WOMEN IN THE LAUNDRY INDUSTRY
IN COLUMBIA

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WOMEN IN THE LAUNDRY INDUSTRY IN COLUMBIA.

In making this survey of the women in the laundry industry in Columbia, I have attempted to cover, as far as is possible, every condition and fact connected with their home and working life. To do this, I have interviewed personally thirty-one women,¹⁾ visiting them on Saturdays in their homes, and twice a week during the lunch hour at the laundry. The survey lasted from October, 1914, till April, 1915 -a period of twenty-six weeks. Using a list of questions approved by the Department of Sociology, I secured all the information bearing on these questions that each woman could give me. I found all of them willing to talk about themselves and their work. The manager also was very courteous, allowing me to come and go as I pleased and giving me access to the pay-roll, without which I could not have reached the heart of my problem. The information thus gathered, which it is the purpose of this paper to discuss, will be allowed to tell its own story, be it hopeful or otherwise.

AGE.

Perhaps the first question which the student of a labor group wishes to settle is that of age. Are the members of this group, or any considerable number of them, far enough below thirty to warrant hopes for better things; or have they passed so far beyond that age that hopes are dead and life is at best a dead level? Reference to the tables on the following page will quickly answer these questions.

¹⁾This does not include the office girls.

Table I..

Age of Women.

No. 1	14	No. 11	20	No. 21	34
No. 2	15	No. 12	21	No. 22	35
No. 3	15	No. 13	22	No. 23	38
No. 4	16	No. 14	23	No. 24	40
No. 5	16	No. 15	27	No. 25	45
No. 6	16	No. 16	30	No. 26	46
No. 7	17	No. 17	30	No. 27	47
No. 8	17	No. 18	31	No. 28	48
No. 9	18	No. 19	32	No. 29	48
No. 10	18	No. 20	33	No. 30	51
		No. 31	57		

Table II.

Distribution by Age Groups.

Age groups	Women in each age group	
	Number	Per cent
10 and under 15 years	1	3 7/31
15 and under 20 years	9	29 1/31
20 and under 25 years	4	12 28/31
25 and under 30 years	1	3 7/31
30 and under 35 years	6	19 11/31
35 and under 40 years	2	6 14/31
40 and under 45 years	1	3 7/31
45 and under 50 years	5	16 4/31
50 and under 55 years	1	3 7/31
55 and under 60 years	1	3 7/31
Total	31	100

The ages range from 14 to 57 years. The average age is

is 29.6 years. By referring to table II, it will be seen that 48.3 per cent reported ages under 30 years, and 51.7 per cent reported 30 years and over. The greatest number in any age group falls between 15 and 20, the second greatest number between 30 and 35, and the third greatest number between 45 and 50. These figures, however, do not justify the conclusion that there is a tendency to employ women of any certain age. And we shall see how little age and experience count when we have come to a discussion of wages.

KIND OF WORK.

In discussing the kind of work that the women do, I shall take them in the order in which they are given in table I and give a description of the work of each with reference to its effect on the health.

No.1- Shirt folder. She folds the finished shirt over a pasteboard, fastens a paper band around the folded garment, and passes it on to the sorter. Stands at her work. No physical effects from work save tired feet.

No.2- Sleeve ironer. The sleeve mangle is a double treadle machine, one treadle pressing the rollers together, the other reversing the direction of motion. The lower roller, which is covered with felt, is inserted in the sleeve when pressure on the first treadle brings it in contact with the upper roller which is heated with gas. The importance of the double treadle is that it allows a shift from one foot to the other, thus avoiding continued use of a single set of muscles. She complained of headache caused by the gas from her machine. She stands all day and thinks it is hard on her health. Loses time each month on account of painful menstruation.

No.3- Shaker. When the clothes come from the extractor

they are in hard masses. The shaker untangles these masses and shakes the clothes straight for the flat-work ironer. She stands at her work though there is no reason why she could not do just as efficient work if she alternated the standing position with the use of high stools, especially when working with the small pieces. The shaker does not suffer from the heat, the temperature being kept down by the damp clothes; but the continuous snapping of the clothes taxes the muscles of the arms, back, and chest. She complains of tired arms and feet.

No.4- Same work as No. 3. Health not very good, but she does not think that laundry work aggravates her trouble.

No.5- Flat-work folder. She receives and folds the pieces as they come from the flat-work ironer. Since the rollers of this machine turn toward the operator, there is no danger from the machine itself; but the steam from the linen which is fed into the ironer while wet is very disagreeable. She stands at her work, but might sit to fold the smaller pieces if stools were provided. She complains of tired feet.

No.6- Collar ironer. This work calls for no great physical exertion. She sits half of the day, and the girl who works with her the other half. No bad effects from work.

No.7- Feeder. She places the pieces upon the feeding apron and keeps them straight and smooth till they pass into the flat-work ironer. If the feeder is careful this work is not dangerous, though this woman made the remark that she had had her fingers pinched by the rollers. She, too, might sit when feeding in small pieces, if stools were provided. Her feet are so tired at night that she can hardly get home.

No.8- Sleeve ironer. Same work as No.2. She reported

the work hard on her feet and health.

No.9- Shaker. Same work as No.3. Her health is poor but she does not attribute her ill health to her work.

No.10- Collar ironer. She works with No.6. Health good.

No.11.- Hand starcher. She also helps iron collars. Stands at her work. Gas gives her headache.

No.12- Yoke and neck band ironer. The yoke and neck band press is a machine hard to operate and dangerous as well. This machine, same as the cuff press, is not only controlled, but is also driven by foot power. Operator is apt to catch fingers in press with the neck band, when she clamps the machine. Work is tiring on the feet and legs. She also complains of the gas.

No.13- Sorter. She collects finished pieces bearing the same mark and places them with the original slip in a pigeon hole, for the wrapper. Stands all day. Work is hard on the eyes but she does not wear glasses.

No.14- She does miscellaneous work. Stands most of the day but her health is fine.

No.15- Presser and hand ironer. She uses a thirty-pound iron which is heated by gas. She does not lift the iron but draws it over the piece by a handle fastened at one end of the iron. Stands all day. She has headache "lots". Also complains of painful menstruation.

No.16- Operator of collar starcher. Work is not very heavy. Stands at her work. Gas makes her cough.

No.17- Shirt folder. Same work as No.1. Stands all day but her health is good.

No.18- Flat-work folder. Same work as No.5. She complained of tired feet but reported no ill effects from the heat.

No.19- Shaker. Same work as No.3. She complains of headache and irritated lungs. She has been crippled since she was three years old and standing is very hard for her.

No.20- Hand ironer. She irons linen coats. Work is done with the same type of iron as No.15 uses. Stands at her work. She has headache from gas.

No.21- Works in underwear department. She irons and folds underwear, except the knit underwear which she folds without ironing. She uses same kind of iron as No.15. Stands at her work. She suffers from headache and rheumatism.

No.22- Shirt finisher. She inspects shirts and with a hand iron presses out any rough places left by previous ironers. She also helps mend shirts, From her, the garments pass to the folder. Work is not hard but requires care. Stands at her work. She has good health and makes no complaint of her work.

No.23- Cuff ironer. The cuff press is operated by two clamping treadles. One cuff is put into the press and the treadle is pushed down. While this cuff dries, the other cuff is put into a similar press. Then each cuff is turned and pressed again, thus necessitating eight movements of the feet to each pair of cuffs. It is necessary to stand to operate this machine. Work is very tiring on the muscles of the legs.

No.24- Operator of the handkerchief mangle and hand ironer. Feeding the handkerchief mangle is hot work for the hands, as the handkerchiefs are smoothed on a hot metal plate. She sits for a short time each day to fold handkerchiefs. Her feet hurt every season of the year and her legs swell in the summer.

No.25- Shaker. She also helps on the flat-work ironer. Changing work through the day rests her. She makes no complaint.

No.26- Operator on the handkerchief mangle with No.24. She stands most of the day. Has headache caused by the gas.

No.27- Cuff ironer and shirt dampener. Dampening is easy work except for the standing. For a description of the cuff press, see work of No.23. Gas causes her eyes to hurt and head to ache. Her legs ache some nights so she can hardly sleep.

No.28- Hand starcher. No.11 works with her part of the time. Stands all day. Her feet get so tired that she can hardly walk home. At first, the starch caused her hands and arms to swell.

No. 29- Flat-work folder. Same work as No.5. Stands all day. She said standing was hard, and headache from the heat was "awful" at first.

No.30- Feeder. She works with No.7. Her arms get very tired.

No.31- Operates the body- ironer. This is a one-treadle machine. To keep the proper position before the rolls, the operator must use only the left foot in treading. The pressure necessary to operate the machine is so great that she stands on a block to avoid the strain of raising the left foot, and to enable her to throw her entire weight on the treadle. To iron the body of a garment requires constant treading with the left foot, while the right foot supports the weight of the operator. She complains of the gas and heat. Was overcome with heat last summer. She also complains of liver and bladder trouble.

WAGE

Wages are more significant. It is here that we get to the heart of our problem. The young or the old, the efficient or the inefficient, must earn to live and upon the wage of either is based the standard up to which or down to which she must live.

Chart I shows the nominal wage per week at which each woman is rated, and the average weekly wage actually received by each woman. For twenty-three of the women, the wage was

Chart I.

— Wage per week at which each woman is rated.
 — Average weekly wage actually received by each woman.

taken from the pay-roll for twenty-six consecutive weeks and averaged. The wage of the remaining eight women was averaged for the number of weeks they worked -eight to sixteen weeks. It will be seen that fourteen are rated at \$5.00 per week. The actual wage of the same fourteen ranges from \$3.01 to \$4.74, averaging \$3.83 and no one of them receiving the maximum of \$5.00. Following the rate line farther, we find two rated at \$5.40, six at \$5.95, one at \$6.30, one at \$6.50, four at \$7.50, two at \$8.10, and one at \$9.00. But the average wage line tells a different story, showing the wages corresponding to the rates just mentioned to be equal to the rate in only three instances. The wages received by the women who are rated between \$5.00 and \$6.00 per week average \$4.40; and the wages of the nine who are rated above \$6.00 average \$6.45. The average wage which the laundry pays is \$4.75, the lowest wage being \$3.01 and the highest being \$9.00. Altogether, the actual wage is 79.6 per cent of the average rate. This is due to the nature of laundry business. There are slack days and busy days, caused by the fact that people usually turn in their laundry on Monday or Thursday. Thus it is necessary to have a force of women sufficiently large to take care of the work on busy days. It happens, then, that on slack days only two or three of this force work the entire day. This results in the women, taken as a whole, working little more than three-fourths of the week.

The Nine-Hour Law took effect in June, 1913. Therefore, none of the women work more than fifty-four hours a week. eleven working less than forty hours a week on the average, as is shown by the pay-roll. A few of the women are bitter toward the Nine-Hour Law. One woman said, "I wish I could get into the

wool of whoever made that law". The women feel that they have a right to work as many hours a day as they please and resent any attempt to limit their working hours. They were suspicious of me at first and enquired if I meant to work for an Eight-Hour Law and lower their wages. They say that their wages were lowered when the Nine-Hour Law became effective.

Table III.

Earnings Related to Experience and Education.

Grade	Years of experience.									
	Under 6 mo.	6 mo and under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yr.	5 yr.	7 yr.	8 yr.	25 yr		
	Earn- Noings	Earn- Noings	Earn- Noings	Earn- Noings	Earn- Noings	Earn- Noings	Earn- Noings	Earn- Noings	Earn- Noings	Earn- Noings
No school					1379					1 589
First grade		1 395	1 381							
Second grade		1 395					1 489			
Third grade										
Fourth grade		1 485	1 327							
		1 412								
		1 447								
Fifth grade	1 301	1 478	1 424	1 515	1 399					
		1 359								
		1 386								
		1 493								
Sixth grade	1 334	1 613	1 474							
Seventh grade	1 406	1 408								
		1 419								
		1 434								
Eighth grade	1 343	1 750		1 591				1 750		
								1 900		
Through high school				1 608						

Table III shows the relation of earnings to experience and education. The number of women with which the table deals is not sufficient to warrant any final conclusions, but it certainly shows a strong tendency for experience with education to count for more than experience without education. For example, in columns three and four this tendency is very marked. The low wage of \$3.27 in column three is due to the fact that the woman receiving it loses much time on account of ill health.

Table IV.

Earnings Related to Age and Education.

Grade	Age groups									
	10and under 15	15and under 20	20and under 25	25and under 30	30and under 35	35and under 40	40and under 45	45and under 50	50and under 55	55and under 60
	Ear nin Nogs	Ear nin Nogs	Ear nin Nogs	Ear nin Nogs	Ear nin Nogs	Ear nin Nogs	Ear nin Nogs	Ear nin Nogs	Ear nin Nogs	Ear nin Nogs
No school						1379		1589		
First grade					1381			1395		
Second grade			1395							1489
Third grade										
Fourth grade		1327 1485								
Fifth grade		1301 1412 1447 1478			1424			1399 1515		
Sixth grade	1386	1613			1359			1493	1474	
Seventh grade					1406		1408			
Eighth grade			1419 1434		1343					
Through high school		1750	1900	1750	1591	1608				

Table IV shows earnings related to age and education.

It may or may not be significant that those getting a wage above \$6.00 have reached or passed the sixth grade and are under thirty-six years of age.

Table V on the following page gives the relation of earnings to age and experience. It shows that some of the younger women who have had six months' experience or more receive a higher wage than those who are past thirty-five, regardless of experience. Thus youth and vigor always win where speed is a factor.

Group I of table VI, on page 13, deals with fifteen women who have no other means of support than their own earnings. I have estimated their yearly wage on the basis of their

Table V.

Earnings Related to Age and Experience.

	Age groups											
	10and under 15	15and under 20	20and under 25	25and under 30	30and under 35	35and under 40	40and under 45	45and under 50	50and under 55	55and under 60		
	Ear nin No gs	Ear nin No gs	Ear nin No gs	Ear nin No gs	Ear nin No gs	Ear nin No gs	Ear nin No gs	Ear nin No gs	Ear nin No gs	Ear nin No gs		
Under 6 mo.			1 301 1 334			1 343 1 406						
6 mo. and under 1 yr.			1 412 1 447 1 478									
			1 485	1 395								
			1 613	1 419					1 395			
	1 386	1 750	1 434		1 359		1 408	1 493				
					1 381 1 424							
1 year		1 327								1 474		
2 years						1 379 1 591						
5 years						1 608		1 515				
7 years								1 399				
8 years											1 489	
25 years				1 900	1 750							
								1 589				

average weekly wage and the reported loss of time during the last year. It will be seen that the lowest estimated yearly income is \$143.64 and the highest \$375.00, the average being \$231.13. If these women had to pay for room and board at the rate of only \$4.00 per week, seven of them could not pay for food and lodging. Of those who could pay for room and board, one would have 8¢ left from her week's earnings, a second would have 19¢, a third 34¢, a fourth 89¢, a fifth \$1.15, a sixth \$1.91, a seventh \$2.08, and the last one \$3.50. Only four of them would have enough left with which to buy decent clothes. However, none of them pay board. Five of them keep house, two live with married daughters, two with married sisters, one lives with and is the main support of her parents, and

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Table VI.

Group 1.

No.	Weekly wage	Estimated yearly wage	Unemployed during year	How living	Conjugal condition
26	\$3.99	\$143.64	16 weeks	With married daughter	Widow
4	3.34	173.68	None	With married sister	Single
23	3.79	197.08	None	Alone with baby	Widow
20	3.81	198.12	None	Live together	Widow
1	3.86	200.72	None		Single
28	3.95	205.40	3 weeks	Live together	Divorced
11	3.98	205.40	3 weeks		Single
24	4.08	212.16	None	Alone	Widow
12	4.19	217.88	None	Alone	Single
14	4.34	225.68	None	With married sister	Widow
29	5.15	252.35	3 weeks	With married daughter	Widow
31	4.89	254.28	None	With husband	Married
21	5.91	295.50	2 weeks	Rooms at brother's	Single
22	6.08	310.08	1 week	Alone	Single
15	7.50	375.00	2 weeks	With parents	Single

Group 11.

9	3.27	111.18	18 weeks	With parents	Single
3	3.01	156.52	None	With mother	Single
16	3.43	178.36	None	With husband	Married
19	3.59	186.68	None	With husband	Married
17	4.24	207.76	3 weeks	With four children	Separated
18	4.06	211.12	None	With husband	Married
2	4.12	214.24	None	With parents	Single
30	4.74	222.78	5 weeks	With husband	Married
7	4.47	232.44	None	With husband	Married
6	4.78	248.50	None	With parents	Single
5	4.85	252.20	None	With husband	Married
25	4.93	256.36	None	With husband	Married
8	6.13	269.72	8 weeks	With mother	Single
27	5.89	270.94	6 weeks	With husband	Married
10	7.50	367.50	3 weeks	With parents	Single
13	9.00	450.00	2 weeks	With mother	Single

five do light housekeeping.

But this does not tell the worst. Four in this list support others besides themselves. No.26 supports herself and daughter, who is thirteen years old, on a yearly wage of \$143.64. She adds to this income by taking in washing on Saturdays through the winter, and during her vacation in the summer. She lives with a married daughter so is not required to pay rent. No.23 cares for a baby. No.31 supports herself and her husband who is an invalid, but who manages to make garden and raise chickens. No.15 lives with her parents who mainly depend upon her for their support.

Of this same group, three reported savings. No.21, a single woman, said she did light housekeeping in order to save a little -about \$8.00 per month. No.22, another single woman who does light housekeeping, reported a saving of about \$5.00 per month. And No. 31, who owns her home, reported a saving of from \$10.00 to \$12.00 each month.

Group II of table VI consists of those women who have other means of support than their own earnings. Their average yearly income is \$239.76, which is \$8.63 greater than that of group I. Eight out of this group are married and are living with their husbands. For various reasons, they have had to seek work to add to the family income. In one family, the children had the measles, One daughter died, who had been a wage earner. Doctor bills and other debts followed; the mother and the daughter went to work to help meet the expenses. In another family, a boy of nine years has consumption. The mother sought work in order to pay his doctor bill. In the six other cases, the inability of the husband to provide for the family's

needs sent the wife to find work. Of the remaining eight of group II, four live with parents in normal homes;¹ two others are with mothers who live apart from their husbands; another lives with, and helps her brother support a widowed mother; and the remaining one lives with her four children, her husband being a worthless man who left home and has not been heard from.

Although the women of group II are not entirely dependent upon themselves for support -all but one living with mothers, with parents, or with husbands- only two reported any savings. One of these, with the help of a brother, supports a widowed mother; and the other lives with her mother whom she helps when it is necessary. Her mother takes in sewing. It is reported that the mother is immoral.

CONJUGAL CONDITION.

In this connection, a fuller discussion of the conjugal conditions of these women will be of interest, for at least a partial explanation of these two groups is found under the heading of conjugal condition.

Of the fifteen women in group I, seven are widows. By referring to the age column, it will be seen that two of those who are single have reached ages that leave little hope for marriage. Of the other five single women, two assist widowed mothers in providing a living; one has parents mainly dependent upon her; and two live alone upon their own incomes. One woman is married, but her husband is an invalid.

¹By a normal home, I mean a home where the two parents are living together and the father is the chief bread winner.

In group II, eight women are married and live with their husbands. One lives apart from a worthless husband, but her brother helps her support the four children who are kept in school. The remaining seven are single, living with one or both parents, and are young enough to hope for something better. But of the fourteen single women in the entire number of thirty-one women, only four live in normal homes. A fifth lives with both parents, but the burden of supporting the family rests almost entirely upon her.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

A discussion of table VI would not be complete without treating of unemployment. While seventeen women reported no lost time, fourteen reported unemployment ranging from one to eighteen weeks. The time lost by these fourteen averaged a little more than five weeks. The unemployment, however, is not due to lack of work, but either to sickness or to the inclination of the women to lay off in hot weather. But the women know that their job waits till they come back.

Chart II on the following page deals with another side of the unemployment evil which has not this element of hope. Forty-one women have been employed at the laundry during part or all of the time since I have been engaged in this survey. Only twenty-three who were at work when I began were at work when I finished. Eighteen, or 44 per cent of the total number employed, have come and gone (except four who came in just recently and are still at work), staying from two to eighteen weeks.

It might be of interest to discuss at this point how the women were employed before coming to the laundry to work.

Thirteen of them reported no previous employment outside of their homes. Five others had taken in sewing. Five more had done house work for other people. Of the remaining eight, two had worked at the Hamilton-Brown Shoe Factory in Columbia; one had worked in a cleaning and pressing establishment; one in a hotel; and four of them had worked in other laundries. These facts seem to indicate that laundry work requires no special training.

Chart II.

Unsteadiness of Employment.

WORKING CONDITIONS.

Some modern employers recognize the value of a wholesome working environment for those who labor. They recognize that time, care, and money spent to create a wholesome environment pay good dividends by increasing the efficiency of the workers. Others, not having learned this valuable lesson, wonder why their employees get run down and become careless

and inefficient. They do not see any connection between laying off, on account of ill health, and bad ventilation, poor light, and lack of facilities for convenience and comfort.

While the laundry of which I have made a study is well lighted by windows on three sides of the building, these same windows with one exhaust fan form the only means of ventilating the work room. On account of the heat and gas from the machines peculiar to laundries, the great humidity due to steam and the use of great quantities of water, and the odor and particles of chemicles used for bleaching and other purposes, it is impossible to ventilate a building of this size with so small an amount of equipment. Only an extensive system of exhaust fans aided by numerous paddle fans suspended from the ceiling could keep the air reasonable pure. The building, however, is equipped with a concrete floor and excellent drainage facilities in the vicinity of the washing machines. Moreover, the walls and woodwork of the work-room are painted white, the floors are kept clean, and the machines are kept in good repair. With an efficient ventilating system, the work-room would not be objectionable from a sanitary standpoint.

No facilities are provided for the convenience and comfort of the women, no dressing room, no lunch room, no rest room. From the work-room with its stifling heat, with garments wet with perspiration, the women emerge into the open air to walk from two to twenty blocks to their homes, after the day's work is done. "It's a wonder it doesn't kill people, but I guess they get used to it", is the way one woman expressed herself about it. Another said, "We leave the laundry wet with sweat and are ashamed to go out on the street". They sit about on work tables and machine tables to eat their lunch, in the

same overheated and humid atmosphere in which they work. Lunch being over, they stretch their tired bodies upon a table, pillow their heads on bundles of clothes, and wait for the whistle.

Aside from complaints about the lack of a dressing room, and about the Nine-Hour Law, I found the women fairly well contented with their work. They get tired and the heat and gas are disagreeable, but all these things are taken as necessary concomitants of their work. There is no sullen undercurrent of dissatisfaction, no desire to form a union, no ill will towards their employer.

HOME CONDITIONS.

So far, we have seen the women only at their work. There is another side to their lives, their home life, which is necessary to complete the picture. Table VII gives their home conditions in a condensed form, but it is necessary to discuss it more in detail. It also shows the number of breadwinners in each case, and the occupations of the male breadwinners which, in a measure, indicate the standard of living of the family.

Five of the original thirty-one women are omitted from this table because they are living in temporary quarters, or left town before I had an opportunity to visit them.

Rent- We find only three living in homes that are owned; two with their parents, and the other with her husband. The home owned by the parents of the girls is mortgaged to the limit, the other is unencumbered. The remaining twenty-three either pay rent for themselves or help pay rent for the family with which they are connected. Five pay their own rent entirely, the amount ranging from \$2.00 to \$8.00 per month, and averaging \$4.70.

Table VII.
Home Conditions.

No.	Rent per month	Number of rooms	Size of rooms	Number in family	Modern conven- iences	Water
1& 20	\$5.00	Two	1 small 1 medium	Two	None	Well
2& 9	Parents own home	Four	Medium	Nine	None	City
3	Mother pays \$6.00	Four	Medium	Two	None	City
5	Husband pays \$6.00	Four	Medium	Two	None	City
6& 25	Father of No. 6 pays \$11.00	Five	Large	Six	None	City
7	Husband pays \$7.00	Four	Medium	Two	None	Well
8	Mother pays \$12.00	Five	Small	Three	None	City
10	Parents pay \$8.00	Four	Medium	Six	None	City
11& 28	\$9.00	Two	1 large 1 small	Two	All ex- cept bath	City
12	\$6.00	One	Medium	One	None	City
15	Parents pay \$7.00	Four	Small	Three	None	City
16	\$4.00	Two	1 small 1 medium	Five	None	Well
17	\$8.00	Five	Large	Six	None	City
18	Husband pays \$15.00	Four	Medium	Four	Inside toilet	City
19	Husband pays \$6.00	Two	Medium	Four	None	City
21	\$2.00	One	Large	One	None	Well
22	\$8.00	One	Medium	One	All of them	City
24	For own fuel and \$3.50	One	Large	One	Inside toilet	City
26	Lives with her daughter	Four	Medium	Four	None	City
27	Husband pays \$8.00	Four	Medium	Four	None	City
29	None. With her daughter	Four	Medium	Three	None	Well
31	Owns home	Two	Large	Two	None	Well

Table VII.

Home Conditions Continued.

No.	Number of breadwinners	Male breadwinner	Children in school	Literature	Recreation
1& 20	Two, mother and daughter	None	None	None	Few shows
2& 9	Three, father and 2 daughters	Father a stone mason	Two	None	"Danced but they charge now"
3	Two, mother and herself	Mother left the father	None	None	None
5	Two, husband and herself	Husband in factory	None	Local paper	Stays home most time
6& 25	Three, parents of No6, & No6,	Father at laundry	Three	Local paper	Few shows
7	Two, husband and herself	Husband a huckster	None	Local paper and books	None
8	Two, brother and herself	Brother a farmer	One	Local paper	Shows and dances
10	Three, father sister & No10.	Father does job-work	Two	Local paper Borrow bks.	Church
11& 28	Two, mother and daughter	None	None	Borrow papers	Few shows
12	One, herself	None	None	None	Few shows
15	Herself. Father helps little	Father ^{does a} little job-work	None	Local papers	Church
16	Herself. Brother helps	Husband left her	Four	None	None
17	Two, husband and herself	Husband gardener at M.U	Three	None	None
18	Two, husband and herself	Husband a black-smith	None	None	Few shows
19	Two, husband and herself	Husband does job-work	One	None	None
21	One, herself	None	None	Borrows papers	Church
22	One, herself	None	None	Borrows papers	Church and lectures
24	One, herself	None	None	None	Seldom to church
26	One, herself	Doesn't live with husband	One	None	None
27	Two, husband and herself	Husband puts in sewers	One	Local paper Few books	None
29	One, herself	None	None	None	None
31	One, herself	Husband an invalid	None	None	None

In two cases, the mothers and daughters live together and share in paying the rent. In both cases, the rent amounts to \$9.00 per month, but in one of these cases two rooms are subrented, leaving a net rent of \$5.00. Of the remaining fourteen, twelve help husbands or parents pay rent and two live with married daughters. One of these women, who lives with a married daughter, pays half of her wage of \$13.96 per month for board and lodging for herself and thirteen year old daughter; while the other spends her entire wage helping the daughter keep up family expenses.

Number of rooms- Four live in homes with as many as five rooms. In two of these cases, six persons consisting of both children and adults in each case live in five rooms. Eleven live in homes with four rooms, the number of persons living together ranging from three to nine. Of the remaining eleven, seven have homes of only two rooms, which accomodate from two to five persons. The remaining four live each in a single room. The size of the rooms needs no further explanation than is given in the table.

For the most part the homes are not overcrowded. In several of them, however, the rooms are quite inadequate for the number of persons living in them. In one home, nine persons live in four medium-sized rooms. They have two bedrooms; One of the remaining rooms serves for a living-room, and the other for dining-room and kitchen. Another home of four rooms accomodates six persons. Beds are found in three of the rooms, and a dining-table and kitchen furnishings in the other room. In another instance, we find a mother and her four children living in two rooms. One of the rooms is medium-sized and the other, which is

used for dining-room and kitchen, is small. The next home, which I shall bring to the notice of the reader, is one in which a father, a mother, and two children live in two rooms. Regardless of the fact that one of the children has consumption, all of them must sleep in the same room. The other room is provided with kitchen furniture and a dining-table. The last home which I shall mention is one in which four persons live in four rooms. A bed is found in each room, except in the kitchen. The furniture of the living-room consists of a bed, a piano, and a coal stove. In another room, which often serves as a living-room, is a chiffonier, a bed, a stove, a table, a sewing machine, and a trunk. While the five homes described above are badly overcrowded, the other homes meet the needs of the families very well.

Modern conveniences- Electric lights are used by only three women, oil lamps being used by all the others. One woman lives in a room that is wired, but, being required to pay for her own light, uses the cheap oil lamp. The same three women live in rooms which are heated by steam; all others heat their rooms by means of coal stoves. Only one woman has access to a bath-room. She, of all the twenty-six, rooms in a modern home. Two others live in a building that has a bath-room, but no hot water is provided. Four women have rooms where an inside toilet is accessible; another lives in a home which has the toilet inside; and the others use outside toilets. Nineteen live in homes where city water is used; the remaining seven have well or cistern water.

These facts are important, mainly in that they show a lack of those modern conveniences which are very desirable,

not so much from the standpoint of health as of comfort. While well water is a fruitful source of typhoid fever if the wells are not properly cared for, it is no more dangerous than the city supply if the wells are kept in good condition. So far as I could tell, the wells were sanitary.

Comforts and necessities- The furniture in the homes of the women ranges from the barest necessities to that ordinarily found in the average wage earner's home. Only one woman has a piano and one other room in a home where a piano is included in the furnishings of the home. All have some sort of a rug or carpet on the floor. There are rag carpets, worn and showing frequent mending; ingrain carpets; and imitation oriental rugs. Other articles of furniture in the homes vary in similar fashion. The few pictures on the walls consist of cheap pictures of a religious nature and family portraits. In several homes, there are no pictures at all. Six take local papers and three borrow papers to read. One stated that she enjoys reading but cannot afford papers since her husband died. Several cannot read well enough to justify spending money for papers. In some of the homes, there is a Bible but very few other books. Many of the women have little or no material to read, and anyway they are too tired to read after their day's work. Ten of the women either keep their own children in school, or help educate a brother or sister.

Many of the women have no form of recreation outside of a few visits with relatives or neighbors. A few of them attend church and go to picture shows. One woman attends assembly lectures at the University at night, and recitals at the Colleges in

Columbia. Many of them, however, have not the time nor the inclination for recreation.

May 16, 1915.

Professor Walter Stewart,
Commerce Bldg.

My dear Dr. Stewart:-

It is customary for the Graduate Committee to refer dissertations, submitted by candidates for the degree of Master of Arts, to some member of the Group who is not connected with the Department in which the candidate's work has been done. I am sending you herewith a dissertation

which has been submitted by Mrs. Mabel H. Griffith.
I shall be greatly obliged if you will kindly examine the same at your earliest convenience and report to us for the Graduate Committee whether in your opinion the dissertation meets the general standard which has been established in this University for the Master's dissertation.

Very truly yours,

Chairman, Graduate Committee.

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