

HOUSEHOLD.

Winter Entertainments on the Farm.

(Miss Kate Rorer, in the 'N.Y. Observer.')

In this article it is intended to offer a few suggestions for simple and inexpensive entertaining during the winter months. A housewife who promotes neighborhood sociability, is a veritable benefactor to the community.

A good form of entertaining is to invite a few friends to take supper with you. If you have no dining-room, the kitchen may easily be made attractive. Of course, it should be immaculate in its cleanliness. Take a good-sized clothes horse and by means of chintz, in a neat and pretty pattern, transform it into a screen, by tacking it on smoothly and firmly. Other material besides chintz may be used, but the fact that the latter will wash is a great advantage. Potted plants will make the room attractive, and of course the table linen should be spotless, and the silver and glass bright. As for the supper, do not weary yourself by elaborate preparations, and overload the table with cake and preserves in endless variety, while a flushed and exhausted hostess presides.

An appetizing supper consists of stewed chicken with rice, cold slaw, light biscuit, and instead of preserves, coffee, jelly with whipped cream. This latter can be easily made by the following receipt: Take one package of granulated gelatine, and pour over it a pint of cold water, allowing it to stand five minutes. Make strong coffee in the proportion of three heaping tablespoonfuls of coffee to three pints of water. Boil (if you boil your coffee), strain, and while hot, pour over the gelatine. Add immediately two pounds of granulated sugar, and a generous tablespoonful of vanilla. Set away to become thoroughly chilled, and serve with whipped cream. Do not sweeten the cream, as the jelly is sufficiently sweet. A pleasing addition to your little feast would be a few salted nuts, and some home-made mint drops. To make the latter, boil together a cup of granulated sugar and half a cupful of water. When it spins a thin thread, take from the fire, and beat till white and creamy. Add ten drops good oil of peppermint, and drop upon paraffine paper.

Breaded veal with tomato sauce is always relished at a winter supper. Cut the veal in rather small pieces, dip in egg and in bread crumbs, and fry to a delicate brown. With this could be served chicken salad, raised biscuit, and home-made jelly or canned fruit. If you are fortunate enough to possess 'killable' chickens, you will have no difficulty in providing a tempting supper, for aside from the ways already suggested, they may be served in a brown fricassee, smothered, roasted, as chicken croquettes, braised, or boiled with a white sauce.

If you prefer to eliminate the labor of cooking and provide a cold supper, cold ham, and tongue or chicken are good standbys, served with an appetizing salad. Do not make the mistake of overloading your table with an endless variety of sweets. Two kinds of good cake are amply sufficient, while jelly to be eaten with the meat, and one variety of preserves, is better than a great 'set-out.'

Perhaps the simplest way of entertaining is to invite a few friends in to spend the evening, and the young son or daughter on the farm will greatly enjoy entertaining his or her companions. After an evening spent in games, the young folks will appreciate coffee, home-made cake, and home-made icecream. Icecream is not often made during the winter, owing to the difficulty of procuring ice, but it is not generally known that it may be frozen with snow instead. Pack as you do with ice, and although it may take a little longer, the cream will be equally well frozen as if ice had been used.

A sleighing party is an enjoyable diversion on a winter night, when the air is not too sharp, and the moon is shining, and the young people will return rosy, happy, and invariably hungry. Hot chocolate and cake will then be appreciated, and a plate of doughnuts will rapidly disappear.

It is a pleasant form of hospitality to offer refreshments to guests who call, a cup of chocolate or of coffee and cake. We are exhorted to hospitality in the Bible, and it is said that in entertaining strangers, some have even en-

tertained angels unawares. While it may not be the lot of every one to entertain a heavenly visitant, yet the village housewife who brightens the lives of those about her by simple gracious hospitality will beyond all doubt have her reward.

Patience.

(Marianne Farningham.)

Lord, give this grace of Thine to me
That I may live aright;
However dark the path may be
Let Patience bring me light.

When my heart fails me in the storm,
And there is none to save,
Let this friend put her hand in mine,
And Patience make me brave.

When strife and turmoil are around,
And weak has grown my will,
Let Patience like an angel come
And teach me to be still.

Let quiet Patience help my soul
Beneath the scourge of wrong,
And check my angry words of wrath,
And turn them into song.

Lord, I am very weak and frail,
And am not good or great,
Yet shall I worthier be if Thou
Wilt give me grace to wait.

And so I pray whatever come
Of trouble, pain or care,
Bid Patience my companion be
Beside me everywhere.

Mistaken Economies.

(Natalie H. Synder, in the 'Presbyterian Banner.')

Some time ago a clever man—or perhaps it was a woman—started the idea of an 'only' box. Into this were to be dropped the coins that were saved from small indulgences. The woman who refrained from ice cream soda or caramels, or saved car fare by walking, deposited the sum thus gained in the 'only box.' The idea was excellent—in a way, writes Christine Terhune Herrick. There can be no doubt that we all spend small sums of money in foolish fashions, in buying some things we are as well off without. These sums, if lumped, would make something worth while. But there is danger in the scheme. One drawback was pointed out by, I think, Chauncey M. Depew, or some one equally well known, when he said that the economy which induced the man to refrain from bringing home flowers to his wife, or from granting her some other trifling pleasure was a worse mistake than extravagance. There are some savings that cost too much for anyone to venture to indulge in them.

Are not many of the things that are denied more valuable than the money they would demand? I am not speaking of such obvious blunders as wearing out a quarter's worth of shoe leather to save a nickel's car fare, or ruining a handsome gown on a stormy day sooner than pay the price of a cab. Everywhere women and men are guilty of this form of stupidity. But I refer now to another variety of economy, which is equally to be condemned.

We all know the man who never has time to get away from his business, the woman who is never able to leave the house, except to go to church or to market. The habit of economizing in time and money has continued, after the real need that once existed has passed away. It is well for those who save in this way to ask themselves why they do it. What do they win by it? It is worth while for the woman who stays at home to take half an hour off some day and determine what she is going to gain in exchange for all she is giving up. I do not for a moment approve of women neglecting their homes for the sake of running about out of doors. That mistake is as big as the other. But there is such a thing as a middle course. The woman who makes her one idea that of keeping her house in spick and span order, pays pretty dearly for her indulgence. Her complexion, her health and often her temper are sacrificed to the

saving of mere money. It is an absurdity to call this economy.

The best way in which a woman can fit herself to see life steadily and see it whole is by getting into the fresh air, by the time her body has been there for a while her mind will be clearer and she will be able to perceive for herself how mistaken are some of her economies. She will wonder why she ever thought it more important to dust every nook and corner of the house every day than it was to fill her lungs with pure air. She will see that it was poor economy to make her own frocks instead of having a dress-maker in once in a while and gaining the opportunity to read the new book or learn the new song or devote herself to giving her husband a jolly evening, such as they used to have when they were first married. She will learn that it is not economy to put a few yards more trimming on the children's clothes instead of saving the time to give herself to her growing boys and girls, in indoor and outdoor sport.

Selected Recipes.

Cauliflower with sauce.—Cauliflower, with white sauce, is a dish fit to set before a king. To prepare it take off all outside leaves, and wash thoroughly. Put in bag and boil gently half an hour in salted water. Pour over melted butter with a spoonful of cream, or make this white sauce: Cook together one ounce of flour and two ounces of butter, add one pint of sweet cream or milk, simmer five minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Curry of Lamb and Toast.—One pint of stock, two tablespoonfuls of butter, two tablespoonfuls of flour, two tablespoonfuls of finely chopped onion, one teaspoonful curry powder, one and one-half pounds of cold cooked lamb cut into strips. Melt the butter in a saucepan, add onion and cook slowly until a golden brown, then add curry powder, flour, salt and pepper to taste. When blended add the stock, a little at a time, stirring until it thickens; then add the lamb and simmer until tender. Serve on butter toast.

Tomato Fritters.—Stew a quart of tomatoes until reduced to a pint. When quite cold season with salt, pepper and celery salt, and add the beaten yolk of an egg and sufficient bread-crumbs to make a mixture thick enough to hold together. Drop from a spoon into hot fat.

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