

not. In the final outcome the mistress is the chief executive and the responsibility rests on her shoulders and her shoulders alone.

One says, "As the twig is bent so is the tree inclined"; but one might also say "As the mistress knows so does the maid learn"; but the maid must learn. Learn primarily the importance of orderliness (which pre-supposes absolute cleanliness of utensils, dishes and the kitchen in general). Learn the necessity of putting every dish, cup, pan or piece of silver in the place where it belongs so that it can be under hand at a moment's notice. (This for you, too, Milady, who keeps house for herself.)

The mere cooking of meals, washing of dishes, sweeping and dusting, do not, by any means, constitute either housekeeping or the duties of a maid. There are scores of things about a house that require attention—not, perhaps, every day, but periodically. Silver to polish; a mirror here or there that needs brightening; a window to be cleaned, or bric-a-brac to be washed—all small matters, mere detail, but all showing the well-kept home.

Lack of space forbids the consideration of all the thousand and one minor matters of the household; but I wish to impress the necessity of attention to detail. A home is a thing of many details, in themselves trivial, in the mass, of first importance. The housekeeper or the maid (so far as the house is concerned) must live detail, think detail and breathe detail; for comfort comes as a result of attention to detail, detail and then more detail.