

Man Kitchenwards

LESTER and Mattie Knapp were not happy. Neither were their children. Mattie was the efficient mother, the bustling housewife.

Her voice was harsh and dry; but they all knew why. And she was quite aware of the silent glosses and commentaries she knew them to be supplying mentally. She pinned her roll of sewing together firmly. Nobody could put in a pin with her gesture of mastery. "My first duty is to my home and children", she said.

Home was a place in which one must move quietly and with absolutely cleanly feet. Lester Knapp was a failure at business. Then, Lester is overtaken by catastrophe, net-resulting in his being made a permanent invalid. Mattie rescues the household by becoming a fine business executive and this makes a different woman of her. Lester takes care of the children and learns to cook. Everything is merry, and as it should be, particularly when it is discovered that Lester will

never be well enough to go back to work.

This domesticated male will be much talked about during the coming season. "The Home-Maker" (Harcourt, Brace) is as clever a piece of journalism as "Black Oxen", and not much more than that. There are splendidly drawn children in the book, which is shorter than Dorothy Canfield's other novels and more direct. It will be widely discussed, the publishers assure us — and they are right. To a persistent admirer of Mrs. Fisher's novels, it is a keen disappointment.