

# School for Housewives

By Marion Harland

## Training THE Housemaid AND Waitress



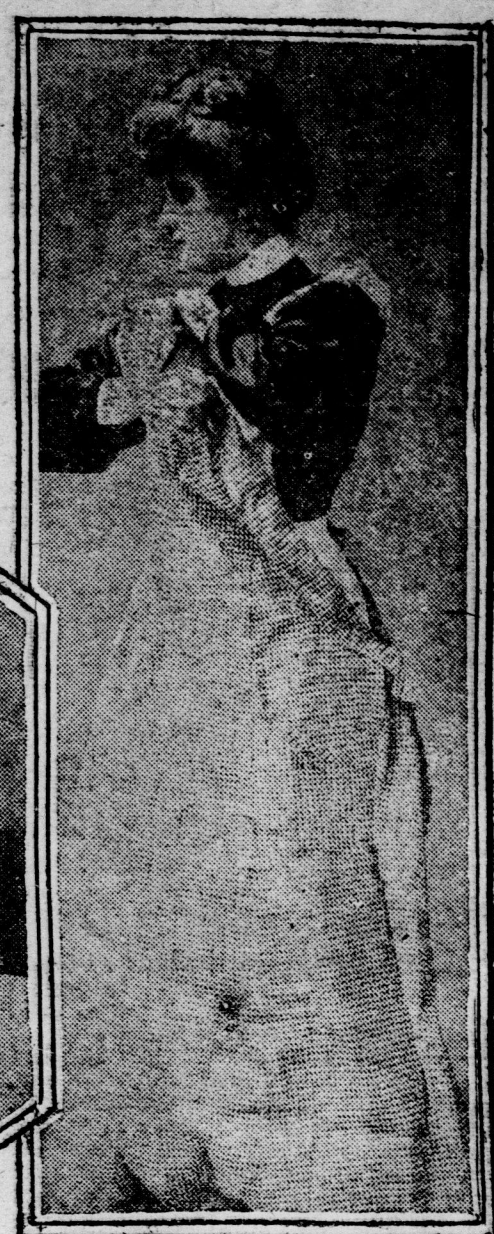
How to Receive a Card



Correct Costume for Maid



The Mistress Should Superintend Silver Cleaning



Protecting White Apron

FEW and far between are the maids who come ready trained.

Sometimes it seems beyond credence that mistresses should have been training domestics for so many years with so few results to show for it.

What has become of the servants that were trained is almost as large a problem as what becomes of the pins.

Of course, some of the maids get married. They always do when they are ours!

Even the devastations of matrimony cannot altogether account for the prevalence of untrained "help" and the paucity of the well-drilled servants for whom we long.

"I am too old to train servants," I heard a woman say the other day. "Too old and too busy!" When I was a young woman I used to take the greenhorns when they hardly knew one end of a fork from the other, and drill them into passable cooks and chambermaids and waitresses.

"But now I refuse to do it. The younger women can take their turn at work of that sort, now, but I have earned my promotion, and I take them already trained!"

This is a position many women would be pleased to assume if they could afford it.

But apart from the scarcity of the trained service to which I have already referred, that which is satisfactory comes high.

The servant who has been drilled in the right sort of an establishment, and who understands her duties, rightfully asks and gets higher wages than the majority of housekeepers can pay. In the circumstances, the only thing to be done is for the housekeeper to go to work and do her own training.

In one way this is not an easy task, except for those who genuinely love housekeeping work in all its branches, and are either possessed of long patience, or are so fortunate as to secure unusually good material to work upon.

I suppose I might admit to the category the woman who does not care how her house is kept, or her work is done so long as in some way it is accomplished; but I refuse to believe that we have any of this type on our roll!

"We" are all conscientious and eager to make the very best of the profession of homekeeping. And a big part of this is connected with the training of servants.

### Expect Imperfections.

The woman who has but one maid-of-all-work has alike her trials and her privileges. She can hardly hope to have a Pooh Bah of a domestic who is able to fill all branches of household work, and to do them well, although such have been found, once in a blue moon.

The mistress must resign herself to imperfections in the conduct of her household. If the maid is a good cook she can hardly be perfect as a waitress, and if she achieves success in this line she will doubtless leave something to be desired in her washing and ironing. These are the drawbacks of the one-maided house.

On the other hand, there are no quarrels in the kitchen where there is but one maid. There are no jealousies, no special privileges to be accorded one to offset something granted the other.

It is an old saying that where more than one is working one gets in the other's way, and there is something in it. More than this, the one general housework maid, if she be really satisfactory, takes an

interest in her employer that is seldom found when more than one is employed.

These reflections are a comfort to the woman with one servant, and yet she would put up with the inconveniences of two for the comfort she would get from them.

Whether there be one or two, however, she must work at the training and accustom her domestic staff to do the work in the way that will suit the mistress, not in the way that will please them, unless they be exceptional in their abilities.

I do not mean by this that the mistress must have a fixed method to which her servants must adhere. Often I have learned from my servants new ways of performing old tasks; and always, when engaging a new maid, I give her a chance to try her way first in the hope that it may prove as good as mine.

### Judge by Results.

It is a mistake to think that there is but one way of doing a thing right. Sometimes there are several, and results are the proof to which you must look.

Certain principles must still be laid down. One of them, which, to my old-fashioned mind, seems indispensable, is that of early rising.

I don't know how late hours for beginning the day's work would serve in a house where the breakfast hour is between 8.30 and 9.

In my modest establishment we like to have the breakfast dishes out of the way by that time.

For a breakfast at half-after 7 the maid should rise not later than 6. This leaves her half an hour for dressing, and brings her down stairs with an hour before she must serve breakfast for the family.

My own preference is that she should herself take something to eat as soon as she gets down that fasting may not begin her day's labor.

Even if she does this she will have time before breakfast to dust the dining-room, lay the table, straighten out the worst disorder of the living room, open the windows to the morning air, and, if she be a waitress, prepare the butter, iced water and the like for the fam-

ily breakfast.

In homes where the waitress takes also the duties of chambermaid it is hardly possible for her to get away from her dining-room work long enough to go to the bedrooms until after the family is upon the last course of breakfast.

### One Task at a Time.

Then she can slip upstairs, open the windows which the careless occupants of the chambers may have left closed, strip the clothing from the beds, turn back the mattresses and prepare the rooms for airing.

This done, she may go back to the dining room in time to remove the dishes, clear the table and arrange the china and silver in the

pantry preparatory to washing them.

If there be no especial hurry about the bedroom work she can leave this so that the fresh air will have a chance to do its work of sweetening while she goes ahead with the dishes, gets them clean and back in the closet.

Then she may go up to her bedroom work and finish that before she attempts the sweeping or cleaning, which in the best-regulated houses is distributed through the week instead of being lumped in one big day's cleansing.

How the work shall be apportioned to the several days is a matter mistress and maid may unite to settle. If the maid be sensible and

conscientious, it is safe to leave her to dispose the times for her cleaning as she will, only supervising enough to let her feel that her toil is appreciated and her shortcomings, if there be any, noted.

It does a maid good, whether she be careless or careful, to feel that the eyes of the mistress are keen enough to discriminate between work well done and work neglected.

### Plan for the Extras.

On Monday and Tuesday little extra work can be done by the waitress if she is to help the cook either in the actual laundry work or by taking part of the cook's regular duties.

Not until Wednesday can she be

relied upon to do anything beyond the regular dusting of the living rooms and bedrooms, and in many homes the women of the household lend a hand here for washing and ironing days. But by Wednesday one may draw breath again and return to a normal condition of living.

In any general outline it is impossible to dictate how work shall be apportioned. The mistress of each home must decide that for herself, bearing in mind always that the division should be made with judgment so as not to make work too light one day at the cost of rendering it burdensome at another time.

### Separate Big Tasks.

The biggest tasks of sweeping and cleaning the silver should not come too close together, and there should be an especial dispensation for window washing. If care and thought are used there is no reason why, in ordinary circumstances, the house should not be kept clean all the time, instead of being suffered to grow untidy and dusty, and then restored to neatness with one grand effort.

I have spoken of the work which falls to the waitress in the house where two maids are kept. A good deal more study must be given to the duties of the maid-of-all-work.

In her case it is almost essential that the mistress should assume part of the work herself. That is, she must dust her own dressing-room, make her own bed, either habitually, or at least on Monday and Tuesday, and, if the wash be heavy, take charge of the breakfast dishes on those days. The early rising recommended when there are two servants employed becomes even more important where there is but one.

Always it must be borne in mind by the mistress who undertakes to train a maid that a systematic habit of mind is the exception rather than the rule.

With the best intentions in the world the average untrained serv-

ant does not understand how to plan her work, and it devolves upon the mistress to inculcate and practice system, and insist that it be followed by her employe, if she would not have the work at loose ends and never done.

The laundry work must not be allowed to drag over into the latter part of the week, and to avoid this the mistress must study to simplify the work on Monday and Tuesday, and by getting an early start on those days afford the maid the encouragement that comes from an up-to-time beginning.

When the laundry period is over, the same promptness must be observed in other respects. Meals must be on time as much as possible. Extra work must not be imposed when there is already as much on hand as can be accomplished. When the maid is well trained, liberties may be allowed, but not during her time of drill.

First of all, last of all and all the time, the mistress must pray for and practice patience.

It is not always easy for a young impetuous housekeeper—and sometimes they do not lose their impetuosity with youth, either—to bear in mind that the workings of the untrained mind are curious and not to be fathomed by the educated intellect.

The housekeeper might do worse than lay to heart the injunction written up in a circus tent where a band of incompetent performers were going through their antics. "Don't throw stones at the formers. They are doing their best!"

Usually the maid is trying to do right. If you "throw stones" sharp words—at her now, she will lose what little confidence she has.

Try to believe that she is doing her "possible," and that after a while, under your patient tutelage, it may develop into a much better and more competent best!

Marion Harland

## The Housemothers' Exchange

I AM in trouble, and not knowing how to get out of it, I should be greatly pleased if you could show me the way. I am a beginner in breadmaking, and as we are very fond of currant and raisin bread, I thought I would try to make some.

The first trial was a success, but the next time I made it the batter never rose, although I was sure I had set it exactly as I did the first time.

The only difference was that I put in a little more sugar. Now, would that hinder it from rising? And would butter harm it, as I used milk instead of water?

Sugar and butter would have a tendency to check the rising. But if, as you say, you put in only a little sugar, the work should have gone on favorably. Perhaps a little more slowly than at the former trial.

I think it probable that you set the batter in a cold place, or in a draught. Or the yeast may have been in fault. Good lively yeast will bring up a batch of bread that is badly mixed if you will give it time. It surely should have prevailed against the "little more sugar."

Tell us by what recipe the batter was mixed and we may help you more intelligently. Did you dredge the fruit well?

### Washington Pie

Can you or any of the family give me a recipe for what is sometimes called "Congress" or "Washington pie"? In return, for the benefit of those who must, of necessity, depend upon economical household remedies, I would say, albeit it may seem like forcing the season, when the feet are frostbitten, rub them with spirits of turpentine. This will cause a thin blister to form, which relieves the intense burning and itching. As a little while it will effect a perfect cure.

I have found it unailing.

Also, for a child who is subject to bronchitis, mix two ounces of glycerine, one teaspoonful of brandy and two teaspoon-

fuls of nitre. For a child 5 years old, give half a teaspoonful in half a glass of water every two hours until the irritating cough abates.

Being but one of the family, I must be mindful of the watchmaker.

M. C. (Winnichickon, Pa.). I have no formula for Washington pie except one which was given to me years ago by a baker's daughter, who was a seamstress in my family. She let me unconsciously into many secrets of the

trade as we sat together in my sewing room, and this was one of the many. "You would be surprised how little real waste there is in the business," she said complacently, when I remarked that there must be much "dead stock" in the way of stale bread, biscuits and cake.

"Do you know what Washington pie is?" "You must have seen school children

eating it. Most of it is sold to them and to newboys. Bread that is real stale, awfully hard and dry, is crushed into fine crumbs and mixed over with molasses and spices, you know, and wet up into dough with hot water and made into Washington pie."

I can hardly think this is what our member wants. Does anybody know of another sweet that goes by the name of "Washington pie?"

### Family Meals for a Week

**SUNDAY**  
BREAKFAST.  
Fruit, cereal and cream, omelet, corn muffins, tea, coffee.

**LUNCHEON.**  
Beef loaf, cucumber, tomato and green-pepper salad; nut sandwiches, blackberries and cream, tea.

**DINNER.**  
Noodle soup, roast ducks, apple sauce, mashed potatoes, cauliflower with cream sauce, watermelon, coffee.

**MONDAY**  
BREAKFAST.  
Fruit, cereal, bacon, toast, white and brown, tea, coffee.

**LUNCHEON.**  
Salmon of duck, potato cakes (left-over), bread and butter, cauliflower salad with French dressing, crackers, cheese, coffee.

**DINNER.**  
Vegetable soup, stewed lamb garnished with vegetables, baked macaroni, boiled sweet potatoes, salad, roast beef with cream, coffee.

**TUESDAY**  
BREAKFAST.  
Fruit, cereal, oatmeal, toast, white and brown, tea, coffee.

**LUNCHEON.**  
Ragout of lamb and diced vegetables (left-over), macaroni warmed over, blueberry tea and cake, tea.

**DINNER.**  
Lamb soup (from stewed lamb stock), baked steak, stuffed squash, succotash, fried tomatoes, baked blackberry pudding, coffee.

**WEDNESDAY**  
BREAKFAST.  
Fruit, cereal, tomato omelet, rice muffins, tea, coffee.

**LUNCHEON.**  
Peppers stuffed with meat (left-over) and baked, corn flour gems, green apple sauce and cake, tea.

**DINNER.**  
Soupe a la bonne femme, smothered chickens with mushrooms, hominy croquettes, scalloped cauliflower, chocolate and vanilla blanc mange, coffee.

**THURSDAY**  
BREAKFAST.  
Fruit, cereal, minced chicken on toast, whole wheat muffins, tea, coffee.

**LUNCHEON.**  
Broiled liver, cauliflower (left over), bean, hot peach shortcake.

**DINNER.**  
Egg soup, roast leg of lamb, beets saute, lima beans, fried eggplant, baked pears and cream, coffee.

**FRIDAY**  
BREAKFAST.  
Fruit, cereal, Tom Thumb omelets, with white sauce, fried bread, tea, coffee.

**LUNCHEON.**  
Scalloped oysters, bread and butter, cucumber salad stuffed with green peas, cake, tea.

**DINNER.**  
Cream of beet soup, baked pickled, mashed potatoes, baked tomatoes, cottage pudding with liquid sauce, coffee.

**SATURDAY**  
BREAKFAST.  
Fruit, cereal, bacon, soft-boiled eggs, buckwheat shortcake, tea, coffee.

**LUNCHEON.**  
Minced fish warmed up in cream sauce, stoned potatoes, lunch biscuit, ham, tea.

**DINNER.**  
Meat turtle soup, baked calf's head, scalloped sweet potatoes, boiled squash, green corn, cream peas, tea, coffee.

### Mysterious Visitors

I found on cleaning house this summer a tiny mite of a bug upon almost everything, the backs of upholstered furniture, pictures, in closets, on clothes, and even under chairs.

At first I thought they were bedbugs, but I am now convinced they are not, as they neither grow larger, nor change their color, which is white.

I have sent my feather bed, which is an old one, to the renovator, thinking, perhaps, they were bred in that.

Can you tell me what they are, and how to rid my house of them?

I have received many hints from your Corner, and I hope some day to send something that may be of use to others.

PERPLEXED Columbus, Ohio.

Were the mysterious visitors larger I should suspect them to be "silver-fish," otherwise "silver moths," alias "bristletail."

But you call them "mites" and compare them in size to the young of the bedbug.

They may be what is known as "book lice."

If they are, I advise you to get some oil of cedar, put it into hot water and wash shelves and the backs of furniture with it.

Use a teaspoonful of oil to a pint of water. You may paint the leather backs of books with the pure oil and spray it into crevices and cracks in wardrobe closets.

The odor is pleasant and it will drive away various breeds of vermin.

### Utility of Little Lists

I am writing this on the supposition that some housemother, and we are expected to recollect everything day in and day out, may be specially benefited.

And even if you haven't treacherous memories, it is a great help in systematizing things and keeping each duty in its place to make out little lists of things to be done, bills to be paid, and what is of equal importance, the clothing that must be bought to fill up gaps in your wardrobe that are imminent if not actually present.

It is poor management to let underclothes and household linen run low before you begin to replenish the supply.

The list of bills, etc., should be made out the first of the month, and everything that is bought on credit should be set down there, so at the end of the month you are not suddenly overwhelmed by bills for things you had forgotten.

This may seem hardly worth while writing to you about, but if you know women you perhaps can emphasize the significance of the friendly hint.

Mrs. C. V. H. (Chicago).

I know women and men well enough to be aware that at least one-half of the family jars that make men uncomfortable and women miserable arise from the carelessness of the money-spenders in this very respect.

It is so easy to "have things charged" and never to think of the account again until the first of the month brings in a bill the husband had no reason to anticipate, and which the wife had "clean forgotten."

She is not true to her business obligations as one of the firm when she forgets.

She is not honest when she buys on credit what she does not know that her husband can pay for without inconvenience when the bill comes in.

He grows, and what marvel? The list suggested by our prudent matron is a peace-keeper, no less than an economic measure.