

Position in the World's Page

Under my Foreign Vine and Fig Tree.



BEFORE entering upon the consideration of the German maid-servant, I am moved by a sense of justice and by sincere admiration for the national hausfrau to say a few words of her.

Housewifery is an honorable profession in Germany, even in all ranks it is studied by the women from childhood, and practiced at every age. The wonderful land owes more to the intelligent thrust of her women than can be appreciated in America, where kitchen duties are reckoned "menial" by rich parvenus who spend the rest of their lives in forgetting the steps by which they have climbed to the heights which have turned their heads, and college girls glory in their utter ignorance of practical housewifery. Fathers, sons and husbands have more time and calmer thought for acquiring learning which has made them great because daughters, mothers and wives assume the care and conduct of domestic affairs and prove themselves competent to the undertaking.

KNOWS HOW TO MARKET

Our hausfrau does the marketing when she has a market, and her own carriage, and is too sure of her selection and bargaining to be outwitted by the merchant. The fine stock phrases that retain the custom of the mechanic and the laborer's wife in our country pass for sounding air with the German housewife. She knows the worth of meat, vegetables, groceries and fruits as well as if she had sold well as bought them from babyhood. She keeps a sharp eye upon the scales; is rigid as to scraps and trimmings that belong to the purchaser; she is a judge of fish, and wide-awake to its dietetic and economic values; she knows how to utilize the scraps of meat, and she will pay full price for what is not excellent. The heart of management of raw materials after she has bought them is steady in her hand, and she is as efficient as he class-room. For every pound of meat, every handful of herbs, sent home, she expects to receive an account. The crude ingredients are an investment, and she will demand her interest regularly. Wastefulness is a crime; the mistress who condones extravagance in cook, butler or housemaid is recreant to her trust.

To such a judge the "easy ways" of the traveling, the continental, the continental Grims's stories of gentility and fair goodmother, of the millionaires, times made and spent in the transatlantic States. The rapid making of money, and the rapid spending of it, when she has marked our works and ways in the household.

UNPLEASANT CONTRASTS

In turn, the American resident for one or more seasons in a German town is loftily disdainful of the appointments of the apartment—usually paid for by the room—in which she bestows her family and portable belongings, with the fixed intention of living after the manner of the country for three, six or twelve months, while the children study German (the mother says "while they learn it"), and she visits galleries and gets bargains in lace and amber.

There is no furnace for warming the living rooms. The salon is disfigured by a huge porcelain stove, planted stubbornly in one corner. Mark Twain is not the only traveler who likens it to a family monument. After some weeks of dependence upon it for all the warmth that can be coaxed into the lofty room with its dreary outlook upon sunless skies, the exile overcomes the sense of graveyard chill and gloom excited by the tall, hard, white construction she cannot screen or drape. The bedrooms are luxuriant—almost to the point of being haughty—if they are supplied with smaller counterparts.

The kitchen is probably small, paved with stone or brick, furnished sparsely, and often destitute of hot and cold water. Most of the utensils are wooden. When you keep late hours, you will have to face a reproachful "hausmeister, or janitor, who religiously closes the outer door at 10 P. M. You be it to you if you should forget the enormous key he gives you when you announce your intention of staying out until midnight! You will pay a fee to be allowed to enter your own domestic and grope your way up stairs in inky blackness by the ghastly illumination of your sulphur matches.

Nevertheless, housekeeping in Ger-

Fill the Cabbage with Raw Meat.

many has wonderful compensations in a comparatively unstrained servant question. Where two maids can be had from \$8 to \$10 a month, and the two of them do twice as much work as any two ever here would, with laundry included and plain sewing thrown in, when the police can compel them to stay with you up to the time for which they contracted, there, indeed, is a distracted American housekeeper's haven of rest.

This police surveillance of servants is curious. Each maid must register at the nearest station when taking a place, and the policeman can arbitrate in case of a dispute. He also inspects the maids' rooms to see that they are in proper condition. Every German servant must give a two weeks' warning or a month before leaving place. Lavish as we are with our money, we write her character in a book, which she must show at her next place. If, in pondering upon these items which differentiate the servant problem of the German housewife from that which wears her American sister into an unlovely grave, we are moved to amusement by the recollection of the high and mightiness of imported maids, Martha, Gretchen and Lorena when they inquire on this side of the ocean into our recommendations to their confidence, their society and putative services for a consideration that grows bigger every month—if, I say, we are moved to momentary mirth, our mood soon changes. For, why should we, in most imitative and progressive nations, be so far behind the conservative Germans in what lays the corner-stone of domestic comfort?

HOME LAUNDRY

It is a relief to scrutinized national complicity to pass on to the home laundry system of our hausfrau and compare it with ours. Lavish as we account ourselves to be in the matter of household linen, the German maid boasts of keeping in store twelve dozen of each kind of bed table and body linen. The rule of twelve is preventive in the German household. Washings are done but once a month; sometimes but once in six weeks in the case of the more conservative. As garments, bed-clothes and napery are soiled by wear and use they are carried off to "die Boden," a big upper chamber furnished with clotheslines, there to hang until the next washday. The foreigner who recoils from the idea of feasting upon the idea of a month's washings, and begs for the privilege of paying handsomely for a weekly washday is regarded with wondering suspicion. "You must be a dirty people!" was the comment of a blunt hausfrau when I told her that we sent our clothes to the laundry every Monday, and that washing was done every day in some wealthy families, laundresses being engaged to do nothing else.

The unconscious humor of the remark was ample compensation for the rudeness to one who had that day chanced to pass the open door of "die Boden." They undoubtedly have the advantage of us in respect to family mending—the buyers of our household goods. Her German sister, as a rule, employs a visiting seamstress, who once a week does the mending for the absurd salary of from \$1.50 to \$2 a month.

TWO BREAKFASTS

Being safely domiciled, if you are going to be really German you will rise at 6 o'clock for the "Erster Frühstück," or first breakfast, consisting of coffee or tea and rolls.

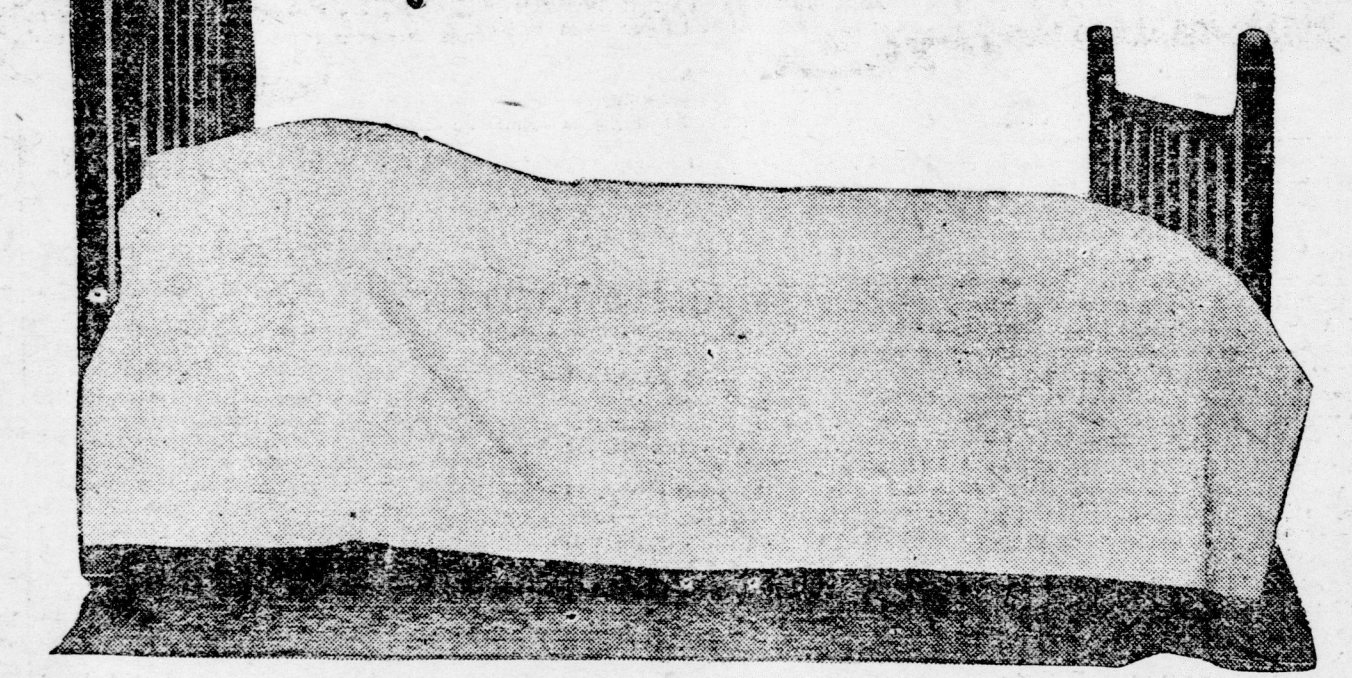
At 10 o'clock comes the "Zweites Frühstück," or second breakfast, when one's fainting spirit is sustained with sandwiches, fresh or stewed fruit, cold sausage and beer. In the season, pears, apples and cherries are plentiful and good; the peaches, while as fine as ours, are rarer and expensive; and the berries, particularly blackberries and wild strawberries, are very nice.

Except among the higher classes, "Mittagsessen," or dinner, is eaten in the middle of the day, from 12 to 2. Busy housewives, however, for this function and the children come home from school, where they have been since 7 or 8 in winter. After dinner most

The Afternoon Kaffee Klatsch

The German Housewife

The German Ded is Without Organy.



of the men rest for an hour. Another un-American custom. A truly German dinner always has soup, perhaps a lentil soup, with soaked

and boiled lentils and small pieces of sausage added to a rich beef stock; or, even more characteristic, the much-loved "Diersuppe," or beer soup, made

with a pint, each, of milk and water, one-half pint of light beer, three ounces of currants, three ounces of flour, three ounces of sugar, two spoonfuls of salt,

The Housemothers' Exchange

ONE more true-hearted woman asks leave to answer the letter to the "Housemothers' Exchange." It is the wife and mother who brings into the genius of the home, as the Creator breathed into the perfect form. He had framed the breath of life, and it became a living soul. Our Tennessee woman does not exaggerate the glorious truth in calling the mission of the homemaker "the dearest joy of life." The lover of home and country may well consider with grave uneasiness the increase in the number of young women who are trying to satisfy hearts and minds with what they falsely rate as higher ambitions.

sticks at pins or chalk line. Move gradually around the skirt as before, and either pin or chalk a second row at bottom of the skirt, following the stick. If you wish to hem the skirt, allow two or three inches below the bottom row of pins or chalk. If you wish the skirt to clear the floor by one inch, put the lower row of "markers" thirty-five inches below the upper row. For a young girl's skirt that clears the ground by ten inches, chalk a line twenty-six inches from the top or hip chalk line. This may sound difficult, but it is really simple. If done right all you have to do is to cut off the skirt at the lower line, or turn your hem there.

The difference in the length of a skirt is in the hips, and this difference is below the yardstick. For hanging waists or children's frocks in a small closet, suspend woolen skirt hosiery in lengths of a yard and a-half from the shelves. At intervals of six inches fasten the skirts safely up, and fasten the garments by the neck bands to these pins. To clean the skins from the bowls of bathtubs and closets: Use a few drops of muriatic acid. Let out the surplus water, and apply the acid with a swab; then flush the bowl well. The acid is a poison, and should not be used by careless persons or children. Hang the swab up to dry where it will not touch anything. E. M. S. (Cedar Rapids, Ia.).

Recipe for Nut Bread. I am about to commit a very reprehensible act, for which I humbly sue for pardon. Some one (and herein lies my sin for not putting that some one's initials on paper at once) asked for the recipe for nut bread. I did not think I had saved the recipe, although I remembered seeing it in your paper. In rummaging through my library table drawer today, I came across said recipe, and hasten to send you a copy: Nut bread. Four cups entire wheat flour; four spoonfuls of baking powder; one teaspoonful of salt; three spoonfuls of sugar; one cup of nuts, broken not too fine; sweet milk to make stiff dough that can be managed with a spoon. Let it rise from twenty minutes to one-half hour in brick bat pan, covered with some kind of pan. Bake, covered, for about an hour.

Two or more of our members have asked for the same recipe.

A Budget of "Helps and Hints."

A perplexed would-be home dresser-maker wrote a while ago for directions how to make the skirt of a gown hang smoothly and straight. I replied, upon the authority of a "professional," that one may buy an apparatus invented for the purpose at any shop where dress-makers' supplies are kept. Our helper and helper told of another way. "Take the skirt on to the body; hook and eye it, stand a yardstick up in front of the skirt as it is held up; stick a pin or make a chalk mark at the top of the yardstick, and straighten it, I replied, upon the purpose at any shop where dress-makers' supplies are kept. Our helper and helper told of another way. "Take the skirt on to the body; hook and eye it, stand a yardstick up in front of the skirt as it is held up; stick a pin or make a chalk mark at the top of the yardstick, and straighten it, I replied, upon the purpose at any shop where dress-makers' supplies are kept. Our helper and helper told of another way. 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