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Everybody's Busy.

By RUTH CAMERON.



We were speaking of a certain woman who lives the year round in boarding houses, and who has no work of any sort and no family or other responsibilities.

"How heavy time must hang on her hands," said one of the speakers, a busy mother of three small children.

Another member of the group, who once lived at the same boarding house as the subject of our discussion, laughed.

"My dear," she said, "she wouldn't thank you for that. She thinks she has heaps to do. Two or three times I have asked her to go to work, and she has said she couldn't possibly go that morning because she had so much to do. And, often I've heard her come down to dinner saying that she was tired out, she had been so busy all the afternoon."

"Busy at what?"

Her Women's Old Jobs Are Her Whole Occupation.

"Oh, I don't know, writing a few letters, watering her plants, ironing out some handkerchiefs, sewing in a fresh collar—I suppose. The sort of things I do after my family has gone to bed."

"What on earth would she do if she had my family to look after?" demanded the mother of three. "If she will just looking after herself being busy, what would she do if she had to look after four people besides herself, and two of them small children?"

"I guess she'd just give up," I volunteered.

"She'd find a way,"

And the lady who always answers somehow, spoke up. "No, she wouldn't. She'd find a way to do it if she had to. It's not what we can that we do, but what we have to whether it's a lot or a little. And most of us think it's a lot."

She's right, isn't she? How seldom you find anyone who will admit he or she is not busy. Nothing makes people madder than to suggest that they have an easy time. Last winter I met a woman who had given up her personal maid as a war economy. She lives in an apartment hotel and has absolutely no cares except

cept to look after the comfort of her husband, an extremely busy man. Yet she thought that parting with her maid made life very strenuous for her. "You know," she said, "I have to wait on Henry by inches when he goes in the morning—see that his cuff links and his studs are in place and his clean under wear is out and all that sort of thing. I'm completely tired out by the time he gets off."

How Long Would It Take Her?

As I listened to her, I thought of some of the women I know, who have several small children and no help, who do all the housework, take all the care of the children, and very likely make their clothes. And I wondered, supposing fate should suddenly switch them about, what would happen. Not in the case of the woman who bewailed the loss of her personal maid. I have already told you what would happen there. My wonder was all for the other woman. How long would it take her to come to think herself a very busy woman in her new position?

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Press Briefs.

AN IMPOSSIBILITY.—It is much easier for an awkward man to step on a lady's veil than to step on her skirt these days.—Regina Post.

IS THE TURK AN EXAMPLE.—A Turk never touches intoxicating liquor. That ought to have the effect almost of making a prohibition orator dry up.—Detroit News.

TO BE REGRETTED.—Noticing the international tangle over Germany's warships makes the low visibility at the battle off Jutland all the more regrettable.—New York Telegram.

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Household Notes.

When buying furniture, insist on having wooden casters, because the dampness of summer makes the metal ones rust and mark the floors.

A good watermelon is heavy, and the outside should be firm and crisp. If the outside seems tough and wilted it has been too long off the vine. Potatoes are not good if they have been standing in the sun for several hours. The sun burns them, and they will not cook flaky and delicious.

All willow or reed furniture will last longer if it is given an annual coat of oil. This keeps the fiber pliable and prevents its breaking.

All surplus juices that exude from cooked fruit can be boiled down, made a trifle richer and put into jars. It will make good flavoring for gelatin. It is a good idea to iron woolen underwear on the wrong side; this will make the surface which is worn next to the body smooth and not irritating.

Children should not be allowed to eat anything but fruit between meals. Constant nibbling is the cause of indigestion and prevents proper eating at the table.

The blossom end of either cantaloupe or watermelon is sweeter than the stem end; therefore, it is a good plan to cut the cantaloupe in half the long way.

Dry parsley in the following way: Wash and shake it well; then spread in a bake-pan and put in a rather cool oven. When it is crisp, cool and pack tight in a glass jar.

Examine preserved fruit one week after it has been put away; if there is any sign of fermentation empty the fruit out, recock it and use it at once as stewed fruit.

All blooming shrubs should be trimmed after they have stopped blooming. It is the new growth that makes the blooms, and if that is cut off in the spring the bush will not bloom well.

Milady's Boudoir.

KEEPING THE HANDS BEAUTIFUL.

The woman who does her own housework and still cares about her personal daintiness has a difficult time keeping her hands in good condition. Constant contact with dish water, with the dust and dirt encountered in daily domestic duties, do much to destroy the fine texture and beauty of the skin. And yet, it is quite impossible to let one's hands go to destruction for ugly hands will destroy the whole appearance of any woman.

Nothing betrays lack of daintiness in personal care more than neglect of the hands and nails. Of course, it is more difficult for some women to keep their hands and nails soft and white and free from blemishes than others. But in the care of the hands immaculate cleanliness is imperative no matter what work it is necessary for the housewife to do.

The hands should never be washed except when time can be taken to do it thoroughly. Constantly rinsing them in cold water grinds in the dirt and ruins the texture of the skin, making it rough, coarse and red. When exposed to hard usage, as in the routine of housework, instead of frequently washing the hands in water, a few drops of oil should be rubbed into them. They should then be dusted with talcum powder and wiped with a coarse towel. This will cleanse them and protect the flesh from growing callous.

If persistent stains appear upon the hands, rub half a lemon over the hands until the disfiguring marks disappear. Lemon juice is about the best agent to use, though pumice stone is also excellent. Tepid water should be used when the hands are washed, and a good pure soap.

Another hint in beautifying the hands. Before retiring at night wash them thoroughly, rub in a good cold cream or olive oil, sprinkle with talcum powder and draw on a pair of old white gloves several sizes too big. Be sure that the gloves have just been cleaned, for if they are dirty they will do more harm than good to the hands. In the morning take off gloves and wash in tepid water, using no soap. This treatment if persisted in will keep the hands soft, white and lovely, even when their owner does all her housework.

WINTER'S BACKBONE.



Let glad words be joyously spoken, let bonnets be thrown in the air; the backbone of winter is broken, it's fractured so none can repair. Farewell to the sleet and the drizzle, mild zephyrs will presently come; old winter's a frost and a fizzle, the heavens 'd taken that spring will be here with the goods; the backbone of winter is broken, the birdlets will sing in the woods. Farewell to the coughing and sneezing, to wintertime ailments all know, to nights that are age-long and freezin', to winds that are plastered with snow. I feared that an overcast oaken would hold me over winter was done; the backbone of winter is broken, make way for the roses and lilies, make way for grass and the dew; the winter has given us willing, but spring makes us better than new. From Hannibal clear to Hoboken let's lift up a rapturous song; the backbone of winter is broken, the backbone that hung on so long.

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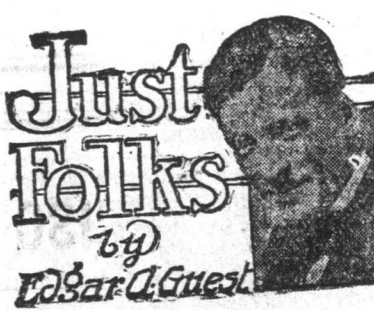
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THE CROWN OF SERVICE. Never mind the heights of glory, never mind the distant goals; We may strive for them and miss them and it will not harm our souls.

It's the many petty failures that should trouble every man: Are we failing to be helpful when we should and when we can?

Never mind the mountain summit, all life's beauty isn't there. All success is not in standing where the many never fare. And the things that ought to vex us as we journey on life's way, Are the kindly words of comfort and of cheer we've failed to say.

It's the failure to be honest and the failure to be true, And our blindness to the many little deeds that we could do, That would smooth the way for others and would break the clouds of doubt. Not the big and selfish failures that we ought to fret about. We may never climb the mountain, we may never rise to fame, We may fail to win distinction, but earth's joys are ours to claim; And he wins the crown of service Whose has helped when'er he can— Never failed in deeds of kindness, never failed to be a man.

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