

(continued from previous page)

upon as a profession, in which one succeeds or fails according to one's own efforts, and if married women who speak of "Prison" would think of others besides themselves, there would be less complaining and discontent. And despite the number of times we have been told recently, through articles and letters, and over the air, that marriage, motherhood, and housekeeping are little less than slavery, there are a surprising number of young married women, like myself, who find it quite satisfying and agreeable. — **CONTENTED HOUSEWIFE** (New Plymouth).

Sir,—Can it be true that any mother asks to be "lifted" to the footing of those who work a 40-hour week? Work at what? Typing letters, ironing collars, selling stamps, sewing at a counter? Compare that with the woman who, already linked with her Creator, may be rearing and training a Livingstone, a Lincoln, a Rutherford, an Edith Cavell. I don't see how rearing a family prevents a woman from reading, going to concerts or having wide sympathies and interests.

I wonder how many of these distressed correspondents of yours know how many children had Susannah Wesley, Mrs. General Booth, Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, Queen Victoria, Queen Mary, Mrs. Ramsay McDonald, Mrs. Roosevelt, and hundreds of ministers' wives, doctors' wives, schoolmasters' wives, and others who run a home, help their husbands, rear a large family, and maintain wide sympathies and a semi-official attitude toward the general public? And enjoy life in self-forgetting service into their 'seventies and 'eighties.

I don't know exactly what "One of the Prisoners" means by saying that "women's emancipation is still a mere phase." To see crowds of well-dressed women flocking into the shops, crowding into milk-bars and tea-rooms, and then rushing home with a small paper bag for a scratch tea makes me feel that what many women need is a course of training for their conscience.

Of course we have to work, but so do our husbands; and after all, no woman has to get married if the prospect is so dreary. In case anyone thinks I am "just talking" I would like to say I have six children, and not very many labour-saving devices in my home. I am not by any means "bored" by the company of toddlers and babies. I am "amusingly old-fashioned" enough to love my home and my job of making it a home. After 20 years of married life I know that if I had to choose again I'd choose the same vocation, for there's no life as full, as sweet, as satisfying as that of the home-makers. The children grow up so soon, and they are never small again. The mother who laments her children (more often "child") as a tie and a worry now is the very one who will lament that "children are so ungrateful" in 20 years' time. If we do our job well and honestly now we shall be fully rewarded later.

"BARS OF GOLD" (Nelson).

HUMAN TOUGHNESS

Sir,—I was much interested in Caroline Webb's talk, reported in *The Listener*, also in the letters from listeners. Some light may be thrown on the subject by Australian commentators who endorsed General Freyberg's statement "that the men in the Forces under his command in World War II were not as

tough physically as the men in World War I." The majority of the commentators with logical statements indicated that this lack of toughness now applies to people generally. Here are some statements from a broadcast on a recent Tuesday. "There is a general disinclination among the present generation to exert themselves either physically or mentally." "People want too many labour-saving devices." "This present age could be designated as the 'Age of Wants.'" "You are never as tired as you think you are." Mr. Olssen speaking from Auckland the other night expressed a similar view when he stated that "although we have the great advantage of more free time, people are not making the best use of this privilege. They are too passive, and prefer to look and listen rather than take part in any activity."

Human beings are the toughest and the most capable of endurance in the whole of the animal creation. The following instance of toughness may be of interest to women who feel incarcerated in a prison without bars, as related by a Resident Commissioner in Africa. When cycling along the tracks or roads of his district on official duties it was the custom of the natives to run alongside, singing and shouting. In order to escape the noise he tried cycling faster and faster, but was unable to out-distance them; they became only more excited and made more noise. One day he noticed among the runners a woman who was "near her time," and stopped to remonstrate, but they only laughed and explained that she was a deer-hunter. (i.e., She followed the track of the deer until she came near it, when it bounded off she followed it again, and repeated the process until it was exhausted and easily killed.) A few days later she went off on her usual occupation, but in addition to her spear she carried a grass mat, and later returned triumphantly with the deer, and also with her baby in the grass mat!

Among many people the idea of freedom and an easy time is taking the place of toughness and endurance of older generations. This is the root cause of our wants exceeding our available supply of labour, so that important work like home service is neglected. This idea is also the cause of many of our present troubles, from industrial unrest to the view that domestic life is like a prison without bars. **H. M. HELM** (Pangatotara).

WRESTLING BROADCASTS

Sir,—It appears that again this winter we are to be afflicted with wrestling commentaries over the National stations. With evening programmes restricted as they are at present, it does not seem right that wrestlers should benefit by half-hour periods of free advertising nearly every night of the week. If they are so fond of radio publicity let them go to the Commercial stations—and pay for it. Surely the YA stations do not want to lower their standards by broadcasting such cheap and vulgar entertainment.

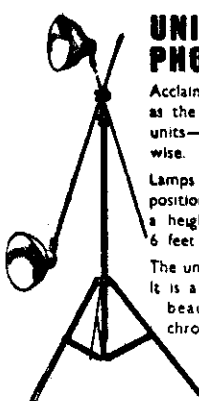
It is amazing how many people are duped by this so-called sport. The sporting instincts of many must be somewhat depraved if they can find satisfaction in watching exhibitions of hair-pulling, elbow-jolting, nose-biting, stomach-punching, face-kicking, head-banging, referee-bashing, etc. Why should radio listeners in New Zealand have to tolerate this? **HAMISH G. HAY** (Riccarton).



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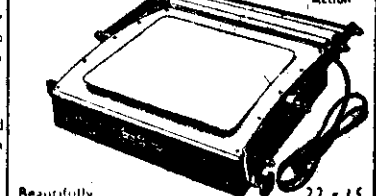
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