

## The Homemaker

Some Young People "All Dressed Up and No Place to Go"

By PRUDENCE BRADISH

Two college girls, at different stages, have recently impressed me by saying the same thing from two very different points of view. One was a freshman in a woman's college; the other a graduate, at home this winter for the first long stay in the seven years since she first went away to boarding school.

"I don't know what is the matter with me," said the first. "I worked so well and so successfully in school and made good in my entrance examinations; and now that I am here I don't seem to have any steam at all. I don't seem to care. I don't understand why."

"Perhaps you are not in good physical shape," I ventured. "Possibly you are feeling the effects of overstrain in getting ready for those examinations."

"I am perfectly well," she answered. "It isn't that. I think it is that I haven't any purpose in life."

"Why, then, did you do well in school and not now?"

"I know!" she cried. "That's just it. I was working to get into college. That was the business of my life, I did it, and now I haven't any purpose any more. It doesn't seem enough just to do each day's work for the purpose of doing it. I don't see myself getting towards anything."

The other girl was saying almost the same thing in other words and at a later stage.

"Here I am," she said, plaintively, "all dressed up and no place to go." For four years in college I have been working as hard as I knew how, and successfully, to graduate with credit. I have my degree, *summa cum laude*, and my Phi Beta Kappa key, to show that I did it. And here I am at home, going round and round like a squirrel in a cage, without definite purpose or direction, and not going anywhere.

"Mother and father can't seem to understand. They don't see why I should want to do anything except just exist, and follow a little stupid round of household routine and what they are pleased to call 'social duties.' That means calls and bridge parties, and mild philanthropic work. They can't see why a live woman with an expensive college education should want something definite to do. Nobody ever did anything to find out what I was fit for."

Ruskin could not understand such cases as these. "That life itself should have no motive; that we neither care to find out what it may lead to, nor to guard against it being forever taken from us—here is a mystery indeed."

As I talked with these eager young souls, and with the many other young people whom it has



## Through the Glad Eyes of a Woman

By JANE DOE

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### If I Had A Husband

If the Fates that preside over wedding-rings were to whisper into the ear of some nice man that I was some girl and would make some wife, I should not only proceed to say "Thank you!" having, I hope, been nicely brought up, but I should straightway form certain resolutions.

Chief of which would be that my marriage must turn out to be a perfectly sensible one, and a perfectly live for ever and ever, happily together one.

And I should endeavor to make myself such a nice little wife, and such a loving one, that the dear man would kick himself with remorse for not having proposed to me sooner.

After making these resolutions I should proceed to act upon them.

In the first place I should not commence my married life with the idiotic idea fixed in my brain that one or other of the contracting parties has got to be boss, and that the one who gets his spoke in first wins the day.

I think a man should be boss in

been my good fortune to talk with of late, I was mystified. Why had not their parents, their teachers, when they were mere boys and girls, sought to discover in each the particular talent or love for something; to show them their *motive in life*, to enthrone them to contribute something that was their own to the universe. Something unique in each that no one else can give.

Every time I face a company of young people I am fairly staggered by the sense of the enormous power that they represent. And when so many of them confess that they do not know, and that no one has bothered to help them find out, what they have to do and to give, it seems to me that some one is sadly to blame.

It all goes back to the home at last. So many boys and girls lately have been saying to me:

"No, my parents never talked over with me the subject of my tastes and ambitions, or helped me to develop them. They have just let me drift, hoping that somehow something would turn up. Father seems to think I ought to be satisfied just to come home and sit."

Parents, if some of you could hear the things that your sons and daughters say to me about you you would wake up even now and help them to find the purpose that would satisfy their souls.

all things masculine and that a woman should be boss in all things feminine.

In short, we should both be bosses.

Partners sounds nicer.

Having entered into a life partnership, I should request my husband to let me know the exact state of his finances so that we could figure out together, sanely, and wisely, just what sort of social position we could keep up, and what percentage of it would make me a reasonable dress allowance, and what we could save on it.

No big splashes for me.

I should tell my husband that perfect frankness about all matters pertaining to money is the safest course between husband and wife.

It would be a great temptation for me to dress extravagantly if I got the idea into my head that he possessed an unlimited income.

Whereas, if I knew the exact amount I should dress accordingly, and entertain accordingly.

If I had a husband I should not expect him, just because he saw in me the one woman with whom he cared to share his life, to play

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the slave, the satellite, and the worshipper at the foot of the pedestal.

With me on the top of the pedestal.

Oh dear no.

That is not done in the best and most successful partnerships.

Even should I become the mother of several children I would still realize that he had the hardest job of the two; I should still realize that it would be he who has to fight the real battles and keep the wolf from the door and himself from going to the wall.

"Whilst I lay warm, at home, secure and safe."  
(Apologies to Shakespeare.)

And I should keep before my mind the fact that matrimony is very much like progressive whist. There must be no sitting still in one place.

Wives must be progressive.

Alive.

All there.

Once I married, I shouldn't rest on my matrimonial laurels, and congratulate myself on having succeeded in marrying such a nice man.

I should specialize in how to keep him.

And be so nice and considerate and sensible and affectionate and efficient and economical that he would do likewise.

And specialize in how to keep me.

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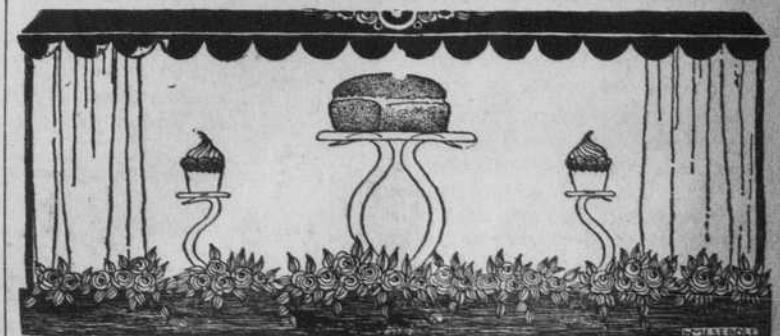
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