(continued from previous page)

her voice in anger against her children and her man? Or had wider education and greater emancipation cost the modern woman some fount of grace and patience which kept her female forbears maternal and serene?

IN and out, in and out go her thoughts until, as thoughts always do, they leave the general and come back to the particular. Twelve months they have been here now; 12 months of hoping every day that word will come and they will get their house. Twelve months of sidling through four small rooms filled to capacity with goods and chattels. Bob says if they don't get a house soon they will both be walking like crabs for the rest of their lives, Summer with the heat of the stove within, the heat of the sun without. Winter with the hot living-room, the freezing bedrooms. Bathing the children in front of the fire, carrying water . . . waiting, waiting.

Evelyn finishes a last, tiny hole in the toe of a sock. Now for a cup of tea and-oh, exquisite peace-a little read.

Supper is over. They have rinsed the dishes, set the breakfast table. "Brrr," says Bob, coming in from the frosty night, rubbing his hands, pulling up his collar. "I knew it was going to be a stinger. Come on Mrs. Young, get a move on, Let's hit the hay." And as he passes her, very gently his cold fresh fingers pinch her cheek.

When he has gone Evelyn opens the door. The moon is up . . . full up. The transit camp is flooded in silver light. A million diamonds of frost sparkle on every blade of grass; the willows and the macrocarpas are etched in black; the army huts huddle darkly beneath their gleaming roofs, and here and there a feathery wisp of smoke climbs belatedly into the pallid sky.

Slowly, silently now the moon Walks the night in her silver shoon,

whispers Evelyn, and a great longing comes to her to walk away from her cluttered life. To walk off by herself down the silver pathway, through the dark trees, to some wide, enchanted, peaceful world. But even as the longing is born she is drawn back into the house. Drawn back by her children with their button noses showing pink above the blankets; drawn back by her husband, a large hump in the big bed, snoring again and on a deeper note.

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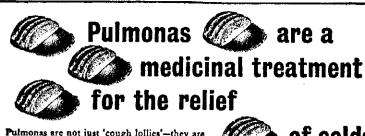


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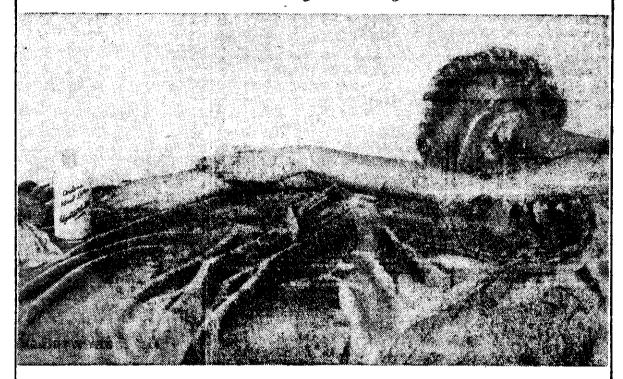


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