

THE HOUSEHOLD.

TWO WAYS OF GOVERNING.

The child comes in from play and throws his cap carelessly on the floor. The mother tells him to pick it up and put it in its place. The child refuses. The mother repeats the command somewhat more sternly. The child refuses somewhat more vigorously. The mother is irritated, and shows her irritation. The tendency of any passion is to awaken the corresponding passion in another, and the mother's irritation irritates the child. The mother slaps the child; the child slaps back. A controversy is begun. The two wills are set against each other. Possibly the mother triumphs, and the child, sullen and angry, picks up the cap, embittered against the mother, and resolved when it gets older and stronger, not to yield, and quite ready, the next time it comes into the house, to fling its cap upon the floor in mere defiance. Perhaps the child triumphs, and looks with secret or even open contempt on the mother who failed to compel obedience.

Another mother tells her child to pick up the cap; the child refuses; the mother quietly picks it up, and then inflicts some punishment on the child for his disobedience. It need not be a severe one. All that is necessary is that it shall always be inflicted, and that it shall be inflicted not only without irritation expressed, but without irritation felt. The next day the scene is repeated. Day after day it re-occurs. The child learns that it does not pay to disobey. The two wills are never brought into open conflict; there is never a battle; the child's combativeness is never aroused by the mother's insistence; his self-will is never excited by her self-will; she suffers the humiliation of a disobedient child, he the penal consequences of his disobedience. She suffers more than he does, but he learns the lesson in time, and, after five or ten years of such experience, provided it is continuous and without exception, obeys because disobedience involves penalty. We repeat that the penalty need not be severe. If physical punishment is inflicted, it should be severe—severe enough to expel the anger: as an angry child who strikes his fist through a pane of glass is startled out of his anger by the crash of the glass and the cut and bleeding hand. These words from a writer in the 'Outlook' are profoundly true and worth reading.

ALONE WITH MOTHER.

In a family where the mother's attention is divided between several children, it is well, occasionally, to plan a little quiet time with each.

The stern realities of life permit only short seasons of recreation. Living implies hurry, interruptions of family interviews, and it is only by planning judiciously that each and every young member of the family can be assured of their rightful portion of mother's company.

'I wish you and I could go alone,' a boy said to his mother; and when she questioned the justice of his request, saying, 'But you wouldn't be selfish, would you?' his answer brought conviction:

'You and I never go about together, and I love to be alone with you; the others can go another time.'

Mothers need to be taught; and their children unconsciously afford them object lessons worthy of their close attention. Truly, the others could go at other times, and thus mother's attention might be centred upon one instead of being divided between several.

The child's enjoyment is keener; little secrets otherwise remaining untold are confided to that most sympathetic and ready listener, and a closer friendship is formed between the two.

Perhaps no condition is more conducive to home content than that which affords separate rooms to each member of the household; little places they may be, but large enough to permit quiet thought, a time all our own; and partly because of the mental healthfulness of this solitude, children should be given separate rooms as early as they have learned to care for themselves during the night.

There are no more uncomfortable or

unprofitable companions than those people who have a terror of being alone.—'Home Notes.'

TRAINING OF CHILDREN.

Never scold a child for mistakes and do not nervously and impatiently fret and nag and worry at it because it does not learn to do a thing after once telling. When baby begins to sit at the table and use a spoon, there is need of continuous quiet and judicious watching and training in order to cultivate proper habits and teach it to use the spoon and fork correctly.

There is nothing at all inviting, cunning or pretty in seeing a child play with its food or make unsuccessful and awkward attempts to get the spoon to its mouth.

Teach the child precisely what is to be done and do not stop until it understands, then mildly but firmly insist on its doing the right thing as nearly as it is able, every time. There are children of five years whose table-manners are everything that could be desired. There are others, children of larger growth, who all their lives are a source of annoyance to their friends because they either do not know or do not care what proper deportment is.

It is nonsense to say that one cannot teach children. Every mother of a family should take time herself, or, if she is not capable of doing this, should employ some trustworthy person to do it for her.

It is almost always possible to find time for the things we want to do most, and certainly there can be nothing more important than the judicious care that assures for the child in after years reasonably good table-manners.

HOME TALKS WITH GIRLS.

I suppose some of you girls who read this letter are about to be married. You have chosen a good man, and soon you mean to 'begin life together.' I wish you all happiness and all success, and I ask you to pause a little and make some good resolutions.

An old proverb says, all bonnie maids are good, but where do all the bad wives come from? Now, I daresay you think that whoever has failed, you will not. But let me remind you that the bad wives did not enter matrimony with the intention of being bad. I believe that the threshold of matrimony is 'paved with good intentions.' It is not what a girl intends to do, but what she resolves to do, with God's help, that matters. We intend to do many things, but we seldom resolve with a steadfast will and ask God to help us in our resolution.

There are two things that are said to be good in marriage:—

A good wife and health
Is a man's best wealth.

Try to remember that, for very few young married folks have any other kind of wealth; so you ought to be thankful for such things as you have. If you are a good woman, and your husband is a man who can properly value your goodness, that is something to be grateful for. There are many women who have to be content with a clear conscience. A good wife includes much. You may be beautiful, a good housewife, and a good cook, and yet a bad wife. To be a good wife a woman requires to be sympathetic. She requires to be unselfish and to have common sense. These three things do not always go together. Some very unselfish people are not at all blessed with common sense, and some common-sensed women are very unsympathetic. It is by combining all three that the 'good wife' comes out. An old Scottish proverb says:—

He that gets a guid, guid wife
Gets gear enough,

and another one says in words that I'm sure you will understand:—

The guid or ill luck
Of a guid or ill life
Is the guid or ill pick
Of a guid or ill wife.

When I was a very little girl I used to be much with my old grandmother. She was very old-fashioned and very reserved; but she was full of three

things—the Psalms, Erskine's Sonnets, and Proverbs. And she was often giving me advice or warnings when she was not telling me long stories of things that happened in the 'coaching days.' I remember that once we spoke of a bad wife, and she said in her soft, low voice:—

A man may spend and aye mend
If his wife be ought,
But a man will spare, and aye be bare,
If his wife be nought.

Thus you see that much depends on a wife. Her goodness and her badness make or mar the marriage, and it will not be what you girls intend, but what you resolve to be, and do, and with God's help carry out, that will help you. You may have poverty, you may have trials, you may have a rough road to travel, but if you have a heart resolved to go steadfastly on in the face of all difficulties, God will bless you. And on the man you choose much of your happiness will depend. I hope you have chosen wisely, and I trust you both will resolve to have the three good qualities—sympathy, unselfishness, and common sense; above and beyond all these—the blessing of God and faith in Him.—'Word and Work.'

NIGHT WRAPPER FOR MOTHERS.

Those who have to rise often in the night to care for little children, for the aged or for invalids, will find this simple slip a great convenience. It is made of washable cotton goods, preferably soft white print thickly dotted with tiny figures in black, blue, pink or red. It is as easily washed and ironed as is a white nightdress, which it takes the place of—though some prefer to keep



the wrapper by the bedside and slip it on over the nightdress. In such a wrapper the wearer is ready to rise and go about her nursing whenever called; she need not be abashed if seen by those outside the nursery or sick-room, and it does not soil easily—three important items in its favor. There are only three pieces in the body, two plain sack fronts with three small plaits at the neck and a single back piece with three plaits at each side of the centre to match the fronts, only the plaits are underfolded much more deeply to give a pretty fullness to the skirt. The plaits are laid smoothly down a short distance from the neck and three cross-rows of feather stitching, in wash floss of the same color as the figures, confine them to the underfacing, which is as deep as an ordinary yoke, front and back. A single row of feather stitching gives a neat finish to the rolling collar, to the wrists of the balloon sleeves and to the edge of the hem at the bottom. There is a handy breast pocket on the left side, and small pearl buttons are used for the closing. These wrappers are usually made in sets of three. Often a separate color is chosen for each one, but only fast colors should be used.—'Agriculturist.'

DOUBLE BEDS.

Fashion has given its sanction to the use of the single bed; and large numbers of so-called 'twin bedsteads' are now in the market, many of them made of costly woods, rich with carving. They are so designed that, when placed side by side, the effect is that of one wide bedstead, whereas a separate spring-mattress and bed-clothes are provided for each one.

It is well known that the double bed is unhygienic; and medical journals have been condemning it for some time past, one writer claiming that injury to one or the other of two people sleeping in this way is sure to result in time. Particularly is this true with regard to the young and the aged; but by the use of the twin bed they may occupy the same room, and sleep side by side without harm to either.

There is no class, perhaps, who need the refreshment and rest which come of occupying a bed alone so much as household servants; and they are the people of all others who are condemned to the very poorest sleeping accommodations.

Two iron bedsteads painted white (each three feet wide, placed side by side, look well, if dressed with a spread of pretty light-colored chintz and a round bolster covered to match. This is the neatest and most tasteful way of arranging a bed in the daytime, and seems to be coming into very general use. The old-time valance has also been revived, and this, if used, should be of the same chintz as the covering.—'Standard.'

SPONGE-CAKE.

In the following rule for sponge-cake the ingredients are measured, instead of being weighed, which renders the work less troublesome, and the cake is as perfect in every way as if made by the old method.

Ten eggs, 2½ cupfuls of sugar, 2½ cupfuls of pastry flour, and the juice and grated rind of 1 lemon are required.

Beat the yolks and sugar together until very light, and add the lemon. Beat the whites to a stiff froth, and stir them in quickly at the last, after the flour. This may be baked in one large sheet, or, which is better, in a dozen small cakes and one large one.

Use for the small cakes the ordinary gem pans, either round or oval, which come in a single sheet. Half-an-hour will suffice to bake these in a moderate oven, but the large cake will take considerably longer, the time depending upon the thickness of the batter. The writer uses a small-sized cake tin, which makes a cake four inches thick when baked, and this requires an hour and a quarter. It will keep moist several days, and even the small cakes, unlike bakers' sponge-cakes, are good the second or third day if kept in a closely covered box.

One of the tin cups with graduated marks, which holds half-a-pint, is best to use for measuring.

This cake may be cut into finger-length strips and used for the homemade charlotte russe.

MODERN UTENSILS IN THE KITCHEN.

There is no reason, for instance, why any woman should be lifting about the old, unmerciful iron kettles weighing some part of a ton, when she can have those of agate iron ware, to be moved easily by the feeblest arm. As an immediate practical resource, it is not much for a man to bring in an armful of wood or a pail of water. Have a good wood-box or coal-box, and a kindling-box by your stove, and let your husband or the hired man make it his business to keep them full. It is only good exercise for strong muscles, but desolation and sometimes death for weak ones. Wherever heavy muscular strain is involved, man should contrive, somehow, to make it his work—and woman should contrive to have him.

TO CLEAN INDIA RUBBERS.

In these days, when India rubber shoes are so often made of shoddy material, it is especially necessary to take good care of them. It is a great mistake to wash an India rubber to free it from mud. Soap always injures them, and even clear water applications are of no special advantage. The best way, as an exchange says, is to allow the overshoes to become thoroughly dry. Then brush them free from all dust and mud, and rub them thoroughly with vaseline. This not only cleans them, but leaves an oil surface, which makes the overshoe more impervious to water.—'The Watchman.'