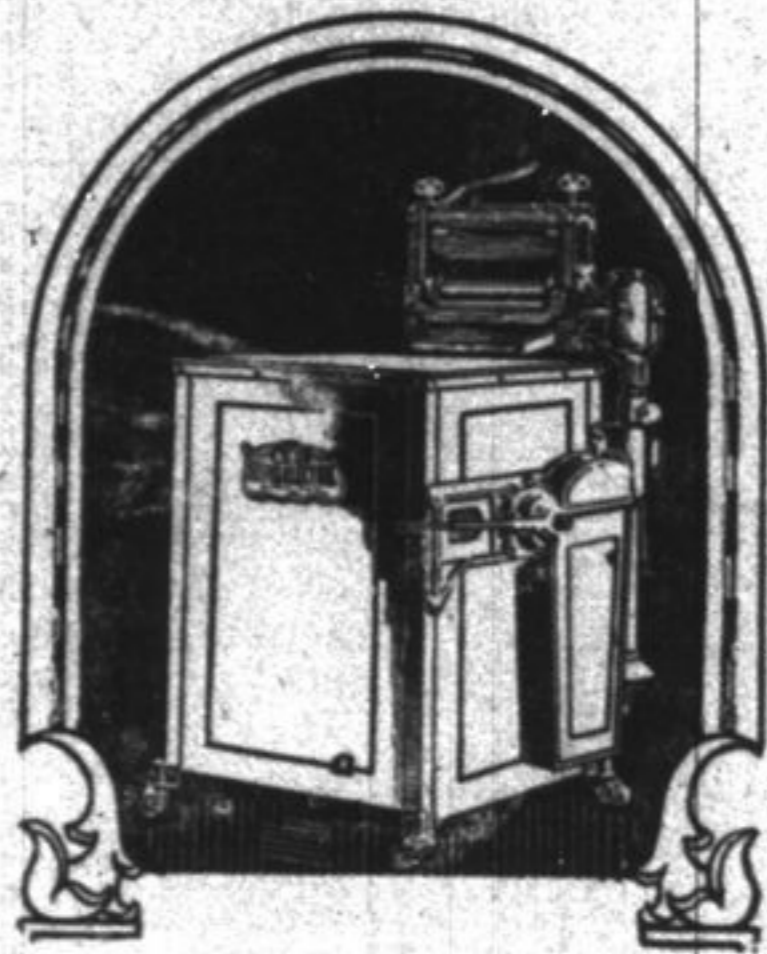


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WOMEN PREY OF LONELINESS

London Writer Says That is the Cause of Their Tireless and Ceaseless Toil.

Men are amazingly and amusingly ignorant with respect to the mysterious life led by their mothers, wives, daughters and aunts. For years at a time a man may go on blindly with his work and his play and remain in total ignorance about the activities of these inextinguishable beings. He is dimly and dubiously aware that they are not idle. In his paroxysm of intuition he guesses that his comfort and even his happiness in some fashion may depend upon their labors. But the greater part of his existence is passed in a sublime ignoring of all the immense miracles wrought by women every day of his life.

I have come to the conclusion that women are the loneliest of God's creatures, and that their loneliness is the great first cause of their tireless and ceaseless toil. James Douglas writes in London Opinion. Nearly every woman goes about with a lonely look on her face and the older she grows the lonelier she looks. There are very few lonely men, for men are gregarious. They are also, upon the whole, less imaginative than women. They live more on the surface. They do not possess that quality of power of living a secret inner life of contemplation and broodingly retrospective passion. Men live in and for the hour; woman lives in and for the past and the future. They are at war with their environment. Like Nora in "The Doll's House," they are always waiting for the miracle to happen. One seldom sees the print of tragic intensity on a man's face. One seldom sees anything else on a woman's. It is this veiled tumult of the soul that drives women into frantic and feverish labors.

MUCH LIKE LIFE'S PATHWAY

Effective Parable in Edward Everett Hale's Description of Doings of a Picnic Party.

You all go out to a picnic, and meet together in some pleasant place in the woods, and you put down the baskets there, and leave the pall with the ice in the handiest place you can find, and cover it with the blanket. Then you all set out in the great forest. But it is only a few of the party who choose to start hand in hand along a gravel path which leads straight to the well, and probably those few enjoy less and gain less from the day's excursion than any of the rest. The rest break up into indifferent knots, and go some here, some there, as their occasion and their genius call them. Some go after flowers, some after berries, some after butterflies; some knock the rocks to pieces; some climb up to where there is a fine view, some sit down and copy the stumps, some go into the water, some make a fire, some find a camp of Indians and learn to make baskets. These all come back to the picnic camp in good order each eager to tell what he has seen and heard, each having satisfied his taste and genius and each all having made vastly more of their day than if they had held to the gravel path and walked in column to the well and back again.—Edward Everett Hale.

The Greeks.

It is impossible to contemplate the annals of Greek literature and art without being struck with them, as by far the most extraordinary and brilliant phenomena in the history of the human mind. The very language, even in its primitive simplicity, as it came down from the rhapsodists who celebrated the exploits of Hercules and Theseus, was as great a wonder as any it records. All the other tongues that civilized man has spoken are poor and feeble, and barbarous, in comparison with it. Its compass and flexibility, its riches and its powers are altogether unlimited. It not only expresses with precision all that is thought or known at any given period, but it enlarges itself naturally, with the progress of science, and affords, as if without an effort, a new phrase, or a systematic nomenclature whenever one is called for.—Thomas Keightly.

Eats a Thousand Insects a Day.

"A cliff swallow will eat a thousand flies, mosquitoes, wheat midges or beetles that injure fruit trees in a day and therefore it is to be encouraged," says the American Forestry association of Washington.

"This bird is also known as the cave swallow, because it plasters its nest on the outside of a barn or other building up under the eaves. Colonies of several thousand will build their nests together on the side of a cliff. These nests shaped like a flattened gourd or water bottle are made of bits of clay rolled into pellets and lined with straw or feathers. This bird winters in the tropics."

African Witch Doctors.

Africa is a sick country—one of the sickest in the world. Malaria, tuberculosis and pneumonia fill the swamps and forests with death. The fear of death is so constant a companion of the black people that they have come to consider their native witch doctor as more important than the ruling foreign government or the chief of their own tribe. But once the white man sets foot on the fever trail the witch doctor might just as well throw away his crazy medicine. In his heart he knows he is a bumbag.—Christian Herald.

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