Hubby Lends A Hand

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Hubby Lends A Hand
By MIRIAM BIGELOW

MY WIFE is usually a good, sensible woman—no high-falutin' notions of putting on style or dolling up in the latest fashions,—like some wives I know. But the other day I came home from work, tired-out, looking forward to a nice quiet evening with the paper and my pipe,—you know how a fellow will. I had no more got inside the house when the wife began.

"Henry, when will you learn to get the dirt off your hands with soap and water, and not with the only decent towels I've got?"

"Good heavens, Henry, you've gone and burned another hole in the library scarf with your old cigarette. What do you think Mother gave you that ash tray for?"

And so on and on. Well, I took it as good-naturedly as I could, not saying very much feeling told me the cause for all that. I should in my two or three months see places and things, temples and rivers and people, but that I should not see India.

Books are many things to different people. To me when the spring hits me they are primarily a road of escape. Roads, rather—roads in all directions, into every country, across every sea and, the greatest adventure of all, into the minds and hearts of strange people.

I shall take my travels, not in company of Tom, Dick and Harry, the chance pick-ups of a wandering road. If I travel if you please with the "best minds." Anatoile France will accompany me and Knut Hamsun and Joseph Conrad and, if there be no new Dostoievsky and Willa Cather, or any one of a hundred others I have merely to choose.

I want to get out of this. I want to get away. I want to escape.

A Trip Thru Books
By BLAIR CONVERSE
Associate Professor of Technical Journalism.

I WANT to get out of this. I want to get away. I want to escape. Almost every mail brings me circulars from railroads, from steamship companies, from summer resorts. How do all those people know how tired I am, how the spring has got into my blood, how stale and unprofitable are the things that I do?

I want to escape from foolish people and from my foolish self, from a dull town and a dull landscape. I would see the Mediterranean and the Alps and the quiet English country and the close-cropped fields of France and the vineyards of Spain.

And these circulars say that I may do these things. But, bah! They want money and I'm broke.

I turn from them to the corner that is plot high, with shelves, a window, and a view. I turn to these rows of books.

And I'm not really sad at my abnegation. I have sufficient shrewdness to know that if I should take a trip, to India, say, I should in my two or three
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green don't make much difference to me. When I told Alice what we were going to do, she was all excited and enthusiastic, so together we planned the following boxes:

Asparagus Impatiens
Sprengerii Wandering Jew
Boston Impatiens Asparagus
Fern Sprengerii Wandering Jew

The asparagus sprengeri is a hanging plant similar to the ordinary asparagus. Impatiens is a flowering plant which has dainty pink flowers, and everyone is familiar with the Boston fern and Wandering Jew. We bought these plants at a greenhouse for very little cost, and in a few weeks had some good looking flower boxes. My wife became interested in house plants, and before the summer was over we had a veritable conservatory on our porch. She got books at the library on house plants, and learned much from them. One little book which she liked especially well was "Milady's House Plants" by F. E. Palmer.

I have some other suggestions which I will pass on to anyone who might be interested in satisfying his wife's craving for English gardens and Greek temples:

The first thing to be considered in selecting plants is the exposure of the window box or vase, because there are some plants which will not grow in shady positions, and there are others that cannot stand the sunlight. Never put more than four kinds of plants in one box, and two are sometimes sufficient to give an artistic effect. Be sure that the arrangement is balanced, and that the plants are of sufficient size to give a finished appearance. Avoid weak, deformed and straggly specimens. Some other arrangements which may suggest ideas to you are:

(Sun) Plant entire box with Petunia—Variety "Rosy Morn."
(Sun) Dwarf Nasturtiums in back
Lobby's climbing Nasturtiums in front for trailing effect
(Shade) Boston Fern Dracaena indivisa Rex Begonia
Grevillea Rex Begonia
Dracaena indivisa Boston Fern Rex Begonia

The Pleasant Valley Willing Workers of Scott county gave a play, making $25. The Lincoln Go-Getters of the same county made $20 in the same way.