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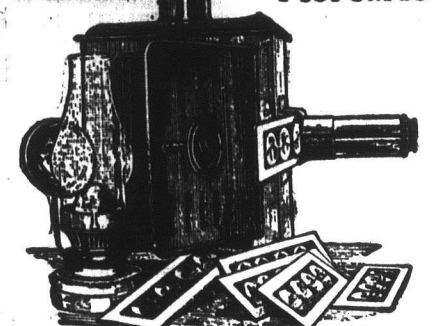
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The Girl and the Home.

Volumes have been written, and other volumes will be written, containing good advice for girls. In our brief remarks we do not intend to write a thesis on this subject but must content ourselves with two or three hints which we consider of the greatest importance.

First, the girl in the home should always bear in mind that she is preparing herself to become a woman, a housekeeper, a mother, a wife. Not that every girl will actually become all these things, but she should prepare herself to properly fulfil these functions. This is her first business, to learn how to keep a house, to learn how to attend to the wants of small children, to learn how to manage hired help, to learn everything that her mother knows.

Even when quite young she can begin this very necessary education. A girl ought to be able to dress herself and take care of her own room before she is ten years old. Instead of being a burden on the household she should be a help.

In helping the housewife she is laying the foundation for an education that will make her really a woman. No matter what career is before her she will always be the better for knowing how to do ordinary housework, and for having the physical ability to do it.

The girls of a generation or two ago were generally brought up in this way. No higher ambition was held up before them than to become like their mothers, good, practical housekeepers.

This bringing up was all right so far as it went. But it did not go far enough, and will not at all meet the

necessities of a girl's education today. Besides learning to be a housekeeper, a mother and wife, the girl should prepare herself for some vocation that will enable her to live an independent life.

A girl that is brought up with no other idea before her than to get married and settled down, is indeed in a pitiful condition. If the right man happens to come along at the right time and makes an offer of marriage, all is well. But this is the very thing that may not happen, and it is a pathetic sight to witness the long-drawn-out disappointment that awaits a girl who has not prepared herself for independent life, waiting year after year for some one to come along and marry her, but he never comes.

Therefore, a girl should have before her the ambition, first, to be the mistress of a home, if such a lot should befall her; or, on the other hand, to be able to maintain a single life with dignity and self-reliance. With this ambition before her the girl will find plenty to do, but with the proper attitude toward her work it will not be irksome at all.

The girl should say to herself: "Should a man I really love want to marry me I must be able to keep house as good or even better than my mother does. I must learn everything that my mother knows about housekeeping, and, if possible, learn a great deal that she does not know. But in case no worthy man asks me to marry him, I shall not become a burden on anyone else. I can do a good work in this world without getting married. I can make myself

happy and useful in some one of the many vocations that are now open to women."

The girl does not wait until some providential circumstance throws her out upon the world for herself, but she begins to fit herself for such a possibility while she is safe at home, surrounded by friends and advisers. Art, music, stenography, bookkeeping, school teaching, and many other excellent vocations are before her. In acquiring her rudimentary education she should begin to think of the possibility of being left alone some day and obliged to earn her own living, and making an early choice as to what she had rather do.

With this thought before her, at the age of eighteen she should not only be able to keep house, but she should also be able to earn a good living in some professional or business way. If she elects for herself a college career, fitting herself for some higher profession, she should be able to enter upon that college course at the age of eighteen. She will be if she has employed her time properly.

Then, instead of sitting down to wait for some man to come along and ask her to become his wife, she goes to work with a will. This brings her out into the world, among men. She is brought in contact with a thousand times as many men as if she were waiting at home. She sees the world as it is. She learns to know men as they really are.

That home girl, whose acquaintance with men is very limited, is a great deal less liable to become happily married than that girl who has come in contact with the world in a business way, and learned somewhat of the workings of society before entering the domestic life.

Not that we would elect for every girl a business career before she settles down to home life. Not by any means. But in fitting herself for a business or professional career, even though she never fills it, she has not only saved herself from the humiliation of waiting for a lover that never comes, but has incidentally fitted herself for a domestic life much more thoroughly than as if she had contented herself with a home education.

A girl ought to be taught to look the possibilities of her career squarely in the face. She is liable to live a single life; or, in case she marries, is liable to be left a widow and thrown upon her own resources. She is liable to have an invalid husband and the support of the whole family thrown upon her. All these liabilities are before her, and it is somewhat risky to stake her whole career on the one expectation of being supported by a husband.

A girl who has this thought before her mind cannot fail to be a good girl in the home. The housework, which seems to some girls as drudgery, will seem to her an education. The home becomes her college. Every detail of work that is going on around her is of interest to her, because she is looking forward to the time when these duties will become her duties. Attendance upon

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