

Woman's Dual Life

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and failure of adaptation is liable to be one of the major tragedies of modern life. In extreme cases it leads to insanity, homicide and suicide. In minor degrees it spells life-long misery of a peculiarly pathetic type.

Let us now apply these general principles to the case of the modern woman who has conquered her place in the sun of personal and economic independence. In the growing period she has learned to play games which develop what may be called the combative muscles. This brings about a stimulation of the suprarenal cortex, a stimulation which is intensified by the mental element of ordered and organised strife which is inseparable from all contests, however friendly. She that passes from adolescence into maturity with the ingredient of fight well developed and goes into training for her career. During her apprenticeship this ingredient is thoroughly well exercised by the atmosphere of emulation, implicit in all educational systems, and she goes into the world self-possessed and self-confident, eminently fitted and well equipped to keep her own end up.

She is now a responsible member of the community and we may suppose her to be happy in her work,

with sufficient leisure and adequate pay. If she continues on these lines all, in a sense, may be well; but if the urge of the eternal feminine should well up from within and she should fall to the atavistic lure of domesticity and maternity, there may arise serious trouble for her—and for others. The large suprarenal cortex with which she has all unwittingly furnished herself, which has conferred competence and assurance upon her, is there in full efflorescence. She cannot now divest herself of its dominating influence, and unfortunately it will certainly prevent her from sacrificing her hard-won freedom and independence at the altar of wifely submission and domestic drudgery. In order to marry, she has resigned from her employment, and for a year or so, at any rate she is idle. There is nothing to do. Everything is new and there is not even anything to mend. She has no companionship save that of a tired, often anxious and perhaps irritable man, whom she does not see till nightfall. Then follows the inevitable "failure of adaptation," and the trouble begins. She may try to enter into the spirit of her new environment; but like the artist in a dry-as-dust solicitor's office, her dominantly cortical make-up is too

strong for her. The daily round, the common task become a very treadmill to her wearied senses. She longs to be back at work, to be doing something worth the doing. Even the advent of a child, though it helps in some cases, helps in a decreasing number. The moral is: *Do not overdevelop the male element which lurks in every female.* Beware of an environment which stipulates the suprarenal cortex in girls, for thereby you risk, nay, you actually invite, that damnable and devastating thing, a "failure of adaptation."



"D'you think I ought to tell Reggie about my past?"

"Oh, not yet, dear. Keep it for the long winter evenings."

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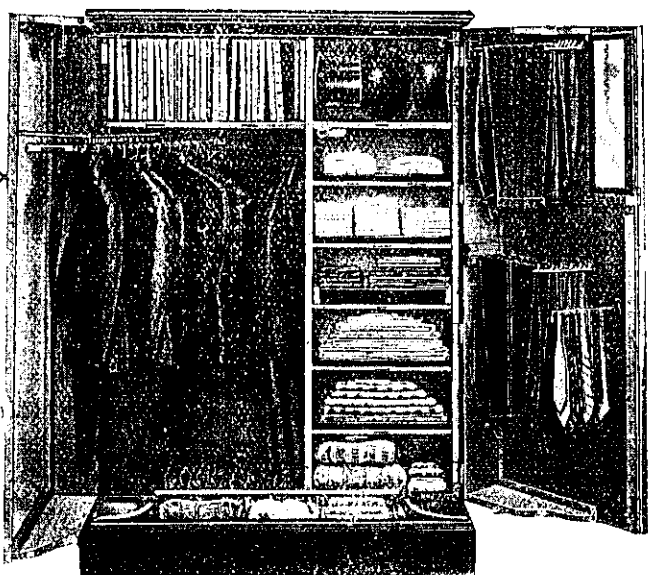
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Auntie: "There isn't any bathroom, dear."

Small Boy: "Hooray! This is going to be a jolly holiday."



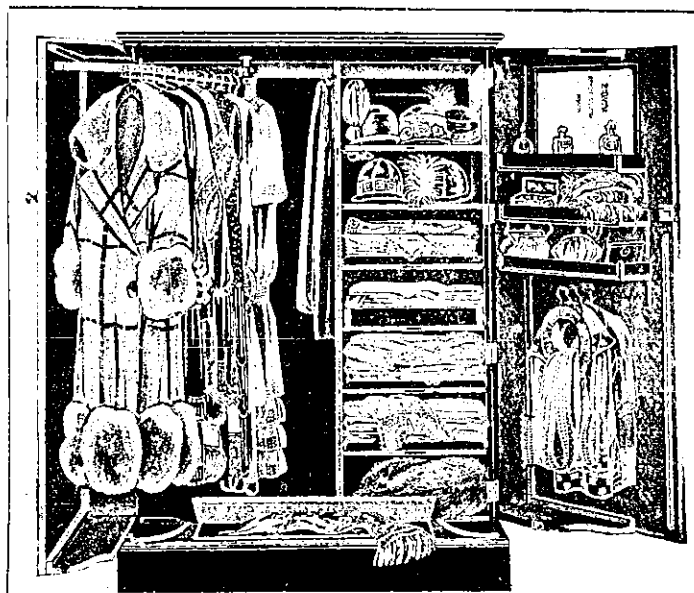
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