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Sex & the Business Woman

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TO-DAY woman, through sheer need of bread and butter, has forced her way into the world's market where work of every kind is bought and sold. Even the most prejudiced of the die-hards are grudgingly admitting that it is better, morally better, economically better for men and women alike, that woman should keep herself rather than be kept: that it is a sheer matter of sense and convenience that she should support herself rather than be supported. They are even

many of them twenty years ago: one comes across them still—look upon married love and its consequences, children as a sort of price that has to be paid for the dignity and comfort of being Mrs. So-and-so. Others again put up with "love"—they always speak of it in inverted commas with a sort of sneer—for the sake of satisfying their strong wish for babies of their own. Both types despise the man they submit to or eye him at least with a hopeless wonder, with a resigned—"Men



Mrs. Martin Innis, Hon. Treasurer of the Girls' Friendly Society Wellington

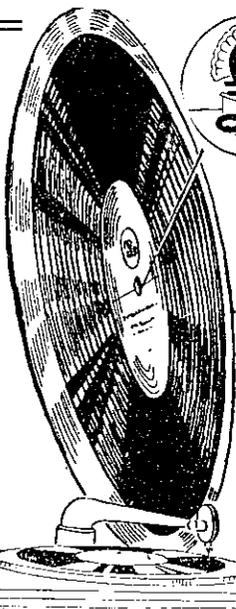
S. P. Andrew Studio, Wellington

beginning to consider it not unthinkable that she should take her share, adjusted to her capacity, in supporting the country she was born in and the children she bears. Yet still the business woman's, the working woman's path is by no means clear. Independence has eliminated certain of her problems, but it has intensified others. Biggest of all there looms ahead of her the problem of sex.

There are various ways of viewing this problem. There is the common attitude of the nice late Victorian or early Edwardian woman, the Mrs. Clandon type, to whom sex is an unpleasant and not quite decent business, a legalised form of animalism. Such women—there were

are queer: men are horrid: but we suppose they can't help it!" But the worst crime of such women, such nice, decent, well-meaning, respectable, unnatural women, is that they impress their attitude to sex upon their young daughters. I wonder how many a happy marriage has not been wrecked by the affectionate cold mothers who "don't think it nice!" or "can't bring themselves!" to tell their young daughters about the facts of life and love, or if they do tell their daughters what they need to know, tell it with a shiver of disgust.

That is a way of dealing with the problem of sex and the business woman that is, one hopes, becoming less general.



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