

The peculiarities of the Wife are equally worthy of consideration, and distinguish her from all other animals. Her sense of smell is abnormally developed, as evinced by the certainty with which she can detect the slightest alcoholic odor on man's breath, no matter how many pints of cloves he may chew in the vain effort to disguise it.

Her hearing is equally acute, and generally gets into working order just as a man is dozing off into his first sleep, when she is sure to rouse him up to see if burglars are not getting in the cellar window. Her ability to go without sleep is also phenomenal. On lodge nights many wives never close an eye, but wait up with their powers of language undiminished to welcome their husbands home at 3 a. m.

Still another curious characteristic of Wives is that, although they are generally too delicate to do their own housework, they are able to lead a rush on a bargain counter that would cause a football player to tremble, and that, although a little work brings on nervous prostration, no amount of fatigue hurts them if it is something that is fashionable to do.

The old adage, "You can not teach an old dog new tricks," applies with peculiar force to Wives, for notwithstanding the fact that they are clever and intelligent creatures, they can rarely be changed from what they were originally.

Many a man marries a soft-looking little Wife, thinking he will clip her to suit his tastes, or teach her the tricks he admires, but he generally finds it is less trouble to humor his pet and do her way than try to make her do his.

In spite of all this, however, a Wife is an almost necessary creature around a house, if you want to give it a homelike look. She is useful to attend to a man's social and religious duties. She is frequently valuable as an ornament, and she is simply invaluable as a scapegoat if a man expects to need an excuse for failing in business or being driven to drink.

The supply of this valuable domestic animal, which has been called by an enthusiastic naturalist "man's best friend," is so great in many parts of this country that they have no market value, and, in New England especially, wives may be had for the asking.