

In speaking of Proper Housekeeping we always refer to orderly rooms and closets and bureau drawers and an immaculate pantry and spotless kitchen. Any woman who has done her own work and reared a family knows that this ideal is far above the reach of the average housekeeper.

But all of our ideals are far above our reach; if it were not so there would be saints walking the earth.

Everybody admits the ideal household arrangement, but I believe there is equal misery in striving too hard to approach it and in consciously falling too far below it. The mistress of a household holds a peculiar position in the world—the most responsible position, I think, that can be held. On her and her mental attitude hangs the destiny of a family. On her depends the atmosphere of a home.

THE MANAGEMENT OF HELP.

The management of servants is the great puzzle of today. In employing a new domestic, there should be the utmost frankness. She should be fully informed as to what she is expected to do, and what privileges will be granted. If she is not pleased, let her depart without regret. If you engage her, let her understand first and always that you are mistress, and claim the right to have the work done in your way. Above all, the utmost kindness should be shown, and the mistress of the house should always be mistress of her temper. She should put herself in the "girl's" place, and apply the golden rule in all dealings with her. Give unqualified praise when deserved, but never scold. Never find fault at the time an error is committed. A quiet talk after all feeling has subsided will do wonders toward reform.

The servant who is tucked away in a gloomy attic, uncarpeted, can hardly be expected to be neat and tidy in her personal habits. It is impossible to secure and keep good girls unless they can be won into sympathy and attachment to the family, so that they will regard themselves as part of it.