

HOUSEHOLD.

One Mother's Way.

The usual public school in the country requires ten years to complete the course, so that girls beginning school at five years of age graduate at fifteen. That is entirely too young, and the severe work of the last three years occurs at an age when a girl is least able to bear it.

Realizing this, and also the desirability of music lessons and greater importance of the study and practice of housekeeping, I have taken my daughters out of school at thirteen or fourteen years for one whole year. Discharging the help, we did the work together, thus familiarizing them with home duties. They acquired a liking for this work, while rushing through certain enforced duties before and after school has just the opposite effect. Sewing and music, a little visiting filled up the time profitably and pleasantly. One of the girls studied a little at home, but it was in an irregular way and really accomplished little more than to keep her mental machinery in running order.

My girls, I am sure, were not in any way losers by this interval of rest and change, and two have grown to be robust, healthy women, not in the least afflicted with those ailments so often the inheritance of girl graduates. The youngest, now just fourteen, is a capable housekeeper, not able merely to 'cook a meal of victuals,' but to keep house indefinitely, make her own underclothing and repair all ordinary cases of wear. Better even than that, only once in her life has she had a visit from a physician and is as nearly as possible a perfectly healthy animal. This fall, after the rest, she has begun school again only a little behind other girls of the same age in book knowledge and with a knowledge of other equally necessary things far beyond the most of her mates.

This is not a bad course to pursue with boys either. Many boys between thirteen and fifteen are idle and trifling in school. Put them at some manual labor for one or two years and they will appreciate the value of schooling and do better work in the succeeding years, often completing the course of study as early as those who have studied continuously.—Texan Mother, in 'Congregationalist.'

The Coffee Pot.

The care of the coffee-pot is one of the simple details of housekeeping that are neglected every day in nine-tenths of the homes throughout the land. It is the exception when the cook will empty the pot immediately after breakfast; instead, it usually goes on the back of the range for a possible cup for herself later in the day. Its contents simmer gently, and the last rank flavor is extracted from the berry. From this strong decoction a deposit is made upon the inside of the coffee-pot which almost defies removal, and which the next time fresh coffee is made, gives the unpleasant flavor that so tantalizes the housekeeper. The coffee purchased in the berry may be of the best, it may be perfectly browned, and great care taken that it is kept in air-tight receptacles to prevent

evaporation of its own aroma or absorption of deleterious flavors, yet all this vigilance is useless if a coated coffee-pot is used. When the average cook finally attempts the cleaning of the coffee-pot that has stood on the range or around the kitchen for hours, holding the remnants of the breakfast coffee, she will probably plunge it into a pan full of greasy dish-water and wash it out with a far from clean dishcloth. Nothing but clear, fresh water and a cloth kept for the purpose or metal dishcloth should be used. One housekeeper who has grown weary of contending with her cooks, buys, on the first day of every month, a cheap new tin pot costing twenty cents, and sees that the old one is discarded when its successor arrives. The coffee is made daily in this and poured off into the table pot for serving.—N. Y. 'Weekly Post.'

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