A Domestic Problem

Abby Morton Diaz

Table of Contents

A Domest	<u>tic Problem</u> 1
A	bby Morton Diaz
C	HAPTER I. TAKING A VIEW OF THE SITUATION

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- CHAPTER I. TAKING A VIEW OF THE SITUATION.
- CHAPTER II. ONE CAUSE OF THE SITUATION. A PART OF WOMAN'S MISSION CONSIDERED.
- CHAPTER III. CULTURE PROVED TO BE A NEED OF THE CHILD-TRAINER.
- <u>CHAPTER IV. THE OTHER PART OF WOMAN'S MISSION. RUFFLES VERSUS READING. THE</u> <u>CULTIVATION OF THE FINGERS.</u>
- CHAPTER V. OTHER CAUSES CONSIDERED. MASCULINE IDEA OF WOMAN'S WORK.
- <u>CHAPTER VI. REASONS FOR A CHANGE. THE EARLY TRAINING OP WOMEN. COMMON</u> FALLACIES. THE EDUCATION OF MOTHERS._
- CHAPTER VII. A WAY OUT.
- CHAPTER VIII. SUGGESTIONS FOR LECTURE TOPICS.
- CHAPTER IX. WAYS OF IMMEDIATE ESCAPE.
- CHAPTER X. MEANS OF ESCAPE ALREADY IN OPERATION.
- CHAPTER XI. SUPPLEMENTARY.

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A DOMESTIC PROBLEM

WORK AND CULTURE IN THE HOUSEHOLD.

CHAPTER I. TAKING A VIEW OF THE SITUATION.

Our problem is this: How may woman enjoy the delights of culture, and at the same time fulfil her duties to family and household? Perhaps it is not assuming too much to say, that, in making known the existence of such a problem, we have already taken the first step toward its solution, just as a ship's crew in distress take the first step toward relief by making a signal which calls attention to their needs.

The next step after having, as we may say, set our flag at half-mast is one which, if all we hear be true, should come easily to women in council, namely, talking. And talking we must have, even if, as in the social game called Throwing Light, much of it is done at a venture. In that interesting little game, after a few hints have been given concerning the word, different members of the company begin at once to talk about it, and think about it, and suggest and hazard descriptive remarks, according to the idea each has formed of it; that is, they try, though in the dark, to throw light. As the interest increases, the excitement becomes intense. Many of the ideas expressed are absurdly wide of the mark, yet even these help to show what the answer is not; and often, by their coming in contact, a light is struck which helps amazingly. And so, in regard to our problem, we have the hints; then why not begin at once to think about it, and talk about it, and suggest, and guess, and throw light with all our might? No matter if we even get excited, say absurd things, say utterly preposterous thing