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MOTHERS OF THE WORLD

THE **AFRICAN** ★

a series by Irving Sinclair

THE Mother of South Africa not only gives excellent care to her children, but is invariably the "man" of the kraal, attending to most of the heavy manual labor necessary for the existence of her family. Although the husband may be unchivalrous, her duties give the Zulu mother distinct advantages in domestic arguments because of her muscular development. It is the African Mother who gathers grass stems, plaits and overlays them to fashion a bee-hive dwelling for her family, a stout hut whose thick walls are rain-proof, making a snug nest for her brood. Her home be-

comes the social center for meetings and discussions of every sort, surrounded by the circular village in the form of a corral where cattle and children mingle during the day and are safe at night from animal prowlers. Clothing, of course, is more of a luxury than a necessity, and lack of adornment on tropic days is both healthy and comfortable. Missionaries have tried for many years to clothe native women in "mother Hubbards," and have been partially successful in the towns of the coast, but Africa's interior tribes remain as primitive as before the invasion of European civilization and customs.