

# Interests of Women and the Home.

## THE MISTRESS AND MAID PROBLEM

Plans for Improving the Quality of Our Domestic Service.

### TRAINED SCHOOLS FOR SERVANTS

Much Can Be Accomplished by Them, but It is as Necessary to Have Trained Maids--Progress Which Has Been Made in Various Places Toward the Solution of This Long-Perplexing Problem.

The vexed question of domestic service is receiving a greater share of attention among women nowadays though it has not yet reached the point of making actual experiments in the direction of reform in a concerted way in many places. The New York branch of the national household economic association has organized this spring for the express purpose of dealing with the problem of the movement begun over a dozen years ago in Chicago, and seeks to discover some means whereby training may be given to women for domestic service. The field of inquiry mapped out by this new organization is not confined to this matter of service alone. It aims generally to promote scientific knowledge of the economic value of various foods and fuels; to give an intelligent understanding of correct plumbing and drainage in dwelling houses; to deal with the necessity for light and air, the care of children, the securing of skilled labor, and the establishment of schools of domestic service for that purpose. It is to be feared, says the Springfield Republican, this is "too large a contract" and society will be grateful if only the section relating to domestic employment is studied to some practical degree. In that department alone there is efficient opportunity.

The difficulties in the way of establishing a training school for women are almost as great as those which obstruct the notion of founding one for mistresses, yet if the one is useful to the other is desirable; there may be some utility in the suggestion made by a speaker, Mrs. William B. Shaler, vice-president of the national household economic association, before the newly formed society, when she proposed to send young girls to fill domestic positions in the homes of women where they would give their work for their training. "Our institutions," she says, "are always from necessity conducted upon an economical scale, and it is not possible to have a superabundance of service. Why could not we girls in this way give additional help that might be very acceptable, without adding to the expense? The benefit would be mutual." This is on the same principle as that employed in educating children's nurses at the baby's hospital.

### KITCHEN SCHOOLS.

It is too soon to calculate results, but the experiment known in Chicago as the kitchen garden association, which is a thorough instance of similar experiments being made in other places may be getting at the root of reform by beginning with the children and by seeking to make it a part of the regular public school course, and so do away with the feeling that domestic housework as a degrading occupation. The directors of this school recently gave a public exhibition of their teaching and the newspaper reports are enthusiastic in praise of the performance. Each class went first through a recitation of household maxims and recipes and proceeded then to their application; with small utensils these little maids, about 10 in number, concocted the dishes after the rules just repeated, washed, made beds, dusted, polished, answered the door, laid the table and served a meal of four courses composed of the food they had prepared and cooked, in a manner worthy of all admiration. The officers of the association find that the pupils range from 12 years of age upward, are much interested and though some classes are unable to meet often than once they are zealous to learn as fast as possible. The instruction is free, and next year three of the public schools will try it as a part of regular class work. In this direction Chicago is behind several other cities in Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, California and Wisconsin. In the way of reforming the view of domestic service, this introduction of kitchen work in the public schools, as we have said, must have important results.

### COOKING SCHOOLS.

A further solution of the difficulty found in training domestic workers is offered by the Syracuse household economic association that has made its original and successful attempt in that direction. This club, not content with theoretical study of domestic problems, has applied itself to their practical test, and established a permanent cooking school, where the charges are \$2 a term for a mistress and a maid. Cookship has been given freely, an filled from the list of applicants, many times these being sent by merchants who persuaded their unsuccessful saleswomen to try domestic work instead. The foolish objections to the work as being "menial" are gracefully forestalled by the name of "house-helper," which is given the pupils; the classes have become popular among the pupils to such a degree, however, there is no longer need for the roundabout course. That the exercise of fact is a large factor in the success of this school is shown by the fact there is now provided for the pupils who cannot attend in person, slips containing rules and recipes which may be pasted into their notebooks. It would seem in this intercourse in practical class-work of maids and mistresses, that much of the friction now found between the two must be done away with. Certainly the employer needs training as much as the employed, and the way to offer her tuition is an even harder kernel to crack. Perhaps a study of the golden rule would do a good deal; at any rate it is observable that women who fulfill its injunctions are more apt to have good service than the unselfish and unselfish women.

### HOUSEKEEPING A SCIENCE

Some good things in this regard were lately said at a meeting of Brooklyn women discussing the question. Mrs. Benjamin Bates said "too sharp a line

## WOMAN AND HER TALK.

### Her Lingual Ability Philosophically Discussed.

Conversation is one thing; talk is another. Cultivated women in general converse better than cultivated men. Women, as a sex, talk vastly more than any kind of men do or possibly can. There is no question about that. Their organization, their gregariousness, their disposition to be always doing something, insures their garrulity. A man often finds it hard to express himself; has really nothing to say; prefers silence, as a rule. Not so the ordinary woman. Whether she has anything to say or not makes no difference. Having nothing in her mind, she has abundance on her tongue, and the abundance will never run off. The possession of ideas not infrequently interferes with her speech, never with hers. The fewer she has the more voluble she is. Unburdened with a single idea, loquacity never tires her, but its effect what it may on others. Many of the emptiest women are the noisiest. Indeed, their noise is commonly proportioned to their emptiness. Every man has observed this so many times that it has ceased to impress him. A woman is seldom struck by a woman's chatter unless it curtails her own. Then it becomes a strife of tongues, the victory being to the milder, but the words, words, words. Has any one ever heard a tongue-tied woman? She is apt to work very hard, often harder than man, but limited exercise of tongue must give her rest. If so, who would wish to restrain her interminable utterance? The average woman's excessive orality is something that must be accepted. It is a phenomenon of her sex, her inheritance and her privilege. To reduce it to the normal requires a training—much self-discipline. She talks, talks, talks. Having nothing to say in the beginning, she ends with saying nothing. Strictly speaking, she does not end her speech; she is interrupted merely by circumstances—she is forced to stop. When one of her own sex and kind or of the other sex visit her, she dilates on vacuity for half an hour, for an hour, for two hours. Her speech is but words, words, words. The richness, the verbal fluency, of the English language contributes to her weakness. Not a few of our so-called orators have taught us that a man may make a long speech without conveying any definite meaning. The average woman is, in her talk, still more efficient in her inefficiency. But she seems to be satisfactory to the mass of her auditors. She may address herself to them, may gauge their understanding and respect their taste. Woman's intuition, whatever her grade, ranks high. Hardly any woman will deny that she talks a great deal, and that she is very fond of it. As to talking to her, or ill, she will receive it as a matter of opinion, and that she is, of course, on her own side, as she ought to be and as everybody is. She will probably maintain, if she is nettled by criticism, that men are stupid, and that she is not. Her own side, as she ought to be and as everybody is. She will probably maintain, if she is nettled by criticism, that men are stupid, and that she is not. Her own side, as she ought to be and as everybody is.

### CARE OF THE BABY'S HAIR.

#### The Head Must Be Washed Daily--A Certain Mixture to Use.

From the New York Journal. Many mothers think that the heads of infants, whether covered early by a thick growth of hair or a fine, almost invisible down, need little washing. Consequently, a thick coating, as white as milk, and that gradually darkens with age until of an ugly brown color, covers the scalp. Through this growth the hair must force itself if it grows at all, and of course it does not. The hair arrangement becomes discouraged and sends out only a few straggling hairs where a thick, short down should appear. To encourage a healthy growth the infant's head should be washed daily just as the body is, with a gentle soap and warm water. This keeps the head clean and free from the peculiar growth. If, however, it has made its appearance, very gentle but decided means should be employed to eradicate it. Mix together a teaspoonful of borax, powdered, and a tablespoonful of white vaseline, and with the mixture rub the infant's head gently but thoroughly for an hour or less and then wash with plenty of castile soap and warm water. If all the scurf is not removed by the first application, renew it next day. The hair is perfectly clean when children's hair is unruly, lacking life and gloss, this treatment will be beneficial also. Rub the mixture in thoroughly and then brush the hair thoroughly when dry. Never use a wet brush on the children's heads to keep them in order, rather brush them when they are until they become stiff and pliable, remaining as arranged by the mother's fingers. Never use oil or ointment on a child's hair. Perfect cleanliness is more to be desired than the slickness oil imparts. Moreover, a head well greased will catch and hold dust that settles upon the scalp, infusing the growth and vigor of the hair materially. Clipping the ends of the hair when they have become frayed and split stimulates new life and causes the hair to thicken, which, with perfect cleanliness and persistent brushing, will soon repay in silken luxuriance the care bestowed.

### Homepun Hints.

After a man gives up darning his beard he ages very rapidly. A woman dearly loves to say of herself that she is a true woman. Nothing attracts more favorable attention than a well-behaved girl. When a woman's face is homely she regrets that people cannot see her heart. Considering how mean men can be, they deserve credit for being as good as they are. If a man could enjoy laughing at himself he would have plenty of amusement. Even old fogies have their good points; they are free from a lot of modern nonsense. If a man is very fond of his wife he is always talking about her. There is no better test. The faith your friends have in you is a beautiful thing; but so is a soap bubble. Men have a good deal of speaking admiration for a woman who publicly admires her husband. As soon as a man is nominated for office he is a little conceited about his popularity until after the election. When a widower begins to act as if he had forgotten when his wife died, all the women in town remember it. Every man knows what love is, but there is so much sentiment in the world that he does not dare admit it. Keeping the martyr look out of the face should be ranked as high as the virtue of controlling one's tongue.—Aitchison Globe.

### Banana Salad.

Cut four bananas twice lengthwise, and then each piece into quarters. Put two small lettuce leaves together, lay severed pieces of banana on the lettuce and cover with a dressing. Arrange on a large platter and garnish with parsley.

### The Smell of Paint.

To some people the smell of a newly painted room is highly objectionable. The odor can be greatly lessened by placing a pall of cold water in the room, and allowing it to stand there for some hours.

### To Prevent Burning in the Oven.

To prevent the burning of viands, keep a small pan of water in the oven, refilling as often as necessary. If the oven is very hot, fill with cold instead of hot water.

### Engaged to marry Miss Hungerford, dad.

"I shall support a husband?"

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## ONE WOMAN'S SUCCESS.

### Mrs. Ryley Makes Two Thousand Dollars a Week from Her Plays.

In these days when women are anxiously scanning the field of human endeavor in an effort to discover some easy way of making a fortune, it is gratifying to see the Philadelphia Times, to record the success of those who reach the desired goal. Perhaps the most interesting case in point is that of Madeleine Lucette Ryley, whose phenomenal success as a playwright is just now the talk of two continents. The interesting little woman was for several years known to the stage as Madeleine Lucette, a remarkably clever and talented comic opera singer. Five or six years ago she gave up active work on the stage and turned to the writing of plays. Since then her prolific pen has turned out more than twenty pieces of dramatic work, comic opera librettos, one-act sketches, serious dramas and comedies. Mrs. Ryley's success in the latter line is what appears to be the old-time saw that woman have no sense of humor, for it is in this field she has been most triumphant. Her play, "Christopher, Jr.," written for John Drew, achieved phenomenal success, not only in this country, but in England, where it has been played continuously for the past few years under the title of "Jadbury, Jr." Her next great success is at present being performed in this city by Mr. Nat C. Goodwin under the title of "An American Citizen." Mr. Goodwin admits that it is the greatest monetary success of his eventful career, and now Mrs. Ryley has just scored an additional success in a new farce which was produced last week in Washington, D. C., entitled, "The Mysterious Mr. Dugle." This play will be seen at the Broad street theatre next Monday evening. From all these sources it can be imagined that she is a very rich woman. Mrs. Ryley's success in view we can look for a large accession to the ranks of the dramatists from among the vast army of bright and clever women. It would appear that nothing, with the possible exception of a gold mine, will so well as a successful play. Mrs. Ryley will visit Philadelphia this week and will remain to see the production.

### The Grandeur of Motherhood.

Motherhood. All the real grandeur and all the real good in all the great round world are bound up in that one sweet word. Fads may come and fads may go. Newer women may crowd upon the heels of the women already in fashion, but the grandeur of motherhood is unalterable, with its roots deep in nature's heart. A woman is not a woman until she is a mother. Take from the world the sweetest mother, with eyes swimming with love for her first-born, banish from the earth the touch of baby fingers and the music of childish laughter. Do this, and the well-spring of poetry would turn bitter and dry, art would cease to be, the smallest circle of life would be frozen into silence. All that is good and joyous, all that laughs and sings, all that is worth telling in song or story, or expressing in music or painted picture, is but the virtue, the song, the story, the picture, the music of universal motherhood in nature. The woman who fails of motherhood falls short of her share in the sublime happiness and in the grand duty of a woman's nature. Until she knows the thrill of a first-born's touch a woman has not achieved real womanhood. The childless woman is a discord in the grand anthem of nature.—Unidentified.

### THE CARE OF CHILDREN.

#### Some Things Youthful Mothers Should Make a Note of.

From London Truth. An infant should be given no food containing starch until it cuts its teeth. Starchy food include biscuits, corn flour, tapioca, sago, rice, potato, etc. An infant cannot digest any of these until its teeth is cut. Violent noises and rough shakings or tossings are hurtful to a baby and should be avoided as much as possible. Infants should never be put into a sitting posture until they are at least 3 months old, when they will probably sit up of their own accord. They should be carried flat in the nurse's arms, as if the little back is at all curved, it may lead to curvature of the spine or chest disease. Until children are 7 or 7 years old they should have twelve hours' sleep every night. In addition to this nap for two hours either in the morning or afternoon—especially in hot weather—will do a great deal toward keeping them bright and well. ONE WOMAN'S SUCCESS. Mrs. Ryley Makes Two Thousand Dollars a Week from Her Plays. In these days when women are anxiously scanning the field of human endeavor in an effort to discover some easy way of making a fortune, it is gratifying to see the Philadelphia Times, to record the success of those who reach the desired goal. Perhaps the most interesting case in point is that of Madeleine Lucette Ryley, whose phenomenal success as a playwright is just now the talk of two continents. The interesting little woman was for several years known to the stage as Madeleine Lucette, a remarkably clever and talented comic opera singer. Five or six years ago she gave up active work on the stage and turned to the writing of plays. Since then her prolific pen has turned out more than twenty pieces of dramatic work, comic opera librettos, one-act sketches, serious dramas and comedies. Mrs. Ryley's success in the latter line is what appears to be the old-time saw that woman have no sense of humor, for it is in this field she has been most triumphant. Her play, "Christopher, Jr.," written for John Drew, achieved phenomenal success, not only in this country, but in England, where it has been played continuously for the past few years under the title of "Jadbury, Jr." Her next great success is at present being performed in this city by Mr. Nat C. Goodwin under the title of "An American Citizen." Mr. Goodwin admits that it is the greatest monetary success of his eventful career, and now Mrs. Ryley has just scored an additional success in a new farce which was produced last week in Washington, D. C., entitled, "The Mysterious Mr. Dugle." This play will be seen at the Broad street theatre next Monday evening. From all these sources it can be imagined that she is a very rich woman. Mrs. Ryley's success in view we can look for a large accession to the ranks of the dramatists from among the vast army of bright and clever women. It would appear that nothing, with the possible exception of a gold mine, will so well as a successful play. Mrs. Ryley will visit Philadelphia this week and will remain to see the production.

### BRONCHITIS.

Children are especially liable to bronchitis in these days of early spring, when a romp, which induces perspiration, and is discarded of all warm wraps is followed by a change in the atmosphere enough to cause a chill. Watchfulness is the price of exemption in its proper sense, and fresh air is a necessity either in prevention or cure. Children who have once suffered an attack of bronchitis are liable to develop it again. Great care should, therefore, be taken of them, but they are not to be unduly coddled, for stuffy rooms are worse for young children than any other evil. An important point to remember



## HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

### FOR FISH CROQUETTES.

Use any kind of cold boiled fish. Free it from skin and bone. Mince fine. To one pint of minced fish use one cup of well seasoned mashed potatoes, two eggs well beaten. Mix well, season to taste, shape, crumb and fry. One cupful of white sauce can be used in place of mashed potatoes.

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### HOW BRIDGET WAS REFORMED.

A Timely Hint from Her Mistress, Delicately Given, Worked Wonders. She was a very jewel of a cook when she wasn't in a temper, and, as this inability to live peaceably with her fellows constituted her sole fault, three times had the other female servants been discharged for her sake. But when she began to be impertinent to the woman who employed her this patient individual decided that matters had gone far enough. She had no wish to lose such a treasure, either did she intend to be rudely treated at her hands, so, after some careful thought, she evolved a clever plan of action. When next Bridget came upstairs for orders she found her mistress a prey to severest melancholy. The hot liquid was poured upon them. This wax is eaten with a fork and toasted crackers and pickles are served at the same time. Maple candy making and pulling also form part of the evening's amusement.

### A Repeated Caution.

Always make your tea in an earthenware or china pot. There is danger in any metal, especially if the tea by chance is allowed to stand in it. Copper is, of course, the metal to be most avoided for this purpose, but any metal may become poisonous under certain conditions. Two cases of death through tea drinking have recently been reported; in each case the tea had been standing in a metal pot for several hours. Watchfulness and perfect cleanliness would, of course, prevent such accidents; but who can answer for these in any cook not yourself?

### To Remove Creases.

When woollen dresses or any woollen garments have become badly creased and wrinkled do not attempt to use a hot iron upon them, for it is likely to leave the mark of the iron and give the material a shiny look without producing any good results. If the crushed and marred places are wiped with a woollen cloth wet in hot water and the clothing is then hung out in the air or in a cold place, the marks will all disappear.

### A Substitute for Silk Slips.

A silk slip for diaphanous materials, while being the nicest thing to have, is no longer necessary, as the colored lewis manufactured for this purpose now are an excellent substitute. Untold quantities of lace will be used to trim these gowns, together with countless ruffles.

### The Dullest Kind of Sash.

Oar-shaped sash ends, trimmed around the edge with lace or a narrow double frill of chiffon, will be the dullest kind of sash to have the coming summer. They have very small bows of two loops and a knot, or are simply knotted once giving the effect of a band around the waist and two ends.

### Gymnastics at Home.

In these days of pressure of business matters and fathers are apt, says the Philadelphia Ledger, to be busy people, and have so little time to devote to their families that the mere mention of gymnastics at home, under the parent's direction, provokes a smile. The greatest step of modern science toward pure food, better cooking, perfect health, is to be found in the following motto: "Children and their heads in cotton-plant sweat" every day. Not guaranteed if sold in any other way. Made only by THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY, Chicago, St. Louis, New York, Montreal.

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## USEFUL HINTS.

To Remove Milk or Curd-Lait Stains.—These are not irremediable stains in delicate materials. Slightly strain the stained part over a tumbler or basin and with a soft brush point or hair brush, using just enough to cover the stain. When it has soaked through to the other side, after about ten minutes rinse in lukewarm water and iron it on the wrong side until it is quite dry. If the water is very hard remedies of this kind are much more successful if done with distilled water, which can always be obtained from a chemist.

An Excellent Way of Restoring Crapes.—Make up a good fire and boil some water in a deep vessel, and three-quarters full; throw into this boiling liquid a small handful of gum arabic; stir it well. Lay over the opening of the kettle a piece of new brown paper once folded; in this arrange the crape which needs attention and await the result, the fire being so kept up meanwhile that the water goes on boiling hard during the operation. The material will soon become damp and resume its original condition; it can be folded, if very long it must be drawn along so that the whole length can be equally well done. Directly the paper becomes wet it must be changed; the moisture does not affect the crape if it is because the paper is too thick; this must be regulated according to circumstances, and much depends on the quality and the thickness of the crape. For small pieces of trimming the operation is easily done by means of a spirit lamp.

To Clean Bottles or Window Panes that have become dull and cloudy through long neglect use fresh neta; a few of these placed in the bottles and stood in the sun for 24 hours will restore a clearness. For windows put on a thick coat of neta and let them stand for half an hour; then strain and use with a house flannel. No scrubbing will be needed, but another flannel with clean water must be used for rinsing purposes. This is good for any kind of wood.

Painted Wood, Panelings and Water-cotings can be rapidly and effectually cleaned with potato water. Put half a dozen large tubs into a pail, having previously peeled, washed and grated them. Put a gallon or two of fresh water over the tubs and let them stand for half an hour; then strain and use with a house flannel. No scrubbing will be needed, but another flannel with clean water must be used for rinsing purposes. This is good for any kind of wood.

Centipedes and Other Insects, which often congregate in cellars or basements of country houses can be exterminated in the following manner. Rinse some empty bottles (preferably with rather wide opening) thoroughly with methylated spirit, leaving a few drops inside, so that it may not evaporate too quickly; lay these bottles about, with the bottom lower than the neck, which latter should, if necessary, be supported on a slanting piece of wood. The insects will crawl in and can be killed with boiling water.

### French Rolls.

Mix as for lunch rolls and add a scant pint of milk, mixing into a firm dough. Roll pieces of the dough into short, thick rolls, tapering at the ends, and put two of these side by side, pressing the ends together to make the finished roll. Wash over with milk and bake in a hot oven.

### Narrowness of New Skirts.

Skirts are certainly much narrower, with a straight fan back and a narrow front breadth. Four and a half yards around is the popular size.

Good-Bye Dyspepsia! Thousands of practical, discriminating housewives avoid lard, that impure and unhealthy packing-house product, and use that pure vegetable shortening, Cottolene, which eminent physicians say is destined to make dyspepsia a disease of the past. COTTOLENE contains nothing but refined Cotton Seed Oil and Choice Beef Suet, and is therefore wholesome, appetizing, healthful. It is the greatest step of modern science toward pure food, better cooking, perfect health. The genuine is sold in the following manner: "Children and their heads in cotton-plant sweat" every day. Not guaranteed if sold in any other way. Made only by THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY, Chicago, St. Louis, New York, Montreal.

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