

Courier des Dames.

Our lady readers are invited to contribute to this department.

ON HOME SERVICE.

II. THE "DOMINA" (CONTINUED.)

With regard to the hiring and selection of servants, of course an immense deal must depend upon the size and nature of the household. In the homes of the nobility there are certain departments which find no place in the houses of the middle or of the upper middle classes; but whatever may be the amount of state or service kept up, it is very certain that too many domestics are a mistake. They are in each other's way, constant endeavours are made to shift the work belonging to one on to the shoulders of another, and consequently there are more opportunities for idling. Far better is it for servants to have too much occupation than too little.

Selection is one of the first difficulties to be encountered, and it is an oft-repeated truism that our daily and hourly comfort rests in a great measure with our domestics. We would therefore recommend the Domina not to select them hurriedly, but when she has found them able and trustworthy, not to part with them for a little fault, and to avoid, if possible, engaging either very young or elderly servants; if too young they will lack experience and care, and if too old they will probably fall in activity and energy. On these points the advice of experienced housewives is most valuable, and it occasionally happens that some friend may have an excellent housemaid or cook of her own who may have equally apt sisters, or she may have many protégées of whose capabilities she is aware, and of whose temper and early surroundings she may possess ample knowledge. In making choice, the preference should be given to these rather than to utter strangers; a slight bond of interest will thus be established at the very outset. Should, however, no opportunity of this kind present itself, and the selection remain entirely with her, the "house lady" in no case should trust entirely to a written character, but have personal interviews with the former mistress or master.

The giving and receiving characters are points which require a good deal of judgment and consideration. Good servants are so much sought after, and so well known where they do exist, that we believe they never have any occasion to resort to registry offices or advertising. They are seldom long out of situations, and their reputation and personal character will gain constant employment for them.

It is a great thing to know a little about the ways and habits of a family in which the servant about to be engaged has lived, and during a personal interview with her former mistress note may be taken of her general appearance, and of the state of the house and furniture. Should a want of neatness, cleanliness, and order prevail, and the house betoken the absence of that particular tone of finish and good taste which a household, however small, will not fail to exhibit if well ordered and governed, it is a pretty sure sign that any servant coming from thence will betray equal shortcomings. It is easier to train those who have never been out before than to cure a servant of bad habits contracted in an ill-governed household. When in turn the "Domina" is called upon to give a character, the utmost candour and fairness should be exercised, for it is not right, in order to indulge a desire on her part not to be unkind, to slur over a servant's faults. No good can possibly accrue from it, no effort will be made to amend faults which have been overlooked, and great wrong is therefore done to the lady making inquiries. On the other hand, great care must be taken to be perfectly just, and to allow no angry feelings to prejudice the character given. Very often, where a fair and true statement is made, a wise-judging woman may see that it is possible the shortcomings mentioned may give way under another régime—that is to say, where a servant has been dismissed on account of certain errors, and not for reason of grave faults. And in pursuing inquiries and forming a judgment the utmost use should be made of common sense; too much haste should not be shown in adopting a condemnatory opinion. In engaging a servant to fill whatever department, every detail should be given of the work expected. It should be written down if necessary, and the servant should understand that no negligence on her part will be overlooked.

The love of change, now so universal amongst servants, is a great evil, and one not easy to correct. It might be partially obviated perhaps by a gradual rise in wages year by year, as an acknowledgment of faithful service. This would give birth to an honest feeling of pride in servants; and were they made to understand of what value a long term of service may become to them, both by increasing their efficiency, and securing good and firm friends in those whom they serve, the evil might assuredly be overcome in time. This desire for constant change and the love of dress generally go together; and although this latter weakness is not one which is confined to the serving class alone, it is solely with regard to that especial class that it will be treated of here. There is certainly a great difficulty attending it, as we are told sometimes that "this is a free country, and people are at liberty to dress as they please," &c.; but by tact and firmness, a wise and kind "Domina" may have her will on this point, and moreover, persuade her maid-servants that by following her advice they would even gain much in personal appearance. For there is always a certain beauty in fitness of attire for especial times and seasons, and the plain, easily setting dress, admitting of free

and active movement, can never offend the eye, provided it be scrupulously neat and clean. The cheapness of dress in the present day, the variety and multitude of trumpery outer "adornments"—save the mark—exhibited in shop windows are very tempting to vanity, and the great evil resulting from this is, that young servants expend upon useless trifles the money that should be used for the purchase of the necessities of dress; therefore it behoves the wise mistress to point out the mischief of this, and to advise and help as far as she possibly can upon this very essential matter. It is quite desirable that servants should take pride in their appearance, and they should never be allowed to become careless or untidy in their own persons, for it may be safely inferred from that that they would be careless about their work. But all useless ornament, in the way of mock jewellery, lace, feathers, and flowers, should be absolutely forbidden, and a point made of maid-servants always wearing washing dresses, at all events during their working hours. In some families where their attendance is required during the morning hours, and in answering the house door, neatness of dress is quite as essential then as in the afternoon, although, of course, a change in the middle of the day is always desirable and necessary.

It is quite allowable for parlour-maids or housemaids to wear alpaca or merino dresses when their morning's work is done; still there is, after all, no attire so refreshing to the eye for any waiting maid to wear as the pretty, small-patterned print dress, with neat white muslin or crochet cap, white checked muslin apron, with linen cuffs and small collar. Care should be taken not to engage a servant without coming to an understanding regarding dress. We do not suppose there has ever been an age in which it was so necessary to warn against excess and bad taste in dress as the present, and hence a farther reason for watchfulness on this point. The mistress who does her duty to her servants will take every opportunity of impressing upon them the necessity of putting by a small portion of their wages every quarter, and of not spending every farthing in dress.

Another domestic difficulty to be met with in dealing with young female servants is whether "followers" are or are not to be allowed. We think the "House Lady" should always, when engaging her servants, ask about their friends, and after a time, when she has become as it were acquainted with the members of her establishment, and satisfied as to the honesty and respectability of their connections, she may allow a visit from a "follower" occasionally for an hour or two in the evening, once a week, provided he does not stay beyond a certain time. This is better than giving leave to go out; it is productive of less idling and mischief, and will give a careful mistress opportunities either for warning or encouraging, as the case may be. But perfect openness on the subject is absolutely necessary, therefore the question should not be omitted at the time of hiring.

In fact, in no relation with her domestics can the "Domina" who really strives after preserving a perfectly well-balanced household free herself from responsibility; she undertakes a great charge it is true, but one for which nature has especially fitted her, if it be true that great powers of persuasion, sympathy, and personal influence are amongst the chiefest gifts of women.—*Queen.*

THE FASHION PLATE.

FIG. 1. Pamela hats, made of white straw, the edge of the rim bound with black velvet. The trimmings consist of a pink ribbon 1½ in. broad, embroidered with flower work, twisted with a tea-green rep ribbon round the crown and terminating in a fringe. A narrow ribbon is fastened at each side of the hat with a bow.

FIG. 2. The Garden Hat is trimmed on one side with a sprig of rose-buds and daisies; and at the back with an embroidered black rep ribbon 2½ in. broad and 40 in. long, terminating in a knotted fringe.

FIG. 3. SOFA CUSHION. This should be worked upon dark brown cloth. The lighter parts, as shown in the illustration, are done in light brown satin; the medallions in brown cloth of a medium shade, and the medallion edges in application of a somewhat darker shade than the last. The outer square, connecting the medallions, is of cloth of a medium shade of brown. The medallions are worked in satin and half-polka stitch embroidery and point-russe stitch, with pink and brown cordoned silk of various shades; the edging both of the medallions and of the rest of the pattern is done with gold cord, worked on with cross-stitching of dark brown silk. The cushion is backed with brown leather and edged with brown and tassels to match at the corners.

FIG. 4. This sash is made of broad blue moiré and plain silk ribbon, arranged as shown, one end being finished with a deep knotted fringe.

FIG. 5 & 6. SILK REP AND LACE FICHU.—The fichu is made of light blue silk rep. The trimming consists of white lace edging of two breadths, 1 in. and 1½ in., narrow white gimp, and bows and ends of 2 in. blue grosgrain ribbon.

FIG. 7. MORNING DRESSES.—The first of these, counting from the left, is made of light blue flannel, with long train and wattle-folds, and is draped behind as shown in the illustration. The trimmings consist of collar, epaulet straps and pocket, and cuff-revers of brown velvet. Buttons of the same, worked in *point-de-reprise* with blue silk. The second of these costumes is of plain and striped vlgogne trimmed with grosgrain ruching and buttons; fine linen collar and cuffs. The third is of grey Irish poplin, lined with cashmere, and trimmed with black velvet and 5-inch white gimp lace. Black velvet girdle and sash.

Three lady members have recently been admitted to the Michigan State Medical Society, one to that of Rhode Island, and one to that of Kansas. These were all graduates of the Pennsylvania Women's Medical College. In England all the restrictions on the admission of ladies to the advantages of the Pharmaceutical Society of London have been removed.

The Paris *Figaro* states that a duel was fought on Thursday between two women living in the Boulevard de Courcelles. The cause of dispute was rivalry for the affections of a man named Juglin, and the two women agreed to decide their dispute by means of a duel with knives. The frightful conflict was waged in the house 81 Boulevard de Courcelles, and the result was one woman mortally and the other dangerously wounded. The cause of this dreadful contest, the man Juglin, has been arrested.

The ladies should take heart. In a recent examination for promotions in the Internal Revenue Department, under the civil service rules, one lady secured a fourth-class clerkship (\$1800), another a third-class (\$1600), while of ten other persons appointed to second-class clerkships (\$1400), six are women. Miss Seavey, who secured the fourth-class clerkship, has been employed in the office for over ten years, and for several years has had exclusive charge and direction of the copying division.

The universal fondness for natural flowers is the true reason why there is always a brisk business kept up in making artificial flowers. No ornaments for the dress and hair of all women, especially for the young, are so graceful and attractive as buds and blossoms, leaves and trailing vines. Paris is the great headquarters of the artificial flower trade. While it is carried on to a considerable extent in London, and somewhat in this country, the productions of Paris are more true to nature and more delicately beautiful than those of any other country. The best French makers study floral botany with close attention, and understand the minutest characteristics. A multitude of workers are employed in this industry in Paris, a large part of the work being done by women and children. The materials used are various—cambrie, batiste, kid, muslin, crape, silk, wire, wool, dyes, pigments, gums, varnishes, glue, etc. The selection of the colouring substances is one of the most important features of the trade, requiring much discrimination and skill. Petals of batiste or cambrie are usually dyed after being cut into shape, the tint being lightened in parts by a drop of water, or deepened by painting with a camel-hair pencil. Stems are made of little balls of silk fastened to the ends of fine wires, and properly tinted; buds are made of balls of cotton wool, and then fashioned and coloured in the proper way for each particular variety. The putting together of the several parts of a flower calls for nimble fingers, delicate touch, accuracy of eye, and considerable taste, as may well be supposed.

About two years ago the attention of the London public was especially directed to the use of arsenic green in colouring the leaves. Little children were employed on certain parts of the work, involving constant handling of green leaves and grass. One specialty, known as "grass-work," was fastening small glass beads to a sort of feathery grass, to give it a sparkling appearance. The threading of the beads, and the subsequent shaking to see if they were secure, dislodged particles of arsenic green, which poisoned the air, and seriously injured the poor children. Recent acts of Parliament have regulated work in factories, so that the health of women and children is better protected than formerly, by limiting the number of hours for work, and securing proper ventilation and cleanliness. Yet much work is taken by father or mother to be done at home, and the necessity of poverty forces little children to deleterious employments. This branch of industry is, like so many others, very much at the mercy of ever-changing fashion. But we wish all fashions of decorating the costume were as natural and charming as that of which leads to the imitation of beautiful things in nature.

Dr. Colby's Pills sold by all Druggists.

A late number of the *St. John Morning News* thus concludes a lengthy article eulogizing Fellows' Syrup of Hypophosphites: "Mr. Fellows is certainly entitled to high credit for his energy and enterprise in working up his valuable discovery so successfully, and the presence of such gentlemen in any community is a matter on which that community should congratulate itself."

The *St. John Telegraph and Journal* says: "The invention of Fellows' Hypophosphites has become one of the valuable industries of the country, unique of its kind, and a credit to the Dominion of Canada."

News of the Week.

THE DOMINION.—Much damage has been done by the spring freshet at Montreal, Guelph, Brussels, Tweed, and other places.—The Cornwall canal will open for navigation about the first of May.—An attempt is being made by the citizens of Rimouski to get the English mails landed at Father Point, and sent up by the Intercolonial Railway, which will save several hours.

UNITED STATES.—A graveyard on the bank of the Arkansas River caved in last week, and 700 bodies were washed away.—Both branches of the Michigan Legislature have adopted resolutions asking Congress to provide for the early construction of the Niagara Falls Ship Canal, and the early enlargement of the Erie Canal.—The latest news respecting the

Modoc is to the effect that they have fled to the hills, south-east of the Lava Beds. The cavalry are in pursuit. Sergeant Forrest captured a Modoc battle flag, and took the scalp of Sear-Faced Charlie. The savages fearfully mutilated the body of Eugene Hovey, who was killed, and whose body fell into their hands. Commissioner Meacham is improving rapidly. Seven hundred Crispans are on strike at Cincinnati.—A frightful railroad accident occurred on Saturday, on the line between Stonington and Providence, R.I., by a train going through a bridge. Fifteen to twenty persons were burnt to death and many were injured.

THE UNITED KINGDOM.—A rumour has reached London from Alexandria to the effect that Sir Samuel Baker and his wife were murdered in the interior of Africa by the natives. They were with the Egyptian expedition up the Nile. "Negro" won the Newmarket Biennial Stakes on the 15th inst. The race was for yearlings of 1871, and is interesting as probably pointing out the winner of the succeeding Derby.—A riot occurred at Chatham last week between the engineers and marines attached to the arsenal at that town. Many of the participants were hurt. The authorities were compelled to call on the troops, who succeeded in restoring order, after arresting a large number of the rioters.

FRANCE.—Gen. Manteuffel, Commander of the German army of occupation, gave a dinner at Nancy in honour of the birthday of President Thiers, 16th inst.—Prince Napoleon has addressed a letter to his constituents in Corsica protesting against his expulsion from France. He says the Napoleons have twice been the saviours of France. The name can never be banished from the hearts of the people. It is proscribed because it is feared.—At the request of Spain, France has permitted the transport of war material through her territory.

GERMANY.—Count Von Arnim, German Ambassador at Paris, will be transferred to London, and Gen. Manteuffel, now commander of the German army of occupation in France, will be appointed successor to Count Von Arnim when the evacuation of French territory by the German troops has been completed.—The Governor of Alsace has removed the Burgomaster of Strasbourg because the latter said he only remained in the country in the hope that it would be restored to France. Police Director Bach has been appointed to the vacant office. The Common Council protested against the appointment and refused to sit under Bach's Presidency, and have held no meetings since the change was made. The members of the Council have consequently been suspended for two months from the exercise of their functions, which have been transferred to the new Burgomaster as Commissary Extraordinary.—Prince Albrecht, nephew of the Emperor, was married on Saturday to Princess Mary of Saxe-Altenburg.

RUSSIA.—News having an important bearing on the future of the Khivan expedition has been received at St. Petersburg. Internal dissensions have broken out in Khiva. The reigning Khan has executed his chief counsellor, and imprisoned his uncle and other influential Khivans who were enemies of Russia. He has also released the Russians long held as prisoners in Khiva, and has sent them to meet a detachment of the expedition which is advancing.

AUSTRIA.—Cholera has made its appearance at Vienna.

SPAIN.—A despatch from Madrid states that the Radicals and Constitutionals have resolved to abstain from voting in the election for members of the Constituent Cortes.—Many Carlists are surrendering to the Government troops in the north, in the hope of receiving amnesty.—It is reported that a son of Prince Henry of Bourbon, who took up arms in the cause of Don Carlos, was killed in the late engagement.—The detachment of Carlists under Saballo, which, before the attack on Puyecorda, was sent to hamper the march of the troops coming to the relief of that town, were repulsed by the Republicans, and lost 300 men exclusive of prisoners.—Additional reinforcements of troops arrived at Puyecorda, where they were received with great enthusiasm by the populace. The Carlists are again threatening the town.—The Government has received intelligence of the crushing defeat by the Republicans of a Carlist force at San Lorenzo de la Muga, in the Province of Gerona. Rowing bands of Carlists in the Northern Provinces continue to stop railway trains and rob passengers.—The library and cabinets of Physicians and Chemistry belonging to the Seminary of Gerona were pillaged by the mob last week. The Federal Republicans continue to rule the city of Barcelona; they make requisitions of wealthy citizens on the slightest pretext.

ITALY.—The Swiss *Times* reports that while Father Gavazzi was preaching recently on the suppression of religious corporations, two men, a tailor and a Roman student, attempted to fire a large bomb at the door of the chapel. They were discovered in the act and arrested in time to save many lives.—The Pope has so far recovered as to say mass, which he did in the private chapel.

Jacobs' Rheumatic Liquid Cures Burns.

It is told of a certain Glasgow ballie that, when visiting Paris, he was shown through the national library. The English classics were pointed out, and it was added, for the sake of talk, "You will know Milton very well?" "Oh, bless you, yes," said the ballie cheerfully, delighted that something had been mentioned that he did know. "I know Milton (a suburb in Glasgow) very well; we're just building slaughter-houses there!"