

HOUSEHOLD.

Duties of a Maid.

One of the first things to be impressed on a servant is the necessity for absolute tidiness when answering the door, says a writer in a London paper, whether in the morning or the afternoon, as nothing is more typical of the condition of a household than this. Another thing that a servant should fully realize is the unpardonableness of keeping a visitor waiting on the doorstep. Naturally, in the morning, where there is a small staff, delay is sometimes unavoidable; but never should it be allowed in the afternoon, by which time the servant is supposed to be fully dressed and ready to carry out her duties punctually. The door should be opened wide, and if the mistress is at home the servant must stand on one side to let the visitor in, shut the door, and then precede the visitor to the drawing room without any hurry, stopping at the door to ask, 'What name, madam?' opening the door, and announcing the name quite clearly; after this shutting the door and retiring. If no one is in the room, the maid must intimate this, and at once go and tell her mistress. If the mistress is not in, the servant says, 'Not at home,' takes the cards in her hand, and, after shutting the door or seeing the visitor into her carriage or cab, places the cards in some recognized place in the hall, where the mistress may see them on her return.

The parlor maid should be trained to remember whether the visitor merely leaves cards or asks for admission, as this is of great importance on occasions. Unless very intimate, no visitor should be shown into anything but the drawing room. A servant must also learn to discriminate as to who is to be shown at once into the drawing room, and who is to be asked to take a chair in the hall. Again, too, when people say they wish to write a note, discrimination must be used, especially in cities, where an unknown person may not have the most honest ideas in the world. If in doubt, the maid may show the person into a convenient room and wait for the note to be written.

If visitors come at or about tea time, the servant should at once prepare this, and bring it in as soon as possible, and if more people come, as a matter of course, bring in more cups, and see that there are plenty of cakes and bread and butter. As the visitor says good-bye, the mistress should ring the bell for the servant to be in readiness to open the front door. All letters, notes, etc., should be handed on a salver of some kind. A maid never knocks at any doors but the bed rooms. This all sounds very simple, and so it is to the well-trained servant, but the system must be carefully explained to the young or ill-trained maid.

Next comes the laying and waiting at table, and with this, although not quite so elaborate, the same care should be taken when the family is by themselves as when there are guests, or the servant will never realize what is expected of her on these latter occasions. At breakfast the tea and coffee should be placed in front of the mistress, with the cups, etc., racks of toast, butter, marmalade, jam, sardines, etc., being put on the table, and the hot dishes in front of the master. Any cold dishes and the bread are put on the sideboard. A plate is laid for each person, a napkin, and a cold plate on the left-hand side. A table centre is

Pattern Catalogue.

For the convenience of the busy mothers into whose homes the 'Messenger' goes, we have arranged to supply a catalogue containing from 400 to 500 new designs for ladies', misses' and children's clothes, for spring and summer of 1907, all of which may be ordered through the 'Messenger' Pattern Department. The catalogue also contains practical illustrated hints on the making of fine lingerie and baby clothes. Send 10 cents in coin or stamps, writing name and address in full, that no mistake may occur. Be sure to mention the 'Northern Messenger,' or, if desired, the pattern coupons on this page may be used in ordering the catalogue.

never used at this meal, nor are there usually any flowers.

Luncheon is a meal on which the opinion of people vary greatly, some preferring to have everything placed on the table except the cold meat, which is placed on the sideboard, and wait on themselves, whilst others prefer the servants to be in the room all the time. This is naturally simply a matter of taste, and a compromise is often effected by the maid being in the room to hand around the hot dishes, and then, after changing the plates, only coming back to bring the coffee when rung for. In any case, though, the luncheon table should be dainty and light. A tumbler and two wine-glasses should be placed for everyone, and the knives and forks arranged very much as for dinner. As a rule, if dessert is given, the table is not cleared for this; the dessert plates, with fruit knives and forks (but no finger glasses), are laid out on the sideboard in readiness.

The 20th Century Baby.

Many simple ailments of children may be safely treated and many emergencies met by a clear-headed mother when the doctor is not at hand, writes Marianna Wheeler, the Superintendent of the Babies Hospital, New York, in 'Harper's Bazar.' The 'little knowledge' which is proverbially 'a dangerous thing' is quite the reverse if wisely used in such cases.

Burns.

Simple burns where the flesh is merely scorched or only the outer skin broken may be made comfortable and effectually treated by laying on a little bicarbonate of soda (common baking soda.) If that is not at hand, a soft linen or cotton cloth spread with oil, sweet or olive, linseed oil and lime-water equal parts, vaseline, or sweet clean lard, these cloths to be spread over the parts burned, then covered with cotton or numerous soft cloths to exclude the air. If the burns are more serious a doctor's care is needed. If the accident happens at a time or in a place where it may be several hours before the physician can reach the child, much may be done in the meantime to relieve its sufferings. Where burns are extensive there is always more or less danger of blood-poisoning; this danger may be averted and great relief afforded to the patient if the wounds are treated in the following manner. Tear into strips, about four inches wide, clean pieces of old linen or cotton cloth; fold or roll these into small packages, and boil for fifteen or twenty minutes in a solution of salt and water—two teaspoonfuls of salt to a quart of water; cool the water by placing the pail or other vessel in which the cloths have been boiled in a pan of cold or iced water; when lukewarm wring out the cloths and with them cover the entire surface which is burned; if the hands and feet are involved, care should be taken to place bits of linen between the toes, and wrap up each finger separately; over these wet compresses bind on thick layers of cotton, and over this oiled silk or even paper, as it is very essential to exclude all the air possible.

Splinters.

A splinter is a very little thing, but capable of creating a great deal of mischief, discomfort, and pain. Every mother of small children should provide herself with a pair of sharp-pointed forceps for this emergency. When the splinter is imbedded in the flesh of hand or foot, the point of a small pair of scissors—a manicure pair will very well answer—should be inserted directly over and following the path of the splinter, and a small incision made. If there be any bleeding staunch it by a little pressure, then open the wound by stretching it a little, and with your forceps pick out the offending object. When the splinter is under the nail, cut a little V-shaped piece out of the nail and with the forceps the splinter is easily removed. Protect the cut made with a little collodion or a finger-cot.

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