

Woman's Share in Social Culture

Story of Woman's Battle and Progress Founded on Anna Spencer Garlin's New Book of the Same Name.

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THAT woman's first service for social advance was the habit of regular work, is one of the first clear thoughts seen in the interesting new book on "Woman's Share in Social Culture," written by Anna Spencer Garlin. Man fished and hunted and made war which developed in him many traits which later made for the advancement of the race, but women saved and started the race by her steady employment in behalf of her family. Her second service was in inducting man into the ways of industrial progress, after having prepared all the processes of peaceful labor.

Following this comes the almost unaccountable time when she sank into what was virtually, and often literally, slavery; then here and there she began to rise as the lady. The lady was, at least in the beginning of her rise, a creature of superior powers, or she could not have raised herself above the level of useful womanhood. The lady, though supported by the labor of others, yet performed a certain service in social culture, in that she refined the manners of the world and taught gentleness in social intercourse.

Women have never been in the first rank of geniuses, though there are many of secondary rank. Perhaps the dearth of first rank geniuses among women may be partly accounted for by their long exclusion from the higher professions in which genius has usually manifested itself. But if woman has not often herself been a great genius, she has usually made possible, by her untiring service to the family, the expression of genius in man. The history of the wives of great geniuses is usually quite as interesting, and a great deal more pathetic, than that of their illustrious husbands.

The author calls the present age the age of spinsters. It is true that up to a recent time only special classes of women have felt free to live their own lives regardless of marriage. The spinster first appeared in the nuns and abbesses when the troubled age of society made houses of refuge for unprotected women a necessity, and in these places of shelter for helpless women and children the spinster nuns and abbesses did a great social service, just as today in our great cities with their centers of poverty and crime, our spinster sisters in the settlement houses and slums do a great work of educational uplift and sympathy. These are also in the commercial world, and increasingly in the professional world, a great body of women, which, because of their freedom from home ties, are giving most efficient service in their various lines of work. Many recent writers predict that there will be henceforth a large body of unmarried women, who, because of their greater leisure, and broader opportunities for intellectual culture and growth, will become a superior class intellectually, and that the women who marry will be the inferior class. Our author does not believe that a state of affairs so suicidal to the race will ever come about, but rather that there will be such an adjustment that all women will have the opportunity of greater self expression and larger growth.

But, after all, the great body of working women are in the industrial world, and here is great need to better safeguard the conditions of life for the future mothers of the race. The large class of girls who are taken very young from the home, are losing the training for future home keeping, which in the old order they learned in domestic service. The laws should more carefully protect all women under 21, both as to conditions of labor and wages, but there is a difficulty and a need which the law directly cannot touch. The difficulty is that girls going young to work in factories and shops, lose very often the work sense; there is a demoralization of the faculty of true service. To devise any method by which this difficulty may be met is perhaps the hardest problem in the whole labor world. That women of the poorer classes should be better fitted by education for self support seems self evident, but it is only that really effective trade schools have gradually sprung into being.

One chapter in the book treats of the vocational divide, which comes when the wage earning woman gives up her position as an earner, and assumes that of home-keeper. Another takes up the ideal school training for the average girl and boy. The author advocates more practice to accompany theory. She would have the school term and the school day lengthened. She would have the midday school lunch prepared by the pupils who are learning the right kind and proportions of food and how to prepare it. She would have much of the food for these lunches raised in the school gardens. Further chapters of interest are those on the "Social use of the post-graduate mother," "Problems of marriage and divorce," and "Women and the state."

THE BAKING POWDER TRUST.

ONE of the strongest trusts in the United States today is the Baking Powder trust. It not only controls the output and sale of cream of tartar and ingredients that go into many of the baking powders, but their fine Italian hand is seen in the acts of food inspectors and other ways by which they can crush out independent concerns

that seek to use other materials, or add improving ingredients.

We have powder concerns on the Pacific Coast, but they are harrassed on every side. Some of them have found that they can do away with the tendency of bread and pastry to "fall" quickly by the addition of egg albumen. This ingredient tends to make the dough stiffer and thus keep the leavening power of the powder gases from escaping. It is expensive when compared with corn starch and other fillers used by tartar powders and is not deleterious to health, but beneficial. Yet we see Pure Food officials trying to rule against it because "the amount of albumen is so minute that it can have no appreciable effect on the quality of the finished product, nor does it in any manner increase the efficiency of the leavening agent." Well, even so, and casting aside the contention that the albumen holds up the dough and keeps it from falling, if the powder is to be barred because "the amount is so minute that it has no appreciable effect on the quality," why not bar the sale of powders of all kinds because they are principally corn starch which has no "appreciable effect on the quality," but with a very material effect on the quantity. The consumer pays big money for this corn starch filler in comparison to actual cost to manufacturer and value to consumer, while he pays a very low price in comparison to its cost to manufacturer and value to the consumer when he buys egg albumen.

Perhaps it would not be a bad idea for the government to investigate the Baking Powder trust.—The Northwest Pacific Farmer.

Since Alaska was bought by the United States government the revenue from the seal islands alone has been more than twice the sum paid for the territory.

Government Tests

Recent Government tests of baking powders disclose the fact Aluminum Compounds as used in



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