

Courier des Dames.

Our lady readers are invited to contribute to this department.

ON HOME SERVICE.

II. THE "DOMINA" (CONTINUED.)

We must suppose that every young wife when she first enters upon her reign is full of high and hopeful purposes, steadfastly determined to do her utmost to make her new home the ideal "woman's kingdom."

The change wrought in a woman's state by the ceremony gone through on "the wedding day," great and momentous as it is, is by no means realised then, and is only understood by degrees. The practical part of the new life is supposed to be "so easy"—the words "oh! of course," when it becomes necessary for me to take charge of a household, I shall be perfectly able to do it, it comes naturally to every woman," are often heard; but they have only too often proved to be vain. Some girls there are who, from having had good home training and a sound education, joined to naturally fine instincts and dispositions, turn quite easily and fearlessly to the exercise of the rule and governance demanded of them, and simply continue in their new homes the system which resulted in so much happiness and comfort under their parents' roof. Other young girls there are who at the very outset of their married life, find themselves beset by a multitude of petty domestic annoyances, difficulties, and anxieties.

The consciousness of incapacity in the young wife leads to a distressing state of wavering and indecision; therefore, she loses gradually all that peaceful calm and ease appertaining to those who have within themselves the power of "setting things to rights."

The gift of organisation is very rare in women; those who possess it require but little help, but for those who have it not, and they far outnumber the former, there are a few plain, simple, practical hints and directions to be given, which, if stated clearly, should be of much assistance. But nothing that can be said, no rules that can be laid down, can avail anything unless the heart of the mistress is thoroughly bent upon realising to their fullest extent all the responsibilities that rest upon her. No matter if the household be large or small, conducted upon the most economical principles, or upon the most liberal scale; the working of all the small delicate wheels of household machinery must be watched and guarded so carefully by the "Domina," that when, as must occasionally happen, her husband claims her help and attention in some other sphere of action, or if she herself be for a time rendered helpless by illness, the orderly movement of the works may be in no way impeded. To secure such a result, we must have perfect confidence in our servants. How is this to be attained? Certainly not all at once; it can only be gained by experience of their ways, dispositions, and tempers, and unless, as is sometimes the case, the young wife brings with her one or two well-known and tried domestics from her old home, she is surrounded by strangers. Therefore, the first difficulty to be encountered lies in the selection of servants. On this point much care and deliberation are required, and, although registry offices and advertisements may occasionally bring the right people together, we should always rather advise consultation with friends.

The main object now in view is to impress upon all young women who are just married the true nature of the responsibilities they have undertaken. The mistress of a household is the pivot upon which the entire household machinery revolves. Whilst yet unmarried, she had but to fall into her place amongst other members of her family, to follow, to assist, to help, to exercise self-denial, and guard against ill-temper and caprice; married, she must lead, regulate, command, advise, comfort, and control; each department looks to her as its head; she must know in order to direct. Much is expected from her; but we would venture to say, not more than any woman true to herself will achieve if she do but recognise the importance of the place she has to fill. By her own daily life, that of her servants will inevitably be moulded. One of her most essential practical duties is orderliness; in fact, it is the corner stone of all genuine home-comfort. Want of order produces hurry, irritation of temper, and numberless evils of that kind, all reacting upon the servants—hence they become discontented and careless; and we think it will be found that the housewife who complains the most about her domestics will be herself devoid of all system. Equally negligent will she be of another great duty, precision in the giving of orders. It is quite marvellous to hear the vague and pre-occupied manner in which some women will make known their wishes for the day. Obviously enough, nothing but mistakes can ensue.

Another special point is the management of temper, and the necessity for understanding the tempers and dispositions of those under her command; but in any case we hold that scolding, high words, and loud reproaches are worse than useless for the preservation of authority—every thoughtful woman will agree with us. And there is a piece of advice we would give, which may sound novel, and may even give rise to a slight smile of scorn. We mistresses are not all perfect—we may have our "little tempers" at times, which we are not able to keep under complete control; therefore, let no one imagine she would be lessening her authority if she were to say to her lady's maid or cook, "I am apt sometimes to speak a little sharply and hastily, but do not instantly take offence, and give me notice to leave. I never mean to be unjust or unkind; do your best to rectify the fault that caused my angry words, and depend upon it I

shall not be slow to recognise the improvement." By thus admitting a common bond of infirmity, mutual confidence will be established, and assuredly the concession will increase, not abolish, respect.

To revert to the habits of order and early rising, too much stress cannot be laid upon the necessity for them. The day should be regularly planned out, and, so far as circumstances admit, the scheme adhered to steadily. The morning hours are golden ones, and can never be recovered if once let slip. We know a lady who, from her first year of wifehood, always rose early enough to gain for herself a clear hour and a half before breakfast. Then she made her plans for the day, wrote out her orders, looked over accounts, wrote letters, and was beforehand with the world, ready and at perfect liberty to enter upon the day's duties and pleasures. So she was never hurried, and was always quick to interest herself in the pursuits of others, and to render active sympathy and help wherever needed.

As years go on, and children are born, the young wife and mother will feel more and more the value of having cultivated the habits of early rising, order and punctuality. Her servants will insensibly be influenced by her spirit and method, and assuredly the other members of her household will value and treasure the harmony and peace which must ensue. We wish, indeed, that all young housewives could recognise fully the responsibilities resting upon them, as the dispensers of all love, beauty, and comfort within their homes. They display often energy enough in the pursuit of amusement, excitement, and dress, and in worthier objects too—in promoting charities, and settling on foot many admirable institutions for the aid and improvement of poor and suffering sisters; but do they put forth their greatest activities for good in their own homes? We do not speak here of husbands and children, but solely of relations to your servants. To us the regret so often expressed in this nineteenth century, that the old attached family-servitor can no longer be found, is a very sad one indeed; it betokens a lamentable failure in family and household attachments. We believe that the power of restoring them to their full strength mainly rests with the "Domina." All women, it is said, love power. Assuredly the mistress of a household has ample scope for the exercise of it; but as one of the most subtle writers of the present day has said, "Woman's power is for rule, not for battle; and her intellect is not for invention or creation, but for sweet ordering, arrangement, and decision. She sees the qualities of things, their claims, and their places. Her great function is praise; she enters into no contest, but infallibly adjudges the crown of content."

Periodical relaxation and leisure are an absolute necessity to those employed in any monotonous daily routine of work. Therefore it will be seen that, as it is to be expected that servants will sometimes wish to see their friends, holidays must be given in rotation, and at stated times. Domestics will soon discover that, with a kind, wise mistress, there is no such very urgent need to insist upon their rights. At the same time it especially behoves the mistress of a household (in London particularly) to know where her young servants spend their holidays. It is only cruel to give them a few hours' leisure, without making sure that content and happiness, and not unrest and misery, will be the result. If they have no friends of their own near, let them be put under the charge of an elder servant. There is always a certain degree of fellowship amongst the class, and a wish to render kindnesses.

We are very sure that it is unwise to give "evenings out" on Sundays in all cases, unless one can be very certainly assured that they are passed in the company of parents, or of steady, respectable friends and connections. But, on the other hand, a point should be made of all servants attending Divine service once at any rate during the Sunday. No matter what their denomination may be, they should always be given an opportunity of attending their own place of worship once in the day; but, as a rule, a Sunday "evening out" is a bad plan. Certainly it may be urged that it is the only day on which servants' friends (people who in all probability have also been hard at work during the week) can receive them, and it seems hard that mistresses should object; but it should be borne in mind that Sunday evenings in London streets present dangers to which no young woman should be exposed.

In small establishments, whenever the family is away from home, it is not a bad plan to allow the servants by turns to stay with their friends; but this can only be done where there are three left in charge; if there are only two it could not be done, as one servant should not be left alone in the house.

At the present day it is not unusual, especially in the homes of professional men, to keep all but open house every Sunday, so that the day in many instances becomes the busiest one in the week. There is no need here to enter upon the question whether it is right or not that it should be so, but we would rather endeavour to meet the difficulty. The preparations for cooking can be brought very forward on the Saturday, and everything requisite for perfect table service being kept at all times (as should be the case) in good order, nothing beyond pre-arrangement and a little extra activity beforehand will be needed. And even where there is only a small household, and the master and mistress frequently dine alone, the same order, neatness, and punctuality should be exacted as when many guests are present. The announcement of "friends to dinner" should occasion no more change or disturbance than would be caused by the placing of additional table appointments.

We believe that the old habit of giving "valets" (as gratuities bestowed upon servants by visitors are called) is growing somewhat into disuse;

but, although it is now absolutely prohibited in some houses, it is difficult to put a stop to it entirely. It does no good—it merely encourages extravagance amongst the servants; for, as the gift comes as a superfluity, they believe themselves quite justified in spending it. If, instead of being allowed to receive gratuities, a slight increase in wages were made, the additional sum might stand a chance of being saved instead of wasted.

In cases of illness it is quite requisite that medical advice and attention should be given at once, and at the expense of the master. In so serious a matter as health, negligence becomes culpable; but at the same time it is a well-recognized fact (probably arising more from want of education than anything else) that servants, and the lower classes generally, are very apt to complain and to imagine themselves seriously ill, if only suffering from a slight indisposition. They are very like children in illness, and require great management. But we think it very unkind at once to send a sick servant out of the house to uncomfortable, dirty lodgings, or even to a hospital, where very often the sight of sufferers all around increases the natural depression caused by illness, and renders recovery more difficult. In cases of accident, however, it is very different, as no more perfect and efficacious surgical aid can be obtained than that given in our hospitals. But in ordinary illnesses servants should not be sent away; the healthy ones will wait upon those who are ill very readily, and supply their places also in the household, unless the time should be too much protracted; then additional help will become necessary.

The house lady should herself pay a daily visit to a sick servant, and, if possible, see the doctor in attendance at the time of the visit. She should be careful that all directions are honestly carried out, and should either administer the medicine herself, or depute an upper servant in whom she has confidence to give it. At the time of convalescence also, servants require looking after like children, as they are seldom careful enough in what they eat and drink. Should the disease be of a contagious nature, and should there be young children in the house, or others likely to suffer from the presence of the invalid, removal from the house, of course, is absolutely necessary.

The wise and good mistress, who, having found out her servant in a flagrant act of dishonesty, still longs to save her from utter disgrace and a miserable life, and for that reason retains her in her service, upon trial as it were, thus giving her a chance of re-establishing herself, and causing the past to be forgotten, will come nearer to our ideal "house lady" than the one who should in righteous indignation chase the offender from her roof, and render it all but impossible for her ever to do right. Still we own the matter is difficult, but we will trust the right solution of it to the house lady who does not hold herself too much aloof from her servants, but who makes herself, as far as possible, acquainted with their families; and if she sees signs of distress or anxiety on the face of any one attending upon her, let her find out what it is, that she may help, comfort, or advise, as the case may be. It is wonderful what good a little timely sympathy may do in preventing a young servant perhaps from parting too readily with her recently-earned wages to some idle or unworthy relative. Servants should be paid regularly every three months, but the remuneration is not complete unless they are taught the worth of money. On this point, as on all others, it is the educated and the thoughtful who must try to show the uneducated and thoughtless how to make the most of what life offers to them.—Queen.

Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D., has been unanimously elected a member of the British Medical Association.

The ladies are coming in for some of the good things. Mrs. Carey, sister of Senator Stewart, has been appointed postmistress at her native town in Ohio, with a salary of \$2,200. She presided over the household of Senator Stewart during the absence of his family in Europe, and is a very charming and estimable lady—and widow.

A Western paper gives the history of a young woman who has for several years past successfully cultivated a farm of 120 acres. In 1868 she was attending a young ladies' seminary; but her father died, leaving a farm encumbered with debt, with only her feeble mother to oversee the hired help. The daughter left her school, and with the assistance of her little brother, ten or twelve years old, commenced farming. She dresses in a gymnastic suit, with broad-brimmed hat, gloves, and boots; but she has learned to do most kinds of work, and has been successful in her harvests. She chiefly cultivates corn and wheat, though several acres are devoted to grass, and her young orchard has borne a good deal of fruit, which she herself has taken to market.

Theatrical ladies seem to be in high favor at Vienna, three of them having had exceeding good fortune during the past year. Miss Dustmann, a lady of limited means and unlimited aspirations, had an admirer whom she turned away for another. The swain whom she disdained has recently died, leaving her a large fortune. Another, Miss Rabatinski, is to be married to a very wealthy manufacturer. One of the paragraphs of the marital contract stipulates that on separation, no matter for what cause, or which party demands it, one hundred thousand dollars are to be paid to the lady. The third, Mlle. Troust, a singer, is engaged to a captain in charge of the German North Pole expedition. He has legally pledged himself to marry her on his return, or to leave her all his possessions.

The best remedy known for Summer Complaint, Colby's Pills.

News of the Week.

THE Prince of Wales has gone to Vienna.

THE Sultan, it is rumored, is seriously ill.

FOUR cases of cholera are reported in Vienna.

THE Shah of Persia had departed on his western tour.

TWENTY thousand miners have struck work in Leicestershire.

HIS Holiness the Pope has had a relapse and is confined to his bed.

THE death of the wife of Henri de Rochefort, if reported from Paris.

AN amalgamation of the different Cable Companies is spoken of.

THE trial of the Tichborne claimant for perjury, began on Wednesday.

A BAND of Cuban insurgents have been defeated by the troops opposed to them.

THE Moslems, after a severe fight, have been beaten, and the troops are in pursuit.

THE Postal Treaty between France and the United States is still under consideration.

BIDWELL has been handed over to the British authorities by the Captain General of Cuba.

THE Czarevitch of Russia and his wife, the Princess Dagmar, will visit London next month.

AT the request of Spain, France has permitted the transport of war material through her territory.

THE Vienna exhibition will be opened on the 1st of May, although the building will not then be complete.

CABLE rates will be advanced after the 1st of May to six shillings sterling, or one dollar and a half per word.

PRINCE ALBRECHT, nephew of the Emperor of Germany, was married to Princess Mary of Saxe-Altenburg a few days ago.

THE two banks at Liverpool, Nova Scotia, which suspended, are expected to resume business immediately.

THE beer riots at Frankfurt have not broken out afresh, the rioters being overawed by a strong display of military force.

A MASS meeting of Democrats will be held in London to protest against the non-recognition of the Spanish Republic by England.

EDOUARD MAINVILLE, the murderer of the little girl Robitaille, has been caught at a place called Deschenes, not far from Aymer.

SEVEN hundred sons of St. Crispin struck work at Cincinnati, because their Society is not formally recognized by their employers.

PERSIA having complained of the violation of her frontier, the Russian troops have received orders to respect Persian territory in future.

THE Dutch, who are at war with the natives in Sumatra, have met with a repulse in which they lost 200 men and the officer commanding.

AN Englishman has been arrested by French officers on the frontier and sent to Perpignan, charged with holding a commission in the Carlist force.

BISMARCK, in a debate on a bill to regulate ecclesiastical appointments, denied that he had prompted the occupation of Rome by the Italian Government.

PREDATORY bands of Carlists were still cutting the railways in the north of Spain, and killing such passengers as were so unlucky as to fall into their hands.

A GERMAN professor has dissuaded the Japanese Embassy, now in Europe, from reporting in favor of making Christianity the state religion of Japan.

JUDGE DAVIS has granted the District Attorney's motion to set aside the writ of error in the Stokes case, which decision of course lessens the prisoner's chances of a new trial.

THE violence of the earthquake at San Salvador has been greater than at first reported, the entire city being destroyed as well as surrounding villages. Loss of life, 500.

TURKEY is taking rapid strides in civilization. The railway between the chief city of the empire and Adrianople, the next in rank, has been completed and trains are now running.

A FRIGHTFUL railroad accident occurred on Saturday, on the line between Stonington and Providence, R. I., by a train going through a bridge. Fifteen to twenty persons were burnt to death and many were injured.

O'KELLY, the N. Y. Herald correspondent, is in no immediate danger, as even in case of his conviction by the Court, the Captain General will, according to his expressed intention, extend to him a free pardon. In the meantime his trial will go on.

It is stated that over 200 immigrants arrived in New York who had been promised employment immediately on their arrival there by Immigration Agents in London, a promise which was not fulfilled. This is a form of deception which is deserving of the severest censure.

THE village of Berthier, opposite Sorel, is completely inundated, the river having risen to within thirteen inches of the level attained by the great flood of 1865. Happily, however, the ice, which was much feared, has moved away. At Riviere du Loup (en haut) the ice is still firm and the water causes much damage, sweeping away houses, barns and other buildings.

Nightmare in children denotes a want of nervous energy commensurate with the strain upon the general system, and should be attended to by the parent or guardian early to prevent graver complications. Follows' Hypophosphites will restore healthy activity to the nervous system in a short time.