Memo - Women and Industry

There is no settling finally yet by the aid of scholars, psychologists, physicians, specialists in brain and nerve and soul, the equality or inequality of capacity in men and women. We have been emerging for the last fifty years from a long period in which the world consented to the inferiority of the woman's brain and powers. It had been to the advantage of society that her former works be under cover. Her kingdom was a small intimite intensive one and a veil was drawn over it. The man was in the open, performing spectacular things and more or less busy in advertising himself. It was a period when it took advertising to make a leader, military or political, just as it takes advertising today to sell a new invention as well as to make himself a senator or a president. Those who go beyond the surface to find out what is going on will not admit that this woman was carefully kept in the background, was ineffective, even if she was silent. You do not have to dip deep into the Middle Ages to find her frequently all powerful in what looked like a small field but where her influence and frequently her intrigue stretched out in all directions. She was a skillful industrialist, a fine executive. The traces of her work are all over Europe. That is,because she did not go in politics in the open and did not fight in the field she was no dead le tter in mediaval times any more than she was in Roman or Greek times, and how can we expect that she would be, she, who in primitive days was the real industrialist. She handled tools in those days, she did the planting, everything industrial except the heavy work. The man cut down the trees and brought in the animal, but it was she who skinned and dried and sewed, who thatched and cooked. What stood for the factory and the counting room in those days were entirely in her hands.

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When the man was not out chasing other men or killing animals he was sleeping in a hammock whish she had made. As a matter of fact the coming of women into industrial life is not a change in fact she has always been there and always been a leader there in her particular lines of feeding, clothing, adornment, but the whole shift of processes by which industry is carried on, driving her out of the home where she once carried on, give an impression of something radically different which it is not, except exteriorly.

Those who remain under cover, who are not running about in the open, are generally judged as inferior by the public. The reputation of inferiority fixed on women is partly explained by the lack of advertising that the man's activities have.

The question of equality or inequality goes on eternally. Not long ago in London one of the ablest of English physicians, Dr. Bertrand Hollander, gave as his opinion, that the whole trend of serious investigion into psychology, physiology, anatomy of men and women, went to show that he was no better than she. His brain might be a little heavier, but the majority of brain students have concluded that it is not by weight that brains are to be judged, that an ounce or more either way means nothing in thinking. Dr. Hollander's idea, based on a long life of investigation and experience with human beings, is that the differences in the exhibits of men and women, the apparent superiority of his to hers, is the result of the difference in the lives that the two have led. She has been trained for one set of activities, he for another. He is awkward and incompetent in her field and she is in his; that if she had been called upon to invent, to dream, to sing, to produce music, to devise governments, that she would have done as well as he, but not all the scientific world agrees with Dr. Hollander, eminent as he is.

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There are students of the woman's brain who bring forth the results of investigations to prove that the brain of the woman is not capable of development as man's. Dr. Proteus of the Psychological Laboratory in Vinland, N.J. has measured thousands of brains of the young men and women, according to a formulae which, it is interesting to note; was made by a woman, in Dr. Pearson's laboratory in London and the result of his work is that while the boy and the girl developed on practically parallel upward lines until they are about fifteen, after that the development of the girl is much slower and that it is practically arrested before she is twenty, while his goes on until he is thirty. But, in Dr. Proteus' judgement, it is contrary to common sense to believe that her brain is as good as his,"never will be,"he says, "it cannot be, because it stops growing earlier than his." He takes great pleasure in insisting that the world will continue to be a man governed world. But Dr. Proteus is basing his decision on measurements, bulk, while Dr. Hollander is insisting that size is not the decisive factor, that the inequalities we see are not due to difference in sex but to inequalities of opportunity and training. But there is something else to consider in the matter, beside the size or weight of the brain or the way it develops. We may go on tearing down the external barriers between men and women, throwing her into the open along with him, inviting her to sit beside him in school, in the work shop, in the council room, in government, but there is no way, not even an amendment to the constitution, which will change the primary physical differences. Nature has given him one function and her another, in this primary matter of repeopling the world and there is no way yet discovered by scientists to get around this fact, and it is this fact, not only an unescapable

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one but a far more important one than anything exterior, which unlike ness and what we call inequality, must come back at last. It is this fact that makes her not necessarily unequal, but different. From the beginning of life what she wants is different from what the man wants and the thing comes out with the child. Scientists are saying now that glands have something to do with this, a difference in their secretions. If this be true here again we have something that drives her on a different road, something unescapable, which, from the start, settles it, that her aptitudes and her desires for life will be forcibly different from his much as she may attempt to stifle, change, re-educate divert them. What we may count on then is that the mass of women, not the exceptional one, fighting to remake her nature, will go in certain ways and that the experience of society from the beginning shows to be true. The little girl wants her doll and the little boy is ball. She her needle and he his gun. She will develope in school along the lines of the doll & Needle &c -

Your idea of equality -

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