



KATHERINE THOMAS

## American Women as Newspaper Writers.

By Katherine Thomas

Newspapers Cannot Get On Without Women—Mentally and Physically, an Exhausting Occupation—The Society Reporter Must Be a "Listening Machine"—Excels as an Interviewer.

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(Katherine E. Thomas is one of the best known women writers for newspapers at Washington. Her book on "Official Etiquette at the Nation's Capital" is regarded as a standard. She has also written a novel on Washington society entitled "Not All the King's Horses.")

Woman's place on the newspapers to-day is due to the law of demand and supply. She has not crowded man out. It is distinctively a position into which she has never forced her way nor sought in ever so limited a degree to out man from that domain in which since the invention of the art of printing he had held exclusive right.

With the evolution of successive stages of progress the necessity of woman's work on the press became so apparent that the cry went forth throughout the land. And it was because of that cry that this great field of woman's cleverness and industry was opened up.

With trembling feet the pioneer woman writers crossed the threshold of the newspaper offices. It is with assured tread she makes her way to-day. In the comparatively short space of time in which woman has been an acknowledged factor on the staff of the daily press she has accomplished much. Before her there yet stretches vast worlds to conquer. But that she will conquer, that in the future she will achieve success in this occupation is long since a foregone conclusion.

Not the least powerful factor woman brings to her work as a newspaper writer is that birthright, intuition. When added to this her keenly observant powers become trained along the necessary lines and her natural tenacity of purpose has the strong stimulus of competition with men, it will be realized that success is and must continue to be her portion.

As in all else of the country's work, there is a great deal of human nature in the newspaper world, and when a woman enters into such active shoulder-to-shoulder rivalry with men, as has now of necessity developed in all the active press matters of the day, she must understand from the start that she can expect no quarter. To be upon the staff of an up-to-date daily means an amount of work more exhausting mentally and physically than in any other wage-earning occupation can fall to the lot of a human being. To be upon the staff of a powerful newspaper means to live at concert pitch day after day, month after month.

It is only by the strictest observance of the hygienic laws relating more particularly to the regular eating of simple, easily digested, nourishing food that any one, man or woman, can expect to stand the strain. Newspaper work at all times wears upon the nerves, and yet, strange to say, it is women who bear it best. Seldom, indeed, do they go under

from the effects of this work, while the number of physical wrecks among the men is wholly out of proportion. This, be it understood, where the work and hours are identical.

It sounds at first paradoxical to say that the life of a newspaper writer is one of incessant repression and continued development. The tremendous rush of competition, the being in active touch with the great and small events of daily life, the knowledge that each engaged is in an infinitesimal way writing history, serves to rouse even dormant ambition.

Active daily newspaper work is a hotbed for the development of the best intellectual qualities. It is a life of untiring perseverance, of unflinching patience, of abasement of self at times to an abnormal degree, yet upon the whole decidedly beneficial. Frequently it comes to pass that the woman writer, while maintaining her dignity of brains, must entirely obliterate her individuality, unless she means to fall by the wayside and be laid in the potter's field of failures. For some people she must ever become a mere listening machine. Absolutely this and nothing more if she means to achieve success, for she must listen to all manners of woes and tribulations, and have positively none of her own to relate in exchange. The role of Punchinello is not always the easiest to enact, but to leave it out of the curriculum at times very materially interferes with achieving the desired end.

Of all arts of which she must become mistress that of learning to draw people out that their best points may be brought into play, is the most important. The acquisition of this accomplishment has in turn its reflex good effect upon her work, as nine times out of ten it will enable her to turn an opening negative into a closing affirmative.

The branch of newspaper work in which women excel in Washington, in which in fact they have the almost exclusive field, is that of social reporting. To a greater or lesser degree during the last half dozen years the society reporter has come to have a large place upon the staff of nearly every large journal in the United States and Europe. But it is in Washington that she rises to her greatest heights of usefulness, and, therefore, because of the broader opportunities among the official and political element, of greater importance.

In this particular phase of work, woman's great success lies in the cultivation of the power to keep her own counsel regarding much that must necessarily be seen and heard in the discharge of her work. And in this respect, scoff as unbelievers may, she has achieved a success. From the experience of years I can truthfully assert that the woman writers of the daily press do not gossip even among themselves of the vast number of secrets that come to their knowledge concerning prominent people of the world of society in which their lives are spent.

At the start of society reporting woman's presence on the regular staffs of newspapers was regarded in the light of a necessary evil. She not infrequently in masculine estimation sunk far below this level, rarely in the eye of the general public did she rise above it. Just why this should have been is enigmatical, as the "copy" of the average woman correspondent requires less revising than that of her brother of the pen. Further, she represents a commercial value that the man does not and in the nature of things cannot. Her value is incalculable as an advertising medium. This is something she comes in time to understand and appreciate.

The best society column on a local

paper is quick to be noted by fashionable women. The reliability of this column once recognized means a tremendous valuation to the proprietor. The advertisers, especially those having women's apparel and belongings for sale, soon grow to know and patronize the paper in accordance with its social rating.

There is literally at the present time no department of newspaper work in which women have not practically exemplified the fact that they stand equal with men as reporters. As war correspondents, for nerve and accuracy they made enviable records in the Spanish-American and South African wars. But it is as an interviewer that the woman newspaper writer is beginning to excel. In this lies her unquestioned success. It is here that a natural patience stands her friend in the hour of need. It is here also that her intuition serves her well.

The average woman does not understand politics. Possibly the reason for this may lie in the fact that up to the present time she has taken little active part in the workings of the great machine which turns some presidents in and others out of the White House. But this does not militate against her availability and strength as an interviewer, because a woman more naturally than a man carries out instructions. When detailed to some important work of this nature she is quick to add to her current knowledge such specific information as is essential in the case. She rarely returns empty-handed from an assignment, and the newspaper woman of standing is recognized for accuracy of detail.

If I were asked the most important essential to success in a newspaper writer I would reply "tact!" and again "tact!" There are other essentials, of course, and among these, in addition to a good memory, which is naturally strengthened by the severe training is to be enumerated an instinct for news. This means not only to keep abreast of the doings of the hour, but to know at hearing or glance a really good thing when one comes across it, to seize upon and use it forthwith, yet never under any circumstances to be led into the fatal perjury of playing traitor. Another essential is not only to be equal to emergencies but to cultivate the faculty of deciding quickly and wisely. This last is by no means easy even to a veteran writer.

Interspersed with the hard work are bright bits of happiness along the way. There are many compensations for the life of self-abnegation in the stanch, elevating friendships with people who otherwise would not have been met by the newspaper writer save in the discharge of duty—friendships in which "shop" is forgotten, in which the real woman is recognized and her talent met upon the only plane on which a clever woman will allow it to be met.

The question of equal pay for equal work is perhaps less agitated in newspaper offices than elsewhere in pursuits where women come in active competition with men.

The outlook is decidedly encouraging to a woman of good health. To one with a perfectly normal way of looking at life and things generally, who, wishing to support herself, has yet no capital other than brains and energy to invest, I would decidedly recommend newspaper writing. There is no appreciable danger of the ranks being overcrowded, for the artless young enthusiast who enters this field soon becomes aware that she has undertaken no child's play, but is actually engaged in the hardest work of which the strongest, most determined natures can be capable. Such being the case, the result is inevitably the survival of the fittest. It is a field in which idlers and drones will not be tolerated, but in which there is plenty of room for the earnest women of the land.

What gift of prophecy but would have been flouted to scorn in the pioneer days of women newspaper writers had the assertion been ventured that the close of the nineteenth century would have witnessed the spectacle of women writers in charge of departments of the leading newspapers and magazines of the country! Yet now even the most prejudiced of observant persons must realize that before the twentieth century reaches its zenith there will be not one but many clever women filling with honor the positions of city and managing editors of great metropolitan dailies.

**Puzzle of the Marine Barracks.**  
Among the interested visitors at the marine barracks at Washington on one occasion there was a party of young girls from a Maryland town. They proved very much interested in everything pertaining to the life and discipline of the post. "What do you mean by 'taps'?" asked one young woman. "Taps are played every night on the bugle," answered the officer. "It means 'lights out.' They play it over the bodies of dead soldiers." A puzzled look came to the face of the questioner. Then she asked: "What do you do if you haven't a dead soldier?"

**Bill Knew Grease.**  
One day Bill had company to dine with him, and his wife, wishing William to appear well, quietly admonished him to be careful what he said. All went well till Bill got his potatoes well mashed, when he said: "Dolly, pass the grease."  
"Why, William," said his wife, "you should call it gravy."  
"Wa-al, says Bill, 'I guess if it got on your tablecloth it would be grease.'"

**Explained.**  
Prize fights are by rounds because so often they are not on the square.

### AWFUL ATTACKS OF PAIN.

A Most Dreadful Case of Kidney Trouble and How It Was Cured.

Thomas N. McCullough, 321 South Weber St., Colorado Springs, Colo., says: "For twelve or fifteen years I was suffering frequent attacks of pain in the back and kidneys that lasted for three weeks at a time. I would be unable to turn in bed. The urine was in a terrible condition, at times a complete stoppage occurring. I began with Doan's Kidney Pills, and soon felt better. Keeping on, I found complete freedom from kidney trouble. The cure has been permanent. I owe my good health to Doan's Kidney Pills."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

### PETS FOR LITTLE PARISIANS.

All Kinds of Animals as Playmates for the Children.

Children play a great role in French society, as all those who have read Gyp's inimitable "P'tit Bob" will readily admit, and now the small Parisienne insists on receiving on her fete day and at the New Year a live pet, instead of a costly doll or a mechanical toy. The demand has been creating a supply, and a lively trade is being done, not only in puppies and kittens, in tiny monkeys and in lambs, but also in tigers and leopards. Up to a certain age, these small felines are quite harmless, and, of course, as soon as they begin, so to speak, to show their teeth and sharpen their claws, they are sent off to one of the two magnificent "zoos" with which the Gay City is provided.

### TWO SISTERS HAD ECZEMA.

Cuticura Cured Scalp Troubles of Two Illinois Girls—Another Sister Took Cuticura Pills.

"I must give much praise to all the Cuticura Remedies. I used but one cake of Cuticura Soap and one box of Cuticura Ointment, as that was all that was required to cure my disease. I was very much troubled with eczema of the head, and a friend of mine told me to use the Cuticura Remedies, which I did, and am glad to say that they cured my eczema entirely. Since then we have always kept the soap on hand at all times. My sister was also cured of eczema of the head by using the Cuticura Remedies. Another sister has used Cuticura Resolvent and Pills and thinks they are a splendid tonic. I cannot say exactly how long I suffered, but I think about six months. Miss Edith Hammer, R. F. D. No. 6, Morrison, Ill., Oct. 3, 1906."

**Has Cinch on Position.**  
Various authorities have passed on a letter received at the post office department a short time ago and it has finally been sent to the postmaster general. The letter came from a western postmaster at a small office and read: "In accordance with the rules of the department, I write you to inform you that on next Saturday I will close the post office for one day, as I am going on a bear hunt. I am not asking your permission to close up and you can discharge me if you want to. But I will advise you now that I am the only man in the county who can read and write." It is not likely that the postmaster will be discharged.

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John A. Salzer Seed Co., Box W, La Crosse, Wis.

**Sweet Amenities.**  
"I hope you won't be disappointed, dear, for I know everybody thought George was paying attention to you. But as a matter of fact, he asked me last night to marry him."  
"He has then carried out his threat, poor fellow!"  
"What threat?"  
"He declared to me the last time I refused him that he would take some desperate step."

**Deafness Cannot Be Cured**  
By local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed, you have a rumbling sound or impression in the ear, which is entirely closed. Deafness, if not cured at once, will be permanent; if cured at once, hearing will be restored; if not cured at once, it will be caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces. We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness caused by Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circular, free.  
F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, etc.  
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

It takes a clever man to pick up an umbrella and walk off with it just as if it belonged to him.

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PAZO OINTMENT is guaranteed to cure any case of itching, burning, itching, protruding files in 6 to 14 days or money refunded. 50c.

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**Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.**  
For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

The man who is on pleasure bent is apt to find himself broke in due time.

**TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY**  
Take LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine Tablets. Drug stores refund money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature is on each box. 50c.

It takes a hair tonic manufacturer to pull the wool over the eyes of a bald-headed man.

Garfield Tea (Guaranteed under the Pure Food and Drug Law) regulates a sluggish liver, overcomes constipation, purifies the blood and eradicates disease. It is made of Herbs.

**Want Native Wood Used.**  
Every effort possible is being made to use native woods for ties in building the railways in the Philippines.

**Marriage at a Discount.**  
All the conditions of modern life are such as to discourage men and women from marrying, and if they do so to make them discontented. Divorce has rushed from the extreme of being considered a disgrace which never should be mentioned to that of being regarded as a standard joke in the comic papers, a fit subject to be worked up in stage comedy and hilariously received by large audiences.—N. Y. Independent.

**Soaps that Are Guaranteed.**  
So much skin trouble results from the use of impure adulterated toilet soaps, that the proprietors of Buchan's Toilet Soaps have filed a guarantee with the U. S. Government guaranteeing the absolute purity of their soaps, and they are the only ones so guaranteed. There are three brands: Antiseptic Soap, Tar Soap, and Sulphur Soap; not only cleanses but soothes and protects the skin against disease. If your dealer does not keep them send 18 cents with his name and address to Buchan's Soap Corporation, New York, and they will send you a full-size cake.

Fate is a female who gives men the laugh for believing her.

## NATURE PROVIDES FOR SICK WOMEN

a more potent remedy in the roots and herbs of the field than was ever produced from drugs.  
In the good old-fashioned days of our grandmothers few drugs were used in medicines and Lydia E. Pinkham, of Lynn, Mass., in her study of roots and herbs and their power over disease discovered and gave to the women of the world a remedy for their peculiar ills more potent and efficacious than any combination of drugs.

## Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

is an honest, tried and true remedy of unquestionable therapeutic value. During its record of more than thirty years, its long list of actual cures of those serious ills peculiar to women, certifies Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to the respect and confidence of every fair minded person and every thinking woman.  
When women are troubled with irregular or painful functions, weakness, displacements, ulceration or inflammation, backache, flatulency, general debility, indigestion or nervous prostration, they should remember there is one tried and true remedy, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.  
No other remedy in the country has such a record of cures of female ills, and thousands of women residing in every part of the United States bear willing testimony to the wonderful virtue of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable compound and what it has done for them.  
Mrs. Pinkham invites all sick women to write her for advice. She has guided thousands to health. For twenty-five years she has been advising sick women free of charge. She is the daughter-in-law of Lydia E. Pinkham and as her assistant for years before her decease advised under her immediate direction. Address, Lynn, Mass.

## Before You Paint, This Spring

bear in mind the fact that it costs you as much if not more to paint your buildings with inferior paints than it would to use paints of good quality. More harm and dissatisfaction is caused by the use of poor paints than almost any other article used for preserving or beautifying property.

## Buffalo A.O. Paints

are the highest grade paints made. They contain the purest and most lasting pigments ground in Aged Linseed Oil in correct proportion, are honestly made, cost no more than inferior paints and stand every test for exterior and interior work. Before you decide on the kind of paint to use, it will be to your interest to send for our 1907 color chart of the latest shades for modern uses, also valuable information and paint facts that you ought to know.  
We want every owner of a building in this locality who sends us his name and address to have one of our beautiful Buffalo-head souvenir silvered stick pins. The pin is neat and unique in appearance and will be sent without charge, if name is received before April 1st.  
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