

HOUSEHOLD.

'Mother.'

(Robert J. Burdette, in the 'S. S. Times.')

I have known many women who have brought the picture of the Christ into my thought as I noted their daily work. Smiling over the humblest service. That's mother. Cheerfully doing the things of which the rest of us have said, 'You catch me!' That's mother. After the long, long day's work,—five or six to seven hours over union time,—girding herself and kneeling to wash the feet of guests that were unworthy to cross the threshold of her sweet home. That's mother. Sinking into a chair, weary and faint, only to rise from it with the unflinching smile on her dear, tired face, to wait on some man who has worked eight hours that day; or to mend a jacket or catcher's mitt for a boy who has played all day; or to sew on a bit of lace or adjust a ribbon or change something about a gown for a girl who has had such a good time all day that she can't stop, but must go out for a better time in the evening. That's mother, Sacrificing this hope, that comfort, and that rest, for people who forget to say 'thank you.' That's mother. Laying off her wraps and staying home from prayer-meeting or church because somebody else danced herself or played himself into a headache. That's mother. Getting accustomed to hear the rest of the family say, as they get ready for the evening's entertainment: 'Oh, no, mother doesn't care to go. Church and prayer-meeting are mother's only dissipations.' Well, those are about all some families allow her. They don't cost anything, and the rest of the family don't want to go.

Cleanly Housekeeping.

Housekeepers have, according to experts, a great deal yet to learn in the way of cleanly housekeeping. They have admitted that the cloth duster is to be preferred to the feather stirrer-up of dust, but too many still get no further in the application of this knowledge. A cloth duster must be kept clean, but housemaids and housekeepers may be seen at almost any time wiping over furniture and other surfaces with cloths so heavy with dust that they shed more than they take up. It is a good plan to put duster bags, made of some washable material, on every floor in the house. In these the dusters should be kept and there is nothing better for dusting purposes, as has been often said, than the cheap, sleazy cheesecloth. After every use these cloths should be washed out, scalded two or three times a week and quickly dried before they are returned to the dust bags. The bags in their turn should be frequently laundered. Some housekeepers will arise at this juncture, probably, to protest against the effort needed to keep housemaids from a reckless waste of dust-cloths. The average girl asks perennially for cleaning cloths and looks upon them as she does waste paper, keeping them till they are filthy, then throwing them away as useless. It is admitted that it takes patient persistence and much reiteration of precept and example to counteract this tendency. The subject seems trivial, but is really a most important one, uncared for dust cloths being a prolific source of danger in the household.—Selected.

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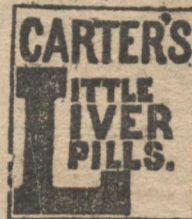
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