

WOMEN AS LAWYERS

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late, that he had been misled by appearances, for the mild blue eye was a young man who had steered the University Eight to victory, and the fierce-looking counsel for the defendant was a Miss Mary Poppleton. But happily, no harm was done, for Miss Mary Poppleton promptly went to the Court of Appeal and had an easy win. The moral being, of course, to "spot the lady."

There is routine work. Forms flow in from the font of bureaucracy, and the month of May may not be a merry one as we struggle with so much Government paper in the shape of anything from income tax returns to hotel licences. Here again, our patience enables us to see the thing through with a smile. And certainly we may be permitted a smile as our eyes alight on our male colleagues in a whirl of disorder, losing papers and throwing files into confusion, a knack they have which appears to be their own special privilege.

But there is no brief for boredom. People and their problems keep you very wide awake. Even a simple inquiry may be someone's big problem, and a woman by her natural sympathy and understanding can supply good value for any fee.

It Takes a Woman

And that branch of law dealing with husband and wife! It takes a woman to understand another woman whether she is engaged upon a straight-out household struggle or an all-out offensive in the Divorce Court. Surely it is only reasonable that we be encouraged to use our exclusive knowledge of our own sex for (inter alia), pacific purposes. War creates many problems, not the least of them matrimonial, and it can well be expected that post-war planning will produce an expansion of our Conciliation Courts; and greater opportunity for active female participation in this direction.

A final exhortation. Don't you believe there is no future in the law. The Public Trustee may have a coveting eye, but he is becoming a very old bogey. Rather believe that under America's surveillance we shall see a development in female education. So a timely tip to women is to seize all opportunities in those lily white but capable hands of yours. Or maybe those 1,700 woman lawyers in America will jump your claim.

"A Good Thing Too"

LAUNDRY restrictions are now in force in Australia, which means that stiff shirts are unobtainable.

"There's no such thing as evening dress for men in Australia now," Peter Dawson told "The Listener." "And a good thing, too. Before these restrictions came in you were expected to practise in a soft shirt and collar and then climb into an armour-plated front and be able to make the same sort of noises. It always seemed rather silly to me."

"My concert platform uniform is striped trousers, black coat, and soft shirt. And it does make for comfortable singing."



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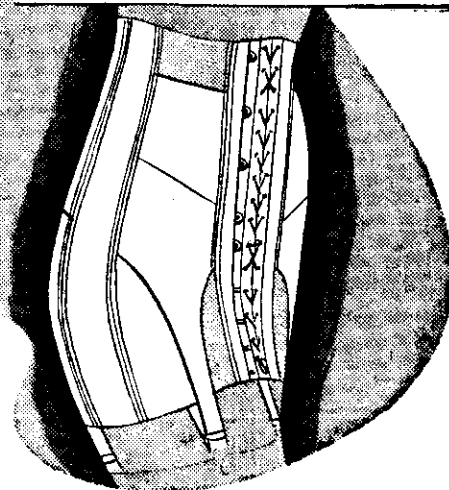


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