

PSYCHOLOGY

Women Can Learn To Do Almost Any Kind of Work

Job Experts of U. S. Employment Service Have Listed 1,858 Suitable Jobs in War Industries Studied

WOMEN have shown that they can do or can learn to do almost any kind of work. Experts of the U. S. Employment Service have come to this conclusion as they take steps to assist in the mass enlistment of women in America's production army.

This reinforcement of industrial output will be greatly facilitated by a book which will soon come off the rushing Government Printing Office presses.

It is a history-making book. It will aid employers in war and other essential industries in their effort to fit women employees into occupations believed to be suitable for their most rapid employment.

It will tell any woman who wants to enlist in war work where opportunities may be available.

The conclusion of the Federal Security Agency's Employment Service experts doesn't mean, however, that every woman can do any kind of work. Some have more physical strength than others, some have other abilities that must be considered.

It then becomes a matter of expediency—of determining just where women untrained in a particular industry, can be fitted with the least delay.

In the selected war industries covered, a total of 1,858 different jobs are listed as suitable for women. These are divided into three groups. First comes the sort of job, such as accountant or armature winder, where women have already demonstrated their fitness and are regularly employed. There are 158 of these occupations.

The second group, "apparently suitable for women," includes 1317 occupations in which women have been employed in some establishments or in some parts of the country, or in which there is no factor that would seem to bar women. This second group includes such jobs as awning finisher, bevel saw operator or arbor-press operator.

The third group, containing 383 jobs for which women are not ordinarily considered, represents a real achievement of

the research in the Employment Service. This classification is much more than a mere statistical sorting of jobs. Back of it stands long years of scientific study by job experts in the Employment Service's occupational research division.

Here are a few of the first names in this important third group: aeronautical engineer, ammunition proof technician, armorer, gage inspector.

It would be impossible for an employer whose aeronautical engineer goes into military service to replace him immediately with a woman. There are not enough trained women aeronautical engineers. Training facilities are already overburdened. The same is true of a gage inspector.

But careful study of the work of a gage inspector has revealed that the job includes a number of different kinds of duties. A gage inspector works on many different kinds of gages and checks them to various degrees of accuracy. He also does such miscellaneous tasks as preparing technical reports.

When the job is broken down, however, the employer can see that some of it could be done by girls with a high school education in mathematics, after three to six months of special training.

In this way many essential men employees could be released. Or the work turned out by one irreplaceable employee could be greatly increased.

Such detailed occupational breakdown studies of critical jobs in which the shortage of man-power (or woman-power) is now holding up war production are now being pushed forward by the Employment Service. Jobs of tool and die making and critical occupations in the shipbuilding industry are being given first priority. Eight such studies are now in process and will be ready for use very soon. More will follow at top speed.

The list of jobs for women is so arranged that employers in certain industries, such as firearms, industrial chemicals, or petroleum refining, can just run a finger down the page and find instantly where in his own plant jobs exist

suitable for immediate employment of women, where they would have to be trained, how long the training period would have to be, and whether the job can be broken down so that women can take over important parts of the work.

Those planning training programs for women can follow through one column and find the information about the normal training period required.

In addition to the jobs in war industries, the list contains 938 occupations in non-war industries where it is important to put women to work to release men employees. Of these 521 are suitable for women, 337 are in the "apparently suitable" grouping where women have occasionally been employed and can be again. Another 80 are in the partially suitable group that can be broken down to employ women on part of the work.

The list is a public document and can be bought from the Government Printing Office for about 35 cents.

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MEDICINE

Blood-Clotting Agent Found By Laboratory

A NEW blood-clotting agent obtained in concentrated form from blood from which the corpuscles have been removed, was announced by the Lederle Laboratories, Inc., with the belief it may offer hope for hemophiliacs, or "bleeders."

The new agent is globulin, the natural clotting constituent of blood, but lacking in the blood of hemophiliacs. These unfortunate persons, whose condition is inherited, bleed excessively from minor wounds because their blood contains too little of the clotting principle (prothrombin). No positive protection has been known for these persons, and even pulling a tooth may cost them their lives.

The new clotting globulin provides physicians and dentists with an effective means for stopping the flow of blood from minor wounds in a few seconds. The agent is not effective against bleeding from veins and arteries. Excessive bleeding following extraction of teeth and the oozing of blood from surgical incisions are stopped within a few seconds, by proper application of the clotting globulin.

Globulin was obtained from beef blood, though not in commercial quantities, by Drs. Frederick J. Pohle and F. H. L. Taylor of Harvard Medical School and Boston City Hospital, in 1938.

Science News Letter, April 11, 1942