

## Woman and Her Work

Boston may be a conceded city as far as its inhabitants go, but we must admit that the centre of culture has a good deal to feel elevated about. Not only does she hold the record for the icy exclusiveness and cold intellectuality of her daughters, but she has been known to show even haughty New York the way, on more than one occasion, and in other branches of commerce besides the bean industry. In short Boston may be smaller than either New York or Chicago but as far as originality and go-aheadiveness, as she herself would say, she has no need to take a low seat in the synagogue, or call any man her master. She has just added one more distinction to her record, by establishing the first school for nursemaids which has ever been started in America. New York has indeed a school connected with one of its hospitals in which nursemaids are trained, but the instruction is entirely devoted to sick children, while at the Boston school the care and management of children is taught as a regular profession.

The Boston school for nursery maids is connected with the well known West end day nursery, and was intended from its first inception for the training of young girls. Just as any of the training schools in connection with the numerous hospitals have the proper preparation of young girls for the profession of nursing, as their primary object, to this institution aims to send out a certain number of graduates each year, who shall be properly qualified to take the entire charge of young children; and to whose care the most conscientious and devoted mothers may confide their little ones without uneasiness.

The very first year of the school's existence proved how great had been the need for such an institution, and caused its patrons to wonder why it had not been established long ago. And since then it has never ceased to grow and flourish. Of course it was begun on rather a small scale, but now when it has I believe, only entered upon its second year, there are between twenty and thirty girls in the school. These pupils live in a pleasant home connected with the nursery, and their course of instruction includes not only practical training in the care of children but lessons which are learned just as systematically as if they were children at school. No girl is received under eighteen or over thirty years of age, and each applicant for admission must consent to give ten months to the course of study, before she is allowed to enter. She must have a good common school education, and bring first class recommendations as to her moral character. Each maid is required to have a supply of plain underclothing, two washing dresses ten white aprons, and such simple accessories as a laundry bag, a shoe bag, brush and comb, etc. During her ten months, course she is boarded and lodged at the expense of the school, and receives five dollars a month in return for her services.

It speaks more plainly than mere words could do, of the need of employment for women of the better class, that the majority of the girls in this school are of a very refined, and intelligent type many of them being well educated young women who have become convinced by experience that it is a far better and more ennobling occupation to call for children, in a comfortable and well-regulated home at five dollars a week with many little privileges and luxuries thrown in, than to stand behind the counter of some small establishment all day for three, or even six dollars a week—the latter being almost the highest pay for a shop girl—and pay nearly all of it for board.

There are at the present time six day nurseries in the city of Boston, all in a most flourishing condition, and they offer an excellent field for those girls in practical training. At each of them one of the pupils makes her permanent home, while the others live at the nursemaid's home. Those who live in the day nurseries go to the school every day for lectures, and other instruction, a director of nurses and a medical director presiding jointly over the school. If after one month's probation a girl is found to be unfit physically, mentally or morally to assume the care of children, she is of course dismissed.

The students are taught everything connected with the proper care of infants and young children, receiving a thorough training in bathing them properly, in dressing them correctly under every possible condition; how to put on and take off their clothing, and all about their diet both during health and in sickness. Plain laundry work, plain sewing and mending also form part of the course.

The training would be incomplete with-

out some knowledge of the care of sick children and although these nursery maids are not taught to be trained nurses in the sense that the term usually implies, they yet have ample opportunities for studying all the usual forms of infant disease, as their school is really very like an infant's hospital.

The instructors are most careful not to encourage their pupils in fancying themselves capable of caring for a really sick child without the aid both of its mother and a physician, but at the same time a girl is not considered sufficiently experienced to go into service unless she knows what to do for a child who is slightly ailing or to detect the approach of disease in time to apply the proper remedies before the doctor arrives. A summer hospital for children has been established on one of the islands in Boston harbor, and here the maids are sent to gain needed experience in this branch of their business.

The lectures delivered by the faculty of the school, and by the special lecturers include such subjects as the need of truthfulness on their part, the absolute crime of frightening children, how to play kindergarten games, what to read to children, how to tell them stories, and a great deal about kindergarten work.

Places are found for the pupils in private families about two months before the maids graduate, and during this time the pupil hands her wages over to the school, still continuing to receive five dollars per month as usual. During those two months the employers make frequent reports to the school of the maid's capacity and general conduct, and as not one unfavorable report has been received so far, since the school has first opened it would seem as if a new era had dawned for the worried mother of a family, and that the day of the elderly nurse who bullies both mother and children, as well as that of the pert and irresponsible girl who knows little and cares less about the management of children—was over.

Successful as it has been so far, the school is still regarded as an experiment by the people of Boston and is being watched with great interest.

The overskirt, in the form of a pointed apron which is sometimes real, and more often simulated, is one of the new features of fashion. The point varies in depth from about the knees, to within a few inches of the foot of the skirt, and the material may be quite different from that of the lower skirt, if desired. An apron of guipure lace is very effective on some forms, and on others it is made of mousseline de soie over silk which is in contrast to the skirt. In such a case as this the bodice is supposed to match the overskirt. A short round apron of lace fitting the hips perfectly all around is strikingly pretty with the blouse waist of lace which is so much worn now and practically covered with a short low-necked bolero.

Trimming the skirt down from the waist with rows of galloon braid or ribbon set together with an openwork cross stitch, and shaped in the form of an apron, is still another form of decoration which helps to produce the effect of an overskirt. The overskirt or apron has a much softer and prettier effect if chiffon is put between the silk lining and the lace. Irish, Mechlin, Cluny and Flanders laces are all in great demand for this purpose, and thousands of yards of Valenciennes adorn the summer gowns. Real Valenciennes with the lozenge pattern is an especial favorite.

A novel feature of the newest muslin gowns is a collar, belt, and in some instances a chemisette of tucked white taffeta silk; and the other extreme, much more comfortable for this warm weather is the collar band of lace insertion without any lining at all, and the transparent chemisette.

## Travellers

Should always carry with them a bottle of Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry.

The change of food and water to which those who travel are subject, often produces an attack of Diarrhoea, which is as unpleasant and discomforting as it may be dangerous. A bottle of Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry in your grip is a guarantee of safety. On the first indication of Cramps, Colic, Diarrhoea or Dysentery, a few doses will promptly check further advance of these diseases.

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Of course it does not stand up very well, and has an annoying tendency to crease and wrinkle, but then it is so delightfully cool and comfortable, and that, after all is the main thing when the thermometer is in the nineties. A pretty touch of color for a gown of white crepe de chine is a collar band of turquoise blue, with a narrow collar of yellow turning over it.

The very latest thing in the foulards that have become so fashionable of late is the polka dot of large size evenly distributed all over, or else in graduated sizes the large dots on the edges giving the effect of shaded silks, which is very fashionable in Paris this season. Some of the new gowns have a bodice of chiffon with trimmings of heavy lace.

A very new skirt which appears amongst the foulard gowns has an accordion pleated flounce with a ruche of silk for a finish at the bottom, and another ruche where the flounce is sewn on. It is variously shaped at the top in points or scallops, or is wider at the back than in front after the manner of the circular flounces. Grace rather than stiffness seems to be the keynote of the new fashions in skirts, and effect generally. However the skirt may be cut it fails to be a success unless it is graceful in outline defining the figure as much as possible with every movement, and entirely free from any stiffness whatever.

ASTRA.  
JOE, HIS MOTHER AND THE BABY.  
An Early Experience That a Crime Recalls.

'It's a queer world,' said a physician as he laid the morning paper aside.

'What prompted that original remark?' asked a visitor.

'Well, I was just reading an account of a stabbing affair, and it suddenly occurred to me that I had known the man who did the killing.' The doctor settled back in his chair and drummed on the table with his fingers, and the visitor ate his omelette and waited for the story. After a few moments it came.

'When I first began to practice I did an immense amount of charity work. Every fellow does that at the start for experience, and later he keeps it up for humanity's sake. I had pretty good success with children and made quite a name down in the tenement districts—and incidentally spent most of my pocket money on my patients. That was before the day of free sterilized milk for sick babies and dozens of institutions for the relief of the poor.

'One summer a woman began bringing a sick baby to me. A small boy, about 3 years old, always came with them, and seemed to be fairly strong and well, but the baby was a pitiful little thing with a thin, white face and big blue eyes with a look of pain in them. The women seemed an ignorant, honest soul, and generally wore a thick dark veil to hide a black eye or great blue bruises. It's easy enough to figure out a thing like that, you know, but she never spoke of her husband or complained, so I didn't ask any questions. She brought the baby often, and each time it looked more waxen and scrawny, but I couldn't find out the child had and disease and all the symptoms pointed to a lack of nourishment. At last, one morning I said to the mother that I believed the baby was starving, and I didn't intend to allow her to leave the office until she had told me the truth about the affair. She looked stubborn for a moment and wouldn't answer, but then the tears began to roll down her bruised, discolored cheeks, and she confessed that she didn't have enough food to give the baby. She worked hard, but her husband drank and took every cent she made, and beat her every day into the bargain. She was fond of the brute in spite of all that, and told me a long story about the heavenly nature the fellow had before he began to drink so hard. I told her she ought to go to court and complain of him; but she wouldn't listen to that and abused me roundly for advising a wife to turn against her man.

'Finally I told her I would give her a quart of milk every day. I wouldn't give her the money because I didn't covet the privilege of buying bad whiskey for the husband; but I would pay the nearest milk depot to supply her with a quart a day. That would feed the baby and leave a little for little Joe, who didn't look quite so well as he did when the two first began calling on me. After that I didn't hear any more about the case for a week or two. Then my friends turned up again. The baby looked worse than ever, and the woman's face was a patchwork in blue and green; but little Joe was quite rosy. I didn't understand. The baby was in bad condition, and I did what I could for it. After I left my office I went down to the milk depot. The man said my woman had had her quart of milk every day.

'I puzzled over the thing that night. The next morning the trio were a my office. The baby's blue eyelids were closed, and I thought at first that it was not breathing, but found a faint flutter. I couldn't see any reason for such a state of things, so, once more, I led the woman into my private office and shut the door. Then I said: 'Now, look here! There's a mystery about this, and you've got to tell me what's the matter. That baby's starving to death, and I want to know what you have done with the milk.'

'The woman looked scared and turned pale between bruises. The she gave a sort of a wail and jumped up, still holding the baby.

'No, the baby didn't have the milk,' she said in a frantic sort of a way. 'I gave it to little Joe. There wasn't enough to feed them both and Joe began to get sick, and I loved him better than I did the baby. I ain't had a crust to eat myself, but I couldn't let Joe die. The baby's only a girl, and if she does live she'll be unhappy like me, and I don't love her like I do Joe. I thought both of them were going to die, and I couldn't live without Joe, so I gave him the milk, and just let the baby have a little. May be you think I ain't suffered watching the baby, but I couldn't spare Joe. I couldn't. Some day he'll be a man, and I'll be proud of him. A man can do anything, but a girl would just do what I've done. Joe shan't die.'

'She was screaming the words out and seemed almost crazy. The thing was awful, it made me feel heart sick.

'Why, you idiot,' I said. 'Why didn't you tell me? I'd have looked out for Joe, too.'

'Just then the baby opened its eyes—great, uncanny, weird eyes in the tiny face. It stared at me in a miserable way that made my heart come into my throat. Then all the light died out of the eyes, but they still stared.

'There was no use saying anything more to the mother. She sat down and looked at the baby in a quiet, stunned way. Then she reached out and put one arm around little Joe and held him tight. I told her I would keep on paying for the milk as long as she wanted it, and she and Joe and the baby went home.

'I never saw them again. When I went to the house they had moved, and no one seemed to know where they had gone. Joe's the fellow who just murdered a man in a Bowery saloon. I wonder what the girl would have been. It's a queer world.

ENGLISH WHEELWOMEN.

The Sports in Which They Take Part and Decorations of Their Wheels.

Bicycle parties of one sort or another were popular last summer. At several of the resorts bicycle sports were arranged on an elaborate scale. Races, trick riding and polo were the chief features of the programmes, and the women took part merely as decorative spectators. In England the thing was managed differently, and the bicycle sports planned and carried out at the country houses were charming affairs in which women took active parts.

One of the most successful of this season's bicycle teas was given at a country seat near Henley, England. The guests all arrived upon bicycles artistically decorated with flowers. On the lawn large arches had been erected and twined with flowers. A company of young people who had rehearsed for the occasion and were dressed in fancy costumes mounted their wheels and, to their accompaniment of music, executed intricate manoeuvres, wheeling in and out among the arches and going through graceful dance figures. There was a May

pole dance by the same bicyclists, and, after that a Gretna Green race, in which the couple first covering the course, dismounting, exchanging rings and returning to the starting point received rings as prizes. Dozens of other tests skill followed among them a polo game, in which the girls played against the men and came within an ace of winning. The programme ended with procession of bicyclists and the awarding of prizes for the most beautiful wheel decorations, and then the guests attacked the refreshments, which they had fairly earned.

In England wheel decoration has become art, and an astonishing variety of effects is possible. It is usually advisable to carry out a design in one color or shades of one color, the result of such a scheme being more striking. If one is willing to go to considerable trouble, it is wise to first wind the spokes and frame of the wheel with cotton stuff of the color to be used. Of course it is a necessity that the flowers should be fresh; and so it is impossible to begin putting the flowers upon a wheel long before it is to be used. The background of cotton may be arranged and smilax or asparagus fern added; but the flowers must be kept in water until the last moment, although they should be wired and ready for hasty use. Great care should be taken in the choice of flowers for in the long run lasting qualities rather than beauty are what wins. The ways of trimming a wheel are legion. Some riders content themselves with covering the framework with flowers and fastening great sheaves of blossoms to the handle bars. A wire arch over the saddle trimmed with flowers and fluttering ribbons is pretty. An old umbrella stripped of its covering and covered with ribbon and flowers may be set in a socket at the back of the saddle so that it will cover the rider; and one of the most charming fancies is to fasten a pole with a crossbar in front of a flower trimmed bicycle. The pole and bar must be twined with flowers and two pretty flower crowned and garlanded children are harnessed to the pole and driven by reins of ribbons or flowers. This last device calls for some skill on the part of the rider, who must be able to wheel very slowly and steadily in order not to hurry or push the child ren.

Dogs in the German Army.  
In the German army dogs are trained to attack foreign soldiers by the following method. Some German soldiers, dressed in the uniforms worn by foreign soldiers, maltreat and tease the dogs, whereas the soldiers dressed in the German uniforms caress and pet them, so that they speedily evince a very marked dislike to strange uniforms, and always treat the wearers as foes.

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