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Home-making

limitations into opportunities; and the faulty arrangement of a house merely gives the housewife a better chance to use her wits in her own behalf.

Plan the Day

PLANNING the day ahead is a fundamental factor in good housekeeping. A schedule of the duties and responsibilities for each member of the family, and each day in the week, should be lettered attractively, posted conspicuously, and observed minutely. A good business man has the entire business day mapped out in advance. A good housekeeper does likewise, finishing each bit of work in its allotted time, and proceeding calmly and quietly from one memorandum to another, without the nerve strain and emotional panic that result from hodge-podge habits of work. A housewife's first need is to get over being a hodge-podger.

Meals can be scheduled and ordered a week in advance, and the whole job done at one time. This method not only helps the maid, the grocer and the butcher to avoid haste and errors, but provides for the complete utilization of "left-overs" and relieves the mind of the housekeeper from the everlasting bother of having to think always what the family can eat next. The bargain-day shopping, the sessions with milliner and dressmaker, the attendance at social functions, the care of the children, the philanthropic work, everything that a modern woman does and wants to do, may be so effectively reduced to a system that worry and fatigue are banished, and duties become delights. I am theorizing or sentimentalizing? I am not—I have seen it done.

Many a housewife walks ten miles a day, in pursuing her vocation. Has she fitted all her house shoes with rubber heels? Has she tried openwork sandals for home wear, in place of shoes? Does she know that cushion felt slippers are made so easy that you hardly think you have anything on your feet, but so durable that they wear as long as leather shoes? Further; does the housewife suspend all her clothing from the shoulders, none from the waist? Can she forego the corset, and every other tight garment while at work? Has she learned how to look attractive and feel comfortable, both at the same time? Is it her daily custom to go to her rooms, give orders not to be disturbed, and relax entirely for half an hour each afternoon? A few dozen questions like these will show the housewife whether she is, or is not, fully conserving her energies.

Use Helpful Machinery

THE best hardware, house-furnishing, and department stores now handle an assortment of devices, tools and implements for saving labor, time, health and money in the home. To women folk living in the country, many of these utensils are offered by mail-order houses. We can mention here but a small number of these aids to easy and effective housekeeping: fireless cooker, with recipe book and instructions for saving time, care and fuel; kitchen cabinet, for eliminating much of the standing and walking work, and enabling you to sit comfortably with most of your dishes and supplies in reach; sanitary window ventilator that keeps out dust and germs, rain, snow and drafts; oiled mop and duster, for settling the dirt, instead of scattering it; safety clothes lines, non-stretching, non-staining, non-ravelling, warranted to keep clothes from blowing away; dishpan that fits into the sink and protects it while accommodating all the dishes at once; tea wagon to save steps; paper towels for bathroom and kitchen; sanitary cleaning brushes for specific uses, to fit cracks, corners and curved surfaces; meat perforator to make "round steak as tender as porterhouse"; nut-crackers that deliver kernels whole; glass dishes for baking, that let you watch the process going on inside, then serve food in same dish, and wash easily; duplex bulb for electric light, that regulates amount of current used, with light bills and eye strain reduced fifty per cent.; guaranteed aluminium cooking utensils, to prevent scorching and retain full flavor of food; family clothes washing machine, electric or water power, that does not break buttons, tear clothing nor fray edges of garments.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE OF YOUR BOY?

(Continued from page 26)

19. Fevers?
20. Has he had any serious illnesses?
21. Does he get along well at school?
22. What is his grade?
23. Is he considered quick or slow in his classes?
24. What subjects does he like best?
25. What studies does he find most difficult?
26. What does he read?
27. What are his favourite games?
28. Has he any bad habits?
29. What do you consider his worst faults?
30. What do you consider his best qualities?
31. Does he resemble his father or mother?
32. What does he want to be when he grows up?
33. For what do you think he will be best fitted?
34. What would you most like him to be?
35. Send a sample of his writing—a

Among the new manufactures and inventions for making housework a joy instead of a nuisance are the varied and appealing forms of electrical contrivances now available, and growing more and more economical. A few examples: the electric ironing machine and washing machine which make washing day and ironing day one and the same by saving hours of time and pounds of former drudgery; the electric vacuum cleaner; the dish-washer that cleanses, rinses and dries the table dishes for an average family in less than five minutes; the sewing machine motor, that enables you to complete a day's sewing in a few hours with scarcely any fatigue; the portable desk lamp and floor lamp, for directing the most concentrated light wherever needed, while protecting the eyes from the glare; the water heater; the "sad" iron—not sad in this case; the toaster stove; the warming pad; the rotary fan; the pocket searchlight; the household interphone.

Employee—Not Servant

BUT the human element, in domestic science as in all applied science, takes precedence over the material adjuncts. I refer now to the housemaid, and to the storekeeper, on whose co-operation the mistress of the home has to depend for a large degree of her success. The loyal, energetic, enthusiastic team work that makes a business project forge ahead is conspicuously absent in the home regime. Did you ever see a housemaid illumined with ardor and joy in her work, and so faithful and devoted that she clung to her mistress ten or twenty years without a murmur? If not, why not? Did you ever see a grocer who respected the business acumen of the housewife as much as that of her husband? If not, why not?

The cure for the "servant" problem is to realize that there is no servant. There is an employee—but no servant. What the housemaid objects to is being called, classed and treated as a servant. When she does her work right, she is an artist. But, ordinarily, she is an outcast in the family. She is promptly banished to a cold, ugly, dreary attic room; she is robbed of the home ties and sense of personal ownership that every woman craves; she is run through a mill of monotony, slavery and drudgery, with no chance of promotion or advancement; she is forced to work at any or all hours of the day or night; she has for an employer a mistress who knows neither her own business nor that of the maid, but who gives orders with the air of omniscience and the finality of fate; she cannot have Sundays or legal holidays to herself, as other employees rightfully demand; she loses caste everywhere because of being a "domestic"; she receives in cash only a half to third of what she might expect, sooner or later, in other lines of work; and she has no compensations for all these drawbacks and discouragements.

Do you have trouble in getting, keeping or managing a maid? Then it might be well to ask yourself how many of the usual defects in the household employment relation you have discerned, acknowledged and corrected. Also if your butcher, grocer, ice-man or plumber treats you badly, you have yourself to blame. A shopkeeper would not dare to cheat or maltreat a first class business man; why should he dare to cheat or maltreat you? We are always discounted in being disrespected—no matter who does the disrespecting.

I can only suggest briefly and roughly in this article a few of the most important branches and phases of domestic engineering.

How to Learn

TO the progressive housewife determined to know her business, I would recommend one or more of these five channels of knowledge now open to her: (1) books and magazines for the home and the home-maker; (2) bulletins and reports from leading experts and national organizations; (3) personal courses in all branches of household management for mothers, daughters and maids; (4) the direct service and counsel of a qualified domestic engineer; (5) the aid of agricultural colleges and extension departments of universities in many localities of Canada.

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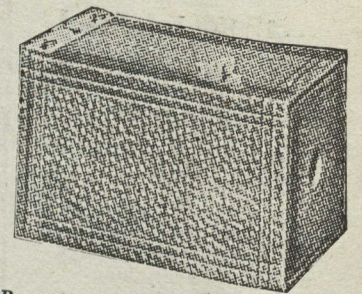
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