

The Modern Martha.

(Miss May Everett Clover, in the 'N.Y. Observer.')

'I never have time for such things. I am not as fortunate as some of you.' The speaker let the lace handkerchief she was making for her daughter drop for a moment to her lap. 'I can't afford to hire more help than I have, and what with the sewing, and I like to have my house kept in perfect order, and with the thousand and one things to do, I never have a moment's time to spare. It does seem that I have more to do than almost any other woman I know. Some with as large families seem to get through and have lots of time for other things. I never get time,' she said wearily.

'No wonder you never have time,' I thought, as I glanced around the room at the embroidered cushions, table cover, and countless other things which must have required many hours of labor to make; and yet she had just assured me that she never had a moment's time for reading, for exercise, for social or church work—no time for anything but the many home cares that rested upon her. I had admired the handkerchief she was making, and she had kindly offered to show me how to make one like it, but when I found that it would require all my spare time for weeks I declined to learn.

Not that I am lazy, I do not believe that I have a lay bone in my body, and I admire pretty things, as much as any woman, but because it would take the time that I devoted to reading and outdoor exercise. I am only living once in this world, and I do not propose to spend my life in making handkerchiefs which I dare not use except on very special occasions. And yet how many women, like this one, are wearing out their lives, just straining their eyes, over-taxing their nerves, and ruining their dispositions at the same time, by making worthless fancy work, and keeping their houses in such immaculate order, that when their Johns come home tired and worried from business, they dare not lie down on a sofa lest they rumple a cushion. I have a great deal of sympathy for these Johns who dare not lay a paper on the table, lest the room get out of order.

I like a well kept house, but I like some comfort at the same time. I believe that more men spend their evenings away from home, because of over-particular wives whose nerves are unstrung on account of overwork, than from any other cause. A woman's work is trying on the nerves at the best, but so many do not know how to save themselves from much unnecessary labor.

Why not leave a few tucks off Jennie's skirt, go to the store and buy some of the pretty handkerchiefs offered for sale? Buy your cushions and table covers, they will cost very little more than the material to make them of, or if you must make them, make them plainer, so that if John does put his feet on them sometimes you need not worry about them for fear they will be ruined. Get a little time to go out of doors and for reading, and then when you are busy over your household duties you will be able to think about something outside of your work and the many things that you must do; and when John comes home and speaks of what is going on in the world, you will be able to talk about it and not listen as if you scarcely know what he means. You will not only make those around you happier, but you will be happier yourself, and will find that this world is a much brighter place in which to live.—'N.Y. Observer.'

Household Hints

Grease a boiler before using it for fish, oysters, or anything which has not fat about it, else the food in the boiler will stick.

If you wish to avoid streaks when you are washing nicely painted doors, begin at the bottom and wash all the way to the

top of the door. Now the paint is all wet begin at the top, wash downwards and wipe dry as you go. Streaks are caused by soapy or dirty water running down over the dry paint.—'Northwestern Christian Advocate.'

When silver spoons become discolored from eggs, scour them with fine table salt. This will remove the discoloration, which is caused by the sulphur in the egg, and not scratch or wear the silver.

You can tell when a fish is well broiled by its beginning to flake apart. You will also notice the flesh begins to separate from the backbone.

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Canada.—Nos. 86,296, Wm. Millar, New Hamburg, Ont., compensating stove pipe joints and couplings; 86,302, William Goetz, Winnipeg, Man., harness tug securing and releasing devices; 86,303, Arthur P. Couture, Toronto, Ont., pivoted sash supports; 86,321, Messrs Ketelson & Putraw, Seattle, Wash., self-venting faucet; 86,332, Joseph Dupont, Rochester, N.Y., pneumatic tire; 86,357, Octave Aube, Montreal, Que., smoke consumer.

United States.—752,398, Joseph Louis Kieffer, Montreal, Que., stitch forming mechanism for shoe-sewing machines; 753,905, August Meuschel, Montreal, Que., electric traction system for railways; 756,319, Philius Belle, Montreal, Que., stiffener bath.

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