

The Long, Lean Count

By Grantland Rice

The Hertzes of Chicago bought \$15,000 worth of ugly duckling—and a Kentucky Derby winner. Not long on looks, personality or spectacular form, Reigh Count proves that the artist can be gentle and placid as well as temperamental

THERE is still one picture that few race track followers can ever forget—that of a big, powerful, nervous race horse apparently trying to hurdle the barrier at the start as he swept on his way around the track to one victory after another.

The horse was Man O' War, and when he was retired to the stud there was a general belief the race track would never see another like him. Those who saw the race will still tell you of the day when Man O' War broke the heart of the game, gallant John P. Grier with a final burst of speed down the stretch that could not be matched, although Mr. Grier gave his heart to win.

Man O' War broke their hearts as Dempsey in his prime broke their hearts and bodies. Big, game, fast and nervous, he was the horse of a hundred years.

So I received something of a shock when I asked John Hertz if he thought Reigh Count was almost as good as Man O' War.

"Almost as good?" said Mr. Hertz. "Just as good."

And I saw that he meant it. It was like saying that some ball player was just as good as Ty Cobb.

The story, one way or another, goes back to the time when Willis Sharpe Kilmer went out to win the Kentucky Derby with Sun Briar. Sun Briar was the Derby favorite, but he went wrong before the race. Later Mr. Kilmer decided to keep on trying, so he bought a gelding by the name of Exterminator. Exterminator not only won his Kentucky Derby but he piled up a golden stack of winnings that were only a bit back of Man O' War's total.

About two years ago Mr. Kilmer decided to sell some of his horses—among those he kept was his favorite, a colt by the name of Sun Edwin. One of the sales was made to John Hertz, the Chicago sportsman, for \$15,000. This horse, a son of Sun Reigh, an English stallion, was known as Reigh Count. Mr. Hertz gave his new purchase to Mrs. Hertz, but the ownership in the way of affection was a joint account. Here was a horse that had speed, courage and class, but unlike most stars, there was nothing temperamental about him.

Man O' War was a marvel but Man O' War was hard to ride. He was gentle and docile as a lamb in and around his stable but a nervous, excitable fellow when on the track. He wanted to run—to do his duty as quickly as possible and be done with it. Reigh Count had speed, class and courage but he was also well-behaved, easy to handle, easy to start and easy to ride. Later on Mr. Kilmer sold Sun Edwin for \$65,000, leaving Reigh Count in the "ugly duckling" class, but the Hertzes were well satisfied. He quickly developed into the best two-year-old in the country. A few days before the Kentucky Derby of 1928, Reigh Count, the favorite, cut himself. But the injury was not sufficient to keep him out of the race. The track that day was a mass of mud, but through injury, mud and the

rest of it the fast, game son of Sun Reigh went on to win the big stake.

On that day in May something over 60,000 people, gathered around the Kentucky classic, decided that Mr. John Hertz of Chicago had come out and gotten hold of a pretty good horse, a horse that would bear a lot of watching later on. The horse that a year before had cost only \$15,000 couldn't be purchased now for a quarter of a million.

The Jockey Club Gold Cup

But one good race, even against odds, doesn't make a world beater; so the crowd decided to sit back and watch future developments. They had to wait for some time, for Reigh Count cut himself again and had to be laid up until the Saratoga meeting that opened in July.

He won his first race and, after that, the wise following made him a prohibitive favorite for The Travers at a mile and a quarter. He was sent in at 2 to 5, and in a four-horse field, the Derby winner ran last. W. B. Mitchell, his trainer, was worried but not discouraged.

Reigh Count's next big chance came in the Saratoga Cup at a mile and six furlongs. Display was supposed to be unbeatable at that distance. Many were confident that Reigh Count couldn't travel that far with a chance to win. But he won, just the same. And he went on to win The Realization at Belmont for three-year-olds, beating Victorian, among others, in close to record time.

It was now beginning to dawn on the following again that another great horse was moving into the picture. The Jockey Club Gold Cup, a two-mile race

Wide
World



Reigh Count, fast, courageous, easy to handle and undaunted by the worst the track has to offer, is a contender for Man O' War's position

for all ages, was about all the test you could ask from a three-year-old. Once more Reigh Count made good. He had shown not only fine speed but amazing stamina and it was evident by this time the Hertzes had a champion.

Still, ranking him with or above Man O' War was another matter. I asked a well-known trainer for his opinion on the subject. "I believe Mr. Hertz is right," he said. "Man O' War was a great horse. But he was hard to handle on the track. Reigh Count is the easiest horse to handle I ever saw."

All his jockeys as well as his trainer insist Man O' War was not extended except in two races—the John P. Grier duel and when he was beaten by Upset in the Sanford memorial as a two-year-old.

Reigh Count was always running well within himself. When he was right he never had to extend himself to win. It was for this reason that he could still run easily up to two miles.

There's another factor. It was seldom that Man O' War was called on to meet or beat older horses. Once, I think. Reigh Count has met them at all ages. Man O' War wanted to be in front. Reigh Count can run in front or keep his place and pace and come up from behind. They are both great horses, the greatest I have seen.

The test of a fighter is his ability to weather hard and heavy going. This is also the test of a great horse. Man O' War, Reigh Count and Zev were all great mudders. They could run in muddy or cuppy going and they could move along on a dry track. Ability to face any given condition must always be the trade-mark of a champion.

In addition to his great ability, one

of the things that helped to give Man O' War even more publicity and fame than he might have drawn was his personality. I have seen him break at the start, pawing the air with both feet. He was as spectacular to look at as a knockout at a fight or a forty-yard run in a big football game. Thousands who never saw a race before came out to look at Man O' War run.

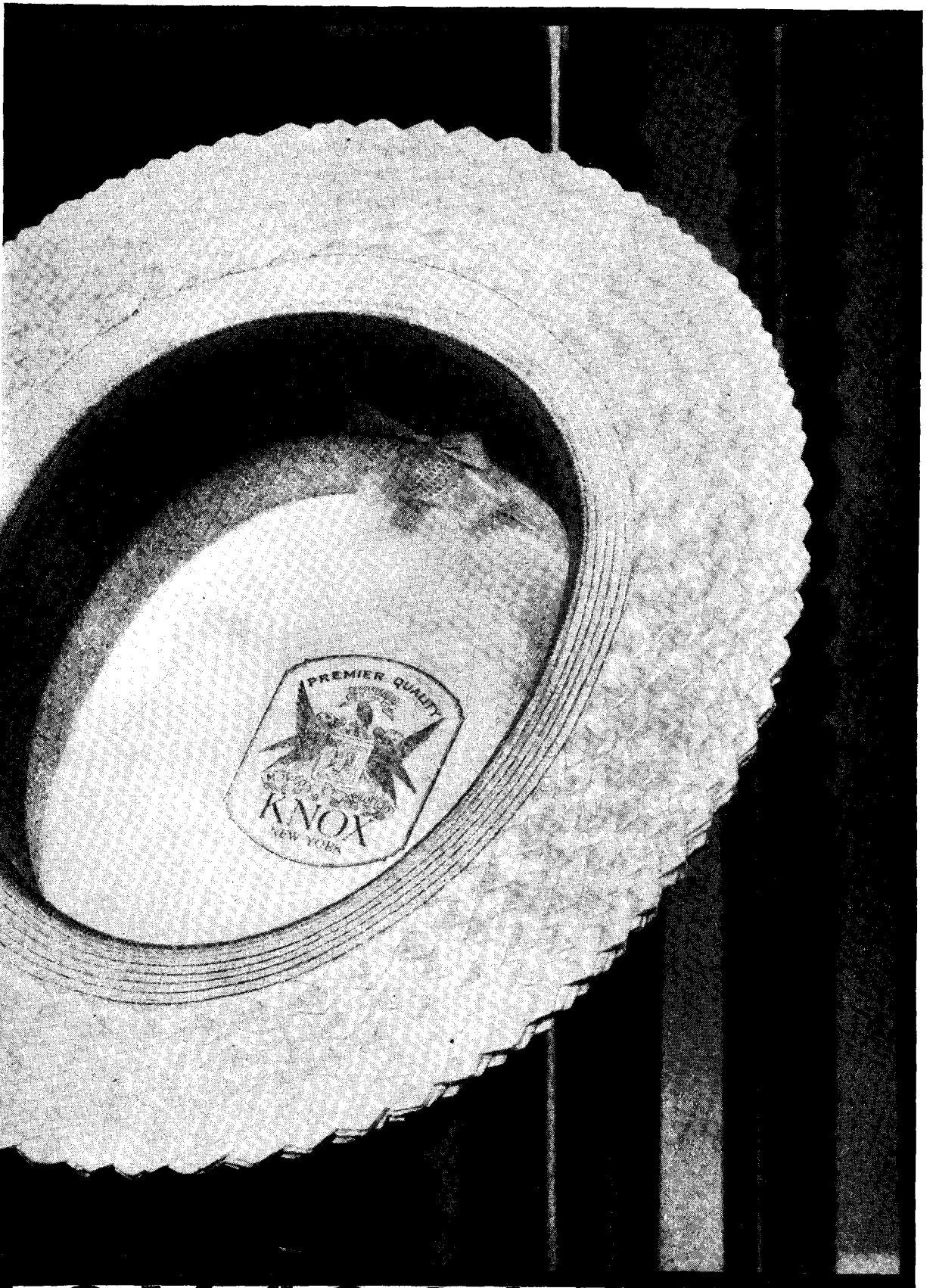
But all this doesn't alter John Hertz' opinion that Reigh Count is just as great.

"I don't believe," said Mr. Hertz, "that Reigh Count will ever be beaten again. There are always accidents, injuries and perhaps a sickness to consider. But when we decided to send the horse to England where he will meet the best of the class over there, I felt certain that, under anything like an even test, he would prove his greatness."

The Needs of a Champion

Even Reigh Count, with his lack of temperament, had to have a pal to go along on the English invasion. One of his friends, a minor stable mate, was sent over to keep him company where they could talk things over. Champion fighters usually need some pal around, someone in whom they can confide. Dempsey has always had a companion of this sort. Tunney had Bill McCabe. Mitchell, his trainer, and Chick Lang, his jockey, were two of the leading members of Reigh Count's English invasion. And before this invasion is over, Mr. Hertz believes that the fast, game and quiet son of Sun Reigh will prove that even Man O' War has an equal.

Certainly no sportsman ever got more out of \$15,000.



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Help Wanted

By Elizabeth Condit

Supervisor, Homemaking Courses, Pratt Institute

It's all a matter of choosing carefully—and together, when you're shopping for labor-saving devices. If she hasn't room to store it, your wife won't thank you for the most elaborate and efficient washing machine you can buy

A HUSBAND I know surprised his wife the other day by sending home an expensive washing machine. Surprised is not the word; she was flabbergasted. He had gone alone to buy it and with the eager coöperation of the salesman had selected a machine which, although doubtless a good one in its place, was by no means suited to the needs of the family nor the space available. It was bulky, noisy, complicated and equipped to handle a load a great deal heavier than the weekly wash of the family.

Of course his wife didn't have the heart to tell him this. And so she will use the machine a few times until the husband has forgotten his generosity and fails to notice whether it is still in service. Then she will store it away somewhere and go back to the old-fashioned tubs.

Here's a case where a little forethought would have saved money and avoided disappointment. It happens every day, with the markets full of all sorts of labor-saving devices—many of them excellent—and husbands taking more and more interest in the kitchen and the home because of the introduction of machines which appeal to their mechanical instincts.

But it's always safer to invite your wife to go along with you when you're shopping for labor-saving devices. Unless, of course, you'd really enjoy becoming one of those men of whom their wives say: "You know, I don't dare trust Charlie alone in a store, he sends home the most impossible things!"

Yes, the wife should go along, too. She knows better than her husband her needs and requirements. He is more likely to detect features in the machinery which might make it too complicated or tiring to use or take care of.

Washing machines, vacuum cleaners, dishwashing machines and the like usually represent a fairly sizable investment and they shouldn't be chosen too quickly. Every housewife has her individual needs and requirements and nowadays the manufacturers make so many and such varied models that it's only a matter of devoting a little time to find the one best suited to your needs.

Thus the wife to whom I referred above would have been ten times more pleased with a small portable washer that could be affixed to a basin than with the bulky (though doubtless efficient) and much more costly one which her husband selected.

There are certain general rules which apply to the selection of all these devices. One of them I have already mentioned: go together and see them all. Another is to learn how to use them properly. People will buy automobiles and spend a great deal of time learning how to use them correctly and how to get the best out of them but they will invest in other devices and if they can't get the hang of them right away will

often discard them or, at best, use them so as to get just about twenty-five per cent of their real value out of them.

In some cases the manufacturers are to blame for this. We receive and test at the Institute many machines, and not infrequently even our experienced instructors are unable to follow the instructions packed with them.

However, never forget that the manufacturer is most interested in seeing that you use and like his product. If you cannot follow the printed instructions or cannot quite understand them, he will be only too glad to send a service man, without charge, to explain it all to you.

In the case of vacuum-cleaner attachments, especially, I know that when I question the girls in my classes about them I get such answers as, "Oh, yes, we have them but I don't know where they are," or "Yes, I think we have them but we never bother with them."

Now this shouldn't be. Those attachments are perfected and sold for a purpose. They are of inestimable help in cleaning sofas, curtains, under radiators and in other hard-to-get-at places.

One thing I ought to mention in regard to such cleaners is a little thing but important: many of them have levers or controls for adjusting the space between the mouth of the cleaner and the floor or carpet. But most housewives, I find, seldom bother with this, simple though it is.

With regard to washing machines, outside of the general rules, I have but one suggestion to offer. That is, if possible, plan to have your machine (unless it is a small, portable one) permanently connected with the plumbing.

Don't be in too great a rush when you decide to buy a dishwasher. After all, it isn't a thing that you have to run

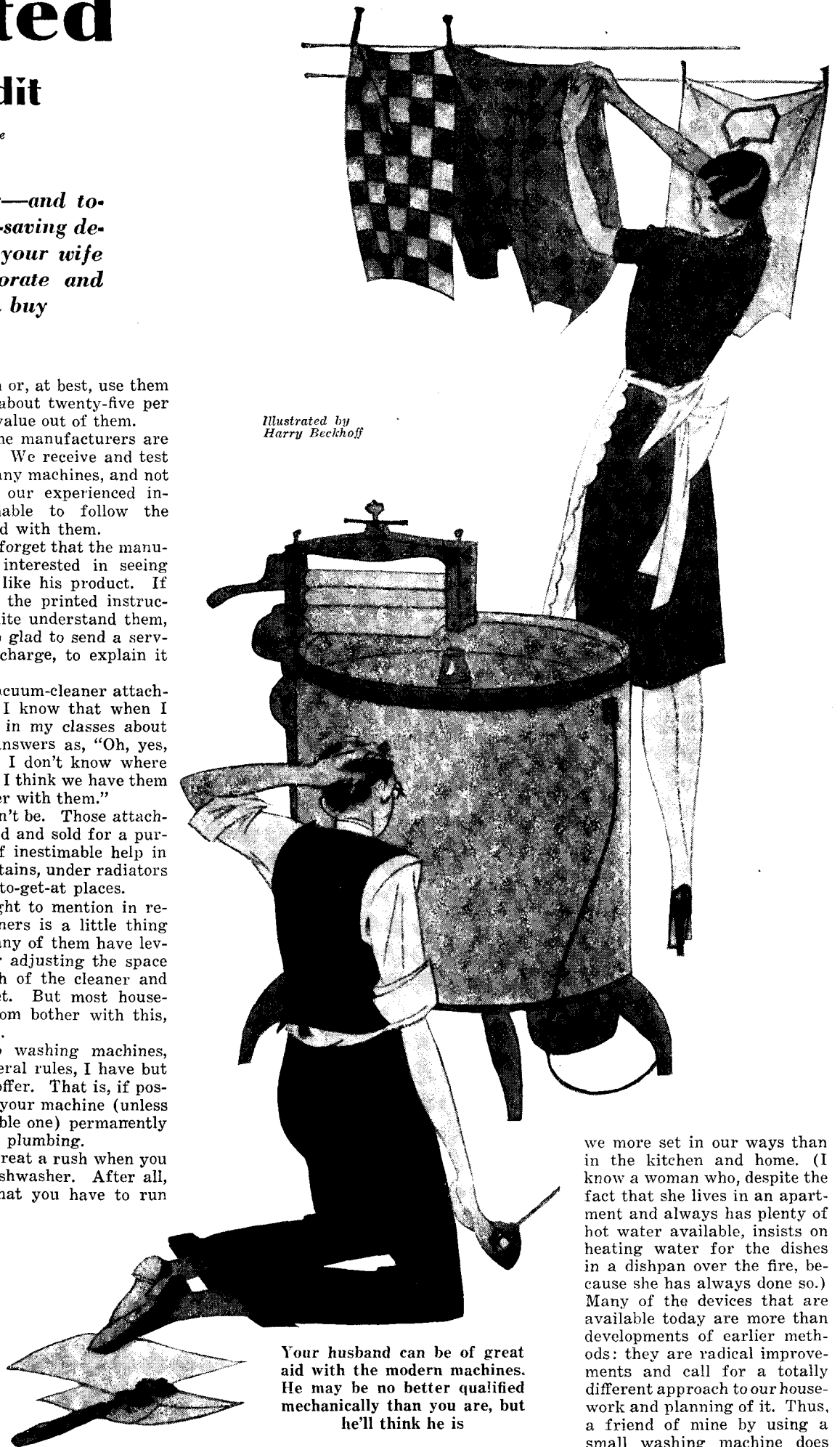
right out and buy so as to have it in time for the dinner party for the Fergusons next Tuesday night.

An investment of time and thought as well as money should go into the purchase of a dishwasher. Consider the size of your family and weigh carefully the question of what size washer you will need. Even if your family is not a large one you can well afford to invest in a washer and it will repay you many times over, for small washers are now being made that hook on to sink faucets and which are practical for

small families. Of course there is a wide variety of larger machines.

In passing, it might be well to remind well-meaning husbands that good housekeepers are cautious about buying the smaller household devices because too many of them may be more of a care than a help. Some men can't go into a drug store or a hardware shop without returning home with their pockets filled with all sorts of mechanical doohickeys calculated (by someone or other) to be of inestimable aid to the Little Woman. We must remember that nowhere are

Illustrated by
Harry Beckhoff



Your husband can be of great aid with the modern machines. He may be no better qualified mechanically than you are, but he'll think he is

we more set in our ways than in the kitchen and home. (I know a woman who, despite the fact that she lives in an apartment and always has plenty of hot water available, insists on heating water for the dishes in a dishpan over the fire, because she has always done so.) Many of the devices that are available today are more than developments of earlier methods: they are radical improvements and call for a totally different approach to our housework and planning of it. Thus, a friend of mine by using a small washing machine does her washing in small lots each

day while she is fixing the baby's milk or preparing luncheon and has thereby eliminated the strain and wear of the old-time weekly washday.

Your husband can be of great aid in keeping the modern machines 100 per cent efficient. He may be no better qualified mechanically than you are (though he'll think he is) but two heads were ever better than one, and perhaps you may even get him so interested in the washer or the cleaner that he'll insist on running it all by himself. Or is that too optimistic?