

# FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN THE WOMEN FOLKS

## Successful Woman.

**A**T WHAT age does a woman achieve success? In what lines of work is she most likely to be successful? What sort of training best prepares her for a successful career? What is success, anyway? These are in substance, the questions that Amanda Carolyn Northup makes attempt to answer in an article in the Popular Science Monthly of a recent date entitled, "The Successful Women of America."

The answer to the last question is to be found in the fact that she bases all her work on data obtained from "Who's Who in America," the presence of a woman's name in that book being the hall mark of success. She says her work is a study "of those women who have achieved in public or professional life that measure of success sufficient to give them a place among the successful men and women of America, and for the finding out in what lines of work the greater probabilities of success lie, and what part educational training seems to have had." She admits that the conclusions are tentative, and she might have added that they were in some respects even illogical and misleading.

Of the 977 women given in "Who's Who" only 564 are considered in her six tables and the remarks based upon these. She excludes sixteen actresses and opera singers because they are neither by birth nor residence American, and she not only deposes from success a one time island queen, but also one queen of society—the only queens that Americans bow down to. She does not mention the fact that the total female population of the United States and islands is 87,178,127, and 22,607,461 of these are whites—a fact that throws into gloomy significance her 564. Even after one has made every possible allowance for age and condition of servitude, can it be possible that only one out of 30,000 and more is a successful woman?

One fact alone—that of but one financier being mentioned—is enough of itself to throw a shadow of doubt on the representative truthfulness of these conclusions. There are many names of men financiers included who have not by their operations acquired a million of money, yet hardly a month, perhaps hardly a week, passes that the newspapers do not tell of women who have done more.

The answer to the two important questions of the article, "What profession seems to give the greatest opportunity of success, and what educational preparation seems most helpful and necessary?" seems to be that authorship is the profession and work in the private schools the most helpful training, for out of the 564 women considered 487 are authors (novelists, essayists, poets, and historians), and 65 others are really authors, though tabulated as journalist, including editors, critics, and correspondent. Of artists there are 103; educators, including lecturers, 91; actresses, 59; musicians, 43; doctors, 21; scientists, 17; ministers, 13; librarians, 3; lawyers, 9. The woman manager, whether an entrepreneur or a manager of a large number of people, is not mentioned; neither is the stenographer. There must be successful women in both classes, women deserving of recognition, but the fact is probably, that their profession is not recognized either as a learned or polite one, hence the exclusion is not personal.

It would seem as though the question as to what profession offers the greatest opportunity of success should be modified.

The figures show in what profession recognition is most certain, a recognition often based on a small volume of work. The fact is that the writer of one book which is published may have her name in "Who's Who," but does that indicate in any large way that she is a success?

Some fault may be found with the conclusions reached as regards the preparation received and the suggestions as to what is the best preparation for success. These are in favor of the private school, but is not the private school girl successful to begin with? The chances are that she was born with a silver spoon in her mouth and with other property of much more fundamental value than many spoons. To be fortunately born is an element of success in itself; it usually means the best physical and mental opportunities for development; it means freedom from hampering care; it means time to devote to special tastes and aptitudes, and means to cultivate these. If parents of such a girl are serious minded and successful in other things than those of a financial nature, her inherited gifts and every day surroundings are a constantly augmenting stock in trade that becomes of invaluable service to her when she turns to serious work. Never being obliged to do any large amount of so-called mental labor, if she is by nature industrious, she will turn to the arts and set herself well on the way to success if she later chooses to go on. Any training in the art of expression is, of course, of the utmost value to her, whether she turns to authorship or to any kindred pursuit. So trained, she has not that inertia to overcome that one naturally gifted but undisciplined must have.

There are two other points of interest in this paper. At what age does success come? The answer is, late. Musicians reach the goal first with an average age of 40.7, and artists next with an average age of 44.4. Educators average up to 49.2, authors 53.3, journalists 50.8, and actresses 55. The one financier given is 67, but certainly Hetty Green was a successful woman in her way long before she reached that age. Is it fair to count the present age of these women, some of whom attained success at 30 or earlier, in answering such a question? Authors, in particular, are likely to do their best work, certainly their fame-bringing work, long before they are 53.

Do successful women marry? The answer is that 54 per cent of them do. Twelve out of the thirteen ministers, eight out of the nine lawyers, and forty-four out of sixty-five journalists, the next highest ratio, were married. But poor educator! "Her chances of matrimony are 26.3 per cent, or a little over one to four. The cause of this invites speculation. Is it disinclination or lack of opportunity? Does her 'instructive habit' make her less attractive to men?" If this per cent should come to be the per cent of marriages among those who at some time teach, the nation would need to take active measures to prevent the social disaster consequent. But teachers will marry although they see success in their profession staring them in the face, with the full realization that they must for ever quit the school room. Why so small a number of women educators obtain recognition is a much more serious question to ponder over than why so few of those who do marry or are married. Perhaps the reason is that teaching is one of the most crowded of all the women professions. It is easier for an educated

woman to get into this than into any other, and it is bound to contain many women of mediocre talent, little ambition, and less will power, while authorship requires more than a modicum of all these.—Chicago Tribune.

## Trinkets That Delight the Baby.

**M**OTHERS who are on the lookout for new ideas will see unusual possibilities in the nursery tiling which is now shown in all the stores. This consists of blocks of tile about six inches square, on which are pictures and nursery rhymes. These are used for the play room, nursery, fireplace, or for the walls of the children's bath room. The tiles are arranged in position so that the story is told in sequence, and the words are printed so plainly that even the children who are just beginning to read can spell them out. All colors are used for a background, but white and green are the favorites.

An artistic fireplace recently seen in a nursery had white tiling with delft blue Kate Greenway figures to correspond with the blue of the walls. Garden rhymes about "Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary," were on the tiles.

For the baby's bath there are exquisite conveniences in the way of toilet sets, which come in miniature. A white one, for instance, has robin's egg blue bands edged with gilt, and forget-me-nots sprinkled all over the surface of the bowl and pitcher. Even the dainty soap dish, comb and brush are hand-painted with the small blue blossoms, which signify remembrance.

How to keep the baby's bib on without using pins has always been a problem to both nurse and mother. A new arrangement, called a feeder holder, is prettier and more useful than it sounds. It is made of a strip of three-quarter-inch white satin ribbon, hand-painted with forget-me-nots and laced through brass rings at intervals of an inch. This attaches to the bib and holds it taut in the back.

To offer a china doll to a baby is a direct challenge for him to use it to pound the floor with. Up-to-date mothers buy bisque or cloth dolls and dress them in crocheted jackets, skirts and hats. Tiny bells sewed on the hat or bonnet, or in some invisible place, will delight the baby whose ear is ever alert for musical sounds.

Cashmere instead of cotton sheets are used in the modern nursery. These are of softest white wool, and are hemstitched. Physicians all agree that it is much better for the child to have the lightweight wool next to his instead of cotton.

Little chest protectors made of webbing are now sold in all the stores. They are simply made to slip the head through and are bound with tape. These protectors are invaluable even for spring wear for children who play out of doors a great deal and who are susceptible to colds.

## Old Fashioned Embroideries.

**A**N OLD craze in the fancywork line, which is called new, is canvas embroidery, but it is really one of the oldest of feminine occupations. There is a difference, however, in the kinds of materials used and the result produced, although the principle remains the same.

In the old days, when this work was popular, there was only one kind of canvas to select from, and yarn was used exclusively for working the patterns. Nowadays, there are all sorts of canvas weaves

and as many beautiful colored silks, linens or cottons to choose from, so when finished the embroidered patterns appear much more workmanlike.

A bedroom set designed for a summer cottage was dainty enough to use in a spare room. The set consisted of bedspread, shams, dresser, commode and table scarf and one pillow. The work was done on a coarse weave of cream linen, which presented serim, and on which a pattern had first been stamped in a conventional design of fleur de lis. The center of the bedspread had a mass of the fleur de lis, while the border was conventional and caught together with a bowknot design, all done in yellow silk.

The pattern was first darned, and when finished the edge of each blossom was worked in a double cross-stitch design, covering two threads of the canvas each way. This made it stand out distinctly from the background, giving it a raised appearance. The edge of the spread was scalloped and buttonhole stitched with the yellow silk.

The mosaic embroidery is also done on canvas, which comes in little squares. An artistic and useful toilet mat for a bathroom was done in a heavy blue and white linen thread. The center pattern was in a diamond design. When finished, each solid blue check was barred with white, and vice versa. The edge of the mat was hemmed, and it was lined with felt.

For canvas embroidered curtains there are several novel little edges made from which to select for a finish. These edges come in all colors, as well as white, and are made in the clip form, which means that both sides are alike. Curtain bands are made to match and are finished with this edge, and with a crocheted ring for a loop.

Another new embroidery is the Bulgarian. The work is becoming popular here, as it is in Europe, and promises to be one of the favorite occupations of the summer. It is done on heavy linen, usually in three colors of linen floss, which have laundering qualities.

A table spread done in Bulgarian work had a design of maple leaves about the border, with the edge buttonhole stitched. Polka dots, about the size of a pea, were worked in red and blue over the entire center up to the border. The leaves were caught together with a garland of polka dots in alternate colors of red and blue.

## What Women Are Doing.

Mrs. Anna M. Steutz has been elected to succeed her late husband as president of the First National bank at Monroeville, N. Y.

Mrs. Cynthia A. Sacy, one of the few surviving pensioners of the war of 1812, and the only one in Illinois, lives at Bloomington, Ill. Her father was John Newman of Pennsylvania and her grandfather was a Revolutionary war soldier.

Miss Jessie Peabody, a colonel on the staff of Governor Peabody of Colorado, has just been made the recipient of an honor not hitherto conferred on any American woman. In the name of General Sherman Bell and other members of the staff she has been presented with a splendid gold-mounted sword, the presentation speech being delivered by Colonel J. O. McDonald.

Mrs. Abrey Kamo, a remarkable woman, has died in the Boston city hospital, aged 29. She was born in the United States, educated in Germany, served as a drummer boy in the United States army in 1865, until her sex was discovered, and then became an army nurse, serving until the close of the war. In 1875 she went to Boston from New York and established a successful business as a dermatologist. She was the daughter of a triplet, herself a triplet and twice the mother of triplets. Her father, aged 114, lives in Los Angeles.

