

HOUSEHOLD.

To One Who Tried 'Western Reader's' Plan.

(A. M. T., in the 'Congregationalist'.)

Dear ambitious little mother, you were interested in the remarks of 'Western Reader,' who is so well entitled to be called a phenomenon among housewives. I knew her remarkable energy and promptness would fan your ambitions into a lively glow and have been not surprised at the results that have followed. Your eyes were so bright and I knew you felt life so easily managed that day I met you ordering the bolts of cotton and selecting the prints and gingham by the half-dozen.

But do you know you haven't seemed exactly yourself since that day? We have all come to feel much as your curly-haired son whom I chanced to overhear complaining the other day: 'Oh, she's got no time for anything nice nowadays. She's glued to that old sewing machine every time a fellow wants her. "Run away now, dear. I'm so busy. Get sister to help you. Don't you want to go out and play with the boys? Really, darling, you mustn't hinder me, and you're musing that ruffle." Who cares for fixings? I wish she would love us as she used to and let us go ragged.'

No wonder those old headaches came on again and night often found a jaded look in your eyes. Cutting all one day, basting all the next, and stitching by the hour may help finish the sewing at short notice, but sometimes it will finish the sewer, too. No hired seamstress works at such a tension, or if she does she is a cross-grained, tempy creature, as much to be pitied as any galley slave, for you know that no outward coercion can spur to the effort an ambitious temperament will goad its possessor into.

If your stout, phlegmatic friend next door could be aroused to the point of spending half her customary leisure making her little girls' frocks, her purse would be heavier and her health might possibly improve. She says it is cheaper to buy everything ready-made and she goes without what she hasn't money to buy. But haven't I heard you canvassing the question whether she doesn't, after all, live her life rather more wisely than most mothers, whether her unflinching good-nature and cheery sociability aren't worth more in her home than the most immaculate housekeeping or faultlessness of appointments could ever be? If she is seldom ruffled neither is she often tired, and you know it was only an over-wrought condition of nerves last week that brought about the impatience toward the children you lamented so tearfully, or the almost unendurable tempers into which Bridget seemed to slip every time you were obliged to go into the kitchen.

No wonder the visit of Robert's deaf old uncle had never before seemed so wearisome, or that you peremptorily dismissed for a troublesome peddler the weary, downhearted widow from the farther corner of the parish to whom you had been wanting to lend aid and encouragement. And didn't you feel every moment you sat listening to garrulous old Mrs. Gibson, or waiting for leisurely Mrs. Warner to spin her long-drawn thread of platitudes, that just so many half-hours and minutes were being robbed from the day's achievement, which seemed so reasonable when planned in the morning?

Oh, yes, it would be a fine thing to work like a locomotive when by yourself and loaf like a fisherman when off duty, but it isn't every woman who can do it. Few of us can have everything. Stacks of cambric petticoats, dozens of monogrammed table napkins, fresh flowers and a bright mind for the parlor and the attractive social ease of the person of culture and leisure, all on \$600 a year, can't be managed in every parsonage.

Don't try to be six sorts of woman in one. I like you best as you are when you are your sweet, tranquil self, and not hurried and rushed by this absurd desire to see all the possible sewing of next season driven before your one pair of hands. The girls who have a well-read, companionable mother will make lovelier women than if each had instead always the new garment the moment needed. Do not abridge the hours you can spare for the boys

that they may never lack a fresh shirt waist or ruffled collar. System is very good, for indolent people especially—only they'll not try it; but don't try to be phenomenal yourself.

Selected Recipes.

Apple Charlotte.—Butter a deep pudding dish and cover the bottom with thin slices of bread and butter. On this spread a layer of apples peeled, cored and sliced. Sprinkle with a little sugar and nutmeg. Continue with the bread and apples in layers, making the top layer of bread. Pour over the top a custard made of two eggs and a pint of milk, a pinch of salt, and sugar to taste. Cover closely and bake till done. Remove the cover and let the top brown. Serve with sugar and cream.—'Dominion Presbyterian.'

Peppermints.—Boil hard for five minutes four cupfuls of white sugar, one cupful of hot water, twelve drops of oil of peppermint, fifteen drops of wintergreen. Pour into a bowl and stir briskly until the mixture begins to thicken. Then drop on a cold tin dish as fast as possible. A small teaspoonful of the candy dropped on the dish will make a lozenge as large as a half dollar. Do not place the lozenges so close together that they will run into each other, or they will not be a good shape.

Take Care of the Tubs.

Dry the set tubs carefully after using them, taking care that they are perfectly clean. The condition of the tubs is responsible for the sour, musty odor of many apartment-house kitchens. Paraffin oil will remove most stains from zinc-lined tubs.



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