

THE HOUSEHOLD.

CONVENIENCES IN THE KITCHEN.

BY S. E. TODD.

Very few families have one-half the conveniences to facilitate their culinary labors which they might possess if they would exercise only a little wise forethought and careful calculation. The truth is the domestics on whom the burden of household labor rests from year to year, are often kept nearly jaded out on account of the fatigue required to travel from one room to another, which are often far apart, when they should be near each other.

A neighbor, whose family we hold in high estimation and whose wife and daughters have done their own work for many years past, has a commodious upright part to his dwelling about thirty-eight feet long in front by twenty-six feet wide. There is a hall and stairway across the middle with a living-room and bedroom on one side of the hall and parlor and bedroom on the other side. At one end of his house an addition, twenty feet long by eighteen wide, was put up for a dining-room and closet for dishes. At one end of this addition another building, eighteen feet long by sixteen wide, was hitched on for a kitchen, so that the parlor, hall, living-room and kitchen were all arranged in a line, and from the end of the parlor to the farther side of the kitchen the distance is about seventy-five feet, or twenty-five yards. Respected reader, take a yard-stick and measure twenty-five yards on the ground and you will get a fair idea of the immense distance which must necessarily be travelled by his hard-working wife, (who is now lying in the cemetery,) while performing her domestic duties. To render a bad arrangement still worse, as one went from the living apartment to the dining-room, he was required to descend three steps.

Now for the improvements by way of saving so much physical energy, travelling from the living-room to the kitchen. In cold weather the parlor is always warmed by a heater in the hall. Hence, it was concluded to use the parlor for a living room and appropriate the present apartment for dining-room. The bedroom adjoining this dining-room was then fitted up for a kitchen. This room is ten feet wide by sixteen feet long. A doorway was made from the kitchen into the hall; and another doorway was opened at the opposite end through the outer wall to a veranda. At one corner of the kitchen a neat corner-closet was put up. At the opposite corner a china-closet, four feet broad and twenty inches deep, was made. At another corner the cistern pump was placed at the end of the sink. Between the sink and china closet a flour-box and low closets, as high as the sink, were made, over which there is a broad cover which subserves the use of a table. The cooking-stove is placed near one corner of the kitchen. By this arrangement they have secured a convenient and commodious kitchen, which, together with the appliances and close proximity to the dining-room, will save miles of travel every year, while the value of many arrangements cannot be computed in dollars and cents. Those two additions are not needed. They never were a necessity as there was sufficient room in the main part of the house.—*Christian at Work.*

YOUNG GIRLS IN THE STREET.

Sitting at my window in this quiet Vermont village my attention is attracted by the number of young girls passing and re-passing often. I watch them go in and out of the post-office and stores, or collect in groups at the crossings and their merry laughter rings out on the clear winter air. They often pause at my window for a merry word. It is a joy to see their fresh young faces. But when this is repeated every afternoon and evening, and even part of the Sabbath given to walking or riding for pleasure, how soon do these young misses form the habit of going from home for every recreation.

The subject of home training of girls has long been agitated, and many careful mothers teach their daughters to do part of the household work. This is well, but are they taught to find employment for their leisure hours at home? I think that the street, as dangerous as it is to the morals of the young, is not as dangerous as the habit formed of depending entirely on others for happiness.

Be company for yourself. This may sound egotistical, but children may be trained to spend many happy hours alone.

I would not go to the other extreme, and debar our girls from all companions outside their homes, or never let them be seen on the street, but I insist that there is a golden mean in this matter, and because it is easier to let them go, many mothers thoughtlessly allow it, and soon their girls are beyond their control in this matter.

I know a young girl who complains that it is so lonely to sit at home. If she paints, or practices music, and she is not lacking in these accomplishments, she must have some schoolmate with her. No long quiet afternoons with mamma in the pleasant sitting-room. Now, certainly, the mother is very much to blame in this matter. Where are the quiet, home-loving wives and mothers of the next generation to come from.

If God has blessed you with fair young daughters, early teach them to find in their home the most happiness, and there, yourself, be companion, be helper, be everything to them. I contend that the mother should live for her husband and children. This may be very old-fashioned, but it is the blessed old-fashion of God himself. While the children are in the home nest they should have the first claim on her time and thoughts. All too soon our boys will be bearded men, and our dear little girls away making homes for others, and we sit with folded hands. Plenty of time then for nicely kept rooms, and the gay fancy work that used to tempt us, or the calls of society, but now is our time. Neglect, if need be, all these, but never for a moment neglect the boys and girls.—*Household.*

HOW TO TREAT A CHILD'S FEARS.

"Mamma," called out a little boy the other night, after he had been snugly tucked up in bed and was supposed to be far on the way toward sleep—"mamma, I'm afraid! my blouse hangs by the window and it puts things in my mind that frightens me!"

"You are not afraid when you know it is your blouse that puts the fears in your mind?"

"Yes; and I can't help it, mamma."

There were two ladies sitting in the room below who heard the boy's words. One said: "How perfectly absurd! What won't a child do to get his mother to come up stairs to him! I really think he ought to be punished for making up such a story as that." The other, happily, was the boy's mother, and she said—but without going to him: "If you are afraid of the things in your mind you may get out of bed light your candle, and take the blouse down; you can look after you put the light out and see that there is nothing at the window to frighten a good boy."

She remembered, as if it were but yesterday, a night, a great many years ago, when she lay a trembling, horrified child, whose mother was dead, and there was no one in the wide world to whom she dared to say that the lights and shadows made by the moonlight coming through a broken slat in the blind were so frightful to her that she could not sleep, but lay holding her breath and almost smothering beneath the clothes. She felt sure that her own little six-years old boy was suffering from the same unreasonable terror, at which he would laugh in the morning when he would awake and see his blue blouse waiting for him. The child, taking his mother's advice and lighting the candle which a kindly freak of fashion allowed him to have, removed the cause of his terror, put out the light and went back to his bed, and in a very few minutes a profound silence indicated that he was fast asleep.

One can easily feel sympathy for what may seem like an absurd whim in a child if he or she has paid any attention to the literature of nervousness, and knows anything of the many ways in which strong-minded men have been afflicted by hallucinations, or have been annoyed as was the old carpenter who, when sick, called his son to his bedside and asked him to make a shelf that was in his room perfectly true, and when the son remonstrated, he said, with an expression not to be denied: "Trouble's trouble; that shelf must be changed." It is to be deplored that mothers, and all those who have the care of children, do not possess their complete confidence, and so can encourage entire outspokenness, and be enabled by the knowledge thus gained to prevent a morbid condition of the mind, which

it may take years to outgrow.—*Evening Post.*

TIDY CLOSETS.

In every linen closet there should be a corner for old clothes, worn-out garments, discarded under-wear, and hopelessly frayed linen. These should be torn into pieces of available size and put up in neat rolls.

The preserve closet should be dark and cool. Canned fruits, jellies, and jams are prone to darken by exposure to the light, and ferment and sour if kept in too warm a place. The taller glass jars should be placed at the back of the shelves, with the labels on them high enough up to be seen over the jelly glasses ranged in front. The large stone crocks are safest on the floor; it is hardly worth while to tempt Providence by overtaxing even the stoutest shelves. Every jar, tumbler, and cup should be so legibly marked that the nature of its contents may be determined by a single flash of a match. Pickles should have their own corner, distinct from that allotted to sweet preserves. The shelves should be examined once a fortnight for any sign of the sticky dripping that indicates fermentation of the jams or preserves. Such vigilance will render it possible to check the mischief before it has gone so far as to be irremediable.

Clothes closets are not often as neat as those hitherto mentioned. It is hard to keep any place that is in such constant and hasty use as are these in apple-pie order. Still, they may be in a state very far removed from the utter confusion into which they often degenerate. When possible, one side of each closet should be fitted with large drawers, in which may be laid delicate dresses, extra under-clothing that has no place in the bureau, furs in winter, and thin gowns in summer, nor should shelves be lacking for hat-boxes, etc. The indispensable shoe-bag has already been mentioned. There should be hooks in abundance, and double ones at that. By using these, the skirts may be hung on the lower pegs and the waists on the upper ones, thus preventing the latter from becoming crushed and tumbled.

Closets filled with dresses that are in regular service are apt to grow close and musty. To avoid this, gowns should never be put away immediately upon taking them off; they should receive a good shaking, and be spread out to air for a while. This is especially necessary in warm weather. Even this is not sufficient to keep the closet sweet and clean without giving it an occasional airing. To accomplish this, all the dresses should be taken down and shaken in another room, while that in which the closet is should be left with the window and closet door wide open for a couple of hours. Handsome dresses that are infrequently worn should be protected from dust even in the closet by a sheet or curtain hung over them.

Soiled clothes should never be kept in a bedroom closet. They render it unsavory, with an odor that clings when the offending cause has been removed. The hamper for these should stand in the bath-room, or in a corner where there is a free circulation of air. They should never be put where they are liable to fall a prey to mice or cockroaches. These will scent food that has been spilled upon garments, or even the starch in them, and make a feast of it, devouring the fabric as well.

In every house there must be a lumber closet. To avoid rendering this a receptacle for a heap of miscellaneous rubbish, it is advisable to make a number of bags to hold the odds and ends relegated to this cubby. There must be a bag for white rags and another for colored, one for newspapers, another for pieces of dress goods, another for wrapping-paper and twine. By means of these catch-alls the closet that is usually the bug bear of the house-keeper may be kept in as trim order as any other in her domain.—*Harper's Bazar.*

DEPEND UPON IT, in the midst of all the science about the world and its ways, and all the ignorance of God and his greatness, the man or woman who can say, "Thy will be done," with the true heart of giving up, is nearer the secret of things than the geologist and the theologian.—*Geo. MacDonald.*

RECIPES.

TO GET RID OF RED ANTS.—Wet a large sponge in sweetened water, press it just enough so it will not drip, lay it where

the ants inhabit, leave a few hours, then drop it into a basin of hot water. Repeat the process till there is not one left to tell the tale.

RICE FRUIT PUDDING.—One large teacup rice, a little water to cook it partially; dry; line an earthen basin with the rice; fill up with quartered apple, or any fruit you choose. Cover with rice. Tie a cloth over the top, and steam one hour. To be eaten with sweet sauce. Do not butter the dish.

VEGETABLE STEW, WITH MEAT BALLS.—Cut some carrots in small square, also some turnips. Place a piece of butter in saucepan, thicken it very little, and amalgamate with water, and put in vegetables, with a dozen small onions and a small handful of chopped parsley, pepper and salt. Let simmer for three quarters of an hour. Half a spoonful of a plain sauce will not be bad added to it.

MEAT BALLS.—Take cold meat or canned meat, chop very fine, mix with fine sweet herbs, pepper, salt, and a little chopped lemon peel. Some bread crumbs, finely chopped suet, and combine with two yolks of egg. Make into balls, flour and frizzle in a little lard, butter preferred, when the balls are done, dish up stew and balls round it.

DRIED BEEF WITH EGGS.—For a family of four use nearly a pound of thinly shaved beef; if the beef is very salt pour over it some boiling water and let it stand for a few minutes, then drain off the water; have a frying-pan well buttered and browned, add the beef, cook a few moments, and add, just before taking from the fire, two well beaten eggs, mix them through the beef, cook just long enough so that the eggs are not overdone. This makes a very nice breakfast or lunch dish.

PUZZLES.

AN ENDLESS CHAIN. (Seven Links). (The last two letters of each word are the first two of the following one).

I. I'm found in many a tropic sea,
And Arctic bays are known to me.

II. Thro' sun and storm my help I give
To clothe the naked while I live.

III. To distant lands, which, often sought
As oft recede, I lead your thought.

IV. As I am always marked in space
'Tis plain I'm found in every place.

V. My name will tell while centuries last
Whence wise men came in ages past.

VI. Though I'm a gentle motion here,
An uproar often I appear.

VII. In nature's loveliest hues arrayed
My life is short—I'm born to fade.

RHOMBOID.

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ACROSS.—1. Infection in the air. 2. A great desert. 3. Pairing. 4. A wish. 5. To run away. 6. Freshest.

DOWN.—1. In dance. 2. A neuter verb. 3. A Dutch measure of liquids. 4. A fish. 5. Matched. 6. The past tense of to get up. 7. An aromatic plant mentioned in the Bible. 8. Increased. 9. Before. 10. Two consonants in station. 11. In date.

WHAT IS IT?

Half-way in and half-way out
Of its tiny house,
Nearly all the time, no doubt,
Still as any mouse.

But quite suddenly, mayhap,
It will turn around,
Say abruptly, "Click!" or "Clack!"
Make a rattling sound.

Very fond of keeping still
In his little home,
It will go, too—if you will—
Anywhere you roam!

Keep on its right side and learn
'Tis a ticklish sprite;
Or, perhaps, it will take a turn—
Shut you out some night!

Are you wondering where and how
This strange thing can be?
Well—you should not puzzle now—
For you must have got the key.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES IN LAST NUMBER.

AN INSECT'S RIDDLE.—Katydid.

STAR PUZZLE.—

O
H E R O A G E
E A R X
U A
L T A M D
E L A T I N E
R N

CHARADE.—Pick-wick.

NUMERICAL CHARADE.—Propagate, (propagate.)