HOUSEHOLD.

System in Housework.

How many mothers, if they will only take a few hours every day instructing their daughters in the mysteries of housekeeping, would save them many days of worry over some knotty problems in housekeeping. I can realize now, when I am away from mother, and have one of 'the Johns' to cook, wash and iron for, what a help my lessons, learned in the kitchen, laundry and serving-room, are to me. I, too, like many of my sisters, am an ex-teacher, but do not find housekeeping as great a hardship as some of the young beginners do, for I had a thoughtful mother, who carefully taught me every branch of housekeeping from bread-making down to scrubbing the floors, cheese-making, spinning, sewing, knitting, and even weaving was included, as also all kinds of fancy work, and all this during vacation time from school, only a few hours a day, but so many things learned that go to make up our life comfort.

Every mistress of a household, especially every mother, ought to find out what the family income is, and where it comes from, and thereby prevent all useless extravagance.

Half the miserable or disgraceful bankruptcies never would happen if the wives had the sense and courage to stand firm and insist on knowing enough about the family income to expend proportionately; to restrain, as every wife should, a too lavish husband, or failing in that, to stop herself buying luxuries which she cannot righteously afford. Surely there can be no sharper pang to a loving wife than to see her husband staggering under the weight of family life; 'the wolf at the door,' joyless in the present, terrified at the future; and yet all this might have been averted if the wife had only known the use and value of money, and been able to keep what her husband earned, 'to cut her coat acording to her cloth,' for any income is 'limited' unless you can teach yourself to live within it, to 'waste not,' therefore to 'want not.'

The must-be-dones demand first attention, and the may-be-dones can run their chances. A rigid habitual adherence to certain maxims helps one out wonderfully. 'A place for everything, and everything in its place,' observed, will keep a house in tolerably good order. 'A time for everything, and everything in its time' will insure the performance of all the major duties. 'Once well done is twice done,' will avoid tiresome repetitions of many performances.

There are many important minor tasks that may be sandwiched in between the larger ones. It is well with this in view to have a variety of work always on hand, so one need never be at a loss for something useful to fill up the time. Nice mending, embroidery, or fancy knitting is handy pick-up work while one is waiting for folks to come to meals.

If one's work is all planned out, as it often may be, a great many little tasks may be assigned to those irregular spaces of waiting and resting that project themselves into the day, a systematic housekeeper will never defraud herself of two of her most valuable possessions, time and strength. She must feel that she has accomplished the most work in the least time with the least possible trouble, and ought to feel that she has earned a certain right to leisure by so doing.

Everybody is familiar with the old saw, 'Man works from sun to sun, but woman's work is never done.' I think it must have been a man who first said, not perhaps without reason, that 'if it were done she wouldn't know it.' It is a systematic housekeeper who does know it.—'Home and Farm.'

Hot Lemonade.

A correspondent writes: 'It may interest your readers to know that during the great influenza epidemic in London in 1889 the Board of Health of that city advised the public affected with the disease to make an abundant use of hot lemonade. The perspiration caused thereby is, in most cases, sufficient to relieve the patient of severe colds, saves him from taking refuge in quinine or other drugs which, often, do more harm than good. In bronchial troubles lemon juice will relieve the irritation in the throat, acting at the same time as a natural disinfectant.'—'Dominion Presbyterian.'

Potting Plants for Winter.

As the season approaches when one must take his plants from the genial care of mother earth and pot them for winter, it is well to make certain preparations. If in the second or third week in August one trims the plants back into good compact shape, they will be more manageable, and have time to start well into growth before you have to take them up. Later in the month take a small spade or a trowel and cut down into the ground around the plants, and about three or four inches from them, trim off the straggling roots. Give them a good watering, and leave them to recover.

Early in September get your flower-pots ready. They should all be thoroughly clean, and before using, they should soak overnight, and then be wiped thoroughly dry. If pots are used in a dust dry condition, they soak up the moisture from the earth, and injure the roots, and the earth draws away from the sides of the pot, leaving a space through which the water runs off when you water the plant, instead of soaking into the ball of earth and reaching the roots.

The night before you are going to pot the plants, give them a thorough soaking with the hose or watering pot, to make the earth firm around the roots, so that it will cling together instead of falling away as it is lifted out of the ground. Have the pots as small as the roots will conveniently fit into; put pieces of broken pot or charcoal into the bottom for drainage, with a little earth on it. Then lift the plant, which will come up in a nice compact ball, the straggling roots having been trimmed off. Cram it into the pot, leaving about half an inch at the top for watering. Sprinkle the top of the pot a little to settle the soil, and set it into a cool and shady place to get established. Under a piazza, in a shed, or in a stable is a good place, and if it is rather dark, but airy, for nearly a week all the better.

It is well to keep them in a sheltered place out in the air, as long as it is not too cold and frosty, covering them at night when the nights grow cold. This makes them more vigorous, and more able to resist the unnatural conditions of their winter life in the house. In taking these few precautions I have often potted heliotrope, a most difficult thing to transplant, and geraniums, without their losing a leaf. The soil should be good garden loam, with leaf mould, a little manure, and a slight sprinkling of silver sand.—E. Otis Williams, in 'N. Y. Observer.'

On a paper or magazine with clear print you may show to a little child an S, W, or other easily distinguished letter and then let him mark with a colored pencil all the others he can find. In one family a child in this way learned how to read without ever knowing that it was anything but play. After the letters were learned, short, common words followed, care being taken that the occupation was never continued too long.

By putting blue pencil marks at top and bottom of newspaper articles which you wish to save, a child can cut them out with round-pointed scissors, and thus be of real assistance, and there is nothing that satisfies children like letting them feel that they are really helping. It is sometimes pathetic to see the childish struggles over a bit of work easy enough for the mother, but full of difficulty for the little, unaccustomed fingers. Yet, so long as the child does not attempt too much, it is better to let him help, even though he works hard and, possibly, hinders you more than he helps. To say, as so many mothers do: 'It's too much bother to let you do that; I can do it better myself in half time,' is to dishearten the child and turn his desire for loving service into chagrin and bitterness. The helpful impulse should always be encouraged in a child, even at some cost to the parent, for the development of strong, manly and womanly characters in their children should be the aim of every father and mother.—Elizabeth Durfee, in 'Congregationalist.'

Household Hints.

Try planting sunflowers in your garden, if compelled to live in a malarial neighborhood.

A man descended from healthy ancestors without any tendency to nervous diseases is better born than all the kings and princes of Europe.—W. W. Ireland.

Linseed oil is a good remedy for both hard and soft corns. If they are indurated and very painful, the relief it gives in a short time is most grateful. Bind on a soft rag saturated with linseed oil, and continue to dampen it with the oil every night and morning until the corn can be removed easily and without pain.

It is very necessary that the window plants should be kept free from the dust of the room that settles upon them, and this is especially true of those plants whose leaves are thick and glossy, because the pores of such are so minute they become easily clogged with dust, which will very soon injure the texture of the leaves and thus the growth of the plants.

The relation of food to morals was touched upon by Prof. H. W. Hart before the United States Senate committee on manufactures. He asserted that the persistent adulteration of food was responsible for the present degeneration of the race. He advocated the use of whole wheat bread, and said that the appetite for beer was a result of the craving of the system for the life-giving elements lost from the wheat in the process of manufacture into white flour.

Infection.—Dogs and monkeys are subject to tuberculosis and are said to be capable of communicating the infection to human beings. A large number of the canaries that die in captivity fall victims to the same disease. Parrots suffer from a malady peculiar to themselves. The bacillus that causes it is thought to originate pneumonia in man. Cats have been known to be the carriers of diphtheria, and possibly of scarlet fever and other infectious diseases. Great care should be taken during an epidemic to keep pet animals out of the reach of infection, or else away from the children, and at any time a bird or animal that seems ailing should be at once isolated.—'Ladies' Home Journal.'

A housekeeper who has tried the plan of keeping recipes in a blank-book and found it unsatisfactory now copies them on cards, such as are used for library cataloguing. In this way receipts can be carefully classified and the adding of new ones will not interrupt the order. The cards may be tied together or kept standing on edge in a box of the right size—a better arrangement, because the card can be easily removed when needed.—'Congregationalist.'

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