

Editorial

WOMEN AND WORK

Our cover which shows an athlete of a woman running, running, running . . . for dear life captures what should not be allowed to escape: that women as production and/or reproduction workers spend a lot of energy to produce and reproduce life on a daily basis. If medals are for winning the race against death, surely women deserve them. It does not matter whether they run slow or fast. After all they are running in a race where the rules are not in their favor. No matter how the rules are looked at, what looms large in the picture, as the articles in this issue will show, is that women have to hurdle more obstacles and handicaps than the men. To begin with, they are socially constructed to conform to the definition of what a woman should be in a man's world. As man's "other" or the "weaker" sex, women are not supposed to develop muscles because these are reserved for men who need them for doing "real" work or work with exchange value, hence paid work. Yet, women do need muscles even when they are not doing "real" work or work with only use value to the family, hence not paid. Surely, reproduction work which includes domestic work, childbearing and childrearing, which is not recognized as "real" work, cannot be done by a body that is half-starved and painstakingly contoured through rigorous exercise just so it would look attractive to men. Defi-

nately, the double burden of doing both production and reproduction work requires even more muscles, not to mention brains, which women are also not supposed to develop too much or they cease to be the "women" men love and adore enough to marry.

The athlete of a woman running, running, running . . . for dear life is inscribed in and out of the pages of this double issue of RWS which is somewhat late in coming. Dear Reader, please bear with us. Remember that women-centered writing is really hard to come by considering the fact that the likely writer of such a kind of writing would be a woman in academe. Such a woman is so busy running, running, running . . . for dear life in and out of academe that writing gets eased out of her tight schedule.

THE EDITOR