

## Woman's World

Opinions of Dr. Davis and Others About Mentally Defective Children.



Photo by American Press Ass'n. Boston  
DR. KATHARINE B. DAVIS

The recent discussion of the refusal of a child to cooperate on a family basis is the cause, in his judgment, an opinion, a mental condition of the child to an individual's fate makes this a subject of interest to the mothers of our race.

Dr. Katharine B. Davis, Co-director of the New York Child Welfare Association, says that a child would be a help to his mother, but what purpose would he serve by keeping it alive? But it seems to me that no one physician should ever have the right to decide so momentous a question.

Mrs. Mary Ware Bennett, New York Clubwoman, thinks Dr. Hapfeldt has done a big humanitarian thing.

Judge Ben Lindsey, Denver Juvenile Court, says that the child should be kept in the home, if possible, and if not, in a high-class institution.

Dr. Virgil P. Blaney, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, says it is the duty of a doctor to relieve the sufferings of humanity and to prolong life regardless of what the individual may desire, but he is the one who should decide.

Miss Florence Guernsey, former President of the Federation of Women's Clubs, says she believes the child should be kept in the home, if possible, and if not, in a high-class institution.

Professor Franklin H. Williams, Head of the Department of Sociology, Columbia University, says that if the child should be permitted to die, if more such children had been permitted to die there would be fewer molasses-minded men and women in the community, who are a burden to the community.

Dr. Woods Hutchinson, Magazine Writer, says that few who have not had a child with a mental defect can realize the lot of the feeble-minded child or the lot of the parents who are forced to rear such children.

Dr. Max G. Schlapp, Director of the Clearing House for Mental Defectives, Postgraduate Hospital, New York, says that no physician has the right, on the strength of his own opinion, to sacrifice life or condemn a human being to death. At so early an age it is often difficult to make a diagnosis. Certain kinds of feeble-mindedness, like cretinism, can be wonderfully helped. The public gets excited about a case of this kind, while there are so many thousands of high grade mental defectives, the most dangerous types, at large with no state machinery to protect them or society from their after crimes are committed.

The state board of charities reports that in New York alone there are over 22,000 mental defectives, while state institutions care for less than 5,000.

**Sewing Suggestions.**  
When sewing long seams use wire paper clips to fasten the edges of the cloth together, and no basting will be necessary. Turn up a hem the desired depth and place the fasteners at the bottom edge to hold it in place.

In making a buttonhole in serge the material often frays badly at the cut edges. To avoid this make a mark to show the exact size and position of the buttonhole by means of a tacking thread. Then stitch around this tacking thread with the machine. Now you are ready to cut the hole between the stitching and to work the buttonhole over the machine stitching.

When boys' blouses are bought ready made it is a good plan to cut off the narrow hem and sew on a narrow belt that just fits around the waist. Finish with button and buttonhole. It saves much time putting in strings.

## What Makes a Home?

When we say "homemaker" we usually have in mind the woman who keeps and manages the house. But truly, is it fair to put the entire burden of homemaking on the shoulders of woman alone? Home is, in the last analysis, an attitude of mind, a feeling, an emotion of several persons toward one another, and not simply a pile of material possessions.

No matter how strongly a woman synthesized in herself all the instincts and feelings which go to make a home, she cannot alone create the true home unless she is supported by the other members of the family. Father is a homemaker, too, as truly as mother in the higher sense, and each other member must feel his share and responsibility in making the home spirit.

We do not mean, of course, that father must wash the dishes or lift and tie the help, but that he should feel his importance in family councils and the need for his judgment above and beyond the mere paying of the bills. The old Spartan type of father, whose very glance made the children tremble and who thought himself the divinely appointed lord over his children's very lives, has happily disappeared. But the modern parent, who has taken his place, seems to have gone to the other extreme of good natured indifference. This is just as unwholesome and unbalanced. Father's opinion, his taste, his cooperation, his strength, are needed equally to support his side of the arch of home.

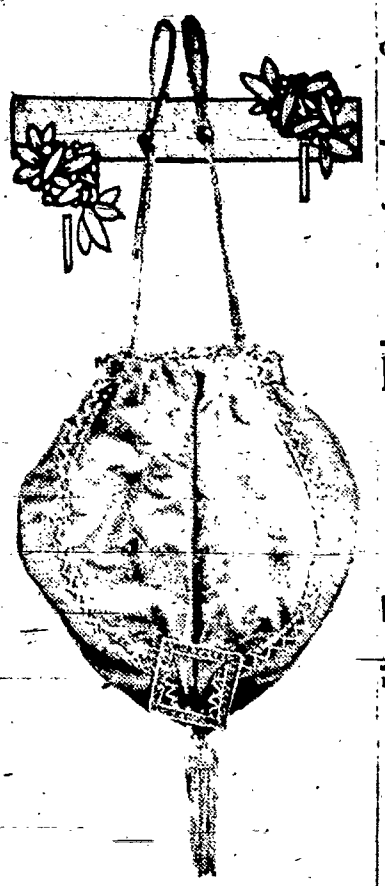
When the woman is held solely responsible as the homemaker, the children, instead of doing their share, stand around and expect to receive the pleasures and benefits of a home without creating this spirit themselves. It is not possible for the woman to carry this load which should be distributed among all the members of the family. The children must be encouraged, each in his own small way, to do some work and take some share in the duties or they will never fully appreciate the pleasures they receive.

A definite daily task, like emptying a wastebasket or taking care of the putting up a little shelf or helping to dust or sweep, will engender in the child's mind his close relationship to the home—only by personal service and doing, either with the hand or heart, do we come to love our surroundings or the people who dwell in them. Only by having a real part in the life of the home can each member feel that it is his home. Too often we feel that the attitude of the father, say, is that it is the mother's home, where she entertains her women friends at afternoon gatherings, where she has chosen the furniture, where everything is arranged and ordered as a setting for herself.

Again, too often the young son feels that his mother's parlor is "his" place for him. Why should it be when its gilt chairs and gilt clocks and fragile draperies are far removed from his own room? Home to him probably is the den which he has helped to arrange and decorate with pennants and footballs or where he keeps his books and tools. The one great need in modern home life seems to be to draw the members of a family to the home through greater individual responsibility toward the home.

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