

The Druse women of Lebanon have still the extraordinary habit of wearing a large silver horn on their heads, over which is thrown a veil; surely a more ungainly style of female head-gear was never conceived. To this custom, doubtless, allusion is made in the passage, "In thy favour our horn shall be exalted." Ps. lxxxix. 17.

Among the more leisured classes, light embroidery, in which they are very dexterous, and the endless eating of sweetmeats seem to be the chief employment of the women of the harems; the absence of books and of intelligent conversation is a marked feature.



DRUSE WOMEN WEARING HORNED HEADDRESS.

The Christian and Jewish women are graceful dispensers of hospitality. At Nazareth we were "most courteously entreated" and regaled with exquisite sweetmeats by a native Christian family; and at Damascus, in a Jewish household, which we visited, two bright daughters of the house played the hostess. They were daintily dressed in loose flowing trousers, embroidered jackets and dainty slippers, and walked about on high pattens, richly enlaid with mother-of-pearl, which kept them six inches from the ground. They chatted pleasantly in excellent French;

the mother of the house, probably unable to speak any Western language, remained in seclusion, although we saw her as we passed the open door of her room, reclining on her divan and vigorously smoking her hubble-bubble pipe.

The baking and cooking for the household is also an important part of woman's work. We were greatly interested in the dexterous manner with which the Syrian women made their thin, wafer-like bread without rolling-pin or board. They take a layer of soft dough, flatten it with the hand, and spread it out, tossing it in the air until it is a large, thin disc of eighteen inches in diameter. This they deftly spread over a sort of cushion, which is then thrust into the bee-hive-shaped oven, previously heated by live coals, and pressed against the hot surface; to this the disc of dough adheres and in a very short time is thoroughly baked.

The braying of meat or grain, that is, its reduction by continuous pounding to the consistency of paste, is a work demanding much physical energy. The product, however, to the Western palate is not commensurate with the labour bestowed. To this protracted process allusion is made in the passage "though thou shouldst bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him." Prov. xxvii. 22.

Milking the goats and camels and making the butter is from time immemorial woman's work. The method of doing this is hardly in accord with Canadian notions of dairy cleanliness. The milk is received into a goatskin with the hair side out, and this is suspended from a tripod or pole and swung or shaken to and fro until the milk is curdled into cheese or butter. The butter is a very different thing from the fragrant golden cakes to be seen on our breakfast tables.

The care of children is by a sacred