

THE HOUSEHOLD.

THE TONE OF THE HOUSEHOLD.

BY MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

"I am so glad," said a boy to his mother one day not long ago, "that you brought me up, and that I did not happen to grow into the ways they have at Aunt Nancy's. You never seem critical of your neighbors; you don't put unkind constructions on what they say nor wonder about what doesn't concern you. It is just a liberal education, mother dear, to live in your house." And the manly fellow, with the faint moustache outlining his upper lip, and the earnest look deepening in his fine face, bent to kiss the little woman who looked proudly up to her son.

I often wonder whether we women realize how truly we give the household its tone, setting it to truest harmony, or suffering jars and discord, false notes and a false pitch to steal upon and mar the music. The mother has the advantage above all others of beginning with the little ones in the happy, happy day of small things. There is a time when she represents the highest authority in the universe to the child's mind, when her influence is unquestioned and well-nigh absolute, and when, if she choose, she may mold the young life as she will. The misfortune of many mothers is that they fail to recognize how early in the child's life they begin to impress themselves upon the susceptible and plastic nature, "wax to receive and marble to retain," while yet the little feet have not essayed their first timid and uncertain steps, and long before the little lips have learned to add word to word in coherent sentences. A mother who appreciates her opportunities and values her privileges, will reflect from the first hour of her baby's existence, that this immortal soul is acted upon by hers, that she is giving it impulses which shall continue to exist themselves, and modify the character of her child to all eternity.

Nay, the Christian mother cannot escape the responsibility of the relation, from the hour that she knows of the invisible life entwined subtly with her own, and growing in mystic union with her own life-forces beneath her throbbing heart.

How shall we set the tone of our households high above shams and shallows; how shall we lift our homes up towards a lofty ideal; how render them worthy of the traditions of our ancestry? In the first place, by living worthily and nobly. It has been repeated so often, and is so familiar in our ears, that there is a certain triteness in the expression that what we are is more important than what we say; nevertheless, in home ethics it is a truth always worth repeating that character tells. In the daily life, she who is sincere, who is large-hearted and generous, enthusiastic for the right, disdainful of the petty motive, and the mean act, she who can resist prejudice and fairly weigh both sides, she who holds herself accountable to God, can but elevate those around her; husband, kindred, children, the maids who kindle the fires and wash the linen, the occasional visitor, and every one who is brought into contact or communication with the rich, pure, sweet life of the good woman and true mother.

Next, and not less noteworthy, comes the protest against narrowness, which is made most effectually where the home is not sufficient to itself, in the sense of being satisfied with itself. The man with the one talent in the parable, burying it in the earth, and hiding his Lord's money, met with the severest reprobation, and equally should we beware of the home with one talent. A home should be receptive, genial, consecrated to all bounties and charities. Distrust the wisdom of the woman who says that she has no mission beyond her own household; no time for meetings, clubs, commissions, efforts for the help of humanity. The most womanly women of our day are those who find, make, take time, from other and thronging occupations, to send relief to the ends of the earth, or to the sufferer in the next street.

To raise the tone of the household, furnish it with good reading. Only an imbecile in these days, underrates the immense magic of printer's ink. Never mind whether the carpets are threadbare, or the chairs old-fashioned. That is of little importance, compared to having the children's

minds in touch with the best thought of the world. And while you are about it, be sure that the Bible is in its proper place in the house, and that it is read by everybody there, at least once a day, at the simple family prayer, which does more than any other single thing, to impart purity and secure peace in household life.—*Union Signal.*

BABY'S PLAYTHINGS.

Carelessness in the selection of playthings for the baby is a source of much trouble in the nursery. In the earlier years of life, and especially during that troublesome period when children are "teething," there is a disposition to put everything into the mouth, and so rattles, rings, marbles, doll-heads, coins, sticks and stones all find their way to the common receptacle. A good nurse is always watchful of her charge, knowing that it should not be allowed to have anything in its hands that would be dangerous in its mouth.

When the child has grown a little older, its chief concern seems to be to slip things into its nostrils and ears.

One of my father's patients, a child now grown to womanhood, had an irresistible desire to swallow coins, and bolted every small piece of money that came to her hands with all possible haste. A penny, or old-fashioned three-cent piece, would as certainly start on a journey through her alimentary canal as it came into her possession.

Growing tired of being called in hot haste to see her so often, my father decided upon a radical cure of the habit, and informed her she had grown too old to be treated like a baby any longer, and he proposed to give her a severe whipping every time he was called on that mission in future. His manner was sufficiently impressive to make children believe that he meant what he said, and that corporal punishment at his hands meant something serious. The threat was all that was needed to break the habit; if she continued the practice, she did not let any one know it.

The fashion of covering babies' fingers with set rings, which sprang into sudden favor a short time ago, has been attended by so many accidents that it has fallen into disfavor among the more intelligent classes, and the manufacturing jewellers who mounted diamond chips and bits of turquoise, and garnet in little gold bands for the baby trade, find less sale for them than formerly, because physicians have called the attention of mothers to the danger attending their use, and some of the leading metropolitan retail dealers decline to handle them longer. The claws scratch the tender skin of the babes, and the rings or sets are sure to be stuffed into the mouth with the owner's chubby little fists, and many of them have been swallowed. Alarming spasms and even death have been reported as following these accidents. Thoughtful mothers will not permit bright rings and pins on young children, to be pulled off and swallowed.

GOWNS FOR GIRLS IN BUSINESS.

A busy girl, one who is out in the work-a-day world, writing and writing to keep the accounts of a great firm straight, wrote and asked me what I should advise for a business dress. First of all, I should say let it be quiet, let it be well-fitting, and let it be of the kind that will attract attention only by its absolute neatness. I know the temptation is very great to put the money in a pretty plaid frock trimmed with velvet, perhaps in a silk, and to wear it for a little while for very best, and then to take it for the office. This is the last thing in the world you ought to do.

We can learn some lessons from men, and did you ever hear of a man taking a shabby dress suit for office wear? Put your money in a frock suitable for business, and keep it exclusively for that. Leave the frills and frivolities for the other hours, and make your own gown partake of the exquisite simplicity of that worn by a Quakeress, and it will never offend, even when it grows a little shabby. Probably the most useful business gown is a dark-blue serge. It does not show the stains or dust as quickly as black, the sleeves will not rub out as would black cashmere, and the material itself, being rather rough, doesn't grow glossy. Fashion the skirt

after the manner of to-day, plain at the front and sides and with a double box-plaiting at the back. Then wear with this a fitted blouse of the same material, belted in and not having the loose look usually given to a blouse. I recommend the blouse because while it is whaleboned, it is not to the extent of the basque, and, sitting for hours in a basque having bones extending to the edge of its skirt means getting it shapeless in a very short time. Have a black ribbon stock at the neck, and then neither collar, or, indeed, a white finish of any kind, is necessary. In buying your material get enough for a new pair of sleeves, for your sleeves will certainly be shabby and worn out before your gown begins to go. Now, just remember this, a well-dressed girl, which means a girl suitably dressed for her position, is certain to have more respect shown her than one who is untidy and overdressed. There always comes a time when the bright colors, the gay ribbons and the pretty lace can be worn, but it is certainly not in the counting-room, in the offices, or wherever your work may be.—*Ruth Ashmore, in Ladies' Home Journal.*

DOSING THE BABIES.

In recounting some of the accidents that befall the babies through the ignorance or carelessness of parents and nurses, mention must be made of a class of cases that are met with in the practice of almost every physician of wide experience, about which he will talk to you freely enough in a general way, but will not give names except in the strictest professional secrecy, and not then unless there is good reason for so doing.

I refer to the murderous practice of dosing the innocents with powerful patent nostrums, the composition, effects and antidotes for which are unknown to the persons who administer them. My one-time neighbor, Dr. Z., is a bluff, plain, spoken German practitioner, who tells the truth whether it be welcome or not.

"Will my darling get well, doctor? please say yes," cried a young mother to the old physician as they stood beside her child's cradle watching its life fade out.

"No; she will not."
"Oh! what can be the matter with her, doctor? She was so well this morning and now she is dying. Is there no God of mercy? Why is he robbing me of my child?"

"God has nothing to do with it; you have killed her yourself. I told you not to use that abominable cough syrup (mentioning one of the most widely advertised mixtures on the market); it owes all its efficiency to the opium it contains, and you have simply drugged her to death with it."

Plain words, but true. It was the third case he had been called to treat and he had grown tired of remonstrating against the use of such things. She had poured the medicine down the child's throat because some one had told her it was excellent to quiet fretful children and put them to sleep. Children do not bear opium well, and it should never be administered to them by any one but a well-informed physician who can watch its action.

The soothing syrups are another fruitful source of infantile mortality, and many fatal cases of poisoning following their use might be cited.

The records of the health offices contain many certificates of deaths that are false, and the physicians who made them knew they were when they made them, for there are few men who speak as plainly as Dr. Z. They do not care to put it on record that the children in the families they serve have been killed by criminal carelessness and ignorance. Pain killers, cough medicines and soothing syrups do not appear as the cause of death nearly as often as they should.—*Babyhood.*

RECIPES.

CHICKEN CROQUETTES.—Chop cold chicken fine, moisten well with melted butter and add a little salt. Make into small croquettes, dip in egg and then in cracker crumbs and fry in hot butter or lard.

JOHNNY CAKE.—Nine tablespoonfuls of molasses or soft sugar, two cups of buttermilk, one teaspoonful of soda, and one-half teaspoonful of salt, and corn meal enough to make it so it will run out of the spoon, but not too thin, and not thick enough to drop from the spoon.

SARATOGA POTATOES.—Peel and slice very thin six large potatoes, lay them in ice water one hour, and thoroughly dry with a clean towel. Drop

each slice separately in a kettle of boiling lard, fry until crisp and brown. Take out with wire spoon, drain and sprinkle with salt while hot.

HAMBURG STEAKS.—One pound lean veal chopped fine, two teaspoonfuls onion juice, salt and pepper to taste. Mix well, form with the hands into flattened cakes, and broil over a clean fire. Lay on each a bit of butter the size of a hickory nut, first squeezing a few drops of lemon juice on the meat. Let them stand covered a minute before serving, but keep them very hot.

BUCKWHEAT CAKES.—One quart of buckwheat flour, one teaspoonful of salt, one-half cupful of home-made yeast or one half cake of compressed yeast; mix with warm water to make a thin batter. Mix over night and set in a warm place. In the morning add one-half teaspoonful soda dissolved in a little warm water, and a little sifted meal or wheat flour may be added if preferred, and bake on griddle.

ESCALLOPED POTATOES.—Butter a large pudding dish and place a layer of thinly sliced potatoes in it, season with salt and little pieces of butter, then another layer of potatoes, and so on until the dish is full, then pour plenty of fresh milk over the potatoes, so they will not be dry, and cover tightly and bake in a good oven three-quarters of an hour. Take the cover off ten minutes before they are to be served and allow them to brown on top.

ESCALLOPED OYSTERS.—Butter a pudding-dish and place in the bottom a layer of cracker crumbs, then a layer of oysters well seasoned with bits of butter and salt, another layer of crackers, and so on until the dish is full. Pour plenty of fresh milk over each layer to moisten well, and for the top heat up an egg with a little milk, cover well until nearly done, and then brown. Bake three quarters of an hour, or until done. Serve at once.

JELLIED TONGUE.—Boil until tender a pickled beef's tongue. When done throw into cold water for a few minutes, then peel. Save a pint of the liquid which the tongue was cooked in. When the tongue is perfectly cold, slice thin as for the table. Dissolve two ounces of gelatine in cold water. Plan to cook a piece of veal the same day or the day before, so to have the gravy. Take one teacup of the gravy; brown two tablespoonfuls of light brown sugar (stirring over the fire in a basin), and add to the gravy with three spoonfuls of vinegar, the pint of liquor the tongue was cooked in, the dissolved gelatine and a pint of boiling water. Strain through a jelly-bag and set away to cool a few minutes. Take a jelly mould or deep dish and pour in a little jelly, then a layer of tongue, then more jelly until all is used. Set on ice to get solid. When you are ready to use it, garnish a platter with parsley or carrot leaves, dip the mould into hot water for a moment and turn out on platter. This makes a handsome dish for tea or lunch.

PUZZLES—No. 2.

SCRIPTURE ENIGMA.

1. A man of a wild roving nature, who preferred the life of a hunter to the peaceful one of a shepherd. He was impatient and uncontrolled, and meditated taking back by crime and violence that of which he had been deprived by craft. He was one of two brothers, and became the founder of a warlike nation, sternly denounced by the prophets in later times.

2. A commander-in-chief in the army of Benhadad, King of Syria, and in constant attendance upon him. He had riches and honor, but he suffered from an incurable disease until, by the use of the simple means recommended by a prophet of the Lord, he was miraculously restored to health. He had a hasty but not an unreasonable temper, and after his deliverance he showed his gratitude by actions as well as words.

3. His mother was a Moabitish woman, and his father was of Bethlehem. His birth brought great rejoicing, and was the source of special gladness to his Jewish grandmother. He became the grandfather of a great king and poet, and the ancestor of the promised Messiah.

4. He was one of two brothers, and was a husbandman. He was a man of a sullen and revengeful temper, and while obeying the letter of God's command, disobeyed it in the spirit. He committed a great crime and was a marked man from that time forward. His descendants were numerous.

5. A woman who, though a slave, was evidently of a proud nature. Her affection for her son was strong, and the promise was given to her that of him God would make a great nation. It is twice recorded in her history that she was met by an angel. She is spoken of by St. Paul as a type of the Old Covenant.

The characters here described are drawn from the Old Testament, but are all referred to in the New. Their initials form the name of one whose faith is specially recorded in Hebrews xi. His history is uneventful, but the testimony is given of him, that "he pleased God."

CHARADE.

A sailor leaving home once said,—

"Remember me I pray,
By this my whole, when I am far
From home and friends away:
Oh first it for my last and pray for me
When I am far away upon the sea."

ANDREW A. SCOTT.

SQUARE WORD.

To engage.

A thought.

To raise.

To gain by labor.

JOHN S. LEWIS.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES.—NUMBER 1.

CROSSWORD.—Napoleon.

METAGRAM.—Bold—cold—fold—gold—hold—mold—sold—told—wold—gold.

HISTORICAL ACROSTIC.—

H astings.

O mnibus.

S ardinia.

P oitiers.

I sabella.

T emplars.

A merican.

L ollards.

E scorial.

R omania.

S cotland.

SQUARE WORD.—

C R O W
R I P E
O P E N
W E N T