the personal supervision and companionship of the mother; but, on the other hand, if the career is worth while, she would be enabled to surround them with an environment and educational advantages that could not be enhanced their chance of success in life. To my mind, it is purely a question of individual temperament—the woman who will neglect her children will do so regardless of whether she has a career or not; in fact, many children are neglected for something much less than a career."

In reply to the question: "Can a woman run a home and a job, too?" Carolyn Wells replies: "She can if she has brains." She adds further, "Few women have brains. No wife and mother should pursue a career or wage-earning interest outside of her home, unless her aid is needed financially."

Nazimova thinks that either the home or the work must suffer. Mary Roberts Rinehart, the novelist, wrote: "It is entirely possible for a woman to have both a successful career and a successful family life. I have always believed that the family interest must come first; that when a question of sacrifice is involved it is the career which must give way before the happiness and training of the children. But that the reconciliation of the two is only a matter of sufficient effort and sufficient intelligence."

Does the home-plus-job woman sacrifice the home? The answer to this question is largely a matter of personal opinion differing with the individual. If the professional woman does sacrifice the home, the extent to which she will sacrifice it may be measured by her intelligence and her energy. As stated before, the success of the home will depend largely upon the cooperation and the attitude of the husband, the nature and choice of the woman's profession, the proximity of the home to the office, if the profession carries the homemaker outside the home, and the woman's natural equipment as a homemaker. The really crying and telling need of the presence of the homemaker in the home is not always reflected in the material phase of the home, but in the spiritual aspect and in the child.

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LOCAL NEWS

Mrs. T. B. Wynn entertained the Ladies' Bible Class of the Baptist Church Tuesday night, November 8. In the absence of the president, Mrs. C. W. Lawrence, Mrs. C. M. Forehand, the vice-president. After the business had been disposed of, everybody enjoyed a social hour. The hostess served an ice course. Those present were Mesdames C. M. Forehand, W. R. Burrell, Roy Parker, M. H. Babb, P. D. Sewell, Harry Hill, W. N. Brown, Alfred Byrd, R. L. Parker, J. A. Boyette, B. F. Willey, C. S. Corke, L. M. Griffith, S. P. Sykes and T. B. Wynn.

Miss Francis White and Miss Johnston spent the week end with Mrs. E. N. Nicholson.

Mrs. Godwin Jenkins, Misses Bettie Walter Jenkins, Julia Vinson, Doris Chitty, and Bertha Chitty were recent visitors in Franklin, Va.

Misses Maude and Mattie Vinson, Mrs. Virgie Wynn, Mrs. C. M. Forehand, Mrs. E. N. Evans, Mrs. L. M. Futrell and Vivian Vinson spent Tuesday, November 8, in Norfolk, Va.

Mr. Irving Garris, a student of Chapel Hill, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Garris, on November 11-13.

Miss Mildred Smith, one of the high school teachers, spent the week-end at her home in Branchville, Va.

Miss Beatrice Burrell spent November 5-6 in Rocky Mount, N. C., with her brother, Mr. Victor Burrell.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Evans returned from their bridal tour on November 13.

Mrs. Alice Parham, Misses Mary Parham and Inez Matthews were shoppers in Norfolk on November 12.

Rev. Oscar Creech, who has charge of the Centennial Campaign for the West Chowan Association, preached at Meherrin Sunday afternoon, November 13. The Ahoskie quartet of male voices sang beautifully.

The basketball team of Como High School played Murfreesboro High School on Thursday, November 10. Murfreesboro won.

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