

HOUSEHOLD.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

The Feverish Hand.

It was a Monday morning, and a rainy one at that. 'Mother' was busy from the moment she sprang out of bed, at the first sound of the rising bell. Others besides children get out of bed 'on the wrong side,' as this mother can testify.

She began by thinking over all that lay before her. It made her 'feel like flying?' Bridget would be cross, as it was rainy; there was a chance of company for lunch, so the parlor must be tidied, as well as the dining-room swept, dishes washed, lamps trimmed, beds made, and children started for school. Her hands grew hot as she buttered bread for luncheons, waited on those who had to start early, and tried to pacify the little ones and Bridget.

'My dear, you're feverish,' said her husband, as he held her busy hands a moment. 'Let the work go, and rest yourself. You'll find it pays.'

'Just like a man!' thought the mother. 'Why, I haven't time, even, for my prayers!' But the little woman had resolved that she would read a few verses before ten o'clock each day. So, standing by her table, she opened the eighth chapter of Matthew, and read these words: 'And he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she arose and ministered unto them.'

It seemed to that busy wife as if Jesus himself stood ready to heal her, to take the fever out of her hands that she might minister wisely to her dear ones. The beds could wait until later in the day, the parlor might be a little disordered, she must feel his touch! She knelt, and he whispered: 'My grace (not yours, child) is sufficient. . . . As thy days, so shall thy strength be. . . . My yoke is easy (this yoke you have been galled by is the world's yoke, the yoke of public opinion or housewifely ambition); take my yoke upon you, and learn of me. . . . Ye shall find rest.'

The day was no brighter, the work had still to be done; but the fever had left her, and all day she said: 'This God is our God, my Lord and my God.'

It is true that, when the friends came to lunch, no fancy dishes had been prepared for the table, but the hostess's heart was filled with love for them as members with her of Christ, and they went away hungering for such a realization of him as they saw she had.

'Ah,' said her husband, when he held her hands once more, 'I see you took my advice, dear; the fever is quite gone.'

The wife hesitated. Could she tell her secret? Was it not almost, too sacred? Yet it was the secret of the Lord (not hers), and would glorify him. Later on, when the two sat together, she told him who had cured her fever, and said, quietly: 'I see that there is a more important ministry than the house-keeping, though I don't mean to neglect that.'

'Let us ask the Lord to keep hold of our hands,' said her husband. 'Mine grow feverish in eager money-making, as yours in too eager housekeeping.'

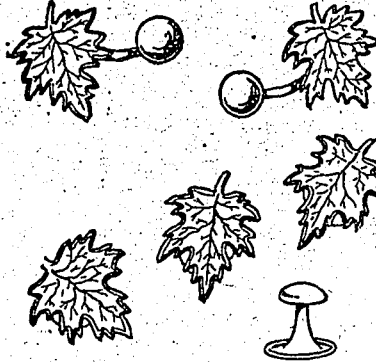
This is no fancy sketch. Dear mothers, busy, anxious housekeepers, let us go again and again to him, that he may touch our hands, lest they be feverish, and so we cannot minister in the highest sense, to those about us.—'Christian Budget.'

Changing the Order.

The most unselfish persons are the home makers, and perhaps no other class as a rule receives so little thanks or gratitude for services rendered. Upon the time and patience of the mistress of the house a thousand demands, reasonable and unreasonable, are made and acceded to until she comes to be regarded as a part of the machinery—the working machinery—of the home. She must look after the comfort of all else with very little recognition of her own welfare. If she has growing daughters the pretty dainty things are theirs, and if the family purse is limited, as it usually is in the average home, the mother does without in order that the girls, whose lives are already full of the happiness of youth, may have all the accessories

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of dress which fashion demands, and the annual outing as well.

This entire self-abnegation on the part of the mother is, to say the least, unwise. The care and protracted strain tells in time and very often just when her children need their mother's care and guidance she breaks down and must be laid aside. The mother owes it to herself to take the rest and to claim a part of the good times she so unselfishly hands over to her daughters, who, in some cases, are only too willing to accept the sacrifice. It has become the fashion to let all interests bend to the will of the youthful members of the household, much to their moral detriment, and it is time that the order should be reversed and the mother exact some of that old-time consideration which women of an older school expected and demanded.

There are many ways in which the house-keeping affairs, especially during the heat and exhaustion of the summer, can be simplified and the work divided more evenly among the other members of the family. If, as a result, some happy girlhood hours must be spent in the discipline of wholesome household employments, the result will be good, and the daughters will be richly rewarded for any self-sacrifice in seeing their mother renewing her strength by her well-earned rest. When the mother shows a tendency to merge her personality in the work of caring for husband and children, this tendency should be promptly checked, and she should be made to know that she is the centre round which every interest of the home resolves, and be made to feel that so far from serving her children, she must be served by them.—'Presbyterian Banner.'

Selected Recipes.

Salad of Apples.—Slice very thin three or four nice, ripe apples. Arrange these in a salad bowl, sprinkling each layer with cinnamon and sugar. Finally, pour a gill of syrup of currant or grape jelly.

How to make Poultices.—'Brain,' the London periodical, gives the following practical hints on this subject: 'The common practice in making poultices of mixing the linseed meal with hot water, and applying it directly to the skin, is quite wrong; because if we do not wish to burn the patient, we must wait until a great portion of the heat has been lost. The proper method is to take a flannel bag (the size of the poultice required), to fill this with linseed poultice as hot as it can possibly be made, and to put between this and the skin a second piece of flannel,

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so that there shall be at least two thicknesses of flannel between the skin and the poultice itself. Above the poultice should be placed more flannel, or a piece of cotton-wool, to prevent it from getting cold. By this method we are able to apply the linseed meal boiling hot, without burning the patient, and the heat gradually diffusing through the flannel, affords a grateful sense of relief which cannot be obtained by other means. There are few ways in which such marked relief is given to abdominal pain as by the application of a poultice in this manner.'

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