

THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY!

English Husband Master of the Household

In Fact as Well as in Law—Custom Allows Him to Have Better Food and Clothes Than His Wife.

[Chicago Record-Herald.]

The English law recognizes the husband as the head of the family—a law that still obtains in some parts of our own country—and the estimate of the law is obediently reflected by the family. In nine households out of ten the best of everything is reserved for the master, the best chair is placed in the most comfortable corner of the fireside, and it would be little short of sacrilege for wife or child to occupy either. If the fare is plain there must be something "tasty"—to use the English expression—for the man of the house. An English woman who lived in a London suburb said to the writer: "The family dine upon a leg of mutton on Sundays, and it comes upon the table daily and it is all right. The husband, in the meantime, dines in town, ordering the dishes he most prefers. The greater part of the economizing falls upon the wife, if reticence is necessary, her husband is sacrificed, that her husband may retain his job. Everywhere in London, even in the most fashionable quarters, elegantly dressed men accompanied by decidedly shabby women may be seen, and it is the rule, rather than the exception.

An Englishman's clothes are well chosen and well made, while the dress of his wife or daughter is very often "a thing of shreds and patches." It is in her home, however, that the English woman particularly shines—if the husband is not abnormally domestic, as frequently happens, taking her rightful authority into his own hands. In this event she is only a humble subordinate, whose business it is to see that the whims of her husband and father superintending the purchase of a gown at the army and navy stores told by the "American girl in London," and his stern command, "I will not have you in stripes, no sign of the imagination. Such incidents are common enough. When the masculine will takes this turn there is nothing with which the head of the family does not meddle—the gowns of wife and daughter, the employment and discharge of servants, the ordering of the five meals daily with which the English constitution is so fond of indulging in the depressing dampness and chill of the climate.

WOMEN AS HOUSEKEEPERS

When not interfered with, the woman of the educated classes, it may be said, are practically trained for housekeeping; almost all are good accountants, keeping a careful note of every farthing of expenditure. Even the lodging and boarding house keeper sends in the weekly bill—with its puzzling list of extras properly set down—an illustration of accuracy and industry alike. They think it worth their while to consider saving a farthing a pound upon a joint at the butcher's; a penny a dozen upon the eggs from the poultryer's, and all such matters that the American housekeeper so often considers too petty to discuss they never fail to bear in mind.

The English method of rearing children, but for the fact that the daughters are too subservient to the sons, is altogether commendable. The law of primogeniture is partially responsible for this, since the whole fabric of English society revolves around the eldest son and heir.

In a great many instances the education of the daughters is curtailed because the sons must be trained for professions by which they may earn a living, but it is hoped that the girls will marry, and every good husband for the mother to secure suitable husbands for them. There is no pretense of letting this important consideration take care of itself; it is worked for and planned for very early in the daughter's life, and she is good to reach a marriageable age. Much greater thought is given the where-withal—the income for the maintenance of the newly established family—than in the United States, where when the wife's fortune is settled upon herself and her children by the marriage contract, it cannot be touched for the husband or diverted from the object to which it is to be applied.

English children, if somewhat shy, are delightful. Simple, natural, unspoiled, they are taught respect for their elders and obedience to their parents from the time that they are old enough to understand anything. In a well-to-do family they are kept in the nursery, except when their presence is requested in the drawing-room, given plain food and dressed in simple, comfortable clothing. They take their meals at regular hours and have a great deal of out-of-door exercise.

The position of working women of all classes is one of the important problems of the hour.

There, as here, the field of teaching is overcrowded. There are thousands of governesses in England competent to teach Latin mathematics, music, drawing and the continental languages, whose salary can do not exceed \$100 a year. A lady advertised in a London newspaper for a governess possessing these qualifications, offering a little less than the salary above named, and she received over 1,000 replies. An exceptionally well-qualified cook is paid about 12 shillings (\$3) a week, a housemaid half as much, and there are few conveniences in any but the most of the English houses, such as are to be found almost everywhere in our own country.

HOUSES OF OLD PATTERN. Water for the morning bath must be carried to the rooms and coal for the fires—a furnace or steam-heated house being exceptional—and for this work a man is never employed. All the rooms are furnished with bells, which must be answered, and the maids run up and down the stairs on errands or in answer to summons all day long. This has induced a disease, a swelling of the knee joints, recognized by physicians as "housemaid's knee." English servants are not expected to share the delicacies of the family table; a separate table is spread for them below stairs, provided with plain, although abundant, food, and any luxuries they desire they must get for themselves. The American is impressed always with the homely comfort of an English house, notwithstanding the bedroom candles, the primitive bath and the lack of various conveniences which we consider essential. Everything is clearly arranged and perfectly understood, even the card for the opening of parliament bears plainly printed in one corner: "Morning Dress." This definiteness saves much embarrassment and misunderstanding. Splendor is reserved for splendid occasions. An "at home," even at a grand house, is a very simple affair; there is an abundance of tea, cakes and flowers—the latter always, whether may be wanting. There may also be some good music, or some other entertainment provided.

BERLIN CAB SYSTEM

An Automatic Device Shows the Distance Traveled and Fare Due.

[W. E. Curtis in the Chicago Record-Herald.]

Berlin has the best cab system in the world, and the cheapest. There are over 17,000 cabs, each equipped with a taximeter which registers the distance traveled and indicates on a dial the amount of fare due. The lowest charge is 12 cents, which pays transportation for one or two persons a distance of 800 meters, or 600 meters for three or four persons. Every additional 400 meters the wheels run, according to an odometer attached to one of the wheels, the indicator jumps up 2½ cents when there are two persons in the cab. When there are three or four passengers there is a jump for every 300 meters. This makes cab hire 17½ cents for the cheapest and the most convenient of any city in the world, and perhaps that is the reason there are comparatively few private conveyances. Everybody rides in a cab except the nobles and members of the royal family, and even they do so sometimes.

In New York, Chicago, Washington and other cities it costs \$5 for a carriage for the party, a cab is called a bail. In Berlin it costs about 50 cents. There is a cab stand every few blocks, the locations being fixed by regulations, and it is only necessary to send a servant to a cab stand when you are ready to go, and you pay by the distance. At the close of the dinner the butler always has as many cabs as necessary awaiting the guests at the door, and the party enters the car and the long line at the curbstone, which drive up in order and take in their loads under the direction of a policeman.

GERMAN SADDLE HORSES.

There are many saddle horses. They are a part of the military system. Berlin is the only city of its size that provides saddle paths along its principal streets. Horseback riding in the Tiergarten is a popular amusement for both men and women.

There are penny omnibuses running from central points in all directions, and electric trams on the principal streets, but, according to our notion, they run very slowly and are "called" in a most remarkable manner. The fare is 2½ cents for any distance within the city limits, and yet the company pays dividends of 8, 9 and 10 per cent, even with a heavy tax upon its franchise and a limited carrying capacity.

You never see a crowded street car in Berlin. No person is allowed to stand in the aisle. The number that may be accommodated on each platform is indicated in a conspicuous manner. Usually six, but often only four, and when the seats inside are all occupied and the standing room on the platforms is filled, the car does not stop, no matter how full it is. It is a rule that those who are fortunate enough to get aboard, but pretty tough on people who are late to dinner or have appointments or other reasons for being in a hurry when the car is full.

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ENTER BY BACK DOOR.

I have never been able to discover the reason, but there is a rule forbidding passengers upon the front platform to enter a car. If there is room inside, and they are tired of standing, people on the platform must wait until the car stops and then go around to the back platform and enter by the rear door, even though the front door may be standing open. I learned this rule by experience, for the front door being open, I innocently walked in and took a seat. The conductor rushed at me as if he intended to swallow me whole and commenced to jabber at me in a furious rate, gesticulating in a manner that was actually alarming. When he had exhausted himself and paused to recover his breath, I inquired:

"What on earth is the matter?" He let go of another unbridled dictionary with great emphasis, but of course I did not understand one word he said and was utterly unconscious of the cause of his excitement. At the interval a very stout gentleman, who sat next to me and perceived my predicament, remarked in a guttural tone that seemed to come from somewhere down under the seat:

"It is verboten!" "What is verboten?" "To come in milt der front door." "Is that so?" I exclaimed, and the conductor is making all this rumpus because I came in from the front platform? Should I go back again?" "I think it was necessary. He might get another fit."

I returned to my standing place on the front platform, where the conductor followed me, and he bowed and smiled and seemed deeply gratified that the rules had been vindicated without an appeal to the police. I have since learned that he treated me with great consideration. If he had been faithful

to his duties he would have stopped the car and turned me over to a policeman at the next corner, who would have imposed a fine of four and perhaps six marks as a penalty of violation of the mysterious ordinance which forbids the use of the front door of a street car. There are several people here who have been fined for the same offence.

A NOVEL POLAR EXPEDITION!

Ten Brave Men With a Small Fishing Snack in Cold Arctic Regions.

[Washington Evening Star.] Each summer and early fall numbers of trees have their trunks dotted with the thin, brown shells of locusts. From a point near the middle of the back to between the eyes, each shell has a split.

Almost every one of these insects undergoes its metamorphosis at night. The apparent reason for this change only after darkness sets in is that the locusts may escape injury or death from enemies while they are soft and unable to move.

Last summer I found a grub just as it emerged from the ground near the foot of a large maple tree. It walked slowly, and with seeming difficulty, and no wonder, its whole existence having been passed down in the earth, where it was busy sucking the sap from the tree's roots. I was anxious to see the whole change, and as it was late in the afternoon, I carried the grub into the house and allowed it to creep up a twig which I placed in a bottle.

When it reached the top of the twig, unable to go farther, it carefully fastened its sharp digging claws into the wood, and rendered perfectly still. Then it was I obtained a photograph. I was anxious to get a whole series of photographs of the change, but night came on.

While examining the grub I overturned the twig, and it was thrown off. I tried to replace it, and found that it had lost the power of using its legs. I fastened it back the best I could and watched it closely, as I knew it must be about ready to change.

Presently the skin split down the back and across between the eyes. Gradually the split widened, and between the dirty brown skin of the grub a tender green showed the perfect insect within. In fifteen minutes the insect had its head clear of the old shell and it made a slow forward and backward movement to free itself. As the body emerged from the old shell the insect gave a shivering motion, evidently to free its legs from the hardening envelope.

In an hour and a quarter the locust had got out of its old earthly body and was expanding and drying its wings for flight early in the morning. Gradually the tender pea green of the body changed to dark olive as it hardened with exposure to the air. I was much interested in watching this wonderful transformation. It showed how strongly instinct gives all life the impulse to do certain definite things.

In writing of this insect I have used the common but erroneous name locust. It is really a cicada. The locust proper is a grasshopper. But in this country the name locust is commonly used for this cicada that it is probably permissible. This particular one was a two-year cicada. The other which we have is the seventeen-year cicada, or seventeen-year locust. The common two-year locust's grub stays in the ground and does not attain its full growth for two years. The seventeen-year locust requires seventeen years under ground to obtain its growth. In the south, the summers being longer, they only require thirteen years for their full growth.

QUEER DIET OF DAINTY HUMMING BIRDS. A flash of emerald in the strong sunlight, a drowsy whirling of wings and a slender body poised just under the hanging clusters of the honey-suckle blossoms. Carefully the long, slender, curved bill probes each blossom. Someone moves, and it is gone—a glint of green in the summer air.

From watching these tiny bits of bird life as they sip the sweets of flowers has grown the popular idea that they live exclusively on this diet. For a long time I never saw humming birds feed on anything more substantial, so I too shared the popular belief. My eyes were opened one bright, sunny morning, when, as the sun peeped over the eastern hills, the vales were draped in mist, each small spider web was a silver cloth mantling weed, shrub and tree, I was sitting looking into a group of cedar trees which stood in the yard, when my attention was attracted by several ruby-throated humming birds darting about. For a few moments I could not understand what they were doing in the trees, as they were feeding on no blossoms for the birds to visit.

By this time I had become deeply interested in their seemingly erratic movements, as they darted in and out of the dense green foliage. I walked out and stood immediately under the trees and watched. A humming bird rushed out just over my head and appeared to fly through a delicate little spider web which hung between two small twigs. At the instant it seemed on the point of passing through the lace-like web it suddenly backed, and not a dew drop was shaken. It repeated this maneuver again and again, and each time it deftly picked the tiny spider from the center of the web.

Since then I have seen humming birds feeding on spiders quite often. I find they are fond of catching them early in the morning, when they are heavy and dull with the chilly dew.

CHISEL-LIKE TEETH OF THE SQUIRREL.

Quite often someone will ask, "How do squirrels break nuts?" If the nuts under a tree where a squirrel has its nest are examined, it will be seen that they have a row of small holes drilled in each side. The instrument which can cut into the hard shells of seasoned walnuts must be strong and well adapted to their work.

The front teeth of squirrels are indeed wonderful chisels, and cut into the walnut with great rapidity. They have often seen squirrels sitting on their hind legs busily engaged in cutting into nuts, but no doubt you have never seen how the teeth are formed to do this work.

In man's teeth the soft dentine is in the interior, and comprises the greater part of their bulk. It is covered with the hard, strong enamel which protects in from wearing away in chewing. The enamel on a squirrel's tooth is all on the front, and the dentine makes up the rest of the tooth.

When the squirrel cuts with its sharp teeth the soft dentine wears away fast, while the hard front of enamel, and the top of the tooth is chisel-shaped, lower in the rear and coming to a sharp edge in front. Thus a squirrel really keeps its teeth sharp by using them.

SWEET CAPORAL CIGARETTES.

INSECTS AND BIRDS

How the Locust Changes Its Clothes.

What Humming Birds Feed Upon—The Strength of the Squirrel's Chisel-Like Teeth.

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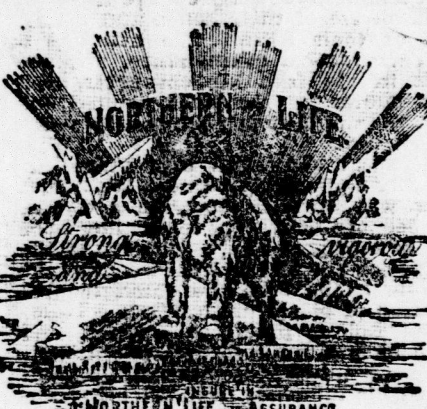
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BEESWAX

As Good as Cold Cash in the Hardware Trade—Worth About 70c a Pound.

[Chicago Inter-Ocean.]

It will surprise many people to learn that in almost every part of the United States there is something that merchants regard just as good as the cold cash. That something seems commonplace for it is nothing more than beeswax. But it is only in one branch of trade that beeswax is current, and this one the average person would least suppose—the hardware line. The reason why the hardware stores handle beeswax was explained the other day by a prominent wholesale dealer. It appears that all through the south, as well as in other parts of the country, the tin peddlers swap their wares for beeswax, which they get very cheap.

They make a nice profit on their tinware in the trade, and they also get a profit on the beeswax when they turn it over to the retailers in hardware. The beeswax passes from them to the wholesale hardware men in the cities, and they ship it in barrels to New York. Wholesale hardware dealers often receive notices from customers that they have shipped a certain number of barrels of beeswax to apply on account. Beeswax is always a staple article and in the trade is just as good as cash at all times.

Like many other goods, it sometimes fluctuates in price, but there is always a steady demand for it at the market value. Before the patent hives and honeycombs came into use some years ago the wholesale price of beeswax was 25 cents a pound. Where large numbers of bees were kept the patent comb was used, and the consequence was that the bees didn't have to manufacture any comb, and in the course of a year the production was decreased so much that the price went up to 70 cents a pound wholesale. It went even higher than that for a while, and then it fell again, but it has never got back to where it was before the patents were adopted. If it were not for the tens of thousands of small beekeepers who cling to the old style of handling bees the price of beeswax would be more than \$1 a pound.

The amount of money in the United States last year was \$30 66 per capita. English insurance companies are trying



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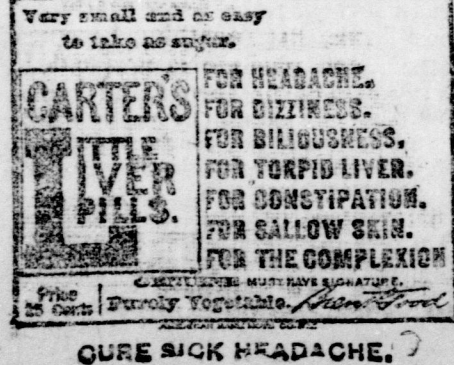
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