

WOMAN WITH WILL WHO FOUND A WAY

How Mrs. Cunningham-Snyder, Driven by Circumstances, Is Winning Fame.

AS YOUNG SOUTHERN WIDOW

Studying Medicine and Aiding Physicians, She Now Heads Great Nursing Service Established by Big Life Insurance Company.

By RICHARD SPILLANE.
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 There never was an age in which woman showed such versatility and capacity as she is demonstrating today. There seems to be no limit to her work, no field in which she cannot blaze her way to success. It is not the woman of the North who is doing it all. The woman of the South is not far behind. One of the daughters of the South who has done remarkable things is Mrs. Georgene Cunningham-Snyder, formerly of New Orleans, but now of New York.

A little more than eleven years ago she had a desperate situation to meet. She was young, and she was widowed. Years before a fall had so injured one of her limbs that tuberculosis of the bone developed. To save herself from becoming a cripple and, possibly, from death, it was imperative that she be under the care of one of the great surgeons of New York. Operations—many of them—were necessary.

Surgery costs money, a great deal of money when the knife is wielded by one of the masters of the profession.

New Orleans is the most charming of all the cities of the South. With all its commerce and its ever-increasing trade, it never has lost its old world flavor, its fidelity to old established social customs and its quaintness. Queer that out of that city should come a woman without any business training who has made a striking success in an altogether new line of business.

Not Brought Up to Work.

Mrs. Cunningham-Snyder is a daughter of M. J. Cunningham, who for three terms was attorney general of the state of Louisiana. She was brought up as are the girls of all good families of Louisiana—without any idea that she would have to make her own way in the world. It is the province of the man to provide and care for the women of his blood. This is beautiful in sentiment, but sometimes circumstances develop that make it very hard for a woman. In Louisiana only a few lines of work have been open to the woman of gentle birth and scant means. She could teach instrumental music, singing, or she could do embroidery without losing social caste. If her ambition led her to dream of something beyond this, it were better that she be content with dreaming and not seek reality.

Mrs. Cunningham-Snyder did not want to be a burden upon her father. The family was large, there being four sisters and five brothers. In 1903 she went to New York to consult a famous surgeon and, incidentally, to see if she could do anything to make a living for herself. She is bright, has a fertile brain, has been well educated and has lots of courage. The handicap under which she suffered by reason of that fall of years before did not discourage her. The fact that she would have to go upon the surgeon's table many times cut no figure in her plans. She was going to become self-supporting, she determined.

Began Study of Medicine.

She had a leaning toward medicine, so she decided to take up that study. Incidental to her ambition in this direction, she became an aide to physicians, doing secretarial work for them and assisting them in the preparation of papers for publication in medical journals. She thought medicine offered an excellent field for her. There are not so many women in it. The field is there, but somehow woman does not make the headway in medicine that she does in other branches of endeavor.

Mrs. Cunningham-Snyder kept at her studies and her secretarial work for several years. Now and then she would have to go to the surgeon's table. In all, she had to submit to seven operations. After each operation she was invalided for several weeks.

For the first year that she was in New York her father assisted her financially, but after that Mrs. Cunningham-Snyder would not let that good and kindly man do any more in a monetary way. She was able to make both ends meet through her own brave efforts.

In the Psychopathic Ward.

To broaden her knowledge and earn more money she took a position in Bellevue hospital, in the psychopathic ward. There it is that patients suffering from mental disorders due to derangement of the nervous system are treated. It is not a pleasant place. Many a man would rather dig in a ditch for a dollar a day than work there for \$20 a day. Mrs. Cunningham-Snyder saw little of the disagreeable work of this ward. Most of her duties were those of the student and the clerk. She had to look after the details for the commitment of patients to state institutions. She drew up the papers, made a history of each case and saw that the records were kept straight in regard to all these unfortunate. And all the time she studied

She still had before her the great plan of being a physician.

Her work in the psychopathic ward attracted attention and a position was offered to her by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. She had charge of the publicity department. One of the things she had to do was to get out a biweekly bulletin that kept track of all the tuberculosis institutions in America. Up to that time there had been no concert of action in the war on tuberculosis. It was while she was with this association that she met Dr. Lee Frenkel and compiled for him a list of all the associations and all the persons engaged in the fight on the great white plague.

Welfare Department Work.

Frenkel was so pleased with the work that Mrs. Cunningham-Snyder did that when he was invited by a great insurance company to establish a welfare department, he asked her to accept a position under him. She consented. The work was not much at first, but it has grown today to be a very large affair. It was started in New York, experimentally, in one small section of the city. Three months' trial was sufficient to warrant its extension. First and last the purpose of the work was to prolong life, especially the lives of policy holders. In case of illness the policy holder is requested to notify the company's agent at once. Then a visiting nurse calls. The nurse does not remain in the home of the patient, throughout the illness, but gives such attention as is necessary.

A skilled nurse can do a wonderful amount of good in an hour's visit. Comparatively few persons know the tremendous importance of having the sick room sweet and clean. The length of the visits and the number of calls are

prepare food, the importance of keeping the icebox pure, the germs that get on the hands from dirty straps in street cars, or from door-knobs or furniture. She tells of the simple disinfectants and she dwells particularly on the glory and the benefit of open air. Is a Charming Enthusiast.

The greatest housecleaners in the world are sunshine and fresh air. Where they are germs cannot grow. She goes into the matter of rest, of work, of dress, of exercise, of the teeth, the mouth, the nose, the hands, the eyes, the ears. She is an enthusiast and her liquid, Southern tones have a decided charm. She has studied her subject so deeply and is so wrapped up in it that she gives to it an interest far beyond what a person would imagine could be developed in such a talk. She can explain a thing so clearly 'hat everyone can understand. If persons only would live correctly the span of life would be much longer, but from early life until the end most persons misuse the one great asset with which they were endowed—health.

Of the 800 nurses under her direction, nearly all have connections with settlement houses or other bodies. They are pretty well trained, but they find they have a good deal to learn from Mrs. Cunningham-Snyder in every matter, from making a bed or cooking a meal to nursing a patient. She seems to have studied and mastered everything that has to do with the improvement of health conditions. That would not be of such value if it were not for her singular ability in imparting her own enthusiasm to all those about her. Possibly the joy she feels in having come through so many surgical operations without being crippled and with good health explains this in part.



Mrs. Georgene Cunningham-Snyder.

left to the judgment of the visiting nurse. The nurse at all times places herself or herself under the orders of the physician in charge. In cases of urgency special nurses are provided to look after the patient. There is no charge for the visits of the nurse. It is part of the business of the company and it has been found to be profitable. The longer a policy holder lives, the more premiums the company receives. Safeguarding the life of its policy holders, therefore, is of prime importance.

Heads Great Nursing Service.

The great factor in this work is this woman of the South. She has spread this visiting nurse business far and wide. She has become next to Doctor Frenkel, the directing spirit of the welfare department, with the title of superintendent of the nursing service. The policy holders in 1800 cities and towns come within her province. The company has 11,000,000 policies out. This nursing service already embraces sections in which 1,000,000 of the policy holders live. The nurses under this woman's charge made 1,000,000 visits in 1912. Her department expended a little more than five hundred thousand dollars. She has 58 clerks in her New York office. She has 800 nurses scattered throughout the United States. All the agents of the company are instructed to work in cooperation with her. She puts in about three months each year traveling around the country, visiting agencies, getting the nurses together, explaining her plans and delivering addresses. Incidentally she gets up a vast amount of literature intended to enlighten men and women in matters of hygiene.

There is not anything in the household or in regard to care of adults or children to which she does not give attention. She goes into those subjects in her addresses and in the printed matter she puts forth. She tells what is the right way and what is the wrong way to keep a house clean. She tells how to keep cooking pots, spoons and dishes clean and sweet. She tells about closets, garbage pails and towels. She goes into the matter of germs. She tells how to care for and

When Mrs. Cunningham-Snyder first went out traveling, telling the men of the company how to do their work, some of the employees thought she was getting her information second hand, and, wishing to be gracious, one of them, possibly misled by her unusual name, would arise after she finished her speech and compliment her on knowing so much about her husband's work. Then she would have to explain that she had no husband and it was her work she was talking about.

Doing Much for America.

She gets a fat salary. She is likely to get a still larger one. She probably is doing more than any other person in America to improve health conditions and prolong life. Her influence is growing with each year. She is the greatest teacher of hygiene in the country today. She is young. She still is in her early thirties. For a woman who went to New York ten years ago fettered and handicapped, she has made remarkable progress. This is all the more remarkable in the light of the fact that she is the only member of her family who has had a business career. Her father is practicing law in New Orleans today. Four of her brothers are living; one of them is judge of the district court in northern Louisiana.

When the woman of gentle breeding, whether she be of the North or of the South, goes into business, she seems to develop talents she never was supposed to possess. A little woman of Bowling Green, Ky., who began with a needle, has built up a business that pays her \$50,000 a year; a gentlewoman of Albany, N. Y., forced by grim necessity when she was past fifty, to make a living for herself and her invalid sister, has developed a business in New York city that has drawn in various Standard Oil millionaires who were eager to share its great profits. And here this woman of New Orleans goes to New York and, within a decade, does work that is likely to make her a national figure.

It's wonderful how long some faces grow over night.

ELECTION RESULTS ALL OVER COUNTRY

DEMOCRATS SHORN OF MUCH OF THEIR POWER—PROGRESSIVES ALSO LOSE.

G. O. P. GAINS IN CONGRESS

President's Friends Refuse to Believe Result is Rebuke to Administration—No Change in Make-up of U. S. Senate.

Landslide in Ohio.

Columbus, O.—Ohio was struck by an old-fashioned Republican landslide. The Republicans elected Frank B. Willis of Hardin county, governor of Ohio, by a plurality that is estimated on claims of county chairmen to be from 8,000 to 15,000 over Gov. James M. Cox.

Gov. Cox conceded defeat by from 8,000 to 15,000, and sent his congratulations to Willis. Cox observed his defeat was brought about by Hamilton county (Cincinnati) where the vote went heavily against him. Cleveland supported Cox by at least 18,000.

The Republicans elected Warren G. Harding of Marion, United States senator, over Attorney General T. S. Hogan, by about 75,000, and elected the entire state ticket and secured control of both branches of the legislature.

The Republicans captured at least 10 of the 22 Ohio congressional seats, including the first, fourth, sixth, fourth, sixth, eighth, eighth, ninth, tenth and twenty-second districts, as compared with three Republicans and 19 Democrats in the present congress. Nicholas Longworth, son-in-law of Col. Roosevelt, was returned in the first district over Stanley Bowdler, the present incumbent.

Great Change in New York.

New York.—By a change of more than 300,000 votes, the electors of New York state brought about these results:

Swept the Democratic party from the control of the New York state government by electing Charles S. Whitman, the Republican candidate, governor by a plurality of 125,000 to 130,000 over Martin H. Glynn, Democrat.

Elected James W. Wadsworth, Jr., (Rep.) to the seat in the senate now held by Elihu Root, over James W. Gerard, by a plurality of probably 50,000. Gerard, however, ran many thousands of votes ahead of Glynn not only in the city of New York, but in the country districts. He received 132,000 plurality in New York City; Glynn 57,000.

Turned over to the Republicans the control of both branches of the legislature, the next senate probably containing 32 Republicans and 19 Democrats and the assembly 106 Republicans and 44 Democrats.

St. Louis Safely Republican.

St. Louis, Mo.—In a total vote of 115,000 St. Louis Tuesday voted for the passage of the home rule amendments by a small majority, overwhelmingly defeated woman suffrage, gave substantial majority against the county unit, full crew and pension for the blind amendments, and, with the exception of one congressman and a few minor offices, brought about a most decisive Republican victory.

The St. Louis home rule majority, 8,400, being small, it is believed this proposition will be defeated in the state, but the state also returned overwhelming majorities against woman suffrage. All other amendments were defeated in the state, returns indicate.

Senator Shively Is Re-elected.

Indianapolis, Ind.—From incomplete returns it was indicated that Senator B. F. Shively (Dem.) will be re-elected. His plurality probably will be between 30,000 and 35,000. The Republicans gained two seats in congress, carrying the seventh and tenth districts, and are also conceded a chance in the second and ninth districts.

Louisiana Moose Elected.

New Orleans, La.—Judge W. P. Martin (Prog.) defeated Henri L. Guaydan (Dem.) for congress in the third district. Guaydan conceded defeat and sent a telegram of congratulation to his opponent. All other Democratic candidates in Louisiana and Mississippi were elected.

Georgia Names Two Senators.

Atlanta, Ga.—Georgia Democrats elected two United States senators and a congressional delegation. There was no opposition to the Democratic state ticket.

South Dakota Republican.

Sioux Falls, S. D.—South Dakota voted to stay in the Republican column, electing the state ticket, headed by Frank M. Byrne for governor, by majorities ranging around 29,000. Charles H. Burke (Rep.) was elected United States senator.

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Forgot Himself.

There is a story going about of a man who resolved to give up drinking, and went to a temperance lecturer to draw him up an affidavit to that effect. The document was drawn, read and proved. The party held up his hand and murmured the usual promise. The paper was then properly sealed and delivered.

"What's to pay?" asked the pledge-maker. "To pay? to pay?" exclaimed the lecturer. "Nothing, of course—this is a labor of love."

"Nothing to pay!" returned the grateful but very forgetful pledge-taker. "Well, that's handsome. Let's go and have a drink!"

Litany for Week-Days.

From elderly ladies with sure cures for toothache, corns and tonsillitis; and from boiled potatoes, poison ivy and the military "experts" of newspapers; and from all females more than twenty-three or less than eighteen years old; and from persons who know the exact difference between "who" and "whom" and are willing to tell it; and from provincial paragraphers who imitate Franklin P. Adams; and from old and bad cocktails under new and seductive names; and from gilt chairs; and from dogs with loose hair—good Lord, deliver us!—Owen Hatters, in Smart Set.

Have Best War Hospital.

The Red Cross hospital of 200 beds near Torquay, established by American women, is said to be the best arranged war hospital in England, according to Sir Frederick Treves, the distinguished surgeon. The organization, which has at its head wealthy Americans like Mrs. John Astor, Lady Paget and others, has appropriated \$25,000 for motor ambulances. Funds are ample to maintain the hospital for another year, it is said.

His Method.

"How did that writer acquire such a flowing style?" "I think he uses a fountain pen."

Truly Spoken.

Rash, fruitless war from wanton glory wag'd, is only splendid murder.—Thomson.

There are few really great men on earth, but there are a lot of others who are willing to admit their greatness.

The man who makes good doesn't wait for opportunity to knock. He has the door wide open.

Occasionally a man's sense of humor may head off the doctor.

Some men court, then marry, then go to court again.

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"Surpassing others in greatness, goodness, extent or value of any quality."—Century Dictionary.

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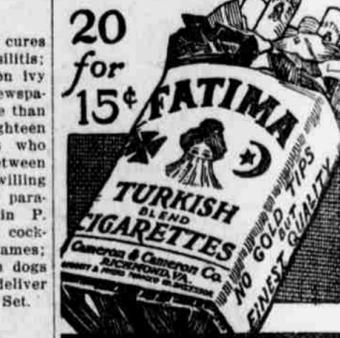
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Cub's Faux Pas.

This may be a base libel on an honored profession, but it is told by the man who perpetrated the faux pas. He was a reporter for a Baltimore paper—or had been one for about an hour, this being his first experience in newspaper work—when the city editor sent him out to see Cardinal Gibbons. The "cub" rushed down to the modest white house where the venerable prelate lives, says the Philadelphia Evening Ledger, and rang the bell. A mau servant opened the door.

"Is the cardinal at home?" asked the reporter.

"No, sir."

"Oh, Mrs. Gibbons will do," ejaculated the "cub."

Leper Asylum.

The Kwanju asylum, Korea, has grown from an old tile-kiln where the first leper patient was housed five years ago. She had been found on the roadside, almost dead, with worn and bleeding feet, and was taken into the warm tile-kiln and fed and taught. Then followed a little wooden building of three rooms which the missionaries paid for from their own pockets. This has been displaced now by a suitable asylum, the gift of the mission to lepers. It will care for 100 patients. Doctor Wilson writes: "I am taking them out of the snow every day now, and we shall soon reach the 100 limit."

A Reformer.

"Twobble is noted for his passionate striving after perfection."

"I must say that's a commendable trait."

"In some cases, yes, but Twobble spends all his time trying to achieve it in other people."

Another Sort.

"I gather from what he said that Jim's wife is the gray mare."

"She is more of an old nag."

Many a man grows gray waiting for a chance that some other fellow has gone out and grabbed.

A mouse scares a woman almost as badly as a millner's bill scares a man.

Possibly one joke in ten thousand makes people laugh.