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Buttons and Buttons

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THE SHEPPARD-TOWNER BILL

The Sheppard-Towner Bill is known officially as “an act for the promotion of the welfare and hygiene of motherhood and infancy for other purposes.” This act came as a result of a great many studies made on the high rate of mother and infant mortality in the United States. In making this investigation it was found that, in the countries of the world, the United States is the most dangerous place for a baby to be born in. More women die from childbirth in the United States than from any other cause with the exception of tuberculosis.

The lowest mortality rate in the world is in Italy with two mothers dying to every one thousand births. Germany and Japan have a mortality rate of seven mothers for every two thousand births. England, a mortality rate of eight mothers for every two thousand births; France, nine mothers for every two thousand births, with America having a record of thirteen deaths for every two thousand births.

Few of us realize the number of babies who die before the age of one year. In 1920, 1,500,000 babies were born in the United States and 300,000 of this number did not live to the age of one year. What can be the cause of these staggering figures?

Among the various reasons found for such a large death-rate among the newborn babies, the most apparent are poor housing conditions; the large amount of work done by mothers before or after the birth of the child; and, improper diets. Good parental and infant care have been shown to reduce infant mortality to a great extent. These facts bring out clearly that the lack of facilities and of instruction or proper knowledge as to the care before and after the birth of the child are the main causes for this large death rate.

We all sincerely believe in the education of our children—do we not? Is it not just as important that they live to the educational age and that every safeguard be taken for their personal and early years so that they will reach that period of life when their education begins?

The first public recognition of the great need of mothers and babies in this country was brought out by the Federal Children’s Bureau under the leadership of Miss Julia Lathrop.

Finally in the 65th Congress a bill for federal aid was introduced by Jeannette Rankin. It was favorably reported out of committee but did not pass. It was introduced again in the 66th Congress by Senator Sheppard of Texas and Representative Towner of Iowa. Passing the Senate, it was favorably reported on, but not voted on. Finally, however, on April 21st, in the 67th Congress, it was again introduced and passed both Houses in November, 1921.

The difficulties besetting this act were many and annoying. It had to find its way along an unbroken path, for no legislation of its kind had ever before been passed.

During the presentation of the Sheppard-Towner Bill before the Senate, Senator Sheppard made a wonderful speech, a part of which seems worthy of quoting.

Mr. President: If this nation declines to take the necessary steps to end the appalling waste of lives of mothers and children in America, a destruction exceeding every year our total casualties in the most stupendous and terrible war of history, it will invite severest censure. The mother who faces death in childbirth is as much a soldier as the uniformed hero on the field of arms. The World War has not been fought, but our battles or her martyrdoms. Thru all the centuries that are yet to come, whenever a human life is to be ushered into existence, she must go down into the valley of another Marne, the shadow of another Somme. For her, and for the life that flows from her blood and tears, it is a compelling duty to provide every possible safeguard, every possible protection.

After this speech one of Senator Sheppard’s opponents sent a note to Senator Sheppard, which read, “You have made a wonderful speech and your bill will pass.”

The Sheppard-Towner Bill provides that the United States government, give every state, regardless of population, $10,000 to start a system of maternal and infant care and shall thereafter give each state, in proportion to its population, a part of a $1,000,000 appropriation, providing each state raises an equal amount. A committee, made up of the National Commission of Public Welfare, was appointed to investigate the plans of the states. Plans are approved as to their organization and procedures. States with approved plans are paid the stated amount with federal aid.

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THE SHEPPARD-TOWNER BILL

By LOIS MILLER HERD

MEN are fond of buttons. Indeed it was they who first stepped forth arrayed in many buttons. The Red Coats and the Hessians, Napoleon and Washington all paraded a goodly number of them on their uniforms. In all good family chests you are sure to find a stray brass button which may have dropped from the uniform of grandmother's one-time sweet-hearted Infantry. History tells us these things and we must believe history even if, because of the conventional few seen on the clothes of modern man, we are inclined to believe it must have been the women who started the fashion.

Perhaps the first feminine creature who wore buttons upon her dress was considered a trifle audacious! It was she who wore the tiny brass and steel buttons in stately rows, military style, upon her gown. In these late years the steel button is much in evidence. The gayest and jingliest of dresses is the one which is trimmed with steel buttons. The men in the military parade, even in the small row around the neck and sleeve placket. Maybe the little brass ones have their moment of romance, a dress attractive just as the others do.

For years the pearl button reigned supreme. They were everywhere, and of course all the buttons have their own way of making a dress attractively modern and bold, poor thing!

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THE IOWA HOMEMAKER

Sheppard-Towner Bill

By ESTHER ELLEN RAYBURN

Buttons and Steel Buttons
were to be transferred to the Empress of Australia with the hope of going to Kobe and then to America. As soon as we had been assigned cabins we were told to return to the French boat, that the President Pierce was expected in a few hours and would take us to America. The two trips on the tug were long and rather wild ones. The sea was terribly rough. At times the boat almost stood on end. The following day at noon we again embarked in a launch which took us to the President Pierce.

I felt much like "Noah's weary dove" after its day of flight, that I had at last found rest for the sole of my foot.

The earthquake and the fire had claimed everything I had in the way of baggage. The clothes I had on were no longer presentable, so these were replaced by those given me by kind strangers who had escaped the great disaster.

The experience is worth millions, but I would not have it again for a deed to the Universe.

Paying Homage to the King of Fruits

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of chopped nuts and one cup of raisins onto the dry flour and mix all very thoroughly together. Lastly, add one and one-half cups of apple sauce sweetened. Be careful to have a stiff batter. Bake in a loaf in a slow oven.

Last, but certainly best of all, must be mentioned Apple Dumplings, favorite of all time.

Apple Dumplings

Make a puff paste as for pie. Roll out a piece large enough to cover peeled and cored apple. If the apples are small use an apple and a half in each dumpling. Be sure that they are sound and tart. Put in each dumpling one-half teaspoon of butter, one tablespoon of sugar. Enclose the apple in paste sack, using a little water if necessary to make edges stay folded. Place dumplings in a greased baking pan and bake in a hot oven until a light brown. Then cover over with Poor Man's Sauce and bake again until crisp and brown. Serve with more sauce or cream.

Buttons and — Buttons

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cause they fit where nothing else ever could. The small red raised ones brought back gleeful memories of childhood red dotted Swiss. The white ones go with voile or linen. The modest dress of them all is the straight green linen with a beautiful row of shining white buttons marching down the front.

The distinctive class of buttons is of course the covered ones. A covered button can only be used on wool or silk dresses so of course they feel just a bit superior to the common bead buttons. They like pearl buttons, altho they'd be horrified if they knew they were in any way like the common pearler, must be sewed on in very straight rows. The crocheted sisters of this family considered themselves quite as much but they seem almost passe just now.

But, as the little boy says in the story:

"Of all the buttons on land or sea..."
The best of all grow on the button tree.

These are the queer jolly little just decorative buttons. The ones that don't hold anything together but just perch idly upon Milady's dress with no other thought than just to make her pretty. The pearl buttons and the brass ones, the steel, and covered ones are really useful and can fasten things as well as decorate. But an ornamental button never does one thing but just be attractive. There is a great deal of jealousy among buttons so unless you'd have a war, be careful not to wear your new dress with the " dear buttons", before the old dress with the just useful buttons.

What a fairy place it must be where these fairy buttons come from. There are the celluloid ones which come white, green, red and blue, as well as oblong square and round. You can almost have them to match any old dress if you tell the storeman what it's like.

Long ago they used to trim dresses with buttons made of glass which had a lady's head on top. Sometimes if you peeked down in the middle of some of them you'd find a rose or violet looking at you. There must be some such buttons in your mother's button box.

The carved and painted buttons which only come by twos and fours are very quaint. They come in such small lots because they are only meant to go on one dress and there are never any where in all the world buttons like them. There may be two or three or four or five but never more than six upon a dress. They are the dreamiest, airiest, buttons of all. If you don't believe it look into them and see the wonderous things they tell about.

Buy a button here and buy a button there, and when you've found the queerest or the newest of them, just sew it on and consider yourself button-right.

Who's There and Where

(Continued from page 10)

Faith Fenton '13, who is an instructor at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., expects to complete work at Columbia University and receive her M.S. degree in October 1923.

The announcement has been made of the marriage of Frances Newell to Roy Liebernecht. Frances was the first fellow in the department of home economics at Iowa State, receiving her master's degree in the summer of '22. They are living in Beloit, Wisconsin, where Mr. Liebernecht is with the Fairbanks-Morse company.

Grace Bowie, who received the Anna Larabee prize as the best student in household science at Iowa State, is now teaching at Baxter, Iowa.

Audrey Hickman '22 who will return to Mason City where she instructs in home economics in the high school, has been teaching in the summer school at Buena Vista college, Storm Lake, Iowa.

Dorothy Gruwell, '23 will teach home economics in the high school at Manson, Iowa. She is to have charge of coaching of the class plays and all other dramatic programs put on under the auspices of the high school.