

PSYCHOLOGY

Most Women Like Their Work But Some Jobs Disdained by All

MOST WORKING women actively like their present occupations, a questionnaire answered by 13,752 mature, experienced women engaged in the higher occupational levels throughout the country indicates.

The survey, which was conducted by the Bureau of Business Research of the University of Michigan with the cooperation of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, also indicates that women engaged in different fields of work vary in their characteristic occupational interests and only a very few occupations are consistently liked or disliked by women in all types of work.

Business for self, home-maker, secretary and social worker were the only jobs which the various working groups unanimously regarded with favor. The jobs of barber, book agent, chiroprapist, elevator operator and laundress were, on the other hand, looked upon with dislike by all the working groups questioned.

A longer list of occupations, including the career of wife, office manager and musician, were thought of with either favor or indifference combined with favor. While the majority of the nearly 14,000 women represented in the questionnaire were single and half of them were more than 37 years of age, their answers indicated that the working

woman is interested in home-making and marriage but do not show whether she would be willing to sacrifice her business career for home or vice versa.

But the romance popularly supposed to surround movie stardom in the mind of the working girl or woman apparently is a fiction. For the job of movie star along with that of waitress, dentist and landlady belonged in a group of occupations regarded by all groups with disfavor or disfavor combined with indifference.

The ten occupational groups stating their work preferences in the questionnaire were private secretaries, office managers, bookkeepers, stenographers, office clerks, high school teachers, grade school teachers, trained nurses, sales proprietors and retail saleswomen. The survey was directed by Prof. Grace E. Manson.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1931

MEDICINE

Drugs Relieve Pains of Lead and Gallstone Colic

THE INTENSE pain of lead colic, gallstone colic and ureteral colic can be relieved by slow injection into the veins of calcium chloride, a salt of the metal which is necessary for bone formation, Drs. Walter Bauer, William

T. Salter and Joseph C. Aub of the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston have just found. This gives more rapid relief than any other form of treatment tried by these physicians.

Their discovery of this new use of a calcium salt and of a way to give relief in these distressing conditions was made in the course of studies on the treatment of lead poisoning, they stated in their report to the American Medical Association.

Lead and calcium, they knew, were both retained in the body in the bones. The chemical behavior of certain lead and calcium salts in the body is very similar. These facts suggested to Dr. Aub that the same physiologic variations which influenced the elimination and excretion of calcium would similarly influence the lead stream.

Medicines that caused decalcification or removal of calcium from the body resulted in an increased excretion of lead, it was found. Conversely, treatment that increased calcium storage also increased storage of lead. Consequently in treating lead poisoning, a high calcium diet is used until all symptoms of the poisoning have disappeared, usually within one or two days. The theory underlying this is that following increased calcium retention as a result of the high calcium diet, the lead is removed from the blood and stored in the bones.

In order to hasten this process and give more prompt relief from the severe pain of lead colic, Dr. Aub and associates tried giving a solution of calcium chloride directly into the veins.

The results were dramatic, they reported. The pain stopped almost immediately, often before the injection was completed. Such prompt relief made them doubt whether the beneficial action of the calcium salt was due to fixation of lead and calcium salt in the bones. Further studies indicated that the calcium salt acts as an antispasmodic. The mechanism of its action, however, remains unexplained at present.

Science News Letter, May 23, 1931

Physicians and surgeons from all over the United States will gather at Philadelphia next month for what is probably the largest medical meeting of the year, when the American Medical Association convenes for its eighty-second annual session. The association was founded in Philadelphia 84 years ago but this is the first time it has met there since then. About 8,000 physicians are expected for the meetings from June 8 to 12.

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