

home, where the sweetest relations of life rest on firm foundations, and the purest sentiments thrive. It is an accomplishment that may be acquired by study and experiment, but the young and inexperienced housekeeper generally reaches success only through great tribulation. It ought to be absorbed in girlhood, by easy lessons taken between algebra, music, and painting (although the writer never attempted any of these housekeeping problems until she had reached the age of 18). If girls were taught to take as much genuine pride in dusting a room well, hanging a curtain gracefully, or broiling a steak to a nicety, as they feel when they have mastered one of Mozart's or Beethoven's grand symphonies, there would be fewer complaining husbands and unhappy wives. The woman who is satisfied only with the highest perfection in her work, drops the drudge and becomes the artist. There is no luck in housekeeping, however it may seem. Everything works by exact rule, and even with thorough knowledge, eternal vigilance is the price of success. There must be a place for everything and everything in its place, a time for everything and everything in its time, and "patience, patience" must be written in glowing capital letters all over the walls. The reward is sure. Your husband may admire your grace and ease in society, your wit, your school-day accomplishments of music and painting, but all in perfection will not atone for an ill-ordered kitchen, sour bread, muddy coffee, tough meats, unpalatable vegetables, indigestible pastry, and the whole train of horrors that result from bad housekeeping.

One of the first ideas the young housekeeper should divest herself of is that because she is able, or expects some time to be able to keep servants, it is therefore unnecessary to understand household duties, and to bear their responsibility.

"Girls" are quick to see and note the ignorance, or the incapacity of the mistress of the house, and few are slow to take whatever advantage it brings them, but the capacity of a mistress at once establishes discipline.