

THE NEATLY DRESSED HOUSE-WIFE.

(By R. E. Merryman.)

There is a great difference between the neat and the slovenly woman, as every one knows, but there is also a difference in the dress of those who are considered neat housekeepers. One's house may be in "apple-pie" order, but if the dress of its mistress is not neat she has not done her whole duty.

It is every woman's duty to look as neat as circumstances will allow. The greatest mistake is made in wearing out dresses in the kitchen that were made for dressy wear. These never look well and, while pretty print and gingham are so cheap, should never be used for kitchen wear. Sometimes a dress of this kind can be remodeled for kitchen use, if it is wanted for cold weather when the cotton ones would not be warm enough. In this case all superfluous trimmings should be removed, leaving a plain dress with neat cuffs and collar to relieve it. A ruffle at the edge of the skirt should not be considered superfluous. To wear with such a dress one should have a long, sleeved apron or, if preferred, a large bib apron and sleeves. In this way the dress can be kept clean and the apron can be slipped off at a moment's notice if a caller appears, or when sitting down to table. When it is not too cool for cotton dresses they are preferable, and they may be worn in cold weather by using an extra set of underwear. The dark red and dark blue prints are very neat for house wear and the colors are usually fast.

For aprons nothing is better than gingham, if it is of a good quality. Do not get the fine checks, everyone is tired of them, but try the inch checks of red, blue or pink and white. They are pretty and always look so clean after washing.

Some prefer to wear white aprons about their work, as they wash so much easier because they can be boiled. This is a question which I have never been able to settle in my own mind, as so much depends upon how either kind is washed. I use square aprons made of flour sacks sometimes. They are simply hemmed all around and a couple of strings sewed to opposite corners for tying the apron around the skirt. One corner is pinned under the chin and a few darts are taken to make it fit at the waist line. Instead of the darts I sometimes sew tapes to the edge of the apron.

These cross at the back and tie in front, confining the fullness at the waistline. When these aprons are soiled they are soaked a few hours in good soap suds, then put over the fire and boiled ten or fifteen minutes. A very little rubbing and a rinse in clear water makes them nice and white, and as they are hung on the line without wringing they are smooth enough to be folded away without ironing.

The hair should also have attention if the woman of the house is to be neat and presentable at all times. No one who has any self-respect will begin the day's work without smoothing her hair neatly. In some cases where the hair is very long and heavy there may not be time for a regular combing before preparing the early breakfast, but it should be brushed so that no one will suspect that it has not been combed. A thin cap to wear at night will keep the hair in order, but if one does not like this old-fashioned head dress it is well to wear a stout net over the hair.

While considering the dress and hair do not forget there is nothing more slovenly than a shoe that is run over, without buttons or string, or ragged. Throw them away before they get to that condition, and thus keep the respect of yourself and your friends.

One thing more which I wish to speak of is the condition of the hands. It is

SPARKLES.

A hen-pecked looking floor-walker in one of our large department stores was standing in the aisle with a pained and faraway look in his eyes. Suddenly a woman bustled up back of him and demanded, "Where are the children's dresses, sir?"

"In the bottom bureau-drawer, Maria," said the floor-walker, hastily turning around. And then he fled.

The class was discussing animals—how they walked, got up, etc. After she explained the cow's method of rising to her feet, the teacher asked: "Do you know any other animal that gets up like a cow?"

Silence reigned for a moment, then one little girl timidly raised her hand.

"What is it?" asked the teacher, "A calf," was the whispered reply.

The following is reported to have been found on the wall of a deserted cabin in the heart of Nebraska:

"Fare miles from a naber; sixteen miles from a postoffice; twenty-five miles from a raleroad; forty-seven miles from church; half a mile from water; God bless our home!"

"We're gone to British Columbia to get a fresh start."

A Scotchman, wishing to know his fate at once, telegraphed a proposal of marriage to the lady of his choice. After spending the entire day at the telegraph office he was finally rewarded late in the evening by an affirmative answer.

"If I were you," suggested the operator when he delivered the message, "I'd think twice before I'd marry a girl that kept me waiting all day for my answer."

"Na, na," retorted the Scot. "The lass who waits for the night rates is the lass for me."

YOUTHFUL DEPRAVITY.

"Mamma, I think I am not well."

"Child, take little Mabel."

The babe I'd given her to sell.

Narcotized on the table.

Her dimpled cheeks with roses vied;

Her eyes the stars resembled;

The chubby form my faith defied;—

My darling had dissembled.

"I'm sorry, dear," I gravely said,

"Because you'll miss the puddings;

The place for sick folks is in bed.

With not a taste of good things."

She thoughtfully smoothed out her dress,

This wicked little dinner:

"Then I'm not sick just now, I deem,

I'll wait till after dinner."

difficult to keep the hands smooth and white when doing housework unless a little time is given them after washing dishes, clothes, and floors. Wash them carefully in warm and pure water and pure soap, then rinse in clear water and dry on a soft towel. Have on the wash stand a bottle of lemon juice, glycerine and rose water, equal parts, and put a little on the hands each time after washing them as mentioned. It will soon dry in, leaving the hands comfortable. This is also good for the face in cold or windy weather when the skin is liable to chaps. A dash of borated talcum powder after the lotion has dried in will relieve any uncomfortable feeling left by the exposure to the wind or cold. A little cold cream or cream from milk is excellent to rub on the face and hands at night after washing in warm water. Dusting with the powder will relieve the greasy feeling after using the cream. The woman who takes care of her appearance while doing housework will have the respect instead of the ridicule of her acquaintances.

WHEN TO FORGET THE THANKS.

We should be scrupulously careful to thank every one who does anything for us, and callously indifferent when those for whom we do things forget to thank us. Life is a miserable affair on any other basis. A man who had been studying and praying for days over how to help a friend who was in dire need, found a way, by assuming a large personal risk himself. The friend was told the good news, received the information as a very fortunate happening, and uttered not a syllable of thanks to the one who had brought it about. Chagrin, ugly resentment, and the general blackness of soul that follows the giving of self chief place were the first feelings that the unthanked one found were taking possession. He decided to tell some one else about it; and the resentment deepened with the self-satisfaction that accompanied that decision. But before he had carried out his intention he realized its self-centred sin, and resolutely he put the whole matter from his thoughts. Thereupon came peace, light, and a positive exhilaration of joy—just because self had been downed. He almost laughed as he contrasted the comfort of his present decision to "forget it" with the misery of his former intention to keep the sting alive. The man who cannot be happy in the service of others unless he is thanked wants to work for too small wages.

WHITMAN OR READING.

(Horace Traubner in the Century.)

Reading, most of it by candle light, indoors, up against a hot register or steam pipes, is a disease; I doubt if it does any one much good. The best reading seems to need the best open air. When I was down on the creek—Timber creek—and roamed out and along the water, I always took a book, a little book, however rarely I made use of it. It might have been once, twice, three, four, five even nine times. I passed along the same trail and never opened the book but then there was a tenth time always, when nothing but a book would do—not tree, or water, or anything else—only a book; and it was for that tenth trip that I carried the book.

WHAT GOD GIVES A BOY.

A body to keep clean and healthy, as a dwelling place for his mind and a temple for his soul.

A pair of hands to use for himself and others, but never against others for himself.

A pair of feet to do errands of love, and kindness and charity, and business, but not to loiter in places of mischief or temptation or sin.

A pair of lips to speak true, kind, brave words.

A pair of ears to hear music of bird, tree and human voice, but not to give heed to what the serpent says or to what dishonors God or his mother.—Household.

It is told of the youth of a young German prince, many years ago, and presumably the present Emperor of Germany, that upon one occasion, his tutor having been changed, the newcomer in examining the young prince asked:

"Can your Highness tell me how much is nine times twelve?"

"Seventy-two," replied the Prince, with royal promptness.

The tutor paled, but soon recovered his equanimity.

"Permit me to state to your Highness that your Highness' former tutor, whom I have had the honor to succeed as an instructor to your Royal Highness, appears to have been a person of rather limited capabilities," he said.