

SUMMER BOARDING.

HERE are so many things to think of when looking for board out of town, that it is a good plan to begin some weeks beforehand and make a memorandum of the points to be considered. Of first importance is the healthiness of the locality, especially if it be a farm. Many people have an idea that all country places must be healthy, because it is the country, but this is a mistake. If the house stands in a hollow, with the surrounding land sloping toward it, the farm buildings, stable, pig-pen, etc., on higher ground, depend upon it miasma is lurking there; don't be tempted by the shade and the coolness to go there, even for a few weeks. It were better to stay in the middle of the city. If the house be perched high and dry, with no disagreeable surroundings, find out where the drinking water comes from. If the pump is in the kitchen, as is often the case, see where the drainage goes. If you are not satisfied that the well is free from all house drainage, do not imperil your life, or that of your children, by being obliged to drink that water.

Wherever you go, be it mountain, seashore or farm, do not consent on any terms to take a room near the closets. Many cases of typhoid and other fevers, occurring after persons have returned from some of the noted summer resorts, have been directly traceable to the foul air emanating from the closets. It is wise to make inquiries about a physician, his practice, standing, and nearness to your contemplated boarding-house. Learn the facilities for church going if you intend to stay many weeks. See if there is any convenient way of having your clothes laundried, and make sure of this. Do not be satisfied with the answer "Oh, I guess Betty Jones would do it for you," but see Betty Jones and learn her charges. If she says "I guess I can do it to accommodate you," tell her you want a positive answer; remind her that you are not asking a favor, you are trying to make a bargain; you want work done and expect to pay for it. Of one thing you may be certain, you will have to pay, and pay well. People who work to "accommodate" others, always charge high; but it is extremely unpleasant, not to say inconvenient, to be away from home without any clean clothes, and it is almost impossible to take with you a supply for more than two weeks, especially if you have children.

See that you have in your rooms all conveniences for the toilet; a bowl and pitcher and soap dish you will probably find, but rarely a mug or tumbler, and more rarely still, especially in a farm house, a receptacle for waste water. If there should be one, you will have to stipulate that it be emptied, and your pitcher filled with fresh water twice a day. In all first-class hotels and boarding-houses this is done as a matter of course, but in lesser places, especially farmhouses, it is almost unheard of. If occasionally a jar or pail for waste water happens to be in the room, it is often left standing until in sheer desperation the boarder empties it herself. I should advise against this. I know from experience that this is a bad plan unless one prefers to do such work. These little niceties and refinements of city life are not always understood nor appreciated among the farmers, where, as a rule, the whole family, including the hired help, wash at the pump and use one common towel. I have heard a farmer's wife say of her boarders, "If them city folks use sech a lot o' water, let 'em empty it theirselves." It is best to have all such doubtful points definitely settled beforehand; and you

can, in a quiet, ladylike way, intimate that you have been accustomed to have such offices performed for you, and you expect it to be done and are willing to pay for it. If such arrangements are not made before engaging the rooms, or if you are not willing to pay for the service, you must not complain, but take things as you find them.

It is a good plan to take with you a bottle of carbolic acid, or some other disinfectant, to use in the pails, etc., after they have been emptied. Such work is often carelessly done, even in places where you would expect better things; they are often not rinsed, never scalded, consequently are not only very offensive, but extremely unhealthy.

You had better see also if there are any towel racks, pegs, or even nails for drying towels; otherwise you may walk around with your damp towel in your hand, not liking to hang it either on your bed, or your bureau (if you are fortunate enough to have one in your room), or on the back of the only chair. See also if there are any hooks or pegs where you can hang your dresses, unless you like to live in a trunk. Of course no one expects to find in a farmhouse all the conveniences and comforts of home; but just these little things add so much to your comfort or discomfort, and they cost so little that I am sure any landlady would provide them if it were suggested to her.

Soap, of course, you will take with you, and extra towels. The towels provided in country boarding-houses are usually small, and there are seldom enough; indeed, in some country houses they consider two of these little towels a week a liberal supply for each person.

Provide yourself also with a convenient box containing simple remedies, such as nitre, camphor, ginger, arnica, ammonia, quinine, etc., and do not forget mustard and some thin pieces of old linen. Country stores are apt to be a long way off, and, though they are supposed to keep everything, they are apt to be "just out" of whatever you happen to want, though they "have ordered some, and it will be here in a few days." This is almost unavoidable for many reasons; many articles deteriorate seriously if kept a long time, especially drugs, for which, in the country, there is no steady demand; whereas, in the city, it is no trouble to get them fresh and carry them with you wherever you may go. Sewing materials, such as cotton, silk, tape, needles, buttons, etc., should also be carried in your trunk, as well as paper, pens, ink and stamps. Ink is such an ugly thing to carry that I did not take any with me the first summer we went to a farmhouse, thinking I should be able to buy a bottle at the country store, but there was none to be had; neither did I find any at the "Springs," where we went afterwards. Since then, a traveller's inkstand or a fountain pen goes wherever I go. Several yards of cheap mosquito netting, with a hammer and paper of tacks, will add to your comfort by keeping the flies out of your room, even though there may be no trouble from mosquitoes.

Above all, because you are "going to a farm," do not leave "good manners" at home. True gentlemen and women are so always and everywhere, and rudeness and ill-breeding are just as offensive in the country as in the city. If "country ways" offend you, remember your "city notions" may be equally offensive. If you remark audibly about the coarseness of the table linen, sneer at the steel forks, tin spoons and thick china, you will not be regarded as a super-