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NO SLACK MOMENTS FOR MANPOWER

"The Listener" Goes To See

⊣HE Manpower Office may have its slack moments, but it was not one of them when The Listener called. The two sections, men's and women's, were crowded, interviewers and interviewed leaning all over the counter space. Men interview men and sometimes women; but women, we were told, interview women wherever possible.

It was an education just to stand and look on. At the first compartment a girl moved up, cleared her throat, and looked apologetic.

"I got this direction notice, but I couldn't possibly do this sort of work. That is—well—I mean to say—"

"You have just registered?"

"Yes. I've been in a film office and they want to manpower me to the mental hospital. I'm sure I wouldn't do at all. I simply hate nursing."

Next door, an older woman, rather poorly dressed, leaned forward and

began being personal.

"You want to send me to a laundry. but you've got a nice cushy job there. Sitting at a desk sending other folks about their business, with a 40-hour week and a fat little income and all."

A Grateful Caller

The young woman behind her was not antagonistic. Many were not. She approached her interviewer quite frankly.

"You see, I want to make photography a career. Do you think it would be possible to put me somewhere where I can be doing that sort of work? I'm qualified."

The woman officer went away and consulted a senior.

"The only thing would be the Government Film Studio or something like that. We'll see what we can do. I think

it's fairly safe to say that, you'll get some sort of job in that line."

"Thanks ever so much." The girl sounded relieved. "I had always thought Manpower people were so uncompromising," she murmured, as she turned to go out.

An Irate Husband

Then another problem presented himself-an irate husband.

"Look here, I don't care a damn for all your talk about War Necessity and Manpower Regulations. My wife is not going into either a clothing factory or a canning factory. I won't stand for it."

This certainly looked like trouble, but the woman interviewer kept her head. Measuring him dubiously, she said. "Wait a moment. I'll get Mr. —

Yes, it was clear enough that the Manpower authorities have their prob--problems which need a lot of tactful and delicate handling. It is hard to satisfy everyone. Some of the files are thick with direction notices, releases or discharges, their owners having been

(continued on next page)



en its small helpmate.

TEETH MORE VALUABLE THAN JEWELS, says Scripture. The Midrash, part of Jewish Scripture, says "The woman who goes bejewelled into the street is like a bejewelled bear. A wise man does not look at what is on her, but at her teeth".

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