With the World's Workers

REVIEW · of · PROGRESS · THAT · IS · BEING · MADE · ALONG · ALL · LINES · of · ENDEAVOR

WOES OF THE MISFIT

Those Who Labor at Uncongenial Tasks Surely Are Entitled to Sympathy.

CASE OF TURNING GRINDSTONE

Successful One Not Always Able to Understand the Situation of the Other — Determination and Pluck, However, Will Generally Win.

A successful woman and a misfit were having a serious conversation in the corner of an office in which the former had at last edged into the position of manager and the other was backsliding to out-of-a-job.

"Don't you see," argued the first with infinite compassion for the erratic habits of the second, "the easiest and most natural way to succeed is to stick and plod and never say die at the work set before you. You are discouraged too easily."

"That's all you know about it," sadly fenced the misfit as she sat checking items in the help wanted columns. "You haven't seen or sensed all the thoughts back of my bumps. You don't seem to know what a purgatory it is to be drudging at any old thing that comes your way, that brings no satisfaction but that of three squares and a chance ice cream soda. When you know what you want and want what you can't get it's hard lines to hold your nose to a grindstone that doesn't appeal to you."

"O, I see your case to a dot," said the successful one knowingly, "and since we've been good friends for many a year, let me tell you frankly that you're on the wrong track just the same. Almost every soul living has some pet scheme and dear idea nesting in his brain; but if he is not ready to make sacrifices and stand fire for the sake of it he can never make it go. One needs common sense more than fine sensibilities, you know. Why don't you work into a good paying job and stick to it until you have money enough to go after what you want?"

"Why don't I?" echoed the misfit. "Well, I could give you a dozen chapters on that, but they wouldn't convince you. It isn't mere physical grind I'm afraid of, for I'm not lazy. But the idea that I could use my time at something that would prove more profitable in the end and bring me some real satisfaction is a constant plague to me. I always want to run away from such feelings and generally I do. For a while I tackle the work for which I am fitted and which I love, but when the immediate coin is necessary I switch back to job hunting. Don't you ever tell me again I'm easily discouraged."

"You should take yourself in hand and get more practical," returned the other. "You will always be unhappy unless you will settle down to something in particular. You should——"

"That something in particular which was all outlined before I was 14 years old," interrupted the misfit, "will claim me in the end, for I know I'll get there some time. Until I can make that work I might as well shift about and get all the knowledge and experience I can pocket.

"Everybody is hinting to me what awfully poor principle it is—it looks bad and shiftless, but after all I myself ought to know best. I know what I'm laying for. Any way it's just as heroic to take this risk as to settle down to work that will take all the sap out of me and give me no consolation. The advice of the wisest couldn't change my course."

Wrong Industrial Conditions.

Industrial conditions should be shaped to give the fullest life to workers, not that lives of workers should be given to bringing fullest developments of the industry. The man is more than the machine. At present we are setting up industry and making a god of it, and human sacrifices are offered it. We need to get a bigger outlook than this, and recognize that industry is the servant and man the master. And now that women are becoming so much a part of industry, conditions in this industrial world are becoming woman's concern as well as man's.

Every woman should add her influence in whatever form it may take to help mend them. No woman should be asked to give up the work she is fitted to do, or which she delights in doing, or else to give up marriage. In order that the industrial machine may grind out a few more dollars for the owner of some particular part of it. Something is wrong when such conditions exist. Every man and every woman has a right to happiness and to a living, and the conduct of society should be so shaped as to further, not prevent, this end.

ELECTRIC WIRING IN MINES

By the Nature of Conditions, Most Elaborate Precautions Are of Vital Importance.

The large amount of moisture present in most mines makes it quite difficult to maintain a high degree of insulation on wires unless they have a covering of rubber, and if the moisture contains sulphur, as is frequently the case in coal mines, the rubber installation is rapidly corroded and ruined. Hence, in most cases, electric circuits in mines are run with bare wire. To obtain a moderate amount of insulation from the earth in such cases, large porcelain or glass insulators should be used at the points of support for the attachment of the wires. Much care should be taken to have the wires touch nothing save their insulating supports, and porcelain tubes for this purpose are advisable in some cases where the sides or ceilings of passages are uneven. Where wires go through, porcelain tubes should be invariably used. The most recent practice in mine wiring is to run the conductors in iron tubing.

A high resistance to earth in mines highly charged with moisture is practically impossible with bare copper circuits, on account of the films of moisture that collect on the surface of glass and porcelain. This moisture, while not sufficient in amount in most cases to cause any serious loss of power, may sometimes cause a severe shock to one who makes a single contact with the circuit, if his body is also in electrical contact with the ground. The above conditions point to the conclusion that all distribution circuits in mines should be operated at pressures that are not ordinarily dangerous to life and property.—Engineering Magazine.

Apply the Warning.

"America learns its lessons on the safeguarding of the lives of its workers tardily and at great cost," says the National Post. "The landmarks of its slow progress have been the disasters which by power of horror have roused the torpid and guilty community conscience. Such a disaster was the Triangle shirt waist fire in New York city, in which 145 persons, mostly girls, lost their lives. They died needlessly, sacrificed to individual and municipal ignorance and negligence. The important thing now is to see that others throughout the country do not have to die the same way. The conditions responsible for the multiple deaths are general to the large cities of the country and to many smaller factory towns."

HERE'S HARD PROBLEM

BUSINESS MAN IN MORE THAN USUAL TROUBLE.

What Is to Be Done With Careless Worker Who Is of Exceptional Value in Emergencies?

"I have half a dozen stenographers in my office," said a business man recently, "and the one I value most highly is the one with whom I have the most trouble. That sounds rather odd, but it's a fact. I like this girl because I can depend on her to go the limit when there is a pinch of work which must be got out.

"The other girls in the office are nice, tractable girls of fair ability. They get down as early as they think they have to in the morning, and they work along till closing time with a fair amount of diligence. Their work is usually up to the standard I require, and they observe the office regulations most of the time.

pretty close to earning what I pay them.

"But the sixth girl is different. She is the brightest of the lot when she wants to be, but at times her work is slovenly almost beyond endurance. She calmly forgets to do what she's told to do, and she frequently calls up of a morning to say she won't be down because she's busy at home, sick or dying. She can be a regular high-binder when she wants to, and she irritates me excessively now and then. But all the time I'm afraid she'll do something so bad I'll have to fire her, and that would be a calamity.

"She's one of the occasional girls who'll break her back to save the house in an emergency. She's careful to confine her mischief to humdrum days and seasons. Her disposition is such that she can't take much interest in things while they're going like clockwork, but let something break, and she's on the job in a minute. Some sudden, unexpected rush of orders, some blunder that must be covered up, anything that involves the reputation of the house, and its success, and she jumps into the harness like a little dray horse. She goes about the office on the run, her typewriter fairly smokes with the speed she puts into it. She'd be the first one to suggest working all night if something had to be done.

"The trouble with the other girls is they don't take a real interest in the business. They are never bad, but they are never very good. If they knew the house was in the crisis of its existence they would pop along at the same old placid jog trot, and they'd slap down the covers of their typewriters as usual at the first stroke of five."

Little Stories for Business Women

By NELLIE FRANCES MILBURN

Applying for a Position.

"Say, I wonder how long we will have to wait here?" a high pitched voice broke into the tense silence of the room. Several girls giggled, but no one answered; and the tall, auburn-haired girl who had spoken, began pacing restlessly up and down the corridor.

A manufacturing company had advertised for a stenographer, and over 20 girls were waiting when the office boy came to open the office, and every few moments a new applicant would appear.

All the chairs in the outer room were occupied, several girls were seated on the window sills, and others were leaning against the big table or standing about the hall.

The bookkeeper and his assistant had already arrived and passed into the private office, but as yet no member of the firm was on hand. Anna Wilson stood timidly near the outer door. She had been one of the first comers and was growing every moment more disheartened as she noted the many applicants and contrasted her shabby, country made clothes with the stylish and dashing garments worn by most of the girls.

The big, auburn-haired girl, who was attired in a bright blue silk suit with a large black hat trimmed with ostrich plumes attracted admiring glances as she strode about.

Anna herself was dressed in a last year's black serge gown, with a plain little black turban and her hair neatly rolled and braided.

Now a small, slender woman with gray hair, and garbed in quiet black with a widow's bonnet, came from the elevator, and glancing quickly about, made her way through the crowd and entered the private office.

In a few moments the office boy came out bearing slips of paper with numbers on them. Anna was almost ready to give up her chance and go away, when she saw that she had received No. 10, and observed that the big auburn-haired girl, who had No. 1, pushed into the inner room with a triumphant air. However, she came out again almost instantly with her face flushed and angry and flounced out to the elevator. Others followed in rapid succession. When Anna's number was called she entered the room timidly and saw the gray-haired lady.

She arose with a friendly smile and greeted Anna pleasantly. "I am the head stenographer here," she stated, "and the manager has asked me to examine the applicants. Where did you study? Have you had any experience in office work?

Anna answered her somewhat bashfully. The lady then stepped to the telephone and called up the business college, asking a few rapid questions. "That's all right," she concluded, emphatically, and turning to Anna announced: "The salary is six dollars a week to begin with, and a raise of two dollars at the end of the first month. Can you go to work right away?"

"Why, yes," Anna stammered, "but don't you want to test my speed?"

"No," answered the lady, decisively. "You will not have much to do at first, and I will dictate to you and look over your letters. The business college recommends you highly, and that is sufficient. In fact, the first requisite with the firm is that a girl shall be quiet and ladylike and willing to learn. I noted your appearance as I saw you in the other room, and I approve of the inconspicuous and neat way you are dressed. I would not consider for a moment one of those loud-talking, over-dressed, self-sufficient girls whom I interviewed first. Now take off your hat and take your place at the desk next to mine."

And this was the beginning of a pleasant, helpful friendship and satisfactory business relationship.

(Copyright, 1910, by Joseph B. P

AN OUTSIDER.

Gwendolyn—She is not going to stop at that resort any longer.

Genevieve—What is the reason, no men there?

Gwendolyn—Not that exactly. There is one lone man, who has proposed to all of the girls but her, and she feels so out of place when they are holding an experience meeting.

DOCTOR PRESCRIBES CUTICURA REMEDIES

"I wish to let you know of a couple of recent cures which I have made by the use of the Cuticura Remedies. Last August, Mr. ——— of this city came to my office, troubled with a severe skin eruption. It was dermatitis in its worst form. It started with a slight eruption and would affect most parts of his body, thighs, elbows, chest, back and abdomen—and would terminate in little pustules. The itching and burning was dreadful and he would almost tear his skin apart, trying to get relief. I recommended all the various treatments I could think of and he spent about fifteen dollars on prescriptions, but nothing seemed to help him.

"In the meantime my wife, who was continually suffering with a slight skin trouble and who had been trying different prescriptions and methods with my assistance, told me she was going to get some of the Cuticura Remedies and give them a fair trial. But as I did not know much about Cuticura at that time I was doubtful whether it would help her. Her skin would thicken, break and bleed, especially on the fingers, wrists and arms. I could do nothing to relieve her permanently. When she first applied the warm baths of Cuticura Soap and applications of Cuticura Ointment she saw a decided improvement and in a few days she was completely cured.

"I lost no time in recommending the Cuticura Remedies to Mr. ———, and this was two months ago. I told him to wash with warm baths of the Cuticura Soap and to apply the Cuticura Ointment generously. Believe me, from the very first day's use of the Cuticura Remedies he was greatly relieved and today he is completely cured through their use. I have great faith in the Cuticura Remedies and shall always have a good word for them now that I am convinced of their wonderful merits." (Signed) B. L. Whitehead, M. D., 108 Dartmouth St., Boston, Mass., July 22, 1910.

Hadn't the Material.

"I really never saw such an impudent man as that Mr. De Borrowe," said Miss Wrathy. "He actually had the nerve to ask me the other night how I managed to get that lovely tinge of auburn in my hair!"

"Really? Well, why didn't you box his ears?" asked Miss Silmm.

"Why, I only had my Easter hatbox handy, and that wasn't big enough," said Miss Wrathy.—Harper's Weekly.

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POOR RETURN FOR CHIVALRY

Incident That Probably Has Forever Discouraged Kind-Hearted Mr. Jones.

Chivalrous Mr. Jones purposely dropped a fifty-cent piece at the foot of a poorly dressed woman who passed through the Subway turnstile loudly lamenting that the ticket agent had cheated her out of half a dollar, then he picked the money up and gave it to her.

"Excuse me, madame," said Mr. Jones, "I think you dropped this."

"Oh, no," she said, "it can't be mine. Perhaps you dropped it, yourself."

"Oh, no," said Mr. Jones. "It is yours, I am sure. I picked it up just as you passed."

She took the money, and hurried after another man who had passed at the time the money dropped.

"Excuse me, sir," she said, "I think you lost this."

"Thanks," said the other man, and jumped aboard a train that was ready to start.

"— — —!" said chivalrous Mr. Jones.—New York Times.

Probably there is nothing so insincere as the struggle between two women to see which shall pay the car fare.

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