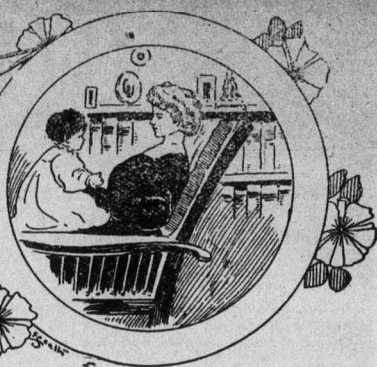


HOUSE AND HOME

CONDUCTED BY HORTENSE



All men have their frailties and whoever looks for a friend without imperfections will never find what he seeks. We love ourselves notwithstanding our faults, and we ought to love our friends in like manner.

A New Year's Wish.

This wish for you: that past rough roads unheeded
You march ahead,
Undaunted, with the hope of trust begotten
To win life's bread;
To wear a smile 'en when tears be your portion
With sighs unsaid;

To find fair blooms from last year's brown leaves springing,
Upon your way,
To reap the worth of deeds gone by that left you
A bit more gray.
A bit more strong to live and love with others
From day to day.

In fruitful fields may Time think wise to give you
A gentle part,
With love of home and friends to twine about you—
May this year start—
Blue skies to cheer, and peace of God to guide you,
O faithful heart!

—The Outlook.

"A man or woman who says the beads every day," declares the Western Watchman, "is on the high road to perfection."

The Mother of God.

Our confidence in the Mother of God must be ever on the increase; like our love, it must know no measure. It must fill us with an assurance that despite our unworthiness and past ingratitude, this tender Mother cannot and will not refuse us anything, especially in what appertains to salvation and sanctification. Oh, that we only knew the depth and tenderness of her love for us, her solicitude for our every interest, her intense desire to aid us! Never, never doubt her willingness to listen to and hear the prayers addressed to her. Go to her, feeling that a favorable answer is awaiting and do not grieve her heart by your want of childlike confidence.

From the time the Virgin Mother held the Infant Savior in her arms to this hour, woman has been the great lover of Christ and the unwearied helper of His little ones; and the more we strengthen and illumine her, the more we add to her sublime faith and devotion, the more efficacious shall she work to purify life, to make justice, temperance, chastity and love prevail.—Archbishop Spalding.

Those Frozen Pipes.

"Do not use a torch," writes a housewife. "That method nearly half burned a house in our city. Instead, take hot water, a good-sized pail of it, and apply the whole length of the pipe with a large towel. Even treat the faucet, which should be open, with hot water. Apply the water, as hot as your hand can stand it, a second and a third time if the first trial doesn't prove effective."

"It is always best to start at the outermost end, as that is more likely to be the seat of trouble, but pass over all of the pipe as quickly as the circumstances permit. Few are aware of the great heat capacity of water. You do not need to feel the warmth on the pipe."

"I saw an article which advocated thawing pipes by slaking lime upon them," says another contributor. "As an acquaintance of mine is doomed to go through life with only one eye in consequence of standing too near when lime was being slaked, I feel that it is well to sound a warning."

When lime is slaked for plaster, such a quantity is used that the steam bursts through, splattering the upper layers in all directions. For thawing pipes, a small quantity only need be used, and there will be no danger. However, if one wishes to take further precautions, cover the pipes with burlap after water has been poured on the lime. This will keep the heat where it is wanted.—Good Housekeeping.

How to Remove Mildew.

Should the clothes be mildewed the stains may be removed by a mixture containing equal parts of soft soap and starch, half as much common

salt and the juice of half a lemon. This may be spread over the spots, and the article should be laid on the grass all day and all night until the stain entirely disappears.

How to Preserve Grapes in Winter.

Carefully selected fruit may be kept till the early spring. Select large fruit that is perfect and not overripe, line the bottoms of wooden boxes with brown paper and lay the grapes in carefully, taking care that the bunches do not crowd or overlap. On this layer place another layer of fruit, and so on till the boxes are full. Cover the top thickly with paper, tucking it in well around the sides. Keep in a cool place.

Household Hints.

Velvet can be cleaned by rubbing it with a cloth dipped in powdered magnesia.
Linoleum will look the better and last longer for an occasional rub-over with a flannel cloth dipped in paraffin, which will remove all dirt and stains.
Potato parings should not be wasted. Dried, they form excellent kindling for a fire, and boiled and added to barley meal or bran they make very good food for ducks and chickens.

Clean furniture before polishing it. Few people apparently think of washing their polished furniture. Yet if the dirt were removed by washing it with a little vinegar and water, or even plain warm water, the cream used to obtain a polish would have a much better and more lasting effect.

Unused silver will keep bright if laid away in a box of flour, for the flour will exclude the air.
Paraffin oil will produce a better light and last longer if a piece of common salt about the size of nut is placed in the reservoir of the lamp.

When ironing between buttons on a blouse place the buttons on a folded Turkish towel. The buttons will sink into the towel, and the space between them will be ironed beautifully smooth.

The pipe of a lavatory basin may easily become clogged with soap. Then the remedy is to mix together a handful each of common salt and soda, and to force it down the pipe. Leave for half an hour or more, then pour down a kettle of boiling water, and flush well with warm water.

To keep mats in place at bedroom doors try this plan. Sow a small brass ring at each corner of the mat and two tiny rounded cuphooks into the corners of the doorway close to the floor. Slip the rings over the hooks and the mats will be held in place; and, as there are rings at each of the four corners, the mats may be turned frequently, so as to wear evenly. The hooks must be very small and rounded, or dresses will catch on them.

Don't "Coddle" Your Boy.

Many parents who think they love their children are in reality their greatest enemies. They bring out the worst that is in them because they appeal to the worst. They appeal to all that is frail, weak, timid and unlovable in their nature, by catering to their selfishness, indulging every whim—no matter how unreasonable or vicious—by doing everything for them, instead of allowing them to do things for themselves and thus strengthen their faculties and power of self-reliance.

They are allowed to stay at home from school when they "play" sick, as so many children do, and are petted and coddled and fussed over, when there is really nothing the matter with them. If they fall or hurt themselves they are sympathized with and encouraged to cry, by expressions of pity, instead of being taught to bear a little pain or hurt bravely and manfully and not to whimper like a weeping.

In a hundred such ways, weak, foolish parents cultivate the selfishness of their children, until they become unbearably self-reliant; they destroy their courage and self-reliance; make cowardly and weaklings of them and pave the way for their destruction. Many men and women have lived to curse in bitterness of heart the weak, criminal indulgence of overfond parents, who were the primal cause of their ruin.

Do not do for your children what they ought to do for themselves. Do not allow them to trample on the rights of others in order to gratify their own selfish desires. Show them the beauty of the Golden Rule, and insist upon their practicing it in their games, with their playmates and with older people. Teach them to respect the rights of others, and don't forget that they also have rights which should be respected.—Orison Sweet Mardia, in Success Magazine.

Costliest Selection of Snuff Boxes.

It is said that Lord Rosebery possesses the costliest collection of snuff boxes in the world. Many of them are solid gold, and some are set with brilliants. A curiously inlaid snuff box was at one time the property of Napoleon Bonaparte; a small black box studded with three diamonds belonged to the eminent statesman Pitt; while another, plainly inlaid with gold, was used by Fox. Although the collection only comprises twenty-two boxes altogether, its estimated value is \$175,000.

The Telephone Voice.

There is said to be an indication of character in almost every movement—make the carriage, poise of the head, penmanship, etc. I wonder if the tone of the voice is characteristic, what should be made of the telephone voice?

A very dear friend of mine, who is so tender-hearted that she positively suffers in sympathy with every distressed creature she comes across, and who gives, not only money, but a great deal of precious time to the consolation and relief of the unfortunate, answers a call over the 'phone with so repellent a "Well!" that the faint hearted would be impelled to hang up the receiver and creep away with hushed steps.

Another always says "Yes" with an inflection that seems to mean "state your business as briefly as possible, please." The other day I was fairly staggered with a response to my very courteous inquiry "Is this Mr. So-and-So?" which, in words, was only "Yes, what do you want?" I didn't "want" anything, as it happened. I had something to give. But I didn't give it.

"I used to know a man whose responsive 'hal-loo' was so sweetly mellow, soothing and inviting. I liked to call him up just to hear it. It was cultivated, I know, and often when interrupted in his business by some trivial question, he would have liked to say things which would do the occasion justice, I am sure, but the natural tendency, or acquired habit of courtesy never forsook him.

Perhaps the exasperation so often attendant on making telephone connections arouses a spirit of antagonism which is unwittingly conveyed to the inoffensive ear at the other side of the line, but the impression often given is that the telephone is used mostly for bluffing off beggars and dodging duns.

The question is, wouldn't it be consistent with good breeding and general culture to exercise at least the same degree of courtesy in answering a telephone call that one would in addressing any stranger before his business had been made known?—Agnes McEnery, in Southern Messenger.

The Banana to the Rescue.

A veritable godsend in these days of high prices for meats, vegetables and flour, is the banana, with its 20 per cent of carbohydrates or fuel-giving nourishment. A small variety of the banana is allowed to ripen, so the carbohydrate becomes ripened, and is then dried and preserved, making a very sweet and palatable food.

The banana preserved by the latest scientific skill is very rich, and is used like figs, dates and raisins as a table delicacy. The preserved bananas are good eating raw, and make a palatable ingredient in cakes and puddings. They give a new and indescribable flavor to mincemeat. Cut up in fritters they are exceedingly hearty.

A beverage made from the banana and served hot is smooth and fruity of flavor, with a delightful aroma. It is taken like coffee, with cream and sugar.

Banana flour, of which the reader probably knows, is combined with wheat flour and imparts a new and pleasant flavor to muffins, puddings and cakes. Tests made in our experimental station have been entirely favorable in their results. The cakes made by the Culinary Editor were truly delicious.

A simple cup cake recipe was used, merely substituting one cup of the banana preparation for one cup of wheat flour.

Banana Cup Cakes—One-half cup of butter, one cup of sugar, two eggs, one cup of milk, one cup of wheat flour, one cup of banana flour, two teaspoons of baking powder, one-half teaspoon of salt.—Good Housekeeping.

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What is Worn in London

December 29, 1909.

Now that we are well into winter and the strenuous life has us in its grip once more, there is one garment in particular that should not be forgotten, and that is a rest-gown that satisfies the demands of both comfort and beauty. For every woman who respects her looks will make sure of at least an hour's complete rest before the dressing-bell sounds. It may seem curious, but it is a fact, that many people do not in the least know how to rest their bodies. They lie stiffly on a sofa for a certain time, and are much surprised that when they stand up they feel as tired as when they lay down. The woman who knows the extraordinary benefit of real rest will first make her body comfortable by getting into a loose soft gown, in which she can lie full length at her ease; and when she is stretched on her chaise-longue she will deliberately relax all her muscles and nerves to their fullest extent. She should expel every atom of stiffness and rigidity and let every muscle collapse until she feels as if she were almost sinking through her couch. Her brain should be emptied of all irritation or obsession, as far as possible, and if she gives herself this complete rest of body and mind for even half an hour after her fatigues of the day, she will feel an extraordinary freshness when she gets up to face her toilette in answer to the dressing-gong. Such a rest-hour will do more to keep a woman's looks untouching by the hand of Time than all the cosmetics in the world.

The rest-gown of which I write, and which I saw a few days ago, may be made up in either velvet or velveteen. At this time of year we all have a leaning to velvet for all our gowns; it is so soft and pleasant to the touch and so beautiful in coloring. Imperial purple, a gorgeous color, looks better in velvet than in almost any other material; and of Imperial purple velvet was this rest-gown made. It was cut in one of the many versions of the Princess robe, as this style is always the most becoming for any kind of robe d'intérieur, but in the centre of the back and of the front, where it was fastened by a big square dull gold buckle. This gave a suggestion of an under-robe, which was still further emphasized by the side panels which hung almost straight over the belt and gave the Princess effect of the lovely continuous line. At the hem of these panels and all round the back of the skirt was a narrow edging of dark fur, which stopped short at the side, leaving the front panel to accentuate the effect of a separate skirt by being draped up in folds to the level of the knees and caught with a large fancy button in dull gold. The fronts of the bodice were slightly draped also, which helped the idea of comfort and ease, and were edged with a narrow band of fur ending at the waist-buckle, while in between was a tiny inner-vest of Russian embroidery. The loose velvet sleeves turning back at the elbow to show the lining of old gold satin, were caught with fancy buttons in dull gold like those on the skirt, where the golden lining also showed in the waterfall movement of the folds. In such a gown a woman could rest all the better for the consciousness of its simple picturesqueness and that if an unexpected call is made upon her precious rest-hour by some unexpected arrival, she can "face the music," secure of the perfection of her appearance. A charming idea for a rest-gown of an even simpler description comes from Paris, and consists of a long coat in soft thick black Ottoman silk reaching below the knees, semi-fitting to the figure, and cut out in a point at the neck behind as well as in front. The coat is lined with white satin and the wide sleeves which reach just below the elbow are split up to the shoulder, and held together with buttons of strass and jet. The coat is meant to be worn over one of those lovely Princess petticoats of lawn and Valenciennes, run through with pretty ribbons, which are such a charming and useful development in the modern lingerie; and certainly as a rest-gown nothing could be more comfortable or easier to get into once one has shed one's day garments.

All soft silks and satins make delightful rest-gowns, in some ways even better than the velvets and velvetines, for they are less likely to "hold" on the material with which a chaise-longue, or sofa, may be covered in another house than one's own. Of course, on chintz any material will slip easily, but tapes, tricot and materials of that kind—rot to mention velvet coverings which one encounters sometimes on one's visits or in hotels—will grip and hold a velvet gown in a most uncomfortable manner. For this reason corduroy, which makes exceedingly pretty rest-gowns, had best be avoided, as it is apt to sin in this way. Fine zennas are also a delightful material for a robe d'intérieur; and I lately saw one built of this silky warm stuff which pleased me greatly. It was in a lovely shade of peach-blossom, that delicate color which lies between pink and mauve, which shows to great advantage on the embossed surface. It was a long, loose-fitting robe made somewhat in Empire fashion, opening in front over a panel of fllet guipure which was adorned with a running design of Louis XV. bows executed in tiny quilted ribbons in shades of pale rose and mauve, reaching from breast to hem. The fllet lace was carried up to make an inner border to the décolletage,



which was pointed back and front, leaving the neck quite free, a most important item in a rest-gown. The Empire effect was marked by the whole of the upper part of the bodice being covered with the running design in pink and mauve ribbons, and the same design adorned the cuffs of the loose elbow sleeves, from which fell engorged flounces of killed white chiffon. The delicate coloring and silky warmth of this zenna rest-gown made it an ideal garment; and though good zenna is expensive to buy it lasts wonderfully and has the immense merit as regards a rest-gown that it never shows a crease or looks tumbled.

POET'S CORNER

SELF-RENOUCEMENT.

Teach me, O God, gladly to lack the things
That men most seek and crave, as wealth and fame,
And wife and children, and the crowd's acclaim,
And all to which the heart most fondly clings;

That I may find the source whence pure joy springs,
And make Thy love of all my life my aim,
With not a thought or wish to thwart Thy claim
To my poor heart, which to Thee nothing brings.

"Who loves his life shall suffer loss of it;
Who hates his life shall know the life divine."
This is the bread, the water, and the wine,
Of those who at Christ's blessed table sit—
They taste, and ask of Him no other sign.
—Archbishop Spalding.

THOUGHTS IN SORROW.

"In every soul there is a secret chamber,
In every life there is an untold tale.

In every heart there is a covered picture,
That human hands can never dare unveil.

In every heart there is a line, deep graven,
Whose meaning is to dearest friends unknown.

In every character there is a stronghold,
The key of which lies in God's hands alone.

"In every soul there is a chord of feeling
Too subtle to be seen or understood

Which vibrates with a certain sad discordance,
Swept carelessly by heedless hand or rude.

In every heart there is an undercurrent,
Whose depth is fathomless by love or hate;

In every soul there is a sanctuary,
Which neither friend nor foe can violate.

"So there lies hid in every human bosom
An unknown world of evil and good.

And all of us at times, each in our measure,
Misunderstand, and are misunderstood.

For since the golden days of stinless Eden,
No one has fully read another's soul;

He only searches all things to their center
Whose calm, clear eye surveys and guides the world."
—Rosa Lee.

THE CONFESSIONS OF MY NEIGHBOR.

(After she had been fortunate.)
Yes, this is what my neighbor said that night,
In the still shadow of her stately house,

(Fortune came to her when her head was white.)
What time dark leaves were weird
In withering boughs,
And each late rose sighed with its latest breath,
"This sweet world is too sweet to end in death."

But this is what my neighbor said to me:
"I grieved my youth away for that or this,
I had upon my hand the ring you see,
With pretty babies in my arms to kiss,
And one man said I had the sweetest eyes,
He was quite sure, this side of Paradise."

"But then our crowded cottage was so small,
And spacious grounds would blossom full in sight;
Then one would fret me with an 'I'dia shawl,'
And one flash by me in a diamond's light;
And one would show me wealth of precious lace,
And one look coldly from her painted face."

"I did not know that I had everything,
Till—I remembered it. Ah me! ah me!
I who had ears to hear the wild-bird sing,
And eyes to see the violets. . . .
It must be
A bitter fate with jewels and grey hair
Which once was golden and had flowers to wear."

"In the old house, in my old room,
For years,
The haunted cradle of my little ones grew,
Would hardly let me look at it for tears. . . .
O my lost nurselings! I stay on and on,
Only to miss you from the empty light
Of my low fire—with my own grave in sight."

"In the old house, too, in its old place,
Handsome and young, and looking towards the gate
Through which it flushed to meet me, as a face
For which, ah me! I never more shall wait—
For which, ah me! I wait for ever, I
Who for the hope of it can surely die."

"Young men write gracious letters here to me,
That ought to fill this mother-heart of mine,
The youth in this one crowd all Italy!
This glimmers with the far Pacific's shine.
The first poor little hand that warmed my breast,
Wrote this—the date is old: you know the rest."

"Oh, if I only could have back my boys,
With their lost gloves and books for me to find,
Their scattered playthings and their pleasant noise!
I sit here in the splendor growing blind,
With hollow hands that backward reach and ache
For the sweet trouble that the children make."

—Sarah M. B. Platt, in "The Witch in the Glass," etc.

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