

probably share instead, the enormous and heavy meal that their parents have about two o'clock after their mothers come home from working in the fields and their fathers come in out of the too-hot sun outside the village cafe where they have been sitting all the morning smoking and drinking their terrible oyo and discussing politics."

"Haven't the men been in the fields too?"

### "The Men Have a Lovely Life"

"Not unless it's harvest time. The men have a lovely life in Macedonia; it's the women who have the terrible life. But at least they have sunshine and lots of fruit and vegetables."

"And are they drab or do they wear gay clothes?"

"They wear their national costumes and every village is different. It's quite wonderful to see them on saints' days and feast days—they have lots of holidays. The women do the most beautiful embroidery, even on their field working clothes."

"What's this terrible oyo you mentioned?"

"That's their favourite cure for malaria. It's distilled from the grapes after the wine is made and it seems pure poison to me. Then they have another one called *chiparo* and that's double-distilled and seems like double pure poison to me. But they take them and say they are good cures for malaria."

Miss McLean worked for some time in a baby clinic undertaking a survey of infant health in much the same way as other teams worked in clinics to make tuberculosis surveys. She said she instructed many mothers how to soft-boil an egg and how to use dried milk and tinned milk for babies and also how to cook vegetables. But she said that such work was always made more difficult because it was first necessary to break down the opposition to any change. In the schools she found many teachers most helpful and sometimes the head of a village was progressive and interested in new ideas—for instance one mayor arranged to have folding canvas baby cots made to the pattern Miss McLean gave him—but very often politics interrupted and quashed the work she was trying to do. A committee composed of members of two political parties was an impossibility; and sometimes a month's careful organising would be ruined overnight by the simple change of an official.

### The Snowball Grows

Mr. Horne's opinion that it is education and rehabilitation—not actual war relief—that the Greek peasants need today is shared by Miss McLean; and education and rehabilitation are matters for long-term planning and patience. The peasants are steeped in tradition and naturally do not change their ways easily; but the snowball of change is growing; here a child escapes malaria because it is put to bed under netting early enough to avoid the malaria mosquito in the evenings and before long other families are putting their children to bed early too; there a mother finds herself more comfortable in a clean and airy hospital than in one in which the windows are tightly closed and food is left uncovered in the wards; somewhere else an unconvinced mother is won over to scientific feeding by envy of a baby more beautiful than her own; or a farmer is encouraged by a neighbour's success to use better methods. Education works slowly, but it works.

—J.

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