

## HOUSEHOLD.

### Exhibiting Children.

Perhaps the most delightful quality of childhood is its unaffected simplicity. A young child plays no part. It lives a natural life without reserve and without pretence. Things are just what they seem and the child would not have them otherwise.

There is such a charm about a child's unconsciousness of self and its native ignorance of even the possibility of concealed motives in others, that every heart warms toward childhood, and the frank sayings of children are all welcomed and treasured. Many a truth is uttered by lips which older minds have ignored. The spirit of childhood has been declared to be the essential spirit of the kingdom of heaven.

What an infinite pity, therefore, that parents and teachers should so often destroy all this charm by their ill-considered efforts to show children off. Little Gertrude learns to repeat a bit of poetry or to sing a simple song, and her mother forgets the danger of publicity and immediately attempts to have her exhibit her attainment to admiring relatives. Of course they applaud, even though the poetry or song be cruelly maltreated. Gertrude naturally thinks she has done something to be proud of. So a little of the bloom of childhood's charm is rubbed off. Let this process go on indefinitely and certain very positive results can be predicted. The little girl will become a self-conscious bore. What at first seemed attractive in her performances will soon be overbalanced by a faultiness increasing through neglect. A certain priggishness and selfish desire for applause will succeed simple and frank self expression. And soon there will be manifest in the formerly innocent child a willingness to play a public role which will bring her many a troublous experience, and prevent her from the truer friendships which are granted only to those who are pure in heart.—E. H. Chandler, in the 'Advance.'

### Putting Clothes Away.

The woman who knows how to put away her belongings is not only neat, but economical and generally smart in appearance. When she comes in from a walk she never hangs up her coat by the loop inside the collar; if she puts it away in the closet, she uses a coat hanger—if she leaves it around the room, knowing she may need it soon, the hanger will keep it in shape. The skirts of her gowns never have a stringy look because they are always hooked and then hung by two loops. For a tailor made skirt she uses a small coat hanger with the ends bent down a little; this keeps the skirt in excellent shape and causes it to hang in even folds. The strings of her underskirt are tied and the garment is hung by the loops, thus never showing a hump where it has rested on the hook. For the same reason her shirt waists are always hung by the armholes, unless they have hanging loops. Handsome waists have both sleeves stuffed with tissue paper, and then laid in drawers or boxes.

Shoes are easily kept in shape by slipping a pair of trees into them as soon as they are removed from the feet, if trees are not available, newspaper will do, if it is stuffed in very tight. It is well to roll each veil on a 'stiff

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piece of paper; a single fold will often spoil the set of a veil and sometimes even mar the expression of the face. Gloves should always be removed by turning them wrong side out; they should then be turned back again, blown into shape and each finger smoothed out. Ties, especially four in hand or golf ties, should be hung to avoid creasing.

Hats, of course, should be kept out of the dust and placed so that the trimming will not be disarranged. This disposition depends so much on the hat and the available space, that each woman must use her own ingenuity. However, it is safe to say that no hat should be laid flat down on a shelf. Furs, also, should be protected from dust, and a muff should always be stood on end.

### Care of Ferns.

Contrary to the opinion of most people, the Boston fern thrives best when exposed for at least half a day to strong sunlight. An ideal place for such a fern is an east bay window. The plant never should be turned around except twice a year, once early in the spring and again in November. About the first of March cut off all the fronds on the side that has been turned toward the light. In a few weeks the young fronds will be half grown. In the autumn repeat the process. In this way all the fronds are renewed every twelve months.

Quite as important as this systematic exposure to sunlight is proper drainage. The pot which holds the fern should stand on an inverted bowl in a jardiniere. There is always water in the jardiniere, but owing to the inverted bowl it never reaches the roots of the fern. If the pot stands in water the soil sours and the roots rot, sometimes to within a few inches of the soil's surface.

Another point that must be remembered is that the roots of the fern need air. This free circulation of air is obtained by having the jardiniere several sizes larger than the inner receptacle.

Every week stir into the soil half a teaspoonful of plant-food. Be careful not to let the food touch the fern itself, but mix well with the earth about it.

If scales should get on the fern, wash it with a soft sponge dipped in a suds made from whale-oil soap. After two or three hours wash off with clear water, as the suds fill up the pores of the fern stems.

Once a day moisten the soil about the fern with a pint of cold tea or coffee.—Chicago 'Tribune.'

### A Suggestion.

(Miss Busybody.)

The teacher will find the following device, which I learned from an old German teacher, to be a great saving of noise and confusion in the school room. In place of having the pupil raise his hand, making it necessary for the teacher to ask what is wanted, let them designate what is wanted by the number of fingers raised, thus:

1 finger—may I come to you?—the teacher.  
2 fingers—may I speak?  
3 fingers—may I pass to some part of the room without speaking, to pass a book, get a drink, etc.?

4 fingers—may I leave the room?  
The little tots soon learn it and you cannot fail to be pleased with the plan.—'Popular Educator.'

### Dont's for the Eyes.

Don't use the eyes before breakfast.  
Don't read in a reclining attitude, or in bed.  
Don't use the eyes when they are tired or weak from illness.  
Don't bathe eyes that are inflamed with cold water. Use warm water.  
Don't wear a veil with black dots, or one woven with double threads.  
Don't open the eyes under water when bathing, especially in salt water.  
Don't neglect to bathe the eyes occasionally in salt water. A weak solution is best.  
Don't look too steadily from a car window at objects that are constantly flying past you.  
Don't sleep opposite a window, or where a strong light will strike the eyes on awakening.  
Don't work longer than two hours without

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closing the eyes and resting for five minutes.

Don't expose the eyes at any time to a very strong light, such as sunshine or gas or lamp light.

Don't sit facing a strong light. If possible, let the light fall on the work or book from over the shoulder.

Don't have colored shades on the lamps. Use white or ground glass. If you must have a colored shade, let it be green.

Don't rub the eyes by outward motion, but toward the nose, which rounds the ball and preserves the normal shape.

Don't fail to consult an oculist if you find that your eyesight is growing dim, or hesitate to wear glasses, if you need them.

Don't try to get cinders out of your eyes by rubbing. Dip a tiny camel's hair brush in oil and draw gently across the eyeball.

Don't fail to wash the eyes every night before retiring, so as to remove any dust that may have gathered on the lids during the day.—St. Louis 'Globe-Democrat.'

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