

THE HOUSEHOLD.

BE POLITE TO YOUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS.

(American Kindergarten.)

We overheard a gentleman, the other day, telling his grown son how on the preceding Sabbath he had found the hymn in the book and handed it to his daughter. He remarked: "She flushed as she took it, and was immensely set up. I do not think I ever found the place for her before." She always had been to him a little girl, but her evident pleasure and pride in his attention opened his eyes. Romp and tumble with your children as you will, treat them as babies, or the girls as tom-boys, but please remember that "There is a time for all things," and when you are with the child before strangers, a formal introduction of "Miss Mabel," with all due regard to the little lady's dignity, will make a warmer place in her heart than most parents can imagine. Papa and mamma are to her the wisest and the best beings on the earth. There is also a little woman growing in the child's heart, with all the woman's dignity and sensitiveness, and when mamma and papa treat her in public with respect and consideration, be sure she will repay you in her graceful acceptance of the honor.

In the street, or the restaurant, coming home from church, or at the social gathering, wherever you take the child, polite attentions shown, in the same way that they are shown to older persons, tend to make the child love and respect both father and mother, and while they satisfy the natural craving for such things they prevent precocious seeking after them from those outside of the family.

If the father is extremely careful in such matters, and transgresses in no way, when taking the daughter to church, be quite certain that no boys will pay her attention unless they are fully up to the father's standard of etiquette. If the father at church, social gathering, or place of business is obliged to leave the child for a while, and says, "Please excuse me, I will come for you," etc., he may be perfectly certain that when later in life a young gentleman escorts her, she will demand quite as much politeness and consideration of him.

If one wishes to study the effect of politeness to girls, they can easily try it when opportunity offers, by handing a plate of refreshments, or a glass of water to some child of their acquaintance with the same little deferential bow, or the same form of words, that would have been employed in serving the belle of the evening. If the child has not been treated too much like a baby, and made to feel that children do not belong in any way to "grown-up" people, there will be a very decided flush of pleasure, and the little one will beam on you and warm to your conversation in a charming way.

Above all things do not snub your daughters in public. If, when you introduce them to some stranger or friend, the child ventures to say a word or two of the commonplace remarks usual at such times, do not express any disapprobation.

When there is an opportunity to take the child out coasting, to ride to the village, to go downtown in the street cars, or to go out on any of the errands where the girl may go with the father, change the ordinary form of invitation. Instead of telling the child to "Get ready," or saying, "You can go if you wish," say, "I would be pleased to have you walk downtown with me." In fact, as nearly as may be, use the form of invitation which would be given to an intimate lady friend. I shall never forget the pleased, womanly satisfaction that I have seen come over a child's face when some thoughtful friend has given such an invitation. It reminds me of the look I have sometimes seen when I have lifted my hat to a little lady on the street.

In many respects a father can make his daughters. He can certainly form their tastes and decide in advance what kind of men they will prefer to associate with. If he neglects them they may have wild ideas of what should be the external qualities of the men with whom they come in contact.

Mothers may do even more for the sons than the fathers can for the daughters. Of a "mother's influence" I do not speak,

but merely of her power in moulding the manners and social habits of the coming man. While the religious and moral influence of the father and mother are of paramount importance, the moulding of the external man can not be neglected by parents without injury to the child.

How early the mother may begin in teaching the boy to be polite and thoughtful I do not know. I have seen cases where the instruction began at five and was immensely successful. The little fellow may need mother's protection at nearly every step, and yet he may give mamma his hand as she steps across the gutter, and be proud to do so. On the horse car if he has the fare in advance, and is taught when and how to pay, gives the conductor the signal to stop, gets out in advance of the mother and seems to take care of her, he will be pleased because he is playing man.

The lesson is useful all the same. At the ferry gates he can go in advance and no one need see when the money was handed to him. Indeed the best way is to provide it for him in his pocket-book at home.

In the country the little fellow's hand may be of no earthly use in getting out of the waggon, yet it should be taken all the same, and the "Thank you" should come just as sweetly and politely as it was said to your lover before marriage.

In a word, teach the boy to make love to his mamma and let the father make love to his daughter. This is the key-note to the whole matter. As the boy grows older the duty of escorting his mother and sisters, if he has them, will not be wearisome, indeed they will be pleasurable, if the child has been early trained to them and been taught the pleasures of politeness. Brothers too frequently neglect their sisters because they are not rewarded as other boys would be by the same girls. The brother assumes ownership of his sisters as they do of him. He often shirks irksome duties as bores that are unreasonable. They take the brother as a matter of course, —when they can get him.

When the boy becomes tall enough so that you can take his arm, even though somewhat awkwardly, do so when on the street by all means. Depend upon him for all those little acts of politeness, and assistance which will be expected of him in the years to come.

When you ask him for a glass of water do not fail to acknowledge it, as you would if it were tendered you by one of your own age. Call attention to the child, at proper times, by introducing him in due form. Teach him to lift his hat to his lady friends and acquaintances. When you bow to a lady see that his hat comes off, and that he bows as well.

By beginning early, these things interest the boy and he is glad to perform the little acts which raise him in his own estimation. In them all, there must be a constant return of all the little acts of courtesy. While he is taught to act and play and be a lover, the mother must not fail to be sweetheart as well. In fact the mother must have a double relation to her son. She may be all that the word mother means and yet not wholly perform the duties which fall upon her. She must be, as has been said, sweetheart as well. He may take her to make calls, to concerts, to go coasting, to walk in the fields and in it all find lessons in the art of wooing, and still be a most thorough, hearty boy. With a mother for a sweetheart, how can the boy choose wrong when later in life, he looks around him for a companion. The result of such a training will be, that he will choose a wife as nearly like his mother, in her training and views of life, as it is possible for him to find.

In conclusion, I wish to add a disclaimer. I do not advocate making children into mature men and women, even in manners. I think they should be kept children as long as possible. There are times when we would always gladly find grown up manners in our children, and the attentions I have described, if bestowed at the proper time, will go far to make our boys "little gentlemen" and our girls "ladies" at the times when we most desire them to be such.

—W. E. Partridge.

KEEP BABY QUIET.

What I would fain do now is to insist upon the importance of absolute quiet and calm in the first twelve months of the young child's life. Little children begin-

ning to notice, and to babble out their monosyllabic utterances, are so engaging, that the temptation all the time is to wake up their faculties; they are always on exhibition, always being roused up to show their pretty ways to admiring friends, constantly on the alert, tossed and dandled and played with, when they had far better be left lying quietly in the crib.

A very great deal in the direction of training can be accomplished by accustoming the baby to lie still in its cradle when awake. Anxious mothers, on the watch for every movement, are far too apt to take the child up the moment it moves or awakens; it looks so pretty, and engaging too, with the pink color in its little cheeks, and the bright eyes opening with awakening interest. It is very tempting to take it up and toss it around, sing to it, make all those many uncanny noises which some mothers think essential to its development; and baby is so bright and winsome, so smart, as it is the fashion to say, or so cunning, that few reflect how bad all this excitement and turmoil is for the nerves, or trace a connection between the noisy chirping and tossing of the play-hour and the restless, uneasy sleep in the evening. It is not a welcome fact, but it is a very pregnant one, that the less babies are talked to and noticed the first year, the better. All success in training them, indeed, depends upon this calm letting them alone, leaving the nerves unwrought upon, and allowing the little frame time to become accustomed to the strain upon it of acquaintance with this restless, rioting world of ours.

The children of the working poor are in this respect far better off than those of the well-to-do; if later they miss much in the culture of good habits, they are, as babies, left so much alone, that, take them all in all, they are peaceable and quiet. One rarely hears the char-woman or seamstress talk of walking up an down all night with a fretful, excitable baby. One of the compensations of poverty is that its children are left in peace, for the reason that no one has time to spend on exciting them. It may be a negative training that they get, but it is the very best sort of training for the baby under a twelvemonth, and one that may be very advantageously copied by mothers and nurses. —Janet E. Runtz-Rees. From *Demorest's Monthly* for February.

HOUSE PLANTS.

The way house-plants thrive on the dregs of coffee left at breakfast is admirable. The grounds are a good mulch on the top of the soil, but a little care must be given not to let them sour and get musty in coolish, damp weather.

The great trouble with house plants, greater than errors in watering, is letting the pots be exposed to the sun. The fibrous roots soon grow to the side of the pot, and these are baked in full sunshine, trebly hot coming through glass, which condenses its rays, and the tips are soon killed. The whole ball of earth is baked over and over, daily, and yet people wonder why they don't succeed with house-plants. Shade the sides of the pots always, either by plunging in a box of sand, moss, cocoa fibre or ashes, or place a thin board on edge across the front of the plant shelf, that will come almost to the top of the pots. Let the plants have the sun, but shade the pots. A good way to screen them is to set each pot in one two sizes or more larger, filling the space with moss or sand.

The best gardeners say that the porous common pots are not so good for house-plants as those glazed or painted outside. The reason is that evaporation is constant from the sides of the porous pots, and the roots are not only drier but colder for it. —*Vick's Magazine*.

BESIDES the weekly mending, there is always repairing needed upon bed and table linen. The pieces that are not pressing needed may be laid aside on a shelf in the linen closet to be picked up at odd seasons. In some families sheets are always cut in two lengthwise, as they begin to become thin in the centre, and what were hitherto the outer edges joined, that they may receive their share of the wear. This is technically termed "turning" sheets, and was more prevalent years ago than it is now. Those people who cherish

a prejudice against having a seam down the middle of a bed may utilize the sheets by cutting them over into pillow and bolster slips. This is especially advisable if the sheets are of linen. No fragments of this or of damask table-cloths or napkins should ever be thrown away. If the pieces of linen are not large enough to make full-sized cases, they may serve as covers to children's pillows, may be doubled and made into squares for babies' napkins or towels, or into wash cloths. The small bits that are impracticable for any other purpose are admirable for binding up cut fingers, or steeping in liniment to lay upon a burn or wound. —*Harper's Bazar*.

RECIPES.

OIL IT.—A few drops of cheap sweet oil often saves a great amount of the costly "elbowgrease." Bear that in mind when turning the crank of the clothes wringer or any other contrivance.

CHEAP TEA CAKE.—One cup of sugar, one cup of milk, three cups of flour and one-half cup of butter, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one teaspoonful of caraway seeds and two tablespoonfuls of currants.

MILK TOAST.—Wet the pan to be used with cold water, which prevents burning. Melt an ounce of floured butter; whisk into it a pint of hot milk; add a little salt; simmer. Prepare four slices of toast, put them in a deep dish one at a time, pour a little of the milk over each, and over the last one pour the remainder of the milk.

CHOCOLATE FILLING FOR CAKE.—Half a cake of sweet chocolate grated, half a cup of sweet milk, the same of powdered sugar, the yolk of one egg, and a tablespoonful of extract of vanilla. Stir the chocolate in the milk; add the eggs, sugar, and vanilla; set it in a vessel of boiling water and stir until a stiff jelly. When cold, spread it between the layers of cake. Used also as a frosting for cake.

YORKSHIRE PUDDING.—One pint milk, three eggs, flour to make a thin batter, as for griddle cakes, and a little salt. Half an hour before the roast is done, remove from the dripping-pan, pour out nearly all the gravy and pour in the pudding batter. Return to the oven; lay a broiler over the pan containing the pudding, and on this place the roast. In half an hour pudding and roast will be done. The juices of the meat dripping upon the pudding make it very rich. It can also be baked in a separate, well-greased pan, always serving at once and with the meat and gravy.

STEWED MACARONI.—Half a pound of "pipo" or of "straw" macaroni, one cup of milk, one teaspoonful of minced onions, one tablespoonful of butter, half a cupful of cheese, pepper and salt to taste, bit of soda in milk. Break the macaroni into short pieces, and cook about twenty minutes in boiling water, salted. Meanwhile heat the milk, dropping in a tiny pinch of soda with the onion, to the scalding point. Strain out the onion, drain the water from the macaroni and put the milk into a sauce-pan. Stir in the butter, cheese, pepper and salt, finally the macaroni. Cook three minutes and turn into a deep dish.

PUZZLES.

TRANSPOSITION.

Within every one on two
There's a grain of good, 'tis said;
None so vile but can eschew
Bad, and choose the good instead.

For example, think of Gough—
Could a drunkard fall more low?
His reforming was the scoff
Of his friends (?), as we all know.

Ah! but what a power for good
In that fallen nature lay!
This reflection should be food
For those who reform gainstay.

PIED FISH.

1. Lmoans. 2. Nayvoch. 3. Tutor. 4. Amplexy.
5. Lutelm. 6. Rosegun. 7. Bkitesclack. 8. Lose.

ENIGMA.

My first the schoolboy has to do
When lessons are assigned;
Attention soon is called to two,
Which he's required to find.
My third, when come to man's estate,
He seeks with all his soul;
And if success his efforts crown,
He deems his bliss my whole.

BEHEADINGS.

1. Behead the staff of life, and leave a verb.
2. Behead something you wear around your arm, and leave a geometrical term.
3. Behead a fruit and leave to exist.
4. Behead something you wear, and leave a kindly feeling.
5. Behead something to put things in, and leave a fowl of the air.
6. Behead to live, and leave a receptacle for water.
7. Behead what you often call a disagreeable person, and leave a mineral.
8. Behead something to put things in, and leave an animal.
9. Behead something to drink out of, and leave a young girl.
10. Behead an animal, and leave a part of the body.
11. Behead something that you eat, and leave something that you do.
12. Behead something that you wear, and leave a conjunction.
13. Behead a time-piece, and leave something to secure with.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES IN NUMBER 7.

CHARADE.—Readjustable.

ENIGMA.—Horse-shoe.

A. EUROPEAN RIVER.—Volga.

CHARADE.—Mad-a-gas-car.

ENIGMA.—Shakespeare.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

Correct answers have been received from Ethel Clancy, Lillian A. Greene, and Herbert E. Marsh.