

## Life and Work at Home



### OVER THE TEACUPS

BY ANNIE S. SWAN

WILL some kind correspondent tell M. R. the name of the society which offers prizes for long terms of service in the same household?

I cannot advise J. L. to engage lady servants. The theory is good, but I have not yet heard of any case in which the practice was satisfactory.

C. P. would like to make some extra pocket money, but with so many letters on my desk from women who have difficulty in getting bread to eat, I do not feel competent to deal with her case, or take her seriously, though I don't doubt that her little troubles are serious enough to herself.

I doubt it would be difficult, if not indeed quite impossible, for E. A. B. to find an opening in Germany such as she desires. There are few houses that would be willing to accommodate a companion help who brought along with her a chaperon in the shape of a cook. The idea is absurd on the face of it. I am sorry to be so blunt, but surely E. A. B. or her parents must see this. I don't think it would be of the slightest use to try.

I am interested in the letter of LASSIE from her lonely Indian home. Her bright, brave spirit is what makes sunshine in the place where she dwells. I am sorry her story is

unsuitable and that I do not know how to help her with it. There are so many, one gets depressed.

I don't know how to help E. S. regarding her extreme nervousness and self-consciousness. It must be painful, but to me it is inexplicable, and would seem to indicate an exaggerated sense of one's importance in the world. If E. S. would try to remember that she is a very unimportant unit in the great scheme of creation, and that people are too busy and mostly too much interested in their own affairs to spare many thoughts for her, she might get cured. But perhaps the cure would be more painful than the disease.

Among many appeals for help from various good causes at this time one is pleased to mention the Homes for Motherless Children at Chiswick. Many a man left desolate, might be glad to hear of a place where his motherless little ones would be cared for. It is not a charity so far as he is concerned, as he is expected to pay according to his means. The benevolent public, however, are asked for support in order that the needy who cannot pay may be helped in their dire distress. Full particulars may be obtained from the Founder, Mr. R. T. Smith, 90, Thornton Avenue, Chiswick.

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Woman at Home: 'Over The Teacups'

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If H. S. thinks her absence from home would help to improve matters she might make the experiment. I feel however that I am scarcely competent to advise in the matter. Could the father not suggest absence from home for the elder? That would be the first thing to bring her to her senses. Sometimes one has to seem cruel in order to be kind.

Can any correspondent give G. C. E. information regarding the Guild of Women Bookbinders? She specially desires information regarding the Hampstead Bindery from one who has been trained there.

I am pleased to get TRANSPARENT'S kind sympathetic letter. If I hear of a suitable girl will write.

A Guild of Social Intercourse has been started by the *Morning Leader* with the object of bringing educated men and women who are leading dreary isolated lives into pleasant social relations with those who belong to genial family and social circles. Full particulars may be obtained on application to MISS PORTIA FIELDING, *Morning Leader* Office, Stonecutter Street, London, E.C.

In reply to M. A. J., the fees for training in a school of Domestic Economy, where board and lodging are required, are high; in a really first-class place as much as sixty or seventy pounds a year. I will try and find something less expensive for M. A. J., but am afraid she will not be able to wait.

JACQUELINE has at least the merit of being original in her ideas of making her livelihood, but I do not feel very sanguine about her prospects. To get up a really good concert party, which would be self-supporting, would be no easy matter, and South Africa is at present in too unsettled a state to make success, either in that or in the photographing business, a success. JACQUELINE has courage, but she must also have prudence, and take good reliable advice before she embarks on either enterprise.

DAISY and E. might write to the *Lady* or the *Queen* for the information. They would be sure to get it there. It is a little out of my line.

DAYDA writes about a pathetic case. An elderly governess is in great need and is seeking votes for an annuity from the United Kingdom Benevolent Association. She is still, however, far short of the number required. Five shillings collected or subscribed represents three votes.

She is at present living in a small room and is always suffering. She has nothing to depend on but the gifts of friends or old pupils. The uncertainty and want of proper nourishment are telling on her sadly. It does seem hard that so many poor ladies should be suffering while so many thousands of pounds are spent on one banquet. If any of my readers would like to help this distressing case further particulars may be obtained from Miss Davies, Sycamore Cottage, Horns, Ilford.

The letter of LONEY ONE has interested me very much, and I sympathize with her most sincerely. I quite understand her loneliness and feeling of isolation, but surely she might make some friends. Has she no church or connection? Any church would welcome one so sincere to their working ranks, and she would be sure to make some friends among the members. I hope she will write to me again, and I hope to hear something brighter from her. She deserves to be happy.

I am delighted to welcome a new correspondent from far Labrador. She says: "I am a nursing sister in charge of the hospital of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen—the only English nurse, my assistants being untrained native girls. The life is lonely from a social point of view, but we never feel it scarcely, our patients affording us so much interest. You will be surprised that nearly eight hundred out-patients have been treated here this summer. In winter we are entirely shut in by ice from the outer world for six months; our travelling is then done by means of Kometiks, native sledges and dogs of Eskimo breed. You can understand how novel this life is to an Englishwoman, and how she enjoys ministering to the suffering on this lonely coast." It is always interesting to hear of the byways of life. I sincerely hope M. A. B. will be happy in the new estate in which she will shortly be called. If she takes the same devotion to it, there cannot be a doubt. I am sorry I cannot use her verses in THE WOMAN AT HOME.

In reply to M. F. H. I am sorry I do not at present know of any one who would be willing to adopt a little girl of two and a half years. Many will take a child for payment, but great care has to be exercised in the selection of such persons. To take one out of pure charity is a different matter. I have kept her address.

Once more may I implore my contributors who desire an answer here to avoid the use of initials, which are always irritating and confusing.

