

ing to please the eyes of her lover, but when he became her husband, much of her regard for her personal appearance ceased. The girl who wore dainty blouses and trig shirt waist suits when she was engaged, too often dons, as a wife, an unbecoming wrapper for her household, and the hair which was once 'fluffy' too frequently merits the adjective 'frowsy.' The lover had his gifts greeted by an enthusiastic 'How perfectly lovely!' but not infrequently a husband's gifts are received with 'I really didn't read that, John.'

'But my wife knows that I love her,' or 'My husband knows that I love him, so what is the use of being formal?' is sometimes asked. No need at all for formality, but courtesy is a different thing entirely, and above all, those who love each other should not be neglectful of courtesy. The lack of it is too often 'The little rift within the lute, that by-and-by will make the music mute.' It is well for husband and wife to resolve that they will be careful of the courtesies of life, for human happiness often hinges upon seeming trifles.

Children should early be instructed not in 'Company manners,' which are obviously artificial, but in the true politeness coming from the heart. Kate Douglass Wiggin, in her charming story, 'The Birds' Christmas Carol,' humorously describes the efforts of Mrs. Ruggles to instill into her progeny the essentials of polite behavior. They have lived in blissful ignorance of it all their lives, but an invitation to Christmas dinner makes a slight knowledge of etiquette necessary. Hence Mrs. Ruggles energetically drills and coaches her little flock, only to have precepts promptly forgotten.

We laugh at Mrs. Ruggles and her lecture on deportment, but have we never been guilty of the same to a lesser degree?

'Company is coming,' the children are told, 'and you must behave like ladies and gentlemen. You must eat nicely at the table, and not talk much or interrupt anyone,' and other wise counsels are given. But you cannot condense several years' instruction in politeness into a few minutes' cramming. Teach the children to be courteous in the home, both to parents, and to one another. Let the table be a place not merely for eating, but also for social enjoyment. Train the children to eat daintily, to be thoughtful in passing the food which is near them, and to take part in the conversation, not monopolizing or interrupting it, but modestly, and politely. Teach them to say 'Please,' 'Thank you,' 'Excuse me.' In short, strive to make your 'home manners' 'company manners,' so that when guests are present there will be no anxious 'coaching,' but the children, and the whole family in fact, will be self-possessed, perfectly at ease, and able to entertain hospitably.

A great deal can be accomplished if parents are careful to be courteous to their children. A mother once having occasion to reach across her little daughter, said 'Excuse me, dear.' A guest who was present smiled quizzically, and asked, 'Are you always as particular as that?'

'Certainly,' replied the mother, 'I want Ruth to be polite to me, and so I must be polite to her.' There is everything in the fact of a good example.

The power and influence of a Christian home cannot be overestimated, and that home where thoughtful, loving courtesy prevails is the one to which the children will look back after they have left it, and to which they will joyfully return—for after all, what is nearer to Heaven than a true home?

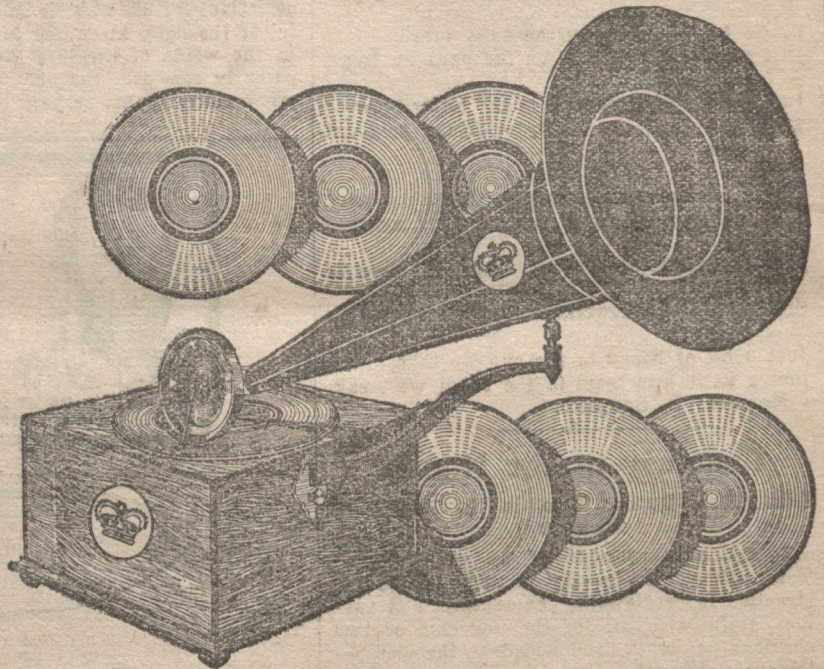
**Selected Recipes.**

**Pop-overs.**—Take two eggs, beat them separately and well, beat two cups of milk and stir in, then lightly add, beating all the while, two cups of sifted flour and a pinch of salt. Then beat until very light. When the batter is a mass of foam pour gently into small bowls or gem pans and bake in a very quick oven for thirty minutes at least, longer, if possible.

**Lemon Honey.**—Into three ounces of fresh butter and a cupful of sugar, melted together, stir the beaten yolks of three eggs, into which have been mixed the grated peel of a large lemon. Stir over the fire till it begins to thicken, and then add juice of the lemon. Continue stirring till as thick as honey, then pour into jelly tumblers and cover. It makes a filling for a layer cake, and may be used for flavoring.

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