Choosing the Profession of Homemaking

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Choosing the Profession of Homemaking

By ANNA E. RICHARDSON
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FOR A LITTLE HOUSE

Oh, to have a little house! !
To own the hearth and stool and all!
The heaped-up sods upon the fire,
The pite of turf against the wall!
To have a clock with weights and chains
And pendulum swinging up and down!
A dresser filled with shining delf,
Speckled white and blue and brown!

I could be busy all the day
Clearing and sweeping hearth and floor,
And fixing on their shelf again
My white and blue and speckled store!

I could be quiet there at night
Beside the fire and by myself,
Sure of a bed and loth to leave
The ticking clock and shining delf!

Och, but I'm weary of mist and dark,
And roads where there's never a house
nor bush;

And tired I am of bog and road,
And the crying of wind and the lone­some hush!

And I am praying to God on high,
And I am praying Him night and day.
For a little house—a house of my own—
Out of the wind and the rain's way.

—Padriac Colum.

The women, the country over, do most of
the buying and the farm home is no
general exception to this. Therefore,
be intelligent as buyers becomes one of
the important duties of the homemaker
if her home is to be economically sound.
How can she choose intelligently? First,
by carefully studying needs, and then by
understanding values in the marketed
product.

In place of expenditure of so much
physical effort the time is fast approach­
ing when management of machines will
leave free time. How will the home­
maker use this time so as to give to the
family the largest returns? Only with
leisure comes the opportunity for recrea­
tion, play, and for developing fine family
relations without which no home in a real
sense exists. Leisure alone, however,
does not give us understanding parents,
wisdom in handling difficult personal rela­
tions, nor does it make for happiness.
The second challenge which homemaking
makes is that the homemaker be socially
and spiritually fitted for the great respon­
sibilities of wifehood and motherhood.

Some interesting studies have been
made of the personality traits which are
of prime importance in homemaking and
of the methods by which personality may
be developed. Those interested in home­
making as a profession will find this a
very rich field for study, for she who
would choose homemaking must be equip­
ped to meet its demands and be willing
to give time and effort in preparation.

Homemaking is the most important of all
of the occupations in which men and wo­
men are employed both on account of
the importance of its product—happy,
healthy, useful citizens—and because of
the significance of the social and spiritual
forces which surround it and which it
controls.

Homemaking makes many and exacting
demands in skill, personality, unfitted
and generous and time effort and but in turn
meets out the largest returns in hap­
piness to her who meets its challenge.

THE OLD HOUSE

O kindly house where time my soul en­
dows
With courage, hope and patience mani­
fold,
How shall my debt of love to thee be told.
Since first I heard the sweet voiced rob­
in's rouse
The morn among thy ancient apple
boughs?

Here was I nourished on the truths of old.
Here taught against new times to make
me bold,
Memory and hope the doorposts, O dear
house!
Heaven's blessing rested on thy dark
gray roof,
And clasped thy children age to lapsing
age,
Birth and the grave thy tale till time's
release;
Poverty did not hold from thee aloof;
Of lowly good thou wast the hermitage;
Now falls the evening light. God give
thee peace!

—George Edward Woodberry.