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Put the Home Into Homemaking

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"The status of the American Home is such as to offer a challenge to the women of the United States. The home is at present a turbulent haven—an uncertain citadel."

"Statistics show that one out of every six marriages ends in the divorce court. These and many similar statements culled from newspaper and magazine articles are attracting attention of people the courts of Domestic Relations and Juvenile Courts seem to re-echo the conditions suggested on the printed page. Local communities have their own cases of unhappily frequently disastrous—marriages with the result that many are asking sincerely and seriously, whether the home and family can exist in the present age. Others have gone so far as to suggest substitutes for what appears to them a beloved but outgrown institution. To us it suggests the importance of considering more carefully than before the contribution which the American Home may make and the methods by which it can most completely fulfill its purposes. The reason given for having homes in our midst would doubtless vary greatly with the person to whom the question was asked. To some a home would seem a beloved but outgrown institution. To us it is the very important question of the present day home, we might have once been established, but to alter the foundation has been poor. To put secure cornerstones where insecure ones fail of understanding.

Those, who feel that any of these suggestions are sufficient, have failed to strike the keynote. While the average home gives sustenance and shelter to its members, it performs no occupation for the woman, it has in its keeping a vastly more important purpose—to help each member to attain his or her maximum development physically, mentally, aesthetically, morally and spiritually. In other words, the child, the man, or the woman is an asset or a liability on the balance sheet of the Nation largely because of the home from which he comes. The plastic clay has in it potential beauty yet the mold into which it goes may cause an inferior product to emerge. The finest variety of seed will be utterly wasted if planted in soil which does not contain essentials for growth. The house on the sands is at best a temporary and unsatisfactory structure. It is not less true that the person, who has had the misfortune to live in a home, which, for its members, has been synonymous with a perennial meal ticket, a long-time lease, or a steady "job," falls far short if held up to the measure of his possibilities under more favorable home conditions. Lost the analogy of the clay be carried too far, it is well to recall that the clay can, under proper treatment, be remodeled and that which has been ugly can be made more beautiful. Likewise, the seed will germinate if proper food, moisture, and other essential elements are performed before it is too late. But as with the house, so with the person, enduring qualities cannot exist, if the foundation has been poor. To put secure cornerstones where insecure ones have first been placed is not an easy matter after the framework of a building has been completed, but to alter habits, tastes, associations, and ideals, which have once been established, is far more difficult.

The real function of the home—that of character-building—is one which has been started at the outset, but which has been neglected. The time has come, if it is still regarded as one of the educational trills. Fathers and mothers withhold their sanction to daughter's marriage until they are convinced that the prospective son-in-law is trained sufficiently to earn an adequate income. Is there not reason for a similar standard to be set up, which will insure to the young man's parents the wise spending of the income after it is earned? In that case, the mere fact that a girl had lived in a home might not be sufficient proof of a thorouogh course in homemaking essentials.

The time was when the state of parenthood was believed to bestow upon a man and woman all of the information necessary for the successful rearing of children. This belief is gradually giving way under pressure of research in psychology, and actual observation of existing conditions. If the man and wife are to give to the Nation citizens who are worthy of the name, there is but one way by which they can be relatively certain of the character of their contribution.
pearl buttons which sew thru. They are used in solid masses to form a belt, or make a pocket. They are put on in rows across a collar and on the cuffs. And they are not sewed on in the ordinary stitches.

Perhaps you always wear out your suits and your afternoon dresses, but you still have that velvet evening dress you wore several years ago, and do not know what to do with it. Why not make it over? If it has a full or circular skirt, you may combine it with chiffon, using the chiffon as a sleeveless surplice bodice, setting the velvet skirt onto it. Attach to the base of several rows of net and chiffon, which fall to the hem of the garment. A decoration such as a large velvet rose or a beaded ornament might be added to complete the effect.

If you have an old evening dress which is cut straight from the shoulder, then move any trimming which happens to be on it, take in the side seams if it is not snug fitting, and concentrate your attention on the lower part of the gown. You can make fringes from tulle cut in narrow strips and weighted with beads or a drop of sealing wax. This may be put on in uneven rows around the bottom of the dress. You can cut tulle or chiffon in oblong strips about twelve inches wide, tacking one corner onto the skirt near the hip line and allowing the lower point to reach below the hem of the dress.

Perhaps these few hints will give you some idea as to how to rejuvenate your old clothes so that they may oftentimes be cleverer by virtue of necessity, than new dresses would be, and certainly much less expensive. Then, too, when you have disposed of an old garment and gained a new one in its place by your own ingenuity, the satifying feeling of actually having practised true economy makes the effort well worth while.

**Put the Home Into Homemaking**

(Continued from page 3.) They must have the best training which is possible to secure. Haphazard information makes for haphazard children. Surely the very greatest privilege of men and women is not to be left to chance.

It might be assumed that successful homemaking would come into being if all men and women had an appreciation of their responsibilities and were trained to carry them. There is, however, a third requisite, which must always be supplied if the highest type of success is attained. Aeroplane ideals are frequently fleeting and one objective is common to all, he comes blurred or lost to sight in the continual round of routine duties. Keeping one's eyes on the stars is not easy if there are clouds between. Seeing the distant horizon is possible only when there is open space. Having a true perspective in homemaking at all times, and under all conditions is difficult even with appreciation and knowledge of the enterprise. It remains for the homemakers, men and women alike, to make their goal a reality in their every-day life. Maximum development of each family member can come only when each person in the group works toward the objective, which they all hold in common. The husband must remember that he has obligations to his business, but also to his home and family, and that he can carry family obligations and privileges only when he gives to them a just proportion of his time. Home must be something more than a place to read a newspaper to oneself at the close of a busy day or to drop one's business suit and accessories before dressing for an evening engagement. If a man lives up to his part of the marriage contract, he must be something more than a passive factor in the home. The wife is no less a poor homemaker if she lets the mechanics of housekeeping crowd out her real contact of homemaking. Dishwashing—and the manifold duties of each day—must be recognized as a means to an end and rated accordingly. Free time should be a first requisite for the wife if family life is to be cultivated. To the two major partners will fall the responsibility of stimulating and encouraging the younger members. The music which they are to enjoy, the books which they wish to read, the associations which they will care to cultivate, the religious life in which they may take part, the activities in which they in turn will sponsor are all determined in large measure by the standards which their father and mother have established in the home. To those two has been given the privilege of shaping other lives not alone by precept, but rather by example. Understanding, sympathy, pliability, interest, and co-operation are the qualities which will be most essential in order to attain the goal which they have set.

Altho there is laid upon both parents the responsibility, the degree to which they succeed is dependent in part upon the younger members of the family. It takes the active interest and support of every member to attain a worthwhile goal. Each must give of his time and each must make a contribution. For all will be the opportunity to share in the every-day duties of the home, that the mother may find more free time. Sometimes the greatest help is caring for one's personal belongings. Again, it may be the care of a smaller sister or brother. For others it will mean bring-
Putting the home into homemaking is not an impossibility even in the present day if each member of the family will cooperate. It may mean a living room with many of the modern comforts, good books, good music, a happy family table, picnics together, a camping trip, the entertainment of friends—these, and a great many more things. Most of all it gathers up the joys of living though, sometimes in intangible form, and it, more than anything else, makes life worth while for the individual family and for the members of the larger community.

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