

Random Notes

For Busy Households.

THE "MAN HOUSEMAID."—The servant girl question is always on the tapis. But the "New Woman Movement" seems to have given birth to a novel species of being called the "Man Housemaid." This may appear funny and ridiculous. On this question we will quote from an article by a reporter of the Chicago Herald, and we are sure our readers will find it both amusing and surprising. It is as follows:

"My first visit was to the Immigrant Labor Bureau. I inquired of a man who stood at the door if such a thing as a man taking a woman's position in housework existed.

"Very frequently. We have a number of men who go out for housework in families."

"Well, they are doing that in Chicago now," I said, "but I did not know whether they ever did such a thing in New York."

"They have been doing it here for years. Of course, the ladies have the work to be done, and it must be done, and if they can't get a woman to do it, they are going to get a man."

"But do you mean to tell me that men do housework in New York houses or apartments? Why, I never heard of such a thing."

"Not so much in New York City as in the country. Over in Jersey, out on Long Island and down on Staten Island is where we generally send them. Of course, we do not know what they do after they leave this office—that is none of our business—but they hire out to do housework. I have a man here who is willing to take a housework position, and I will get him to come out and speak to you, if you care to have him come out. In a few minutes a man came out. He was not weakly or sickly looking, nor feeble in mind or body, but a man one would expect to see as a porter, truck driver or such like. He did not seem to be at all ashamed of himself, and approached with a rather self-satisfied air."

"Do you do housework?" I asked.

"Yes, ma'am, when I can't get anything else to do."

"Will you wash and iron and cook and sweep, do up beds, and in fact, all the work of a house?"

"Well, that depends on the size of the house. I could not do all the work of a large house, but I could of a small one, if the family was not too large."

"Have you any references?"

"Oh yes, ma'am. I have ten 'months' references from a lady where I hired last year in Bound Rock. She wants me to go back, but I don't want to go so far if I can get a place nearer by."

"He drew out a piece of paper, and gave it to me to read. It was really and truly a reference from a lady in Bound Rock, saying 'that So and So had lived with her as a housework servant; that he was honest, respectful, obliging and capable; a good cook, washer and ironer; and very neat and orderly about his work.' She wound up by saying that she preferred him to any servant she had ever had in her house, and would gladly take him back if he cared to return to her."

"But I said to him, 'do you like to do this kind of work? Can you not get any man's work to do?'"

"It is harder to get woman's work," he replied, respectfully. "It is easier to get woman's work. You know the girls don't want to go away from the city; the men don't mind so much. Ladies I live with treat me nicely. I have got a good room, good food, I am warm and comfortable. I have \$14, sometimes \$16, a month clear, and where else could I get so much, after I had paid my board and lodging?"

"I was rather in a quandary how to get rid of this model servant, for whom I had no earthly use, when my friend at the door came to my assistance, saying:

"Well, Hans, the lady will let you know this afternoon. You can go back now."

Bidding me goodbye politely, the man retired, and, thinking the obliging attendant, who told me if I ever did really need a good honest man servant he would be most happy to oblige me. I left the bureau a much puzzled woman."

What girl, white or colored, had ever been willing to admit that her board was good, her room comfortable, and that in no other position could she earn \$14 to \$16 a month clear of every expense? What was the meaning of the terrible upheaval in domestic service?

Was the invasion of femininity into masculine fields acting as a boomerang on advanced woman hood? The answer was beyond me just then and I determined to seek further. Emboldened by my success at the Immigrant Bureau, I made up my mind to go

boldly about the business of hunting for a man "housework girl."

The next place was the State Labor Bureau, but my success was not encouraging there, as at first they denied any knowledge of any such condition of affairs as I had found existing down town. By persistently sticking to my point, I found that men had often hired there for housework, but more especially for porters in hotels, in which positions they now were expected to do a great deal of the work once done by the chambermaids.

This office supplies a great number of men for boarding houses. The employment of men by boarding-house mistresses is becoming so important a feature that all the employment bureaus hold themselves in readiness to supply the demand.

These men keep the halls and stairs clean, wash windows, front steps and sidewalks, carry coal, make fires, put the towels around, give the rooms the weekly cleaning—in a word, take the place of what used to be called the "second girl." This statement is an actual fact, which may be verified by a visit to any of the free employment bureaus.

At the office of the French Society I asked for a man for housework as coolly and unconcernedly as though I had been in the habit of engaging housework men all my life.

I saw three or four men, but, as I was naturally very hard to suit in the choice of a "housework man," I failed to obtain what I was searching for. In the first place, I had a big family, the work was particularly fussy (both these impediments manufactured for the occasion), and I positively demanded "personal references," which none of the men could give.

I found that upon questioning these men closely that they were willing to do anything in the way of housework. They would cook, wash and iron, scrub, sweep, dust, make beds, attend to the chamberwork, wash windows, and one man offered as an inducement to being hired without a personal reference, the fact that he was a good hairdresser.

INQUISITIVENESS.—The Baltimore Sun has an admirable article on the general subject of inquisitiveness, and the distinction it draws between the legitimately inquiring mind and the one given to trivial curiosity, is very well defined. The sun says:

"Whether inquisitiveness is to be rated as a virtue or a vice depends very much upon its purpose and upon the extent of its exhibition. It is quite commendable in the young who are simply seeking useful information; it is impertinent in the mature who are trying to gratify their curiosity or to find food for gossip. Children are sometimes encouraged to ask questions in an aimless way and become nuisances because of their inquisitiveness, although the child who asks questions intelligently and for the purpose of acquiring knowledge is interesting and deserves the encouragement of answers and explanations."

"The inquisitiveness of the gossip and meddler is of a very different kind, and is always offensive. The meddling gossip is always offensive. The meddling gossip does not seek useful information and may not intend any harm; sometimes he or she asks questions with no aim whatever, but simply as a matter of bad habit and to maintain a conversation. More often, however, the inquisitive person, of mature years is a malicious gossip. That which he or she learns is repeated, with variations, sometimes with the purpose, always with the effect, of creating controversies and embroiling mutual friends. The most trivial matters are made the subject of exhaustive inquiry; if two accounts do not exactly agree, attention is called to the variations, with implications that someone has told an untruth. In such cases a matter of no importance, one way or another, is magnified until it is made a cause for serious dispute. Inquisitiveness of this kind is extremely reprehensible."

From this and much more the following conclusions are drawn:

"The man who knows all the gossip of his neighborhood, the private affairs of his acquaintances, the ages of all his friends, the scandals of society, and so on, seldom exhibits any other knowledge. He has filled his mind with trivialities, missing the inquisitive faculty. He is a Paul Pry, and, as such, despised of all men. Inquisitiveness properly employed in moderation may be used to add to one's useful information; it is the chief stimulus to scientific achievement. Man ought to ask questions of their fellow-men and of nature, but only to acquire legitimate information, and with a good purpose."

MISS ROSE MARTIN.

She Tells Other Girls How They Can Be Healthy, and How a Fair Complexion Can Be Secured—An Interesting Account of Her Experience.

Men say that women are vain. Who can blame them? Men are vain, too. Everybody wants to be good-looking. Handsome features are due to good health. A strong, vigorous girl or woman must necessarily be free of female troubles. Diseases of girls and women rob them of their beauty. A pallid, nervous, pale, weak, thin girl or woman cannot be attractive. She cannot expect to have admirers. Men admire womanly women. They are attracted by fair complexions and graceful figures. A wise man selects a healthy woman as his bride. He knows there will be no happiness for either himself or his wife if the latter be weighed down with leucorrhoea, falling of the womb, nervousness, headache, backache and irregularities. He knows the children of such a union are apt to inherit the disposition and weaknesses of the mother.

Miss Rose Martin, 880 Glass street, Sarnock, N. H., writes: "I can't tell you in words how thankful I am to Dr. Codere's Red Pills for Pale and Weak Women. You don't know how healthy they have made me. Before I took them I was a great sufferer from female weakness. I had leucorrhoea, headache, backache and bearing-down pains. I was irregular in menstruation. My complexion was bad, and it made me down-hearted to see other girls with pink cheeks and clear skin. Dr. Codere's Red Pills, however, have cured all my female troubles, and today my complexion is as fair as any girl's. I wish every girl and woman would take



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decide on Oxford as the place to locate."

DRESSING CHICKENS.—It is certainly a good thing that the poultry trade is thus to be developed in Canada; but next to the raising of chickens we believe that the most important information needed in households consists in a knowledge of how to dress and prepare them when they are raised. As much depends, as far as markets are concerned, upon this branch of the industry we give the following few hints:

The appearance of fowls after reaching market has much to do with the price they will bring.

Good specimens are often spoiled in dressing, while poor specimens may often be made more attractive by proper care.

Fowls should be left without food for twelve hours before killing, so that the crop may be entirely empty. Suspend each one by the feet, and with a sharp pointed knife cut a deep gash in roof of mouth at base of brain.

Plucking should begin at once, all the large feathers being removed by the time the fowl is dead.

The pin feathers can then be easily removed. Do not remove crop or intestines. Carefully wash the mouth and remove all the blood cots. Do not singe, and by all means do not tear the skin. Let them hang in a cool place until the animal heat is out; then pack in layers in box or barrel, if intended for shipment.

If a great number are to be dressed the feathers should be saved, as they will bring from five to seven cents a pound when dry picked.

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Meets in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander street, on the first Sunday at 4 p.m. and third Thursday at 8 p.m. of each month. President, Sarah Allen; Vice-President, Blaise Mack; Financial Secretary, Mary McManis; Treasurer, Mary O'Brien; Recording Secretary, Lizzie Howlett, 383 Wellington street. Application forms can be had from members, or at the hall before meetings.

A.O.H.—DIVISION NO. 2.

Meets in lower vestry of St. Gabriel New Church corner Centre and Levesque streets, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month, at 8 p.m. President, MICHAEL LYNN; Recording Secretary, THOMAS DUNOCH, 312 Hibernian street; to whom all communications should be addressed. T. J. HALPIN, Financial Secretary; E. J. COLGAN, Treasurer. Delegates to St. Patrick's League: J. J. CAVANAGH, D. S. MCCARTHY, and J. CAVANAGH.

A.O.H.—DIVISION NO. 3.

Meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, at No. 123 Notre Dame street, near Victoria. Officers: D. Galtier, President; P. T. McEloldrick, Vice-President; Wm. Hawley, Recording Secretary; J. M. Galtier, Treasurer; J. M. Galtier, Financial Secretary; J. M. Galtier, Treasurer. Delegates to St. Patrick's League: J. J. CAVANAGH, D. S. MCCARTHY, and J. CAVANAGH.

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C.M.B.A. of Canada, Branch 28

(Organized, 13th November, 1883.)

Branch 28 meets at St. Patrick's Hall 92 St. Alexander Street, on every Monday of each month. The regular meetings for the transaction of business are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, at 8 p.m.

Applicants for membership or anyone desirous of information regarding the Branch may communicate with the following officers:

D. J. McMillan, President, 158 Mance street; John M. Kennedy, Vice-President, 32 St. Phine street; Robert Warren, Financial Secretary, 28 Brunswick street; P. J. McDonagh, Recording Secretary, 824 Visitation street.

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Organized, April 1874. Incorporated, Dec. 1874.

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St. Ann's Young Men's Society

Organized 1885.

Meets in its hall, 157 Ottawa Street, on the first Sunday of each month, at 8 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, REV. E. STRUBBE, C.S.R.; President, JOHN WHITTY; Secretary, J. J. CORCORAN. Delegates to St. Patrick's League: J. Whitty, D. J. O'Neill and M. Caser.

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St. Ann's T.A. & B. Society.

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11-6-38

CHATS WITH THE FARMERS.

A considerable amount of interest has been taken in some quarters, in our recently published information concerning chicken raising. As this is an industry that is now likely to become very important in Canada, we might say that the Federal Government has undertaken to establish a number of henries in the Dominion. As an evidence of this we find the Woodstock Express saying: "There is a strong probability of Woodstock becoming an experimental station for poultry fattening. Professor Robertson of the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, was in town this morning, and while here he saw a number of prominent farmers from the county and discussed with them the outlook for such an undertaking and the support it would likely receive from the farmers and poultry

raisers. The principle on which the Government are proceeding in connection with the poultry stations is the same as that followed in the case of the Government creameries. It is proposed to establish two experimental stations in each of the provinces of the Dominion. The Government will secure a place and appoint a competent man to superintend it, and the poultry will be delivered by the farmers at this point. They will then become the property of the Government, to be fattened up and then sent in cold storage to the foreign markets. As in the case of the Government creameries the Government intends to start them and then let the farmers look after them. The establishment of such an institution here would mean better prices for poultry in this section, and the farmers are hoping that the Government may