

About the House.

SYSTEM FOR HOUSEWORK.

If the thoughtful housewife will follow the plan suggested below she will never regret it. More system in housekeeping is the remedy for nearly all the minor evils connected with the present-day help problem.

No one would expect to establish a successful business without conducting it upon a systematic basis. Especially would this be important in a business requiring employees; then should method be employed in even the least important parts.

Many fail to recognize housekeeping as a business that must be conducted with the same precision as a business of a different nature, in order for it to run smoothly and successfully. To employ method in housekeeping is an exception and not the rule; the different kinds of work are oftentimes performed whenever the inclinations seem to dictate, the greatest part of the work of the entire week being allowed to remain undone until, perhaps, only two days remain in which to do the work of six; and, in consequence, the strength is overtaxed in doing that which might have been done with no injury to the worker had it been done systematically.

System cannot be eliminated from the housekeeping of those who are dependent upon but one servant to do the general housework; and the housewife must herself do the systematizing, as few servants are capable of doing it wisely.

Sit down with pen and paper, and, under the head of Usual Every-Day Work, write down in the order in which it could be performed most conveniently and with dispatch, the work which seems necessary to be done daily. Determine what rooms must receive daily attention and the work to be done in them, if they must be thoroughly swept and dusted, etc.; what cupboards, shelves, dressers, etc., must receive daily cleaning in kitchen and pantry; the work that must be done in sleeping rooms; the lamps that must receive daily attention; the rooms that require a second setting in order after the noon meal; in fact, every item should be jotted down, even the washing of dishes. This is for the purpose of appointing a special time for the doing of each piece of work; not a certain time of day, but one kind of work should be given a place upon the paper before or after another, and the work to be done in the order in which it has been written; as certain kinds of work if done before another will hasten the whole work of the day, and fuel may also be saved in this way.

Next, determine what work must be done to keep the house in a satisfactory condition throughout the entire week, the work which does not require repetition each day; and divide it as equally as possible into six parts, and assign a certain part to a certain day of the week. To one day assign the washing; to another the ironing; to another a general cleaning of the whole house, that is, the washing of windows, wood-work that requires a weekly cleaning, cupboards, china-closets, sink-closets, etc.; to another day assign the sweeping and dusting of rooms that do not receive this attention daily; to another day the baking of cakes, cookies, pies, etc., and the washing of floors. Besides, there are various small jobs of work that must be included with these already named, but they should be added to the work of the days which are the lightest to perform. There should be no such additions to the work of the days to which washing and sweeping are assigned.

This first draft of a housekeeping plan will prove to be a most imperfect one, but by using it for reference in executing the work of a week, mistakes will be noted, and corrections made, until it seems satisfactory. It should then be copied into a small blank-book and given the servant for reference. In six months' time the housekeeper can revise this first plan and greatly improve it.

It may seem foolish to bring housework down to so methodical a plan as this, but it has actually been put into practice, and its value proven beyond doubt. It has proved especially helpful in cases where a frequent change of young and inexperienced help has been necessary. At least a month must be given it for trial, and in that time order will be restored in the household where confusion previously reigned. Duties that, if forgotten and left unperformed, would put the whole household machinery out of gear, are far more likely to receive attention if assigned to a certain day and a certain time. A place for everything, and everything in its place, is a valuable motto, but its equal is found in a time for everything, and everything done at the proper time.

THE MORNING NAP.

The following article sets before us in an interesting manner the way in which a bad beginning in the morning,

owing to lack of resolution, may spoil the whole day.

It seems a very insignificant thing, that morning nap, but what an amount of trouble it manages to stir up in otherwise peaceful families! A certain household is kept in almost constant turmoil wholly because of this seductive little self-indulgence. Nearly all the family jars may be traced to the fact that one member of the family did not have strength of mind enough to get up in the morning when he was called.

The mother is one of those mortals who have the formed habit of early rising, and she cannot understand the indolence and inertia which make any one else drowsily in bed on a beautiful bright morning. She herself longs to get up and get at the day's work. It would be utterly impossible for her to waste the best part of the day in sleep. The rest of the family, however, are not so fortunate. One in particular is a slave to his extra forty winks.

It is not that he does not desire to rise in time. He has formed resolution after resolution, but all to no purpose. He would like to get started early as well as any one, and every night he is sure that the next day he will, but in the morning it does not seem at all the same. So down he comes, rushing, half an hour late each morning, angry with himself because he knows he will be chasing that lost half-hour vainly all through the day, angry with the rest of the world because he knows he is in the wrong, and he imagines they think so.

It is all a bad habit, simply one of those weaknesses that people yield to because they don't seem large enough to fight against. No real struggle seems worth while. It would be easier after a few determined efforts to overcome this inclination, and wouldn't it be worth while to make such efforts if we thought at length we could gain the ranks of those most blessed among men, the people who like to get up early?

TWO NEW RECIPES FOR SOUP.

The two following recipes have been proven most delicious. They give hints of other uses to which the new flaked foods may be put.

Cream of Pea Soup.—One quart of chicken stock boiled slowly for thirty minutes, with three cloves, two bay leaves and five drops of burnt onion juice. Strain, and add one large cupful of flaked peas and cook ten minutes, then add one large cupful of cream and milk mixed, one heaping tablespoonful of butter, one-half teaspoonful of salt and a pinch of cayenne pepper.

Great care should be used not to use more than a pinch of the latter. When it boils up it is ready to serve. Serve in cups with croutons made by browning in the oven small cubes of bread until they are crisp like toast.

Bean Soup.—One quart of beef stock, two bay leaves, three cloves and a small onion, boiled together for thirty minutes; strain and add one cupful of flaked beans; let it cook slowly for ten minutes, then add two-thirds of a cupful of milk and cream, a dessertspoonful of butter, a pinch of cayenne pepper and one-half teaspoonful of salt. Serve at once with croutons.

The flaked peas and beans have only lately been placed on the market in one pound packages, and are most nutritious as well as appetizing.

SARDINELLES.

Select a can of good sized, firm sardines, drain off the oil and place them on brown paper for a moment before broiling; arrange them on a double broiler and broil two minutes on each side over a brisk fire; cut strips of bread a little longer and wider than the sardines, removing all crusts; fry in smoking hot fat. Drain on brown paper. Lay a sardine on each piece of bread and stand in the oven until ready to serve, then sprinkle each with a teaspoonful of grated Parmesan cheese; garnish with lemon and parsley.

ENGLISH NOTES.

In the year 1600 the manufacture of silk began in England.

The notes of the Bank of England cost exactly one-half penny each. Grosvenor square probably contains more millionaires than any equal area in London.

It is noted that more society weddings take place in London on Saturday than on any other day in the week.

While the English law provides for the organization of labor bodies it deprives them of the privileges of incorporation.

An English economist, making use of the population statistics for the last 50 years, figures out that by 1950 the population of England will have become stationary.

The British government encourages inventors and scientists by extending financial assistance to those whose work is considered of sufficient value to warrant such development.

The grants are made through the British Royal Society, and range in value from \$50 to \$2,500 according to the nature of the invention to be exploited.

WITH THE SUPERSTITIOUS

There is much discussion now whether man or woman is the more superstitious, and statistics are being collected by some would-be accurate individuals to prove one side or the other. The latest report is that the men are more superstitious, but it must be understood that this investigation is not conducted with the strictest oversight, and there may be some flaws in it.

There is a growing superstition in favor of cutting the nails before breakfast on Monday morning in order to obtain a present before the week is out. This may truthfully be called a popular superstition and would seem to be an easy one. Unfortunately within the last two months a serious controversy has been raised as to which is the correct shoulder over which the new moon should be seen in order to bring good luck. One certain rule, however, is that "to see the moon in your breast for a month you'll know no rest." In other words, it is not well to meet the moon face to face—indeed it is but one degree less dangerous than to see it first through glass. The superstition of kissing the hand to the moon seven times and making three wishes while so doing does away with a great deal of the evil of seeing the moon over the wrong shoulder, and, besides, the three wishes may come true. Indeed, they are more likely to than "wishing on a leaf of hay," which in case you do not see the leaf again, means fulfillment of the wish.

Certainly, if one carries out many of the petty superstitions when living in a crowded city one will lead a lively life. To see three white horses in succession and no red headed woman is a forerunner of good luck. The latter untoward incident, however, can be done away with if a wish is made and then one turns around three times in succession. But all this has the disadvantage of tending to make one conspicuous in a crowded street. Still, it can be accomplished quietly by the use of a little tact and a great deal of sublime unconsciousness of surroundings.

To open an umbrella in the house means to bring down a shower of trouble for the family in the house as well as for the individual who opens the umbrella. Even in choosing an umbrella or a parasol in a shop care must be taken to open it from the side and not up and down, for it is far better to buy an inferior silk than to run the certain risk of ill luck that will follow opening a new umbrella and holding it over one's head inside of any building.

Going under a ladder in the street really means a criminal risk of one's fortune, not to speak of the present danger that the ladder may fall. To step with the right foot first on entering for the first time a new house will insure such a happy life that it would seem foolish not to take the trouble. In visiting for the first time at a strange house it behooves the guest to name the four corners of the bed with the name of some one of the opposite sex, and the first corner that is looked at in the morning will be the future bride or groom as the case may be. The fact of being already married does not interfere with this, for it is known that second marriages are lucky. Salt spilt at the table was formerly considered very dangerous, serving as a warning that a quarrel would take place between the two people seated beside one another unless a pinch of salt was thrown over the right shoulder. But to throw a pinch of salt over the right shoulder is tempting fate, since it is a preventive of matrimony, so it is now necessary to carry the salt three times around one's head and then throw it over the left shoulder. Thus one may avert disaster, but the custom makes one somewhat conspicuous at a dinner.

Amulets and charms of all kinds are far more fashionable now than they ever were, which seems to prove that as the world advances people grow more superstitious or attach more importance to antidotes. The four leafed clover has made a very pretty pendant, in silver or glass or the crystal locket with the tiny gold rim, and has been every bit as popular as the rabbit's foot set in silver, which was supposed to ward off any possible evil from the wearer thereof. Really, from a truthful point of view, the rabbit's foot has proved sadly inefficient, for every few of the rabbits' feet that have been sold for charms have ever been correctly gathered, so to speak, in a graveyard, at the dead of night, from the left hind foot of a rabbit, by one who was the seventh son of a seventh son, because the demand for rabbits' feet came so strenuously that it was absolutely impossible to supply the market with those which had all the virtues necessary in order to secure the desired results.

The jewelled box of the fashionable woman of to-day holds no end of dainty charms and amulets, the charm and meaning of which are often known to herself and to one other, but from which it would be harder to part her than from her diamonds and pearls. The new kind of bracelet, from which hangs the charm in the shape of an open wheel of blue enamel, with numerals inside in diamond letters, like a

date of two figures, not the day of the month or anything of that sort, is very effective and pretty as bijouterie, for it has much more to recommend it in the eyes of the owner than its mere beauty. It means that that is the date when good luck comes to her, that and as such must needs be considered. The expense of this little ornament is considerable but the superstitious say it is well worth it.

Wearing the stone that is supposed to be, or is acknowledged to be, the stone of the month in which one is born is another of the expensive superstitions, but it is an infallible one and it seems worth while investing in even a minute sapphire, or ruby, or emerald, as the case may be. Much better luck attends any one who can have a birth stone given him or her, rather than to buy it. In the matter of opals the fact of their being birth stones does away with their ill luck, and the jewellers are very positive now that it is perfectly safe to order opals, even if they are not ones birth stone, provided one's birth stone is also bought at the same time. It certainly sounds plausible, if it does savor of good business methods.

That pearls mean tears has been acknowledged for centuries, but it is now accepted that they may mean happy tears and it is good luck indeed to own a string of pearls; only they must be worn all the time, so that they will partake of the owner's characteristics and absorb all the evils that might overtake her if she did not wear them. Either the perfect salt water expensive pearl or the fresh water, which are known as the irregular, pearls are now most eagerly sought for as pendants. They are set with tiny diamond sprays around them and worn on a platinum chain. Like the string of pearls, they must be worn all the time in order to avert misfortune. Clusters of moonstones as pendants are also exceedingly lucky, but they are not nearly so pretty as the pearls. They never fail, however, to bring good luck, so it is said.

A very curious thing in regard to all these pendants and amulets is that the imitations are said to be absolutely useless from a superstitious point of view. Fortunately, they are so charmingly decorative that it is possible to wear them, for, if they do not bring good luck, they indicate good fortune in possessing them, the same as any other knock-knock.

WINTER WRINKLES.

He—Has your father any objections to my calling on you? She, an heiress—No. But he said you couldn't call on him.

Mr. Suburb—My neighbor has a big dog that we are all afraid of. What do you advise? Lawyer—Get a bigger one. Five dollars, please.

Sally Gay—Wally Softsmith is a great flatterer, isn't he? Dolly Swift—O, yes, he always talks as if he were dictating an epitaph for one's tombstone.

Ah! she moaned, I was a goose to believe him when he said I was a duck. Yet she could blame no one but herself, for she was no spring chicken.

Brown—So you call yourself a hero? And you were shot in the back, I believe. Black—What of that? There were lots of other fellows in the fight who weren't hit at all.

Customer, at soda fountain—Have you any coffee flavor? Clerk, briskly—Yes, sir. Does it taste like coffee? Um—er—no, but it looks like coffee.

Banker, to crushed tragedian—No. I haven't seen you yet; I have not been inside a theater for two years! Crushed tragedian—It's five years since I've been inside a bank.

She—There isn't one man in a million, who would be so mean to his wife and children as you are! He—Now, that's what I admire in you, dear; you have such a head for figures.

To speak of the "bonds of marriage" is hardly using the right term. What's wrong about it? Bonds, as a rule, are supposed to gain an interest with time.

Your son has a very robust appetite. Yes, I'm so ashamed of him. He always overeats when we have company. That's the only chance I ever get, said the terrible infant.

He—Darling, were you ever in love before. She—To be frank with you, George, I have been twice. How else would I be able to tell whether I am in love or not now?

I wish to see a bonnet, said Miss Passee, aged 40. For yourself, miss, inquired the French milliner. Yes, Marie, run down stairs and get me hats for ladies between 18 and 25. Bonnet sold.

He, in his wrath—When I married you I had no idea what a fool you were. She, in her equanimity—The fact that I was willing to marry you should have removed all doubts on that point.

Her Father—You have been paying attention to my daughter. You haven't proposed yet? His Lordship—Not yet, sir. Her Father—Now, let us come right down to business. What will you take not to propose?

Mrs. Fijit—I'm afraid poor George isn't feeling well. Mrs. Fussy—Poor dear! Mrs. Fijit—Yes, I gave him a box of cigars Christmas and he hasn't smoked one; you know when a man stops smoking, there's something wrong.

Waiter—I spik some Ingloesh, Mon-

sieur. Customer—Oh! very well; but most of the waiters understand my French. Waiter—Pardon, Monsieur, but may be I haf not been long enough in ze countree to understand ze customaire's French.

I think, suggested the man who was doing the talking, that instead of looting towns and villages in China the powers should leave the country. They may leave the country, replied the philosopher of the party, but they'll take everything else they can.

There was that upon his breath which shocked her. Oh, John! she cried, our married life has been happy so far, but now I see a cloud arising no bigger than a man's hand, which—Not as big as a man's hand, John interrupted huskily, I only had about four fingers.

Euphemia, said young Spoonmore, will you marry me? I will not! replied the young woman, indignantly. Miss Lickladder, he rejoined, making an entry in a small memorandum book, and replacing it in his pocket, you have the honor of being the first girl who has refused me since the new century began.

Smith—I suppose Dobber regards himself the greatest artist that ever handled brush. Jones—You do Dobber an injustice. He never presumed to regard himself in any such light. Why, I have heard him say, very modestly, that he was a second Raphael. Isn't that admitting that Raphael was a greater painter than himself?

CLIMBING BLARNEY CASTLE.

Accidents Which Have Happened to Its Famous Stone.

Blarney town is a small manufacturing place. The old castle, however, is well outside the village, in surroundings wholly rural. It stands on a low hill whence it looks forth from amid a grove of trees down on a broad field that is used as a public pleasure ground. A slight wooden bridge spanning a swift, clean little river gives entrance to the field in which are many noble shade trees with rustic seats about their base and in the open a number of framework swings.

The castle has suffered little from the ravages of time except that the roof and the wooden floors have fallen. You can climb winding stairs and follow devious passages into vaulted chambers and chilly cells to your heart's content. All this is very romantic, but it is worth while remembering that in spite of historic charm and strong appeal to the fancy the castle is a relic of an age of barbarism, when the country was divided among many petty chiefs, each distrustful of the other even when on terms of nominal friendship.

The castle is many stories high, and in the topmost cornice is the far famed Blarney stone, that powerful talisman which you have only to kiss to be endowed with eloquence for life. But as the vertical measurement of the cornice is about six feet and its projection beyond the rampart head foremost, a friend clinging to either head, but at such a dizzy height the proceedings smacked so seriously of danger that of late years a row of great spikes guards the parapet against further attempts of the sort.

The stone eloquent at one time dropped out. It was, however, promptly restored and is now fixed in place by two heavy iron rods, which clasp it to the cornice. Were it not that the Blarney stone comes opposite one of the frequent gaps which alternate with the or-hrust of the supporting stones of the cornice it would be practically inaccessible. As things are, the only way to bestow the mystic kiss is to get down on your knees, double up like a jackknife and crane your neck across the yawning vacancy. I regarded the stone with interest and wished I was more of an acrobat or more courageous.

But I was deterred by that lofty hole which, though not much more than a foot broad and four long, was still plenty large enough to fall through, and I decided to get along without the eloquence. The story of the stone dates back to the middle of the fifteenth century, when Cormac McCarthy the Strong, a descendant of the ancient kings of Munster and builder of the fortress, chanced one day to save an old woman from drowning. For a reward she offered Cormac a golden tongue which should have the power to influence men and women, friends and foes, as he wished. She told him to mount and keep and kiss a certain stone in the wall five feet below the gallery running around the top. He followed her directions and obtained all the fluent persuasiveness she had promised.

The tale of this new acquisition and its origin spread, and the Blarney stone has been drawing pilgrims to itself ever since.—Boston Herald.

Tobacco Stories.

The Westminster Gazette gives some interesting information concerning the use of tobacco by the clergy in different religious bodies. "John Wesley," it says, "forbade his preachers to smoke or chew tobacco or take snuff." This rule still obtains in the Wesleyan ministry.

"Thackeray hoped the day would come when he would see a bishop lolling out the Athenaeum with a cigar in his mouth or at least a pipe stuck in his shaggy hat. He did not live to see this, but the Bishop of Manchester has publicly proclaimed the virtues of tobacco as a bond of sympathy between man and man."

"At your idol again, Mr. Hall," exclaimed a lady on discovering Mr. Robert Hall, the celebrated divine, with a pipe in his mouth. "Yes," said the preacher, "burning it, ma'am."

Dog Whipper—Staggard Walker. A dog whipper was an ancient parish official whose duty was to drive out all the dogs from the church. The Wakefield accounts contain the items:

1804. Paid to Staggard Walker for whipping dogs..... 2s. 6d.
1805. For hatts shoes and bones for sexton and dog whipper..... 15s. 6d.

Another official was the person appointed to arouse members of the congregation from their slumbers during divine service. The parish accounts of Castleton record:

172. Paid to Staggard Walker..... 10s. 0d.

CORN ON THE FEET.

How They Are Formed and How They Should Be Treated.

A corn is an overgrowth of the horny layer of some portion of the skin of the foot in one spot by the shoe. It is situated generally on a prominent portion of one of the toes, more commonly the little toe, but may be on the sole of the foot or even on the ankle bone.

It begins by an increase in size of the papillae in the deeper part of the skin and induces an increase in the production of the scurf skin, or horny layer. The scurf skin soon becomes inordinately thick and, as pressure from the shoe continues, is pushed back against the enlarged papillae, causing their final atrophy.

This formation of a corn affords a curious illustration of the defeat of nature's well meant efforts to prevent trouble, for the increased thickness of the horny layer is intended to afford protection to the enlarged and tender papillae, a purpose which would be well accomplished did the process stop there. But the friction by the shoe keeps up the irritation, and more and more of the horny covering is manufactured until instead of affording protection it is actually the cause of all the pain.

After a time the spot where the corn is seems to acquire a bad habit, and the formation of the corn will go on even after the offending shoe has been discarded.

The first thing to do for a corn is to get new shoes that are so snug as not to rub the foot anywhere and so loose as not to make pressure in one spot more than in another.

The top of the corn may be pared with a sharp knife, extreme care being taken, especially in the case of the great toe, not to cut the sound skin, or it may be filed down to the level of the surrounding skin, or the entire corn may sometimes be loosened with a dull knife blade or by the finger nail and extracted from its bed.

When this cannot be done, removal may be facilitated by moistening the corn every other day with glacial acetic acid, the softened part being subsequently scraped away with a dull knife or a small file. A salve containing salicylic acid applied every night will also frequently loosen the corn so that it can be pulled out. This is the basis of many of the popular corn plasters.

A soft corn, which is merely a corn that is always moist on account of its location on the inner surface of one of the toes, should be treated by keeping a piece of absorbent cotton between the toes so as to prevent maceration and by bathing it frequently with strong alum water.

THE DELTOID MUSCLE.

It Plays a Prominent Part in the Tailor's Business.

"It is a rare thing," said the talking man, "to find a merchant tailor who can get a 'perfect fit' in the clothes he makes—so rare, in fact, that I have sometimes thought that tailors, of all artisans, knew least how to do their work right. Yet the tailor, or the cutter, rather, is not always to blame, for a perfectly cut garment may be ruined by a careless seam or a slight departure from the line set for his needle may throw the whole thing out of plumb. Still, a good tailor ought to know when a garment fits and should either be able to correct its unfitness or not let it leave the shop. Speaking of the cutting part, I remember an incident that occurred once at a convention of cutters held in Cincinnati. The subject for discussion was the cutting and fitting of garments, and a testy old Scotchman had the floor. He said in effect that if a coat were cut to set right upon the deltoid muscle the wearer would always find it comfortable and well fitting."

"In fact," said he, "the deltoid muscle determines the fit of a coat."

"Will the gentleman state what and where the deltoid muscle is?" asked a cutter on the other side of the chamber.

"The Scotchman turned on him sharply. 'Sir,' he said angrily, 'do you claim to be a cutter and not know where the deltoid muscle is located? Don't you know, sir, that a knowledge of the human anatomy is as important to the tailor as it is to the surgeon? Do you expect to cut a garment to fit an object whose every line and curve you do not know? I would as well try to fit a plug to a hole without knowing the size of the hole. No, sir, the gentleman will not state what and where the deltoid muscle is. It is your duty, sir, to know the deltoid muscle, not mine to instruct you.'"

"The discussion ended there, simply because there was nobody present to carry it on, for I don't believe a man in the place could have known anything about deltoid muscles. I know I didn't, but as soon as I got to a dictionary I looked it up. Later I gave the matter some study, and I found that the Scotchman was right."

Her Introduction.

This was the unconventional note that a young matron on the upper west side of town had handed her by her maid the other day.

"My Dear Mrs. G.—I am dead and buried, and I recommend Mrs. P., who brings this note, as my worthy and capable successor."

Startling wasn't it? But an interview with the bearer of the mysterious note revealed the fact that it was a missive from the washlady of the family, who, as it later appeared, was on her death-bed. The dying woman had taken this method of recommending a friend for her place as manipulator of the family linen. The bearer of the missive got the job and on her first appearance announced that the writer of the note had "passed happily away" a few days after penning her sensational note of introduction.

Then Pa Blushed.

Johnny—Pa, doesn't a man sometimes speak so rapidly that the stenographer can't follow him and say so many wonderful things that they are lost in admiration of his eloquence?

Pa—Yes, I have heard that something of the kind does happen now and then. But why do you ask, Johnny?

Johnny—I notice that when you make a speech the papers always say, "Mr. Breeze also spoke."—Boston Transcript.

His Maidly.

Mrs. Talker—I saw Dr. Osom going into your house this morning. Is any one sick?

Mrs. Fanning—My husband. He just got home from his vacation.