

HOUSEHOLD.

One Solution.

The woman of the house looked out undaunted with her calm, clear eyes. 'There is a solution to all problems,' she said. 'The remedy for the evil you speak of (the help question) and which we all deplore, lies, I think, in a return to simplicity of living. There are few households, I fancy, where much of the work might not be eliminated without leaving any real void in the actual comfort of the family. Women climb too many stairs — houses are built with too many; they arrange their meals on altogether too elaborate a scale; their furnishings are on a plan that requires too much dusting. They make too many desserts, too many preserves, institute too much fine laundry work, and worry too much over trifles. Many of their cares might be reduced to a minimum if they were only advanced enough to see things in their proper light.

Another besetting sin in middle-class families is that in the absence of servants the husband does not hold himself responsible for the performance of the heavier tasks as he should do. There is not one man in ten in this walk of life who would not have ample time to take most, if not all, of the heavier household duties of his wife's shoulders if he would only set himself resolutely about it. I know a number of doctors, ministers and lawyers who live in communities where help is scarce and poor, who make a practice of exercising their muscles in this way, and who have as their reward comfortable homes, properly kept, and healthy, happy, pretty wives, who are not worked to death, even though a domestic seldom crosses the threshold. No, indeed, my dear, you mustn't think that the tragedy of the help question is sufficiently serious to devastate and lay waste all, or half, or quarter, or even an eighth of the homes on this continent. Certainly not while good husbands, with plenty of brawn and muscle, are left to preserve our equilibrium in nature.'—'Jenness-Miller Monthly.'

Shield the Dull Children.

There is usually one of a family of children who is slower to learn than the others, just as some develop physically less rapidly than others; and it is for those slow ones that we plead.

These children are often allowed, by the negligence or ill-judgment of parents, to be made the butt of jests on the part of other members of the family. This is wrong.

Many times these slower children are sensitive to remarks on the subject, and are not only made miserable and unhappy by it, but their mental development and growth are retarded by the discouragement, and a fear of asking questions that follows.

Lives are embittered by the cruel jests of brothers and sisters far oftener than careless people imagine, and what is a natural peculiarity of a certain child's constitution is spoken of as if it were a fault or crime to be ashamed of or hidden.

The seemingly dull boy of a family is often the one who makes the family name illustrious.—N. Y. 'Ledger.'

Injured Fingers.

Jammed fingers.—Few people have escaped jammed fingers, and as the pain caused when the finger is jammed in the door is excruciating in the extreme for the first few minutes, it is well to know of some means of relief. The finger should be plunged into water as hot as can possibly be borne. This application of hot water causes the nail to expand and soften, and the blood pouring out beneath it has more room to flow; thus the pain is lessened. The finger should then be wrapped in a bread and water poultice. A jammed finger should never be neglected; as it may lead to mortification of the bone if it is badly crushed, and amputation of the finger must follow. Jammed toes are usually caused by the falling of heavy weights, and should be treated in the same way as a jammed finger.

Above all, do not neglect to have plenty of fresh fruit on the table at every meal. Ripe, fresh fruit freely partaken of will do more to keep one comfortable in hot weather than all the fans, ice cream and cold water in the world.

Clothes-Pins.

Have you seen some busy housewife hanging out clothes on a cold, windy day, taking off a clothes-pin, each time a garment is added to the line, trying to make one pin hold two and sometimes three articles? Since good clothes-pins can be had for five cents per dozen, it seems rather far-fetched saving to stand on the icy ground double the time really required to shake out and hang the clothes, and run the risk of taking cold while so doing.

Selected Recipes.

Fruit cake.—Soak three cups of dried apples over night in warm water, chop slightly in the morning, then simmer two hours in two cups of molasses. Make a cake of two eggs, one cup of sugar, one cup of sweet milk, three-quarters of a cup of butter, one and a half teaspoonfuls of soda, and flour enough to make a stiff batter; spice well. Add the apples last. Bake in quick oven.

Mock Duck.—About three pounds of round steak, one and one-half inches thick. Cover with bread-crumbs and sliced onions, season with a little butter, salt, pepper and allspice and cloves. Roll up and tie securely with cord. Put it in a baking-pan and pour one cup of boiling water over it. Bake in a moderate oven one and a half hours; basting frequently. Serve with brown gravy.

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