

HOUSEHOLD.

The Morning Caller.

The morning caller at a house where no servants are employed, is not always a welcome one. The average housewife does not care to be surprised, by even her dearest friend, with a disordered breakfast-table in view, her front hair unfrizzed, or still up in curl-papers, and attired in a morning gown that may not be immaculate. The too familiar guest who rushes in a rear door of a house, presuming on her intimacy with the mistress of that domicile, is oftener a discomfort and an embarrassment than a welcome visitor at any hour of the day. It is a wise rule to always respect the privacy of others' households, and therefore to be ever a trifle ceremonious with even our most intimate friends. It will preserve mutual respect, and perpetuate friendship, and never subject us to the liability of being unwelcome guests.—'Christian Work.'

Wise Words to Mothers.

A writer in the New York 'Evening Post' expresses the opinion that it is little short of cruelty to bring up children so that they are looked upon as a public nuisance. When they are debarred from comfortable and desirable places because they are destructive to people's peace, and injurious to the material beauty of the dwelling, it tells a sad story of neglect and selfishness on the part of their mothers.

The following words of wisdom are worthy of prayerful consideration by mothers, individually and in 'mothers' meetings':

To enforce upon children regard for other people and their property, to punish, by restraint or deprivation of certain pleasures, injuries to furniture, flowers, books, walls, anything which they ought not to handle—is merely to make a groundwork of decent regard for other people's rights. I saw two children, eight or ten years old, tear up the larger part of a bit of shrubbery just coming into bloom, and throw the blossoms on the ground, while their mothers watched them from the verandah in complacent quiet. 'They are having such a good time with those wild flowers.' The mistress of the house absolutely turned pale when she saw the destruction; the shrubs were coming into bloom for the first time. The little girls were not even told to gather up the litter they had made, but left walks and lawn untidy, and rushed off to find something else to tear up and destroy.

To learn to respect the perfection of things is of infinite value to a child. If it is a flower, to shelter and try to keep it alive, never wantonly to pluck and fling away a blossom; if it is a book, not to deface or mar it; if it is a wall, not to mark or deface it; if it is a smooth-rolled lawn, not to litter it with rubbish or deface it with wheel-marks. To learn to wait patiently; all their lives long they will give thanks for having been taught how to do this. How many a pleasant talk has been interrupted, how many an otherwise helpful visit has been lost by a teasing, pulling child, tormenting its mother either to listen to its demands or to go somewhere.

The whole of its life lies in what the child learns of those things, and it must either grow into selfish manhood or womanhood, or have the evil beaten out by the hard and bitter teachings of the world in which it was meant to be happy and useful, rather than to begin thus late to learn that we cannot live unto ourselves.

Better that the children never knew a word of any language but their own, that they were devoid of many society accomplishments, than that they should fail to learn faithful obedience, respect for the rights of others, and primary self-restraint, which is the foundation of all pleasant intercourse between human beings of every age.

There is no reason why children should not be a joy wherever they go; a refreshment, even an amusement to their world-tired elders, to whom their innocent pleasures, their spontaneous, unaffected merriment, their original and ingenious thoughts, are like a new and diverting book; and surely to many forms of grief no tenderness is as soothing as the love and caress of a dear child.

If they are looked upon as pests and nuisances, if the nervous shrink from their shrill screams and continued fretfulness, the delicate from their rude ways, and the refin-

ed from their destructiveness, it is the fault of their mothers, not of the children.

Put the culture of the heart and character of your children far above the improvement of their minds.

It is easier to yield than to show a child that he cannot be indulged; it is far easier to quiet a restless little spirit with a forbidden plaything than to insist on his amusing himself legitimately; but every day the mother or nurse who would grieve sincerely that any lack of care or forethought had entailed a bump or bruise, will permit him without regret to acquire habits which make him a trial wherever he goes, and which only the rod of life's hard discipline can remove.

The subtle form of selfishness which causes this lamentable result hides itself away under many coverings, but in the end the finished work is the same; the distasteful, annoying, obnoxious child owes his condition to his mother, and she has been cruel to him.—'Woman's Column.'

Making Cake.

(By Mary L. Palmer.)

I have lately read an interesting chapter on cake making. And though the subject is an old one, I wish to give some of the ideas as well as some of my own notions.

In the making of cake, as of other things, let it 'be done decently and in order.' First, the cake maker should be in order. Let the hands be perfectly clean, hair neatly combed and smoothed, and shoulders and back well brushed that none lodge there. Put on a large, clean apron. Clear the table of utensils and everything not needed. Place thereon everything that is needed.

In warm weather place eggs in cold water and let them stand a few minutes; they will make finer froth. And be sure eggs are fresh; the success of the cake depends to some extent upon the freshness of the eggs; no amount of beating will make a stiff froth if they are old.

Good authority says grease pans with fresh lard rather than butter, and line with several thicknesses of paper according to the oven. Sift flour and also sugar, unless pulverized, and measure or weigh carefully. Butter, if quite salt should be cut in pieces and placed for a little while in water; it will freshen it a trifle. If very hard, warm, but do not allow it to melt. Melted butter is not recommended. Indeed some authorities do not advise cooked butter at all.

Beat yolks of eggs thoroughly. Set whites in a cool place till ready for use, then beat till dish may be turned upside down.

In mixing cake the following is a good rule for putting materials together: Beat butter to a cream; add sugar gradually, milk in small quantities, yolks of eggs, flour, whites, and lastly flavoring. There is a great 'knack' in beating cake.

Always use earthen or stoneware for mixing, and do not stir, but bring batter up from bottom of the dish at every stroke, beating the same way every time. It is said cells will be finer if beaten the same way every time, and slowly toward the last. All cakes not made with yeast should be baked as soon as mixed.

We often speak of 'luck' in cake making, but unskillful mixing, too rapid or unequal baking, or a sudden decrease of heat before quite done, or an overheated oven, or some other things, that might be mentioned, will have to do with that same luck in a manner no witch could conjure. The oven is a matter to be thought of; oftener too hot than too cool.

Cakes should rise and begin to bake before browning too much. Large cakes require a good, steady, solid heat, not hot enough to burn, but constant. These hints followed, the cake should come out well.—'Christian Union.'

Selected Recipes.

Cream Filling.—Scald one cup of milk in a double boiler. Beat one egg and add two level tablespoonfuls of cornstarch and two tablespoonfuls of sugar. Turn into the scalded milk and stir until thick. Take from the fire, add one teaspoonful of vanilla and spread between the layers, sprinkling with cocoanut.

Plain Cake.—One half-cup of butter and one cup of sugar creamed together. Add one half-cup of milk, two eggs, one and one-half cupfuls of flour, one teaspoonful of baking-powder and flavor to taste.

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