

sonably hope to retire with a modest competence at the end of a certain number of years. Then one day he tossed a heavy weight into the air--and forgot to catch it when it came down.

"It struck him on the forehead. When he awakened from the coma which followed, he discovered that his eyes were crossed. As a juggler he was ruined. Even if he could have juggled--which he could not--nervous people in the audience would not have dared to watch him. It seemed that his livelihood had been taken away from him. Instead of that, however, he went into the movies as a cross-eyed comedian and for years he has been making millions laugh. His one fear is that another heavy weight may some time hit him on the other side of his head."

FARM LIFE AS LIVED AND EXTOLLED BY GIRL WORKERS

Few people who have had anything to do with bringing up calves in the way they should go, and especially in the way they should absorb their sustenance out of a bucket, manifest any degree of enthusiasm for that mode of employment. Mostly, they regard it with aversion and speak bitterly of the trials and tribulations connected therewith. But not so the young lady, "a charming decorative designer," who was charged with looking after the welfare of nine young calves on a 200 acre farm near Libertyville, Illinois, last summer, where she was one of a number of women, mainly from the city, who were receiving training in agricultural work. She thought the baby beeves very amusing. "I weaned them," she said. "It was quite a difficult task, and they were such cunning, nice little things." From an account of this experiment in farm training for women by Edith M. Wyatt in the Chicago "Tribune," it appears that the enthusiasm expressed by the young women for her youthful bovine charges was shared by all the other women for the different kinds of work in which they engaged while in training. By turns they took part in every form of work connected with a farm, both indoor and outdoor, and they discovered that they liked it. The idea of establishing a training station where women could receive instruction in farm work originated with the committee on women in agriculture appointed by the State Council of Defense in the spring of 1918. The object of the enterprise was not only to prepare women to supply a possible farm labor shortage, but also to organize an establishment which might "have a permanent value towards developing the education of women in agriculture." An announcement was accordingly made in the Chicago newspapers that free training in agriculture would be supplied for sixty-five women at the Libertyville farm. It brought a response twenty times as great as the capacity of the farm could provide for, says Miss Wyatt. To quote the "decorative designer" above referred to:

"I wanted very much to do something to help in war work. I had never had any experience on the land. But I had driven a machine for eight years. I'd always had to do with horses; and I'm strong and athletic. I thought I might just as well spend the summer pitching hay as in swimming and playing tennis; and I applied at the office and passed the physical examination."

The girls chosen out of the many who applied were selected mainly because of their physical qualifications and also because they appeared to be in earnest. Their ages ranged from 17 to 53, and 75 per cent. of them were college girls. The farm experiences of one of them, which might be considered typical, are set forth as follows:

"The country around the farm is beautiful. At noon when I arrived they asked me if I could take a team of horses and run a peg-tooth harrow. They asked if I had driven a team of horses, and I said 'yes' -- realizing as soon as I had said it that I had only driven a team once several years ago, and that most of my experience had been with one horse. But I took the four horse team they gave me and spent the after-

noon standing on the board over the harrow, driving it over the plowed field. It was thrilling.

"We slept in the barn, and this was first so that it looked very attractive, with cretonne curtains and with rugs on the floor and some easy chairs and books and shaded lamps, and the furniture different people had given us. More often we slept in the open. It was beautiful to be out under the stars. To the east of the farm there is a swampy stretch of ground, and early in the morning this would be covered with mists that were lovely to see. I never had realized the sunrise before. Now I saw it every day. I enjoyed nothing more than that.

"I especially liked the farm machinery and had no difficulty in understanding it; and most of my work was in these lines, and with farm animals, though we all took our turn at everything, and I was in the creamery for two weeks, and did the cooking for two weeks. I was in the fields, too, and brushed peas, and weeded and sprayed, pitched hay and threshed. I am so glad of everything I learned to do. I never had any idea how to scrub before, or to mop. Now I can boast of being a skilled mopper."

The young lady already quoted says she ran a Ford truck and handled baggage. One day one of the neighboring farmers asked if two girls could be sent to his place to help pitch hay, and this girl was one of the two sent over. She says:

"Miss S. and I drove off after dinner for the work. That was exciting. We had pitched hay and worked the hay fork and were able to do it on our own farm, though. On our neighbor's we found that we could keep up with the men. After supper the farmer called up Miss Ransford and praised us, and asked if he could have several more girls on the next day. That was fine. After that we worked ever so many times for the neighboring farmers in pitching hay and with the threshers. At one of the first farms, at noon, the threshers all went up to one solitary basin and just one towel and washed and wiped their faces and hands. We didn't know quite what to do. Then we thought it best to follow, each in turn with the same basin and towel.

"Besides wanting to help in war work there was another serious feeling the girls had, too, in what we did. There was a feeling that we were doing something for women and women's work that we hoped would go on. There was so much in the experience that I cannot express all of it. I made some of the dearest friends of my life there. I think I would say that what was the finest in it was the spirit of the girls towards each other and their responsibility for the work together."

Those in charge of the Libertyville farm training experiment are of the opinion that its greatest value lay in its development of the girls' self-reliance and a sense of responsibility. Many of the women, especially the younger ones, had up to that time led a sheltered, privileged, care-free existence. For the first time in their lives they discovered what real work is and what it means to be held accountable for the performance of certain definite tasks. As we read:

"The business and professional women, the homemakers, too, had that knowledge. But most of these girls had lived in the amateur spirit and among privileges. To have to do or to endure whatever was necessary for the common advantage, and for the success of a piece of work was new to them. These were things they could not learn in a minute nor without a struggle. Often they would go home over Sunday to indulgences and special admirations, and come back out of sorts to begin their work discontentedly. But in the end what triumphed entirely was their wish to act responsibly, according to their own powers, and to show what these were.

"Several have taken shares in farms. Four or five are on their fathers' farms this summer. Seven are taking courses in agricultural colleges. One of these has been engaged to take charge of a dairy on an eastern farm, and another to manage the manufacture of a special kind of cheese in a dairy in a northern state. One of the girls is doing general farm work, helping a farmer at Grand Ridge. Two have married discharged soldiers and are living on farms with them. One has been engaged by the International Harvester Company to teach the use of farm machinery in Russia. Many are planning and saving to have their own small truck farms. One has been engaged to aid in training other girls on a southern farm. Three of the girls are to start an enterprise quite new in women's occupation. They have been asked to take care of golf links in New York state. They are to have a cottage, a truck garden, two horses, and a cow and with their out-door undertakings they are to combine the management of serving luncheon at the links."