

THINGS A PASTOR'S WIFE CAN DO

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Things a pastor's wife can do by Margaret E. Blackburn

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MARGARET E. BLACKBURN

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WIFE CAN DO**

Things a
Pastor's Wife
Can Do

BY
ONE OF THEM



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THINGS A PASTOR'S WIFE CAN DO

I

CHOSEN AS A WIFE

A LETTER came to me recently from a friend who has been asked by a young pastor to enter our ranks. She says she feels utterly unfit for the great responsibilities so soon to be hers, and that she will often be obliged to ask advice from those of us who are older and more experienced. Her letter reminded me of an article I thought of writing when I was a young pastor's wife, but my pen exhausted itself on the title "Pastors' Wives and Sweethearts," and it has taken all these years for the accumulation of courage sufficient to attack this important subject.

The writer of this letter had no thought

of being a pastor's wife until she met this young minister and their love became mutual. To my mind she could have no better fitness. A pastor's wife who carries about her an official air is, to say the least, a very disagreeable person, and a minister who marries a woman simply because he thinks, or is told, that she will make a good wife for a pastor, makes the mistake of his life. Any healthy, hopeful, happy, devoted Christian girl is capable of making the ideal pastor's wife. A pastor should not choose his wife as he does his pulpit suit, or silk hat, or even as he does his concordance. Any girl who has health and education, and loves Christ more than she does the world, can soon train into service and need have no fear of failure.

Ministers wives who are failures are few, and they would have been failures if their husbands had been in other professions or in business. The same rules for the choice of a wife apply in the ministry that are absolutely necessary for happiness in any other calling in life.

Two people who are to be intimate

friends for life should have similar tastes. It is not necessary to agree in everything. In fact, there is more "spice" in slight differences where questions are simply matters of opinion, and right and wrong are not involved.

We once knew a notable housewife and exquisite needle woman, but if there had not been a newspaper in the world she would not have cared. Her husband, on the other hand, thought there was no greater luxury than a book, and he was so ignorant of practical affairs that in carving for guests he left the choice meat on the platter. Who could expect this banker and his wife to be happy? She longed for a lover, and he came home simply for his meals and a quiet place in which to read. She would have worked or denied herself anything for a material blessing or to give to the church, but the money "wasted in books" wrecked their lives.

No one can tell what disease the future may hold in store for either the husband or wife, but a healthy person should not marry one with frail health. More happiness will come from the union of two inva-