

Our Women and Children

Conducted by
Lucille Skaggs Edwards

WORK FOR WOMEN'S CLUBS

At a certain woman's club the following subjects were to be discussed: "Would Votes Granted to Negro Women Solve the Race Problem?" "The Colored Woman's Place in Politics." Now, that women are beginning to realize the right to vote, many labor under the delusion that votes for women are a panacea for all social, political and moral ills. Regardless of how much or little of this be true, any woman's club that desires to be of real service may find a wide field for action outside the political world. There is work right at hand in every community infinitely more important than any bill that ever went before a legislature. A work of mercy, a work of necessity since upon the sound bodies of the children of today depends the strength and vigor of the men and women of the future. Healthy well informed mothers mean more healthy offspring.

The United States Children's Bureau in its report says, "more women from fifteen to forty-five years of age die from conditions incident to maternity than from any other cause except tuberculosis." These lives are a sacrifice to ignorance, neglect and improper care in childbirth.

Forty out of every one hundred babies are born with no expert attention to mother or child. Out of every one thousand babies born only one hundred and fifty live beyond infancy. Do we not find a great work here? Would it not be well worth while to study, plan and put into operation such topics as, "To what extent is ignorant and incompetent midwifery practiced among Negro women in your community?" "What measures have been or can be taken to give Negro mothers and babies a better chance in confinement?"

All women must be aroused to these startling facts. All mothers must be enlightened and their co-operation secured in a nation-wide movement to save babies and mothers.

The task belongs to organized womanhood for the knowledge of physicians, nurses and boards of health avails little, unless each mother has this knowledge.

Then to work to save these thousands of babies and mothers lives by volunteer co-operation, to teach mothers how to bear and care for children is beyond measure the most important work any woman's club can do. It can be done without "votes for women" and without legislation. It is a great work for organized womanhood in every race, community and state.

L. S. E.

GARDENING

Not everyone enjoys gardening, although nowadays it is the fashion to express enthusiasm for it. The young woman who declared her satisfaction on moving into the country because she could once more take up gardening, the delight of her childhood, and who two months later abandoned her efforts in disgust because her peony "bulbs" had died and her poppy seeds, although planted carefully two inches deep, had not come up, deserved really less respect than the man who

said that he disliked gardening because it meant taking care of things.

Certainly people who are lazy about taking care of things had better not attempt gardening. It is more demoralizing to start a lot of plants and then leave them to be choked by weeds or devoured by insects than never to start any plants at all.—Youth's Companion.

HUNTING FOR SPRING

By Hope Arden

Let's you and I go visiting,
To see if we can find the Spring.
The bird I saw just now go by
Was so much bluer than the sky;
That bird of free and flashing wing
Flew the blue banner of the Spring.

The smell of grass is in the air,
And balsams breathe from branches bare;
Oh, good, sweet air and scent of trees
That draw the hungry, early bees
For honey from red maple trees!

There is a singing in my blood,
And every pulse beats "Life is good."
In screen of thickets drawn about
Who would not race, and dance, and shout
The blessed cry that Spring is out!

Spring sayeth, "I make all things new."

Dearest, it makes us over, too,
In rapture of the liberal air,
Live sun, and incense everywhere
Swung from the branches dreaming bare.

This blissful day when dreams come true

I am no older, dear, than you;
I hope you are as young as I!—
And will be, long as Springs go by,
Making our hearts and forests new.

Perhaps you will see fifty Springs
Of songs and scents and sunblest things—

First bees in the red maple bower,
All blood of its quick boughs in flower—

Oh, do not lose one day—one hour!
—Ex.

COSTLY PRIZES AWARDED

The Progressive Club gave a musical and literary prize entertainment at Zion Baptist church last week, which proved quite a success. The giving of prizes caused much merriment when such costly prizes were awarded as precious potatoes and sacks of flour. Mrs. Davis is president, Mrs. O. Kirtley, secretary and Mrs. W. F. Botts treasurer of this organization.

JULIAN STREET WRITES OF THE CREOLES

Julian Street's article on New Orleans in *Colliers* of February 24 is an exceedingly delightful study of that quaint city of the south, and especially of Creole life. Several paragraphs are given to a review of the Colored Creoles, and are thorough in their treatment. Everyone interested in things Creole should not fail to read this colorful sketch of New Orleans, for he or she will be paid many times over for the labor.

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