

TALKS TO LITTLE GIRLS.

THE DANGER OF THE TIME IS IN GROWING OLD TOO FAST.

Why They Should Stay Little Girls as Long as Possible—The Standards of Friendship—Early Youth is the Time When Life's Joys are Sweetest.

Are there any little girls left to be talked to, I wonder? says a writer in the Chicago Herald. There used to be lots of 'em. They wore smooth hair and calico frocks and sunbonnets. They went to bed at sundown, excepting when the days were very, very short, and then they bade the world good night long before the kitchen clock struck 9. They said "Yes, ma'am," and "No, sir," and courtesied when they met a stranger on the road. They played "tag" and "gray wolf" in the summer twilights with other boys and girls, and had no more knowledge of beaux and balls, than a kitten has of face-powder. They were full of fun and frolic that was never rude nor unkind, and they ate bread and butter and drank milk without knowing there were such abominable confections and concoctions in the world as French candies and strong tea and coffee. Some mysterious "Red Piper" of modern date has bewitched them all away with the merry music of his life, I think, so that we see them no more, like spring daffodils, cheering the earth with their beautiful presence. But if there be any stray little girls left between the chinks of the hills, I want them to gather around me for a half hour and hear the talk I find awaiting them to-night in the bottom of my heart.

Set other and higher standards for your friendships than perishable externals. That is, form your friendships according to what your friend is, rather than what she seems to be. A body may wear a smart gown and a feathered hat, and not be worth the salt the farmer puts in pork brine. On the other hand, a homely and plain exterior may hide a heavenly spirit, just as an autumn thicket conceals a singing thrush. The companion you may have on hand just now, who talks a great deal of silly nonsense about the boys, and jingles a lot of bangle bracelets and dresses like a maid turned twenty, with face powder and spotted veils, bangs and flashy rings, will make a poor friend under practical test, just as a parrot makes poor company when one is downhearted. We select a bird for its ability to sing rather than for the splendor of its plumage—that is, we should do so. I know a few in-ane women who prefer parrots to singing larks, and they are in the minority and their taste may be safely questioned. Such a friend as I have described will fly away and leave you quite desolate whenever a bird with brighter plumage than you can boast flits athwart the sunshine and will put more thorns in your heart than roses in your hand. I think if I could choose right now the sweetest gift for the girl I loved best I should ask heaven to grant her a wise discrimination in the choice of her friends, that her tender heart might not be wounded by the unworthiness of the unworthy and the faithlessness of the unfaithful.

Finally, girls, stay little girls just as long as possible. Don't put up your hair and let down your dresses until forced to do so by stress of time. There will come a day when you can no longer skip rope or play with dolls or romp by the light of the young moon. It is inexorable in its coming and all the protests of my pen cannot stay it in its course. You will find it at the bend of the river where "womanhood and childhood meet," you will discover it just at the magical hour when "morning merges into noon, May glides onward into June." No definite date is fixed for it on the calendar of fitting time, but it is there, and when it comes you may fold away childish things with childish garments and be as much of a woman as you like. But stay a little girl while you may and gather all of the sweetness you can from the bud so soon to be a blossom. I would give the world to know just what day it was I forsook doll playing, but I would give more than this world holds to find the comforting heart I laid aside with my dolls and the innocent trust I lost track of the day I finally pinned up my braids.

If you are attending school give the best of yourself and the freshest of your thoughts to study. The most thorough teacher in the world cannot make a good student out of a girl who won't help herself. If you will read silly books, and your mother is foolish enough to encourage you in keeping late hours and eating injudicious food, in idle companionships and indiscriminate amusements, there is less hope of making anything of you later on than there is of turning a mouth organ into a violin.

Have fun, lots of it; play like a sun-beam, making glad the dark places of the earth, and race like a leaf before the wind when you are out of school and off duty; all this will keep your brain from over fatigue, but get to bed early, abjure parties, flee from the terrors of corset-laces and high heels, drink milk and let tea alone as you would turn aside from the sting of an adder, and boycott candy. Then shall you retain your freshness as the rose which grows in the garden where the sunshine and the showers can find it outlives the hot-house and ephemeral bloom of the florist's high-pressure care.

Taking Care of Lamps.
Buy the best oil.
Fill the lamps by daylight.
Lamps should be kept well filled.
Never attempt to light a lamp that is only partly filled.
Keep the oil can closed and in a cool place.

Lamps to be carried should be of metal and have handles.
See that any hanging lamps you may have are securely hung.

When buying lamps select those in which the end of the burner is considerably elevated above the body of the lamp.

Watch your wicks closely, and change them before they become too short.
If burning oil gets upon the floor smother with woolen blankets or rags.

A Relief for Rheumatism.
Put half a large coffee-cupful of the best white wine vinegar, the same quantity of turpentine and the beaten whites of two eggs into a wide-mouthed bottle, and shake thoroughly. Pour about a tablespoonful of this mixture over a piece of red flannel and apply wherever the pain is most severe; over the flannel lay a small piece of oiled silk. Relief will be almost instantaneous.

HANGING PICTURES.

An Art Which May be Acquired by Diligent Study.

There is nothing adds so much to the furnishing of a house as the pictures on the wall, and even Mr. Eastlake, relentless iconoclast as he is, says that "they contribute greatly to that appearance of comfort which is the especial characteristic of an English home." Take down the familiar pictures and the apartment seems bare and meager. Rehang them in the new house and at once an air, attractive and home-like, settles upon the unaccustomed surroundings.

In Europe it is quite customary to hang family portraits in the dining room, or, should the space prove insufficient, in the adjoining hall. And this seems reasonable when the portraits have intrinsic excellence, but the practice that has grown up in the United States of retaining large photographs of deceased friends upon the wall after they have become faded caricatures of the departed, is not to be commended on the score of sentiment or art.

Different kinds of pictures should never be hung together, and though few modern houses are sufficiently spacious to admit of setting aside a room for each kind, they may at least be assigned to separate walls. It is also important that such pictures as require a glass should not be hung opposite a window, where the reflections on the glass will entirely destroy the effect.

Neither should a very gay French painting be hung near a cool, quiet landscape, or, by contrast, the one will be vulgarized and the other made to seem tame and uninteresting.

Almost every person knows that the approved height for hanging pictures is five feet six inches from the floor to the center of the canvas, but this rule does not apply to very large, or full-length studies, which must be somewhat higher. Nor is it necessary to place them close together. Small objects, such as sconces, mirrors, brackets, etc., may alternate the pictures with good effect.

Unless in a gallery, where some pictures must necessarily be above the eye line, it is better to have the picture hang flat against the wall. A tilting, unsteady picture is never seen to advantage, and is trying to the nerves of an observer. This difficulty will be entirely obviated if two cords are used instead of one, each suspended from a nail of its own. Flat chains which are made for the purpose give an appearance of solidity, and in case of large pictures, look well; an embroidered, fancy galloon is sometimes used in the same way with good effect, but care must be taken that it harmonizes with the wall behind it. Wire for this purpose first came into use because it was practically invisible, but this seems rather an objection than otherwise. If pictures must be hung at all, it is more comfortable to see how they are hung rather than to be haunted by a sense of insecurity.

In preparing a wall it is always well to remember that pictures appear to the best advantage against a vague, general design; one that does not assert itself. If choice of wall covering is beyond our control, the defect may be remedied by suitable drapery, or even in case of large and important pictures, by a screen or curtain large enough to project beyond the frame and furnish a suitable background.

With these hints by way of guidance, you will be careful not to hang the new picture too high or too low; not to surround it with neighbors of a different species from itself; not to place it if glazed, opposite a window; and to see that it is placed firmly against the wall without the unsightly cord triangle that has come down to us from our fathers. A beautiful picture properly framed and appropriately hung becomes doubly valuable, while many another which appears cold and crude is made so by a neglect of these important points.

Serving Meals Without a Servant.
A housekeeper who keeps no servant asks how to serve deserts; how to serve the other dishes at dinner; what comes after the oatmeal or the mush at breakfast; when to pour the coffee; and if the plates should be distributed on the table or placed beside the carrier? The conditions are so different in different families that no arbitrary rules can be given for these things, but here are a few suggestions which may be helpful: Have everything ready in the kitchen to put on the table without delay, and place the dishes where they will keep hot until wanted. Eggs in any form must, of course, be served as soon as cooked; therefore they must be timed very carefully. Put the mush on the table at your own place and serve it in saucers or little dishes that come for that purpose. Anyone who does eat mush or fruit may decline it, and wait for the next course. After the mush has been served, remove the dishes, and place the rest of the breakfast on the table. The plates should be hot and be piled before or at one side of the carrier. While he is serving, pour the coffee. When there is another member of the family who can put the second course on the table, the housekeeper should be relieved of this part of the work. It is hard on a woman not only to have to prepare the breakfast, but also to arise from the table, bring in the second course and serve this, as she often must, since, as a rule, men are in a hurry in the morning and cannot assist their wives in serving the breakfast.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Value of a Drop of Oil.
Every housekeeper knows how annoying it is to have the hinges of the doors squeak, and the locks and bolts refuse to move unless great force be used. Many do not realize that a few drops of oil will, as a rule, remedy these annoyances. First spread a newspaper on that part of the floor over which the hinges swing. Now, with the sewing-machine oil can, oil the hinges thoroughly, and then swing the door back and forth until it moves without noise. Wipe the hinges, but let the paper remain for a few hours, to guard against the possible dripping of the oil. For locks and bolts, guard the floor in the same manner. Oil them thoroughly, working them until they will move with ease. The egg-beater and the ice-cream freezer should be oiled in the same manner.

A Good Cement for China.
Mix with a strong solution of gum arabic and water enough plaster of Paris to make a thick paste. Apply this with a camel's hair brush to the broken edges and unite.

A Good Mucilage.
The best mucilage is made from gum tragacanth and water. When well dissolved, add a few drops of oil of cloves and a tiny piece of alum.

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