

Humanities in Homespun

Members of the Ontario Women's Institutes and others who enjoyed Dr. Ethel Chapman's delightful collection of essays "From A Roadside Window" will be happy to hear that Ryerson Press has now published another book by Dr. Chapman with the title "Humanities in Homespun."

Once again the author has brought together a collection of her own essays, each with its bit of human interest and having in it a kernel of her philosophy that in humble people there is so often an abundance of warmth and wisdom. Her characters are simple people and not always the "best people." They are always human and Miss Chapman has found in their lives a bit of drama of which they themselves were unaware probably. The book is divided into four sections, Not By Bread Alone, The Vocation of Living, The Family, and The Changing Countryside.

In the Section, "Not by Bread Alone" and in the chapter "Gentle Folk Are Where You Find Them", Dr. Chapman tells the story of the old woman living in a rundown section of the city who always manages to spare from her meagre pension a little bit of money to buy daffodils. She tells of the young mechanic who carries a grey kitten on his shoulder and of the couple in a weather-beaten house on a rocky farm whose front yard is full of flowers.

"Sarah Meyer had a Quaker background." This is the opening sentence of a chapter with the heading "Passive Resistance." Sarah was one night the mistress of ceremonies of her club's family night. The speaker was inclined to be a little bit "free wheeling" and turned to ask Sarah for permission to tell a certain story. Sarah said, "I'm sure any story of yours would be worth hearing but if you're in any doubt we don't mind missing it. We're enjoying your pictures." The speaker went on with his lecture without telling the story.

Dr. Ethel Chapman grew up on a farm in Halton County. As a country school teacher, an extension worker with the Home Economics Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food and as the former editor of Home and Country she has developed a deep love for and understanding of rural people and their environment. These feelings are reflected in her essays and will be read with great pleasure by everyone who has ever had any connection with the farm. Perhaps those without a

rural background may better understand the charm and the genuine wholesomeness of our Canadian countryside.

Humanities in Homespun is available on the book stands now. Women's Institute members and others may obtain copies by writing to The Secretary of the Federated Women's Institutes, 5th floor, 1200 Bay St., Toronto 5, Ontario. Paper back covers are \$3.50 and Hard Covers are \$5.75.

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A BIRD CAME DOWN THE WALK

A bird came down the walk
He did not know I saw;
He bit an angle-worm in halves
And ate the fellow, raw.

And then he drank a dew
From a convenient grass,
And then hopped sideways to the wall
To let a beetle pass.

He glanced with rapid eyes
That hurried all around —
They looked like frightened beads, I thought
He stirred his velvet head

Like one in danger; cautious,
I offered him a crumb,
And he unrolled his feathers
And rowed him softer home

Than oars divide the ocean,
Too silver for a seam,
Or butterflies, off banks of noon,
Leap, plashless, as they swim.

Emily Dickson.

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"Judgment is essentially the choosing of one thing in preference to another. This exercise of choice is the crown of human intelligence. The more decisions a person is forced to make the more he becomes aware of the vital importance of that kingpin of liberty: his freedom to choose.

"Peoples lives turn on small hinges. People make many decisions, some of seemingly little consequence, but the total of these decisions determines the happiness or misery of their lives."—From the Royal Bank of Canada Monthly Letter August 1968.

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