

WHAT WOMEN MAY DO.

THE NEW WOMEN AND SOME DUTIES OF HER LIFE.

The Woman with Liberal Training and Social Power is the Guardian of Her Humble Sisters—Girls Who Rush Blindly Into Various Occupations.

Out of 340,000 children of school age in New York city, 50,000 are untaught for want of school room, because of ragged clothes, or unwillingness to learn. Twenty-eight thousand more children of school age are employed in stores and factories.

Who should act or this toiling army of little ones, should guard the human race from degeneration, should demand the enforcement of existing laws and the making of better laws in their behalf, should secure the building of schools, the expenditure of more money for kindergartens and primary and industrial education, unless it be intelligent woman.

Their mission it is, too, to bring about better housing of the poor and the artisan, to insist upon their right to decent dwellings, fresh air, pure water and plenty of it, clean alleys and courts and some privacy in their homes—conditions without which those engaged in productive industries can with difficulty lead moral and virtuous lives. It is a mistake to suppose that workers and honest poor folk are satisfied with any miserable abode. Many of them are ambitious. They have the home-making instinct and turn their pitifully small resources to admirable account, surrounding themselves with dainty neatness and refinements in spite of wretched quarters and overburdened lives. I know whereof I speak, having studied the tenements of every large city and many manufacturing centres in the United States. Not long ago I spent four months in a house-to-house, room-to-room investigation of parts of the most congested "slum" districts of New York and Philadelphia. I visited 1400 tenements, 1600 families, and 7250 individuals.

The woman with liberal training, a competence, and social power is the natural guardian of the civic rights of her humble and ignorant sisters, whose civic wrongs she must also have imagination enough to discover by putting herself in the needy fellow creatures' place, bringing to bear upon their problems her own broader insight and nobler vision. To put yourself in another's place signifies to empty yourself of self. Use imagination, probe yourself for the time being into the life of another. Put yourself in the place of those you propose to aid, and then indeed your help becomes not charity, but brotherhood.

To the least observant it is plain that the manual workers who today represent those factory operatives that led us to economic freedom are far less skilled in many branches of industry than were their primitive forbears or their ancestors under the domestic system of tasks. Steam-power inventions and appliances tend to change the wage-earners who watch them into soulless, almost brainless, machines. Labor is now so specialized that one repeats endlessly the same process—feeding presses, turning cranks, guiding seams. Reason is stultified, sensibility is deadened. All around perfected craftsmen exist no more. Who conserves the artistic workmanship, the aesthetic and industrial skill of the primitive female? It is not displayed by our proletariat, certainly, as Prof. Mason remarks; for when we take the exquisite sewing of the Eskimo woman, done with sinew thread and needle of bone, or the wonderful basketry and pottery of our American Indians, or the feather work of Polynesia, or the loom products of Africa, and compare them with the tasteless, useless decorations and clumsy needlework of the untrained daughters of our laborers and mechanics, the comparison is all in favor of the wives and daughters of the degraded savage. Household knowledge and pursuits are at the lowest population. The mothers and girls can neither cook nor sew, nor wash and iron, nor care in the simplest way for the body. Ignorance causes the death of infants and the ill health and poverty of adults, whom poor food robs of their only capital, the power to earn.

Not only over the homes of the workers, but over the shops, foundries, mill, and factories, the curse of incompetence hangs. Unless the grade of labor improves, the pay of the skilled workman will be still further lowered by unskilled competition. Our wealth, our greatness, depend on the mastery of our industrial arts. It helps us little to be the largest coal-consuming and most inventive nation on earth, if the era of machinery is to be also the era of blind force; if behind the machine we have not the trained hand and eye, the taste of the designer, the skill of the architect and wood carver, the science of the ship-builder—in short, manual dexterity reinforced by art. However we pride ourselves on mere material resources, without industrial power and technique the rest of the world will beat us. Japan and China have developed their exquisite textiles, bronzes, and faience for four thousand years. Russia has greater oil fields than America. If Egypt and India fail to out-act us in cotton, Africa could be turned into one vast cotton field where the three economic factors—food, shelter and rainment—would be minimized,

since the cultivator would wear no clothes, would sleep under a tree, and, when he wanted food, would climb the tree and get it.

Clearly, too, we shall continue at an ethical as well as a commercial disadvantage unless we replace the handicrafts of the primitive woman and build up the industrial arts—the all important, ever dignified and beautiful pursuits of cooking and sewing, cleaning and repairing, needlework, embroidery, carving, coloring, and house decoration. The most unlovely homes in the world are the bare, untidy homes of our working population. The most wasteful housewife on earth is the thriftest American housewife. To re-instate the skilled industries, to weave in beauty with the life of the people, we must carry manual and technical training and applied art to the point of action as it were, down among the degraded, the belated, the neglected, the submerged. In the "slums" where ignorance revels, crime festers, and decent poverty hides, we should found cooking, sewing, and housekeeping schools, with carpentry centers, wood-carving, brass hammering, drawing, modeling, and other creative pursuits that will fascinate the roughest street girl and transform the boy "tough" into an eager, industrious artisan. Belgium and France, whose products we vainly try to equal, have planned industrial and domestic science schools in every hamlet, technical schools in all the manufacturing towns, dairy and farm schools in the agricultural districts. The teaching is adapted to local industries; on the coast, to shipbuilding and fisheries; in the quarries, to stonecutting; around textile mills, to weaving and dyeing; with drawing everywhere. Hence the industrial supremacy of these countries, their excellent food, absence of waste, national thrift, and the love of art that prevades even the humblest classes. To educate by the same methods the children of America, to improve our homes, to bring order, skill, and beauty into the barrenest lives, to carry on the propaganda for universal, industrial and art training, is the privilege and duty of the "new woman."

Two words of warning. Even to dabble in handicrafts and aesthetics is a sign of the crude and amateurish but noble striving of our times, just as it indicates awakened civic conscience that club women settle in one hour's discussion the most far-reaching municipal problems and the gravest financial ones. One fault, however, of modern industrialism is that girls rush hastily, blindly, and sometimes unnecessarily into self-supporting pursuits for which they are unfitted, and to the neglect of a legion of home duties. The desire for pin-money, for more to spend on dress than clerks or mechanics can afford their daughters, sweeps into the ranks of competition a whole army of frivolous workers too young to understand the responsibility of the industrial career, untrained for it and determined to end it by marrying the first bona-fide suitor. Such young women, half maintained at home, fond of excitement and of the crowd that congregates in shops and factories, thinking chiefly of self, unidentified with the interests of persisting labor, enter the economic market not on a fair business basis, but accepting any pittance that will supply pocket money and gratify their natural and in some respects commendable desire to make a good appearance. Then, having cut down pay below the life line for the self-supporting toiler, these transients join in condemning merchants and manufacturer for offering no more than starvation wages. Better economic conditions for women will not come until they enter the field less haphazardly and on strictly business terms; until they are trained enough, staple and responsible enough to deserve these ameliorations, and capable of the concerted and unselfish action required to win them.—Popular Science Monthly.

THE STRANGE ROBBER PLANT.

They are Parasitic and Sustain Life in a Peculiar Way.

Aye, aye," said my old Scotch gardener, "It's a robber plant, sure enough; there's no very money o'them—they are bye order. Maist o' plants are weel behaved, an' seem to live to the glory o' the guid God, who made them a'."

What did he mean by robber plants? He meant the parasites. And what are parasitic plants? They are those which do not prepare food for themselves from substances drawn from the soil and air.

The manner of life of most plants is, that their roots draw from the earth water, holding various kinds of mineral matter in solution. Thus the water sucked up by the rootlets, holds chalk, iron, lime, silica, and many other materials, and these, with the water, ascend through the plant to the green leaves. The surface of the plant, especially the leaves, is covered with tiny pores or mouths for drinking in not only water, but air. The air carries in to the plant carbon and oxygen, and some other gases in less quantities. All these materials are to be turned into "good plant-food." This transformation is effected in the leaves of the plant by means of the chlorophyll, or "leaf-green,"—that soft green pulp which fills up the net work of the leaves. A piece of purslane or "live-forever" shows this chlorophyll clearly. We can strip off the thin gray skin, or cuticle, and there is the thick leaf-green, which does all the wonderful work of changing mineral into vegetable matter, and so affording food not only for plant but for animals.

Animals cannot effect this change in their own behalf; the plants must be the middle-

men, and prepare food for man and beast as well as for themselves. Most plants work busily at this food-preparing, and one can never look at the green leaves and stems, without thinking of the marvelous chemistry carried on in them. But there are some plants which do not draw their food-supply directly from the earth or atmosphere; instead they lazily settle down upon other plants, and feed upon what these more industrious-neighbors have prepared. Plant idlers and paupers are these, called parasitic plants.

Some of them do little work for themselves, and thus are not entirely parasitic. The mistletoe is a partial parasite. It springs from a seed dropped upon some tree; this, rooting in the bark and growing, derives nourishment from the sap of the tree. But it is not an entire parasite, because it develops green leaves, which draw food from the air and digest it, so preparing a large portion of its own diet. The mistletoe matures a pure white waxen berry bearing seed. This berry is about as large as a chick-pea. The mistletoe is evergreen, prefers the oak-tree as its host, and was worshipped by our Celtic sires, in their Druid rites.

A true example of a parasite is the dodder, a slim vine much like the convolvulus and wild blind-weed. It is of the same family originally as these. The blind weed, however, kept strictly and honestly to its work, developed large leaves, beautiful broad white and painted blossoms, and ripened its seeds. On the rule of "To him that hath shall be given" the blind weeds have grown more and more comely. Who does not love the morning glory, with its hundreds of exquisitely painted chalices, opened to the early day? The dodder has clusters of tiny pink blossoms, shaped like minute morning-glories; it has no leaves and its stem has paled and shrunk to a slim pink thread, which we find wandering over clover and every other low-growing, soft-skinned plant or shrub, to which it fastens itself. Examine it, and you will find here and there clusters of minute roots, fastened into the stem of its enforced host-plant, and drinking the juices and food-stuff it is preparing for itself.

As the dodder was less lazy, and merely twined about other plants for support, as do the morning glories. It had green leaves, and good roots fixed in the earth; it prepared its own food. By degrees it turned pauper, and demanded food of its neighbors; it wanted its entire support given to it. Its little pink blossoms still attract insects to carry pollen for it, so that it can ripen seed; for all else it begs.

The dodder seems never to realize or regret that it wears out the plant's upon which it fastens, causing their decay and death. The busy plant's cannot collect and digest food enough for themselves and their enforced guest. Here we might take the dodder for the text of a little sermon about idle people who live on the work of others, who insist upon living on some relation, who are worn to death in trying to support them. Very contemptible style that! What became of the green stem and green leaves that the dodder plants had ages ago? As they were not used they were taken away; the less they were used, the more they shrunk and faded, until they were all gone. Atrophied, that is called. Here we might preach another little sermon about idle people, who will not use the powers which God has bestowed upon them, and so become weak in body and mind, according to the general rule that the unused is nothing bettered but only grows worse.

The Indian pipes, or "beech drops," that are often found in rainy weather at the foot of the trees in the woods, are all parasitic. They grow from the roots of the forest trees, fastening upon them, and drawing for support the sap which is the prepared plant-food. If you examine these pipes—which are usually all snowy white, but sometimes all yellow, pink or red—you will see that there are numerous, leaf-

shaped scales upon the stem; these are colored like the stem and bloom: once they were good green leaves, doing the work of food-preparing, but when the roots fastened upon the tree roots, and sucked prepared food, the occupation of the leaves was gone—they lost the chlorophyll of which they would make no proper use. So in Scripture, he who had buried his talent, lost it entirely.

These Indian pipes, or "beech-drops," are members of the wintergreen family; their cousins, the wintergreens, have plenty of stiff, aromatic, dark green leaves; they perfect that red, spicy berry, delight of children's hearts, and joy and comfort of the birds which winter among us. Long ago these "pipes" may have had toothsome berries, and like the other wintergreens, may have been competent to yield useful extracts. Now they produce nothing, mere blanched ghosts of their ancient selves, feeble and short lived, they make in a night their rapid growth on borrowed capital, then in a day blacken and decay.

Another parasite is called the broomrape, or broom-thief, from its habit of stealing for its subsistence the juices of more industrious plants. The broomrape is a tall, slim plant with stem, small scales and tiny flowers, all of a dull reddish brown color. It is a "seedy" looking individual of the kind that loaf about for other people to maintain. Sometimes the broomrape fixes itself upon the red clover plant, close above the root, and the more the broomrape thrives, the feebler grows the clover, which no matter how hard it works, cannot secrete and digest enough food for its greedy guest.

Another species of plants, resembling somewhat the parasites in their manner of growth, are the epiphytes; these are plants that naturally fix themselves upon other plants, rather than in the ground, but they are by no means parasites, because they do not draw any of their nutriment from the plant upon which they are fixed. Epiphytes are air-eaters; they take all their food from the atmosphere, and all they ask of the trees upon which they fasten themselves, is leave to remain, held up in a position where their roots and abundant green leaves can gather plentiful food from the air. These epiphytes have most magnificent blossoms, paying for their tenancy by their beauty, as for example many of the orchids.

The mistletoe in its manner of growth is partly parasite, and partly epiphyte, as it sucks much nutriment from the tree upon which it grows, yet absorbs from the air at least an equal amount of food-stuff, which it prepares in the laboratory of its green leaves.

HEALTH'S PARADISE.

Regained after Twenty Years' Torture From That Dread Disease, Catarrh—Hon. Geo. Taylor of Scranton, Pa., Tells the World What Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder Has Done For Him.

I was a martyr to catarrh for twenty years—tried every known remedy, but got little or no relief. Was troubled with constant dripping in the throat, terrible pains in my head, and my breath was very offensive. I was induced to give Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder a trial, and the result was magical. The first application cleared my head instantly. I persisted in its use, and to-day I am a cured man, and it affords me pleasure to lend my testimony.

England's Camels.

The British Government is the owner of about 25,000 camels, the greater number being in India, where they are kept in reserve at the commissariat depots, to meet various requirements—such as the carriage of stores to out stations, and camp equipments of troops changing quarters by line of march. In the war of 1878, in Afghanistan, camels were used by the British. Some 50,000 died during the campaign from cold, neglect and starvation. Included in the above 25,000 are the camels employed in Egypt with the British army of occupation—in 1884 85 a camel corps of 1,000 was formed, which did excellent service during the war against the Mahdi. At present between six and seven thousand camels belonging to the British Government are engaged in the advance on Dongola in the Sudan, and the Government is still buying largely, so that probably before the autumn campaign is over those numbers will be at least doubled. As the camels are obtained they are organized into companies of 400 each.

STRAIGHT AS AN ARROW



TO THE MARK.

In all diseases that affect humanity there is some weak link in the chain of health, some spot that is the seat of the trouble. It may be the liver, it may be the stomach; perhaps it is the bowels or the kidneys; most likely it is the blood. Burdock Blood Bitters goes straight to that spot, strengthens the weak link in the chain, removes the cause of the disease, and restores health, because it acts with cleansing force and curative power upon the stomach, liver, kidneys, bowels and blood.

With good red blood health is assured, without it disease is certain to come and Burdock

BLOOD BITTERS

is the only remedy that will positively remove all blood poisons. In ulcers, abscesses, scrofula, scrofulous swellings, skin diseases, blotches, old sores, etc., B.B.B. should be applied externally, as well as taken internally according to directions.

PLEASANT TO TAKE

DROPPED ON SUGAR.

JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT
CUTS
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Who use it are amazed at its wonderful power and how long it will continue ever after.

Every Mother should have it for the many common ailments which will occur in every family as long as life has woes. Do not forget the very important and useful fact, that Johnson's Anodyne Liniment cures every form of inflammation, Internal or External. It is a fact, proven by the investigations of medical science, that the real danger from disease is caused by inflammation; cure the inflammation and you conquer the disease.

JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT

Could a remedy have existed for over eighty years except for the fact that it does possess extraordinary merit for very many Family Ills? There is not a medicine in use today which has the confidence of the public to so great an extent as this wonderful Anodyne. It has stood upon its own intrinsic merit, while generation after generation have used it with entire satisfaction, and handed down to their children a knowledge of its worth, as a Universal Household Remedy, from infancy to good old age.

Granby Rubbers

It is no wonder that rubbers, which are not the same shape as the foot, should be uncomfortable. It costs money to employ skilled pattern makers but the result is a satisfactory fit. Each year new patterns are added, to fit all the latest shoe-shapes, and Granby Rubbers are always "up-to-date." They are honestly made of pure rubber, thin, light, elastic, durable, extra thick at ball and heel.

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WILLIAM TELL OUT-DO-NE.

A Man Who Shoots Two Apples from Two Boys' Heads.

An Italian inventor has recently made a double barreled gun, the barrels of which are easily controllable and which enables a marksman to shoot simultaneously at two objects. The inventor is Alessandrino Scuri and he calls his invention the "scurimobile."

Scuri has worked upon this invention almost incessantly since 1887 and accomplished his purpose in an eminently practical and ingenious manner. The gun as it now appears, is fitted with two barrels, which may be turned horizontally to a certain extent, and set at the proper angle while aiming for the shots. This is done with the left hand by sliding forward or backward a ring provided for the purpose on the under side of the gun. The axis around which the gun barrels revolve is placed in such a way, that both aims are visible to the marksman's eye at the same time. The moving of the gun barrels may be interrupted at any time, whereupon they will remain fast in any desired position, and the gun is then ready to be used. The illustration shows Scuri shooting simultaneously at two glass balls upon the heads of two children in imitation of the famous Swiss patriot William Tell, an act which he has been performing in public in order to attract attention to his patent. His shot smashes both balls and immediately afterward he throws out both cartridge shells with a single motion of the thumb. The gun may also be used singly, and either of the two barrels may be temporarily put out of use, by letting down the cock all the way. A very valuable property of the "Scurimobile" is the possibility of figuring out the exact distance from the objects aimed at by means of a graded scale, showing the angle at which the gun barrels are fastened in relation to each other and a simple trigonometric formula. The gun has been placed on the market by a firm of gunsmiths in Liege, Belgium, where the inventor now resides. He is still improving upon his invention and will soon exhibit models of the movable double barreled gun fitted with magazines, so that they may serve as double repeating rifles.

ARE DEFORMITIES OUGROWN?

Certain Deformities If Carefully Attended to Will Disappear in Time.

It is a matter of common observation that the "bow-legs" and "knock-knees" of young children become apparently straighter as age advances, even when no assistance is given to them. Perhaps it is due to these facts or possibly to a species of self-delusion that mothers so often believe that their children will outgrow many slowly increasing deformities, which are consequently neglected, to the children's further hurt. Certain deformities, when arrested, will

apparently grow less or disappear as the growth of the child increases, until as adult age is reached they may cease to be noticeable. But even though the ideal of symmetry be a comparatively low one, a deformity of any moment must be treated early if the body is to be brought up to the average standard. The child, like the tree must be taken in hand early if any natural distortion is to be corrected.

Pott's disease, a curvature of the spine due to an inflammation of the joints causing decay of the bones of the spinal column, and hip disease, due to a similar condition of the hip joint, are among the deformities which require treatment at the earliest possible moment.

Postural deformities, so called, including bow-legs, knock-knees, flat chests, round backs, "shackle" or loose joints and weak feet, are among those for which most can be done by surgeons and parents. On the other hand, such deformities will be increased if the weak parts are subjected to strain. Thus attitudes producing fatigue at weak spots, attitudes induced or encouraged by uncomfortable seats or by defects of eyesight are common causes of a want of physical symmetry.

Newly acquired postural deformities yield in most cases to simple means which a mother or nurse is capable of applying; but the first evidence of any disease of the bones or joints, such as a limp, a dragging of one foot, or a curvature of the spine should receive immediate attention at the hands of a surgeon.

In general, it may be said that deformities do not tend to correct themselves. Nature exerts herself in other directions. However, a corrective force, though in itself very slight, if rightly applied, may entirely do away with the deformity, or at least aid largely in lessening it.

I CAN'T SLEEP

Is the Daily Wall of Thousands of Humanity Who Have Suffered as Wm. Proudfoot of Hantsville Has—Read What the Great South American Nerve Tonic Did For Him.

I was greatly troubled with general nervous debility, indigestion and sleeplessness. I tried a number of cures and consulted best physicians without any benefit. I was finally induced to give South American Nerve Tonic a trial. I had heard of some great cures by it. I took it, got relief from my sufferings, and after using one bottle sweet sleep came to me. I slept like a child. Six bottles have completely cured me.

"Doctor," said he. "I'm a victim of insomnia. I can't sleep if there's the least noise, such as a cat on the back fence, for instance."

"This powder will be effective," replied the physician, after compounding a prescription.

"When do I take it, doctor?"

"You don't take it. You give it to the cat in a little milk."—Odds and Ends