

THE HOUSEHOLD.

TO MOTHERS OF LARGE FAMILIES.

BY HOPE LEDYARD.

Mothers ought to have a great deal of help from the older children. Here is just where many mothers do their children real harm through thoughtlessness. It is not unselfishness to be constantly doing for your children, to attend to their physical wants when they are old enough to attend to such themselves and should lend a hand with the younger children.

I realize this thing more than ever as two boys are visiting us. To my surprise they cannot do half the things to help themselves that my boy of eleven can do. A boy of twelve should be able to sew buttons on shoes or coat and sew up any little rip; a busy mother should never be troubled with such matters. He can be taught to open and air his room, and on Saturdays and Sundays each child over ten can make his or her own bed. Boys as well as girls can learn to brush up a room, water the plants tidily, or put the sitting-room in good order. Any child over ten can put away the clean clothes if the mother sorts them in piles on her bed, can dry dishes, sweep down the stairs or wash, and even clean first floor windows. And children who are trained to do such things are far happier than those who are never called on. The best boys I know are the children of a little woman who does her own work with their help. I see, now that I have six children in the house, that in many ways it is easier to care for a family of six than of four, as I long ago learned that four are less trouble than one. Your children should be your helpers, dear busy friend. If they are not be sure you are making a mistake. It is this very thing that makes "neither poverty nor riches" such an advantage. One is so apt, if there are plenty of servants and money, to forget that children need steady employment. No amount of study or gymnastics will take the place of house-work to both boy and girl. Every boy should know how to toast bread, make tea and coffee, broil a steak, fry potatoes, trim a lamp, and "do up" a room. These things are taught insensibly where the one girl goes out once a week and the mother is wise enough to let all her children help.

The youngsters begin well enough. Every child of six wants to "help mamma," but the foolish woman thinks it too much trouble to teach the little one; small wonder if after repeated refusals of proffers of aid the child lets mother toil on and on.

Mothers, let us examine ourselves on all sides. Let us take this matter to the Lord. If we are selfish and neglectful, turning the younger children off on the older ones from mere laziness, that is sin; but it is no less sin to be doing other people's work. We are promised strength sufficient; so if a mother of eight children has so much nervous strain and weariness, she may possibly be doing more than her share in the home. God give to each of us "a right judgment in all things!"—*Illustrated Christian Weekly.*

WOMAN'S WORK.

The following extract is taken from a sermon by Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, reported in *The Brooklyn Magazine*:

"The wife and mother has to conduct at the same time a university, a clothing establishment, a restaurant, a laundry, a library; while she is health officer, police, and president of her realm! She must do a thousand things, and do them well, in order to keep things going smoothly; and so her brain and her nerves are taxed to the utmost. If the cares and anxieties of the household should come upon you for one week, you would be a fit candidate for Bloomingdale Insane Asylum. The half-rested housekeeper arises in the morning. She must have the morning repast prepared at an irrevocable hour. What if the fire will not light; what if the marketing did not come; what if the clock has stopped—no matter, she must have the morning repast at an irrevocable hour. Then the children must be got off to school. What if their garments are torn; what if they do not know their lessons; what if they have lost a hat or sash—they must be ready. Then you have all the diet of the day, and perhaps of several days, to plan; but what if the butcher has sent meat unmarketable, or the grocer has sent articles of food adulterated, and what if some piece of silver be

gone, or some favorite chalice be cracked, or the roof leak, or the plumbing fail, or any one of a thousand things occur—you must be ready. Spring weather comes, and there must be a revolution in the family wardrobe; or autumn comes, and you must shut out the northern blast; but what if the moth has preceded you to the chest; what if, during the year, the children have outgrown the apparel of last year; what if the fashions have changed. Your house must be an apothecary's shop; it must be a dispensary; there must be medicines for all sorts of ailments—something to loosen the croup, something to cool the burn, something to poultice the inflammation, something to silence the jumping tooth, something to soothe the ear-ache. You must be in half a dozen places at the same time, or you must attempt to be. If, under all this wear and tear of life, Martha makes an impatient rush upon the library or drawing-room, be patient, be lenient!

"There is nothing but the old-fashioned religion of Jesus Christ that will take a woman happily through the trials of home life. At first there may be a romance or a novelty that will do for a substitute. The marriage hour has just passed, and the perplexities of the household are more than atoned by the joy of being together, and by the fact that when it is late they do not have to discuss the question as to whether it is time to go! The mishaps of the household, instead of being a matter of anxiety and reprehension, are a matter of merriment—the loaf of bread turned into a geological specimen; the slushy custards; the jaundiced or measly biscuits. It is a very bright sunlight that falls on the cutlery and the mantel ornaments of a new home.

"But after a while the romance is all gone, and then there is something to be prepared for the table that the book called 'Cookery Taught in Twelve Lessons' will not teach. The receipt for making it is not a handful of this, a cup of that, and a spoonful of something else. It is not something sweetened with ordinary condiments, or flavored with ordinary flavors, baked in ordinary ovens. It is the loaf of domestic happiness; and all the ingredients come down from heaven, and the fruits are plucked from the tree of life, and it is sweetened with the new wine of the kingdom, and it is baked in the oven of home trial. Solomon wrote out of his own experience. 'Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.'

A SMALL WAIST.

Sitting in church the other Sunday, a lady came and sat directly before me. It was impossible not to see her, too difficult not to notice her appearance. She was very tall, very pale, very thin, and had the smallest waist for her height I ever saw connecting the upper and lower portions of a living woman. How could I help thinking of her anatomy? Where had she stowed her stomach? whereabouts lay her liver? into what corner had she packed her spleen? what could she do with her diaphragm, under a broad belt that cut her almost in two like a wasp or an hour-glass? A glance at her pale, sickly face showed that her heart was having a hard time of it in such cramped quarters, while no proper aeration of the blood in such crowded lungs was possible. There was but one comfort. No man of sense would marry her, and the consequences of her folly will not go down to posterity. There is a Lord Chamberlain who regulates the length of skirts worn in the London theatres. Would it not be wiser to appoint some proper officer to inspect the waists of women who commit slow suicide by this hideous folly of tight lacing?—*Dr. T. L. Nichols.*

BLUING CLOTHES.

Nothing is more annoying to a good housekeeper than to have her laundress careless in bluing the clothes. For those who prefer liquid bluing, there are many good kinds, and if used properly will cause no discomfort. But if poured into the rinsing tub lavishly and without stirring thoroughly into the water, there will inevitably be blue streaks disfiguring the clothes. If liquid bluing is used, it must be very thoroughly stirred into the water, and the clothes should not be allowed to remain but a few minutes in the tub, but be speedily rinsed and wrung out, keeping the water in constant motion, so that the bluing has no chance to settle. But the bluing which comes in little balls,

or cubes, is much safer than any liquid bluing. Tie a ball, or cube, into a bag made of two thicknesses of flannel, and whirl the bag round in the tub of rinsing water until the water assumes a bright, sky-blue tint. Do not squeeze the bag at all; only pass swiftly through the water; then pass the clothes through the blue water, wring out, snap well, and spread smoothly on the line. Do not make the water more than half as deep a color as when using ordinary blue; and when the clothes are ironed they will have a clear pearly tint.—*Brooklyn Magazine.*

FUSSINESS.

There is no foe to domestic peace and comfort like fussiness. It arises largely from a lack of system or plan, and from too great attention to minor details. Some housekeepers have the habit of stirring up everything at once. They begin their day's work anywhere, without any relation to what is most urgent or necessary to be accomplished. They lose sight of the always-excellent rule—one thing at a time, and that first which is most important. It is a good plan to sit quietly down at the beginning of each day and take a survey of the domestic field. Decide what must be done, and what, in case of lack of time, or the intervention of other duties, may be put off, and then set to work without undue haste to perform necessary duties. Learn to do it quietly, without noise. Be careful to take no useless steps. There is a vast amount of strength expended in this way, and nervous energy wasted.

TO CHOOSE A HAM.

Never look for the cheapest; it will be a dear bargain. Cheap hams dry up and curl up when cooking, affording no nourishment. And never select a very lean ham. Some who dislike the fat, look upon a fat ham as absolute waste; but, as in beef, if you buy a lean piece to avoid the fat, it will surely be dry and tough. Bear this in mind: a well-fed, quickly fattened pig will furnish tender, juicy, fine-flavored meat, and then you will be willing to lose some of the fat when cooking for what will be gained in the superior flavor of the rest of the flesh. Look for a ham well rounded out and plump, and see that the skin is thin and elastic.—*Brooklyn Magazine.*

TIGHT LACING is very unbecoming to those who usually adopt it—women of thirty-eight or forty who are growing a little stout. In thus trussing themselves up they simply get an unbecoming redness of the face, and are not the handsome, comfortable-looking creatures which Heaven intended they should be. Two or three beautiful women, well known in society, killed themselves last year by tight lacing. The effect of an inch less waist was not apparent enough to make this a wise sacrifice of health and ease of breathing. At a lady's lunch party, which is always an occasion for handsome dress, and where bonnets are always worn, the faces of those who are too tightly dressed always show the strain by a most unbecoming flush; and as American rooms are always too warm, the suffering must be enormous.—*Harper's Bazar.*

RECIPES.

WHEN there is a crack in the stove it can be mended by mixing ashes and salt with water.

TO MAKE paper stick to a wall that has been whitewashed, wash in vinegar or salutaris water.

FILLING IN THE CRACKS.—"Thoroughly soak newspapers in paste made of a half-pound of flour, three quarts of water and a half-pound of alum, mixed and boiled. The mixture will be about as thick as putty, and may be forced into the crevices with a case knife. It will harden like papier mache."

A RIVERSIDE friend says: "I tried every thing I heard of to get rid of Buffalo moths without success, until I tried carbolic acid, and that has been a success. I use a tablespoonful of acid to a bucketful of the water I use to scrub the floors, and put down the carpet before it is quite dry, and have had no trouble since. The one objection is the smell, but that soon passes off, and by using it every house-cleaning I have cleared my house of them."

SNOW PUDDING.—Soak one ounce of gelatine in a pint of cold water for ten minutes; place over the fire, stir, and remove as soon as dissolved; when nearly cold, beat to a stiff froth with an egg-beater. Beat the whites of three eggs to a stiff froth; add to it the gelatine froth, together with the juice of three lemons and pulverized sugar to the taste, and mix the whole well together; next pour into a mould,

and set aside to cool; serve on a dish with soft custard made from the yolk of the eggs. This makes a beautiful and excellent dish for dessert.

CHOCOLATE.—Each lb. package is divided into six equal parts, one of which is the right quantity for a cup. Pour half a cup of warm water into a copper pan. Break the chocolate into small pieces and let it dissolve in the pan, stirring it briskly over a bright fire. When the chocolate is dissolved, mix with it a cup of milk, and stir again over the fire until it has boiled about five minutes, when it is ready for use. In order to have the chocolate perfect, it is absolutely necessary to stir it while boiling, inasmuch as this most healthy and delicate food becomes unpleasant to the taste if badly prepared.

GRAHAM PUFFS.—One cup and a half of Graham flour, one cup of flour, two teaspoonfuls of sugar, one teaspoonful of salt, two liberal cups of sweet milk, three eggs. Mix salt with the flour. Beat up a batter with the flour and milk. Beat the yolks of the eggs to a froth. Beat the whites till stiff. Beat the yolks, then the whites into the batter. Bake in buttered stone cups half an hour or more. Use your judgment and do not keep them in too long. When done they will be well popped over. Keep the oven closed as much as possible. Ignorant cooks often spoil this simple and delicate cake by persisting to use baking powders or soda. They cannot believe they will rise without them.

STEAMED SUET AND FRUIT PUDDING.—Two and a half cups of flour, one teaspoonful of soda, one and a half teaspoonfuls salt, half a salt-spoonful of cinnamon, half a salt-spoonful of nutmeg, one cup of chopped suet or two-thirds of a cup of butter, one cup of chopped raisins or currants, one cup water or milk, one cup of molasses. Sift the soda, salt, and spices into the flour, rub in the butter, and add the raisins. Mix the milk with the molasses and stir it into the dry mixture. Steam in a buttered pudding-mould three hours. Serve with foamy sauce. If water and butter be used, three cups of flour will be required, as these thicken less than milk and suet. This pudding is sometimes steamed in small stone cups.

PUZZLES.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE.

In poor not in rich,  
In drain not in ditch,  
In honey not in sweet,  
In hands not in feet,  
In night not in day,  
In brown not in grey,  
In high not in low,  
In swift not in slow,  
In this not in that,  
In dog not in cat,  
In name not in fame;  
And the whole the people claim  
As their only legal chance  
To destroy intemperance.

S. MOORE.

Quebec.

BREHEADINGS.

1. Behead an article of street attire and leave one of the human passions.
2. Behead a useful dish and leave a species of the feathered tribe.
3. Behead a portion of real estate and leave a part of the human body.
4. Behead a rivulet and leave a bird.
5. Behead a lowland and leave a rear entrance.
6. Behead an old-fashioned garment and leave a large stone.
7. Behead a small ruffle and leave a small stream.
8. Behead a lid and leave on the other side.
9. Behead a part of the body and leave above.

LILLIE A. GREENE.

SQUARE.

1. A vessel in which food is served.
2. A notion.
3. A marine animal.
4. An entrance to a house.

A BATCH OF TENS. ANAGRAMS.

1. Ten slings; 2. ten tiles; 3. ten cranes; 5. ten sales; 6. ten scenes; 7. ten wings; 8. ten trains; 9. ten rags; 10. ten lines; 11. ten ices; 12. ten ears; 13. ten cars; 14. ten times; 15. ten fays; 16. ten grabs; 17. ten raps; 18. ten raids; 19. ten sires; 20. ten cranes.

METAMORPHOSES.

Change a given word to another given word, by altering one letter at a time; the number of letters always the same, and remaining in the same order.

Example. Change hand to card in two moves. Hand, hard, card.

1. Change warm to cold in four moves.
  2. Change boy to man in three moves.
  3. Change six to ten in three moves.
  4. Change star to moon in five moves.
  5. Change love to hate in three moves.
  6. Change black to white in eight moves.
  7. Change head to feet in three moves.
  8. Change body to soul in five moves.
- If any one can change the above in less moves than given, please send to "Puzzles."

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES IN LAST NUMBER.

"FUNNY FACES."—1. Curlew. 2. Barn Owl. 3. Prairie Hen. 4. Dorking Cock. 5. Crested Gekko. 6. Bell Bird. 7. Rotten Duck. 8. Grouse. 9. Helmeted Cassowary. 10. Hornbill. 11. Pelican. 12. Adjutant. 13. Egyptian Vulture. 14. Ruff. 15. Crowned Crane. 16. White-headed Stork or Boat-Bird.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

Correct answers have been received from Lillie A. Greene.