

Beads on A String

RONA MORRIS WORKMAN
ROCKING W RANCH

There was an emergency at the Rocking W last week. Spooks, the nice brown cow, was ill, and at midnight, when the Big Boss went to the barn to check on her condition, he found she had milk-fever and had dropped into the deep sleep which precedes death unless a shot of dextrose and calcium is

given very soon. Within five minutes we had a veterinarian on the way out here.

While the Big Boss wrapped Spooks in blankets, I rebuilt the fire in the living room and started the coffee-maker working. Waiting, we drank hot coffee and counted the racing minutes. As I wandered restlessly about the room—for Spooks and I are good friends—I thought how very dependent we human beings are upon others. Only the unthinking can really believe that anyone is sufficient unto himself, even in the common everyday details of living. I used the phone. One operator answered my ring and passed me on to another where the doctor lives. Men invented the telephone, others had strung the wires and kept them in order. The doctor used a car and gas and oil and rubber to come out here so quickly—all these things were the work of other men's hands and brains. He, in his turn, had studied what other men had learned about animal diseases and their cure. Some man—perhaps many—had experimented until was found the life-returning magic of dextrose and calcium injected into the veins. Do you see what I mean? We had all this labor and thought of others to call upon in our little need.

The doctor came. The injection was given. In just a few moments Spooks was on her feet again and reaching over to Emmy's manger for a mouthful of clover hay. She would live because of the work and women whom I shall never see. Just a small incident in a busy world, yet what resources we

drew upon.

Or take even the coffee we drank. It was hot and strong and very stimulating at that weary hour of the night. Someone planted, tended and gathered those coffee berries. Other folks sorted and roasted and ground them. Through many hands and by man-made transportation the result finally reached my kitchen shelf. And who worked to make and put in by hands the shining glass coffee-maker. Men and women whose names I shall never hear.

As in the little things of life, so in the greater. No man lives to himself alone. Perhaps only in a past so remote that man used nothing but his bare hands and a branch torn from a tree, could he be said to really be totally independent of others, and I think not even then, for if one man killed a saber-toothed tiger, for instance, that made one less beast to menace the others, so they profited by his labor even if they never knew.

In our selfish egotism we take so much for granted. We accept the work of other men without one thought of gratitude, and we foolishly think of those in other lands, or even those just beyond the narrow borders of our own experience, as being separate from us.

It has been said that if one drops into the sea a single grain of sand, there will be a corresponding displacement of every drop of water over all the world. We human beings are as drops of water in the ocean of life. That which affects one single drop affects the whole, and the more quickly we realize this, the more quickly will come the peace of which we have dared to

dream.

My word, what a long way I have wandered from my sick cow. I am pleased to report that she is fully recovered, and that her young son is doing very nicely, thank you. But you should see my new grandson. Now he is

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