

Home Economics and What the Movement Means.

Read at a meeting of the home economics department of the Woman's Club, and published by request.

The word "economics" is defined by Webster as the "science of the application of wealth," but when combined with the word "home," it takes on a broader and deeper meaning—the science of the "distribution of wealth, time, energy and strength, to bring about the best results." We realize now, more than ever before, the need of an intimate home-life for the happiness of men and women and the good of the children. The old methods of home-making have not satisfied women's ability. The purpose of home economics is to standardize home ideals and the problems are not only those of the home but of the community as well. The great task of this department is the beautifying and enriching of life itself, by bringing to all the people a knowledge of how to get life out of a living, in place of spending all one's life in getting the living.

At first glance it appears hopeless to try to standardize domestic operations, yet the problem is not so difficult as it seems. By broadly classifying all household activities and studying each separate type from the point of view of efficiency, it is possible to determine with reasonable accuracy what apportionment of income, what choice and arrangement of equipment, and what methods of work will best meet the needs of the average household.

To become an efficient housekeeper one must learn to reduce waste to a minimum, not only on material, but waste of time and energy. Economy of time and effort is recognized as of no less importance than economy of money. There is no room in the efficient life for that voluntary martyrdom whose crown of glory is the bitterly triumphant claim that its victim "must slave from morning till night with never a minute of rest or recreation." The drudge and the "prison" housekeeper, who sacrifices a family joy and comfort to the fetish of super-cleaning, now find themselves in the same category with the spendthrift and the sloven.

The home is something more than a series of mechanical processes and the housewife who exhausts her energies in the manual labor of house-keeping, seems to become incapable of exercising the highest function of wise and loving administration, which promotes the moral welfare of the whole family, has failed in her task, even though no speck of dust is discovered and her cooking is worthy of all praise.

Efficient housekeeping is simply the application of common sense and open-mindedness to the every-day problems of the home. The conviction of the fallibility of the methods of our mothers and grandmothers has opened our eyes to the possible existence of better ways of meeting new problems, created by the changed conditions of modern life.

We do not need to consult an efficient engineer in order to learn that the logical place for the frying pan is not in a remote cupboard, but near the range on which it is used, or that to hold the loaf from the kitchen shelf, a plate from the dining-room and a knife from a drawer, consumes more time and energy than to keep the bread box and utensils within arm's reach of one another. The new method of straining everything required for a given operation, as close as possible to the place where it is to be performed, upsets all traditions, but effects an incalculable saving of energy.

Since efficiency is promoted by whoever tends to liberate the housewife's hands and brain for higher uses than juggling a broom or bending over a wash tub, all possible labor saving devices should be installed. Such helps as vacuum cleaners, washing machines, fireless cookers, and wheel trays, are no longer counted as luxuries, but as necessities. The mutual relationship of the stove, sink, work-table and cabinet or shelves requires careful study. The entire house should be studied with a view to the elimination of senseless frigidities whose care consumes too large a share of the housewife's time and strength. Our tables and mantels are cluttered with ornaments, we buy fancy furniture that is hard to dust, we exclude the health-giving air and sunlight by shrouding our windows with draperies that must be taken down and cleaned frequently. While it is rarely possible to discard all at once, the chances can be made as the original furnishings become shabby.

The saving of steps is another important matter to be considered. In cooking, how many unnecessary visits we make to the pantry and refrigerator to fetch ingredients which might easily be brought in a single trip by using a tray. A large tray will also serve to carry almost an entire meal from kitchen to dining room, and all the soiled dishes can be carried out in the same way.

The home is a means to civilization and its output must be something of greater value to the community than the raw materials consumed in the making. Man cannot live unto himself alone. The destiny of the individual is bound up with that of the race. The product of the home is a social product, and may be defined as that condition of internal harmony which will best promote the physical, mental and moral health of its members, fitting them to work at their highest capacity for the longest period, and to contribute to the progress of the community and of civilization.

As running the home is the woman's business, I feel that a thorough study along the line of home economics will be invaluable to us and may the knowledge thus gained be so practical that all our homes will be brought up to the very highest standards of efficiency. At the same time we should remember that "woman's oldest and latest work, and forever her highest, is shaping human souls. God has no higher work in all the world for any of his ministers than this." Mrs. R. PHIFER.

EUGENIC FATHER DEAD

Doctor Who Married at Eighty to Prove a Theory Left Twins. New York Dispatch, Feb. 23.

Dr. Davis Allyn Gorton, who at the age of 80 became the father of the famous "eugenic twins," is dead at his home in Brooklyn. He was born on November 22, 1832, and was strong until a few days ago when he told Mrs. Gorton that he needed a long sleep. He went to bed and became constantly weaker until his death.

Besides the publicity he received at the time the twins were born, Dr. Gorton was well known for his scientific studies. He was the founder of the Eugenic Society and a fellow of the Academy of Medicine.

It was in 1911 that Doctor Gorton married Miss Bertha Rehbein, his literary secretary, who was 27 years his junior, to prove the effectuality of his theories on parenthood. In April of the following year the eugenic twins were born.

Half a century before the birth of the eugenic twins he had studied and translated the theories of a German scientist, Dr. Sixt Eufurt, on the determination of sex in children. He continued to make observations in his practice as a physician.

By the time he was an octogenarian, Doctor Gorton was convinced that he could regulate matters of sex as scientifically as the horticulturists could control the pollination of flowers.

His secretary, Miss Rehbein, fully shared his interest in eugenics and they decided to marry. Their first born was to be a son.

They were more than successful in their wish, for the marriage resulted in the birth of twins, David Allyn and Leonora. Although weak at birth, the children were brought into health by hygienic care and now survive their eugenic father.

Way He Put It

Two friends were talking over the good fortune of a mutual acquaintance who had succeeded in gaining the hand of a rich girl, relates The New York Sun.

"I didn't think Edward had it in him," said one friend. "It must have taken a lot of diplomacy on his part to win out in that venture."

"Oh, I don't know," said the other. "As a matter of fact, I happen to know that he told her the simple truth."

"You don't say so?"

"Yes, he told her he couldn't live without her."

He Knew Boys

The story is told in The Indianapolis News that there was a bad accident in the street of a big city. A surgeon happened to be at the spot and was soon rendering first aid. He did not have his medicine kit with him. He needed something and needed it quickly.

"Boy," he said to a youngster in the crowd, "hand me that string out of your pocket." And the string was forthcoming.

"How did you know that boy had a string in his pocket?" asked a spectator later.

"Why, every real boy carries string in his pocket," said the surgeon.

Prodigal Returned

One morning the "Black Marie" arrived at the police court to take to jail the prisoners who had been arrested the previous night. As they filed into the van the policemen were much amused to hear an old woman, who was the last of the string, shout out to a young prisoner in front—

"Now, then, come out of that; you've got my corner!"

Needless to say, the old lady obtained her accustomed seat. Then as the door was closed to and the policeman stepped up behind, she put her face to the bars and said to him in delightfully dulcet tones:

"Home, James!"

Hoodooed

Appealing to a lady for aid, and old negro told her that through the Dayton flood he had lost everything he had in the world, including his wife and six children, according to The Cincinnati Enquirer.

"Why," said the lady, "I have seen you before, and I have helped you. Were you not the colored man who told me you had lost your wife and six children by the sinking of the Titanic?"

"Yeth, ma'am, dat wuz me. Mos' unfort'nit man dat eber wuz. Kaint keep a family nohow."

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SAYS IT'S IN THE BIBLE

Student Argues the Question of Interest and Says That He Has Scripture for His Position. Correspondence of The Journal.

Rockingham, Feb. 25. — Messrs. Borrower and Novus Homo et al vs. The Student, deceased, late of Union county. Sure hell has spread herself and every thing seems to be ready, but, there are some things, Bro. Borrower, that I want to say before I go to reap my eternal reward as a liar.

Mr. Borrower, you said in your late article for me to step aside and let a truthful man come forward with the goods, as I was a liar. I will not try to prevaricate around that in the least, for who can wholly deny that charge? Once in the time of the renowned philosophy of the Grecians it happened in Athens, I think, that one day a very old man was seen going along the streets in open day-light carrying a lighted lantern. A man on approaching him inquired what he was carrying a lantern lit for in day light. The old gentleman's answer was this: "I am looking for a strictly honest and truthful man." Did he find that honored person? No, he did not, and history does not give any account of it if he ever found the man that he was looking for. I, too, am looking for such a person and Borrower, here you come butting in and claim to be the man. I have not found him yet.

A very emphatic no, Borrower, I do not use tobacco in any shape or form. Yet, I am not prejudiced against its use, and positively I don't think that chewing it or smoking a cigar, either an aristocratic or the pauper kind, "three for five," is a sin in the sight of God. If you will prove to me that they will destroy the moral decency of the soul and body and cause men, women and boys and girls to become prodigals and wander over the earth and tempt the others with your so-called sins seductive snare, and make demons of hell of them, then, I will see the point that you call the sin of it.

People enjoy this and it is only a luxury to those that have the taste for tobacco. But as for myself, I have never had the taste for the weed and I never will as it never appealed to my eye as a nice thing to be used in society. It looks bad, I will admit, to see a man in company with his chin all covered with tobacco juice and it streaming out of the corners of his mouth, but that I think is left entirely with society. It is no doubt what we call a social evil but the point is, is it an evil in the sight of God? Well, so much for tobacco.

Now as for charging interest on money loaned. It is a very ticklish thing but Novus Homo and Borrower, in all your knowledge of the scriptures and with your superior advantage on me, in regard to the maturity of your years and experiments, you have evidently forgotten the bible. I do have scripture for charging interest so if you will listen I will tell it to you and also tell you where to find it so you need not just take my word for it altogether.

The kingdom of Heaven is like a traveling man going into a far country and who called his servants to him and delivered unto them his goods. To one he gave five talents (of silver) and to another two and to another man just one.

When their lord was gone the man that was given the five talents went and put his lord's money in the exchanges and traded until he had gained another five talents which we call usury or interest. Likewise the man with the two talents went and traded and gained for his lord two more talents which made him four. But unlike these two men the one that had only received one talent went and buried his lord's money and gained nothing. So after a lapse of time the lord of these servants came and had a settlement with each. The man that had been given five talents came forward and brought ten talents instead of the five that were given him. And his lord said, "well done thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things I will make thee ruler over many things, enter thou into the joy of thy lord." So he that had received two talents came up and brought four talents having doubled his capital. His lord said the same to him as the one above. Next and last came the one that had received one talent, and he said, "Lord I knew thee that thou art a hard man reaping where thou hast not sown and gathering where thou hast not strewed, and I was afraid and went and hid thy talent in the earth, lo there thou hast that is thine." His lord answered and said, "thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not and gathered where I have not strewed. You ought to have put my money in the exchanges and then at my coming I should have received my own with usury (or interest.) Take, therefore, the talent away from him and give it to the one that hath ten talents. For to every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have in abundance; but from him that hath not it shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." You read the 25th chapter of St. Matthew but surely you know this but have forgotten it.

As you said, Novus Homo, in your article people have to make expenses and without charging usury how in the world will they live, less make any clear money? In this parable of the talents you can see that usury is not condemned but it is a natural necessity. The whole business of the world is done on the credit and usury basis. Look what the poor man who had only one talent and buried it and did not try to gain any more by trading and lending the money out on interest. Now, Mr. Borrower, this is what you would do is it? Or would you loan to your friends and neighbors and not charge any interest. If you would do this I must admit that you are a pretty good fellow, but paragonically speaking, from a laudnum standpoint, I have some awful doubts.

Novus Homo, using the expression of Oliver Cromwell as he stood and gazed on the beheaded body of Charles Stuart, King of England, and

emphatically sighed, "Oh cruel necessity." I somewhat agree with you on that Novus. The times demand usury and interest to make expenses leaving out your own personal needs. Mr. Borrower, if there is no scripture for my phase of the question, will you not agree that the times have changed and the business methods have changed from the old to the new since the scriptures were written?

God thought he gave us enough of intellectual cranium filling called brains to know what to do as the times changed in this specific instance, any how. The old business methods will not work good now in the everyday business as they used to do. The old farm ideas are gone and more scientific methods adopted. Why all this change? Because we are hunting a better usury methods that will pay expenses if nothing more. People are lending money at six per cent and they are merely making expenses and come out even at the present way. But for these money lenders not to charge interest, then Borrower would get the interest backward and the fellow who did the loaning stunt would come out in debt.

Sure Mr. Borrower, a man must live by the sweat of his brow, but the bible does not say to sweat it out plowing, digging, and hoeing in the fields in the hot sunshine, does it? A banker lives up to your passage of scripture, for I am sure some of them have to sweat to get some notes collected that are due them. It costs more to collect some of the notes than the interest is worth.

No, Novus Homo, I will not say I don't believe the bible, for still would be the keys of this typewriter and my brain cease to think if I thought that I was denying any part of the scriptures in our argument. You gentlemen may sink my ship but shoot away at it for I will be right there till the last spire can be seen. "Don't give up the ship."

You are mistaken, Borrower, about me being an old time school house debtor for I am not quite so old. I am not yet old enough to leave the parental roof, though I have been in some rousing good hot debates.

Blow your horn again, Borrower, for I am ready. And, Mr. Homo, I like your style of arguing with a fellow, so if you are acting as Mr. Borrower's attorney or second, I will say, come in my apartment at your most convenient time and I will refer you to my second and we will arrange matters very satisfactory. But suppose we arrange the matter for Stout and run everything out up to Indian Trail to get Sir John to shine their shoes, and while this is taking place either Borrower or myself will fall and be silenced forever. But, gosh, Borrower, what if we both would fall? It would make a devilish bad record for Stout in one day wouldn't it. THE STUDENT.

Fire Burned for 60 Years.

The famous mine fire, which has been raging now for more than 60 years, and which started at Summit Hill, near the spot where Phillip discovered anthracite coal in 1791, says a Lansford, Pa., dispatch of February 1, has burned through the immense concrete wall which the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company sank in front of it, deep down into the earth several years ago, at a cost of more than a million dollars. It is now threatening the mammoth vein in the Panther Creek Valley, the largest and richest vein of anthracite in the world.

The wall, which was sunk into the ground to a depth of 100 feet, was 15 feet thick of solid concrete, and experts believed that the subterranean fire would never eat through it but that it would prevent it from spreading any further and eventually extinguish it. The fact that the flames have eaten through this huge barrier has caused grave fears among the Lehigh Coal & Navigation officials, who are now putting forth every possible effort to prevent the fire from getting into the vast beds of anthracite in the vicinity.

A large force of men are at work drilling holes deep into the earth, and into those openings water and slush is being poured directly on the subterranean fire in the hope of preventing a rapid spread, if possible to extinguish it.

Already this fire has destroyed millions of dollars, while the sixty-years fight to extinguish it has cost enormous sums.

An Old One Revived

An elderly church warden, in shaving himself one Sunday before church time, made a slight cut with the razor on the extreme end of his nose, relates The Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph. Quickly calling his wife, he asked her if she had any court-plaster in the house. "You will find some in my sewing basket," she said. The warden soon had the cut covered.

At church, in assisting with the collection, he noticed every one smiled as he passed the plate, and some of the younger people laughed outright. Very much annoyed, he asked a friend if there was anything wrong with his appearance.

"Well, I should think there is," was the answer. "What is that on your nose?"

"Court plaster."

"No," said his friend, "it is the label of a spool of cotton. It says 'Warranted 200 yards long.'"

Only a Flopping List

"My dear," said Mr. Hemmandhaw, according to The Washington Post. "I hope you are not planning to buy a lot of new furniture."

"I am not," replied Mrs. Hemmandhaw, "and I don't know who gives you the idea."

"This shopping list gives me the idea."

"What shopping list?"

"On this paper which I just picked up off the floor are written 'wash stand, parlor chairs, dining room table, writing desk, refrigerator, piano stool, pedestal, step ladder, cedar chest, music cabinet, and garbage can.'"

"Oh, that is just a record I was keeping of the things the baby has fallen from this week."

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