

WOMEN DIE RAPIDLY IN WAR, LECTURER ASSERTS

Will Not Outnumber Men at End of Strife, Says Frau Hanfstaengl; Increase in Divorces Predicted.

There will not be a surplus of women in Europe after the war, says Frau Kate Sedgwick Hanfstaengl of Munich, Germany, who is in this country lecturing for the benefit of the East Prussian relief fund. And, furthermore, she states, divorces will be in great number. Frau Hanfstaengl in an interview with Katherine Richardson in the St. Louis Star, said:

The number of women after the war? It will be equal with the number of men. There will not be a great number then who will be deprived of their husbands. That is happening now. It is now that they have not their men beside them.

When I pointed out to Frau Hanfstaengl that her statement differed from most others on the number of women who will be "manless" after the war, she shrugged:

You forget how the trained nurses are dying. They cannot live. Women, who nurse in this war die as rapidly as men. Every place in Germany there is death. The old and the young die. Many die who are not even sick, it seems.

The women die for love, for heart break—because their sons die, because their husbands will not return. In the Boer war three women died for every soldier who was killed. It is not so bad in Germany, but the women die.

War is a broadener of womanhood. In Germany women have long been striding forward, assuming their positions in the scientific and business world. But no one ever had any conception of woman in some of the lines of work she has undertaken.

Of course a great problem at the conclusion of the war is going to be how to get these women back into their homes.

It is amusing to think of the predicament a friend of mine is going to be in. Before the war he married the girl of his choice, a social butterfly—beautiful, charming and certainly with not a practical thought in her head.

He is in the army and she was left with a 4,000-acre farm to look after. The men on the farm left one by one, and now she is in sole supervision, and the wonderful thing is that she is running the farm. She is using French laborers. When a problem

beyond her arises, as is frequent, she sends to some governmental department and asks advice.

Her husband, if he is so lucky as to return, will come back from the war looking for his social butterfly of a wife—he will find instead a capable, independent, thoroughly trained business woman. Perhaps she will have outgrown her need for him and saddest of all, her attraction for him.

The outcome? Oh, divorce, I suppose. Divorces will be in great number after the war. Women will forget their husbands; perhaps there will be those who will not like their husbands when they return. The reasons for the dislike may be many after this war. But there is no need to go into that.

The working women were the first to feel the new freedom the war has brought them. Their husbands went away and soon they got their allowances from the government.

It is sad to tell this and I do not like it at all, but the women were glad—glad their husbands had gone, glad to be free of housework. They sent the children off to school and then they gossiped. They had a lot of gossiping. They did no work. There was no cooking for the children—but coffee and cake. They all ate coffee and cake.

Why, the children grew anemic, and the first food and bread cards issued were because the wives were using their flour for cakes, and the government wished it for bread. So the flour was taken from them—they had no more coffee cake. They had to eat bread.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Bergher and children of Winnipeg arrived yesterday to be the guests of Mrs. Bergher's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Azine, 215 East Fourth street.